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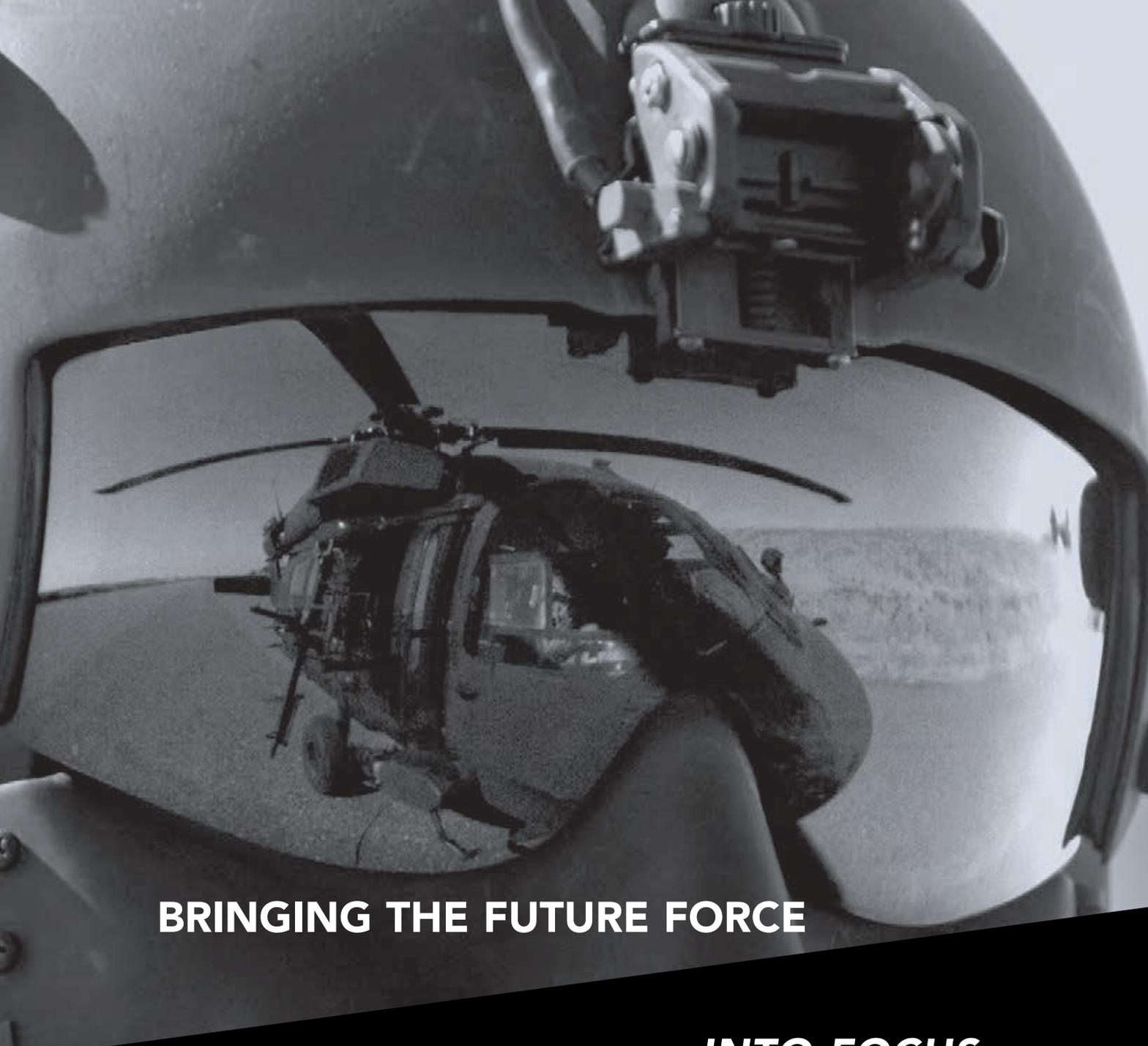


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ON THE COVER

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Briefings...

LATE-BREAKING NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS NOTES

Vietnam Hero Awarded Medal of Honor

Retired **LTC Bruce P. Crandall** was awarded the Medal of Honor from President George W. Bush Feb. 23 during a White House ceremony. Crandall, a 2004 Army Aviation Hall of Fame inductee, received the nation's highest military award for his actions during the Battle of Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam in November 1965. Then a major and commander of Co. A, 229th Aslt. Hel. Bn., Crandall led a flight of 16 helicopters and dodged intense enemy fire as he repeatedly flew to a landing zone to rescue and resupply besieged 1st Cav troops. Read more in the April/May 2007 Issue.



LTC Bruce P. Crandall

AAPI PHOTO BY JAMES BULLINGER

Guard Longbows Head to Afghanistan

More than 450 "Desert Hawks" of the 1st Bn., 285th Avn. Regt., Arizona Army National Guard, departed Jan. 16 from Fort Hood, Texas for Afghanistan. The unit converted from an AH-64A helicopter unit to a 24 AH-64D Longbow attack and reconnaissance battalion in November. They will provide combat support to the 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde. already deployed to OEF.

AAAA Convention Update

The 2007 50th Anniversary AAAA Convention is shaping up to be a great event. There are changes occurring with the Spouses' program and Judy Konitzer provides an update in her column on page 6. Visit the AAAA website at www.quad-a.org for more convention information.

2008 Hall of Fame Nominations Open Deadline June 15, 2007



In a change of policy, the Army Aviation Hall of Fame inductions will now take place every year instead of tri-annually!

The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 2008 induction is June 15, 2007.

The Trustees are especially interested in nominations of lower ranking personnel who participated in Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War On Terrorism.

Contact Janis Arena, 1-800-722-ARMY ext 132; email Janis@quad-a.org, or visit the AAAA web site: www.quad-a.org

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The AAAA Golden Anniversary Convention is just around the corner and it will be the biggest event this organization has ever experienced.

The record exhibit space of 2006 has already been exceeded by our 2007 event and we still have a month to go! The number and size of receptions sponsored by industry and chapters are at record levels.

The banquet will truly be a memorable event honoring our charter members and founders.

And we have sold out the original three hotels and have contracted with additional properties to handle the overflow. See the AAAA web site, www.quad-a.org

In the meantime, the AAAA chapter activity train continues to build momentum.

The Wright Brothers Chapter invited me to speak on February 10 at the Ohio Army Aviation National Guard safety stand down.

I took the opportunity to update them on the status of the AAAA resolution supporting full aviation career incentive pay (ACIP) for the reserve component.

The following week BG (Ret.) Mike Burke met with MG Jim Nuttall, the deputy director of Army National Guard, and received ARNG support to pursue additional monies for the ACIP initiative.

It was an honor in February to participate in the *Welcome Home Warrior Citizen* ceremony for the Soldiers and families of Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., who redeployed from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Chief of Army Reserve LTG Jack Stultz recognized AAAA for our support to the Soldiers and families.

We will see LTC Walt Bradley and 1SG Russell L. Reese on stage at the convention as they receive the "USAR Aviation Unit of the Year" award.



CG (Ret.) Tom Konitzer shakes hands with LTC Walt Bradley after receiving an appreciation gift for AAAA's support to Army Reserve aviation Soldiers and families during the Citizen Warrior Welcome Home ceremony held Feb. 11 for Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt, in Olathe, Kan. LTG Jack Stultz, right, the chief of Army Reserve, assisted with the presentation. The gift now hangs in the AAAA National Headquarters.

Judy and I also had the privilege of receiving a briefing and having lunch with the cadets of the Virginia Women's Institute of Leadership at Mary Baldwin College last month.

Later that evening, the VMI and VWIL AAAA Chapter conducted a meeting on the VMI campus where I provided an update on Army Aviation and the convention.

The cadets of both schools are fired up about being a part of the 50th Anniversary and have faithfully presented the colors for the past 12 years at the banquet.

Continued on page 43

See You In Atlanta!

The AAAA convention is shaping up to be the best ever and we hope you are making plans to attend.

Atlanta is a fun city with a myriad of activities, restaurants and shopping.

Along with all the convention activities, I can guarantee your week will be a most exciting one!

There has been an unavoidable change to our "Behind the Scenes tour visiting CNN and the World of Coca-Cola" Spouse event on Thursday, May 10.

The new Coke facility doors will not open until the end of May and the Underground Atlanta site is now closing on April 1.

In light of this, we have opted to substitute a visit to the new Georgia Aquarium, the nation's largest and most elaborate aquarium, and we will still have lunch at the City Grill.

Thank you for your understanding.

CNN is located very close to the World Congress Center, and if you desire, you can visit it on your own during your stay.

Plans are in progress for a Family Support Panel to be held on Saturday morning from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

For those who participated in our first panel last year, I hope you will consider attending and encourage others to join us.

We have a variety of speakers presenting topics of current interest and the resources available to you.

Exact topics and speaker biographies will be available upon check-in in Atlanta.

I want to thank Gail Kruzel and Linda Davidson for providing our Spouses' Corner article this month (See page 42).

The positive response to the Spouses' Corner has been most gratifying, so please keep your articles coming.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the families of our fallen Soldiers.

May God give you the strength to face your new challenges.

Please remember that your Army aviation family will always be here for you.

Fondly,
Judy Konitzer
Chairwoman
AAAA Spouse Committee

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New Faces and Forging a Path Ahead

By MG Virgil L. Packett II



Attendees to the Aviation Senior Leaders Conference received an update on the President's Iraq strategy and an operations assessment on capability gaps in theater and tips to overcome these gaps. Here UH-60 helicopters from the 25th Cbt. Avn. Bde. lift off from Forward Operating Base McHenry carrying Soldiers for an aerial patrol Feb. 12 over the Kirkuk Province in Iraq.

branch will be in tremendously capable hands with CSM Sanders, for he brings over 27 years of Army service with him to Fort Rucker.

We are very pleased to have CSM Sanders step up to the challenge as the 15th Aviation Branch CSM to be part of what he refers to as "Team Rucker!"

After the change of responsibility, the 3rd Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch (CWOB) was also introduced.

Taking the place of CW5 Brent Driggers is CW5 Randall Gant, who comes from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky., where he served as a standardization instructor pilot.

CW5 Gant will be officially welcomed in March, but I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce him and let everyone know he is performing the CWOB duties.

2007 AVSLC

A "State of the Branch" update kicked off the conference, providing attendees with a strategic understanding of the current aviation capabilities to meet Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) requirements and Fort Rucker's ability to train the force to meet these requirements.

The afternoon session of Day 1 began a series of operational panel presentations. Most of these presenta-

The Aviation Senior Leader's Conference (AVSLC) was held at Fort Rucker Jan. 22 to 26.

This five day event served as a remarkable platform for senior leaders to share information throughout the branch.

This year's theme was "ARFORGEN: Preparing the Soldier for the Warfight."

This is a critical piece as we continue to fight the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and look ahead at supporting the long war.

The AVSLC enabled aviation's senior leadership (officer, warrant officer and senior noncommissioned officer) to share observations, insights, lessons learned, policies, concerns, and rapidly changing information.

It is essential that we maintain this

dialog and integrate these lessons as we continue to fight the GWOT, Preset and Reset our formations, and transform the branch; because our first priority remains our Aviation Soldiers and supporting them in the warfight.

Throughout the conference, it was obvious that everyone shares this priority.

Along those lines, I want to give everyone a feel for the topics covered during the conference and highlight my critical takeaways from the conference.

The week began with a change of responsibility between the outgoing Branch Command Sergeant Major, CSM Buford Thomas Jr. and CSM Donald Sanders.

Although we will miss a true Aviation Soldier in CSM Thomas, the

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ARMY PHOTO BY JANE ARMSTRONG

MG Virgil Packett welcomes attendees to the 2007 AVSLC Jan. 22 at Fort Rucker, Ala.



ARMY PHOTO BY MICHELLE OWENS

GEN Richard Cody, the Army's vice chief of staff, was a featured speaker at the AVSLC, here addressing the media Jan. 24.

tions were chaired by either current or former brigade commanders.

The attendees first received an update on President Bush's Iraq strategy, followed by a current operations assessment from COL A.T. Ball, 25th Cbt. Avn. Bde. commander, on capability gaps in theater and tips to overcome these gaps.

This panel was followed by another operational trends discussion led by commanders with recent Operation Iraqi Freedom experience.

COL Donald MacWillie (4th ID CAB), COL Warren Phipps (101st CAB), COL Jeffrey Colt (159th CAB), and COL Kevin Mangum (160th SOAR) provided an assessment of aviation operations and discussed tactics, techniques and procedures to assist the members of the

conference in their preparations for ARFORGEN taskings.

The first day also included remarks by GEN Doug Brown, commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, who provided insights and perspectives on current challenges around the world. He concluded with reinforcement that our Soldiers are central to whatever we do.

MG Sean Byrne, commander of the Army's Human Resources Command, also shared his perspective on the reality of the current challenges of manning the fight.

The first day concluded with an update on air-ground operations in theater.

Day 2

The second day opened with a very informative briefing on ARFORGEN planning and execution.

This gave attendees an appreciation for current and projected taskings and updates to the resourcing process.

This was followed by an MTOE update for combat aviation brigades and provided an update on current initiatives based on feedback from field units.

The afternoon session featured an update on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and Army Airspace Command and Control (A2C2) that brought everyone current on operations and ongoing initiatives in Theater.

The afternoon session centered around a classified briefing from the

Aircraft Shoot Down Assessment Team or ASDAT, that looked at some of the most recent investigations and the ongoing efforts to mitigate risk areas.

The day concluded with an update on simulation utilization and provided insights on the current usage rates of simulators in the field.

Day 3

Day Three brought one of the true highlights of the conference with a visit from and discussion with GEN Richard Cody, the vice chief of staff of the Army.

He stressed that the complexity of our environment demands that we remain committed to resource an Army engaged and on the move.

GEN Cody provided an update on Army Transformation and Restationing plans across all branches and formations, as well as expressed his pride in the efforts and effectiveness of Aviation Soldiers and leaders.

He emphasized that Army aviation is a significant combat multiplier and mission demands on aviation will not subside in the foreseeable future.

The morning session concluded with a *manning the force* update on the efforts in support of ARFORGEN.

The end of the day brought two more panel discussions starting with MG Jim Pillsbury, commanding general of the Army Aviation and Missile Command, leading the topic of *sustaining the fight*.



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Retired LTG Ellis D. Parker speaks during the awards ceremony to recognize the top aviation battalions for 2006.

The focus of this discussion was on the aviation brigades as they progress through the *Reset/Train, Ready, and Available* pools of ARFORGEN.

Key Takeaways are:

- Enhance Lessons Learned Integration (L2I) efforts to support deployed units and preclude “re-inventing the wheel” efforts. Additionally emphasize L2I within our institutional instruction.
- Assess several proposals involving CAB organization enhancements to strengthen our ability to support the warfight.
- Push for fully funded, programmed aviation training exercises into the BCTP/ARFORGEN model.
- Refine command and control tools and processes to facilitate Force effectiveness for UAS operations.
- Engage field commanders and assist them in finding ways to fully exploit available simulation tools at home station and across other installations.
- Work personnel management review processes to ensure the right person is in the right job at the right time to support the warfight.
- Do not lose sight of the full spectrum threat that will demand Army Aviation here and abroad.



ARMY PHOTO BY JANE ARMSTRONG

MG Virgil Packett introduces CSM Donald Sanders and CW5 Randall Gant, the new command sergeant major and chief warrant officer of the Aviation branch, during the AVSLC.

Mr. Paul Bogosian, Program Executive Officer for Aviation, led the final panel discussion concerning aviation procurement efforts in support of ARFORGEN and overall force modernization.

Day 4

Day Four brought a close to the panel discussions with an update from the Combat Readiness Center looking at trends impacting readiness.

The day concluded with an *Action Plan* presentation by Ellis Golson, director of the Futures Integration and Synchronization Team, describing actions and responsible agencies for issues brought up in the conference, followed by an after action review and closing remarks.

Throughout the week, time was set aside for attendees to visit Warrior Hall, the USAAWC’s directorates, and any of the training courses in session.

Many of the attendees at the conference had the opportunity to brief the future battalion and brigade commanders attending the Pre-Command Course, as well as both classes of the Captain’s Career Course.

Additional highlights from the conference were the LTG (Ret.) Ellis D. Parker Awards luncheon and the Aviation Warfighting Center and

AAAA National Functional Awards dinner.

Looking Ahead

The annual Aviation Senior Leaders’ Conference allowed our senior leadership to share observations, insights, lessons, policies, concerns, and rapidly changing information.

As I listened to the senior leaders of our branch share their thoughts and lessons learned, I could not help being proud of the state of the Aviation Branch.

Your efforts to execute ever-complex missions while coming to grips with ARFORGEN and transformation requirements are phenomenal.

This conference provided superb lessons and updates, proving once again the remarkable leadership and talent in the field.

We will not forget that our first priority is to ensure our Aviation Soldiers receive the best training and equipment in the world.

This conference proved invaluable as we pursue that objective and strive to be “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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Greetings From the 14th USAAWC Command Sergeant Major

By CSM Donald R. Sanders

Editor's note: *We are honored to welcome CSM Donald R. Sanders, the 14th Command Sgt. Maj. of the Aviation Branch, to ARMY AVIATION magazine. We look forward to his updates and contributions.*

It is an honor to be your 14th U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker Command Sergeant Major.

I am humbled and excited by this opportunity. I will continue with the transformation and modernization efforts of CSM Buford Thomas Jr., our 13th USAAWC CSM.

On behalf of our branch Soldiers, I would like to thank him and his wife Judy for a truly outstanding job.

Buford's leadership and vision over the past two years has been instrumental in the reshaping of our branch.

I would like to thank MG Virgil L. Packett II, for allowing me the opportunity to serve our branch in such a critical position.

I pledge to do my best as the 14th USAAWC CSM.

I would also like to thank the entire Wiregrass community for your hospitality during our transition.

I've been tremendously impressed with the professionalism and leadership of the Soldiers, civilians, Wiregrass community, and industry partners here at Fort Rucker.

The warfighters here, and around the world, are an assurance that our Army is trained and able to accomplish any mission, anywhere, and at anytime.

Thank you and your families for the personal sacrifices you make day-in and day-out as we fight this global war on terrorism.

Since the change of responsibility ceremony on Jan. 22, I've hit the ground running.

Upon completion of the ceremony we went right into the Aviation Senior Leaders Conference.

The brigade CSMs from both the active and reserve components engaged in spirited discussions about possible solutions to the issues of our enlisted Soldiers.

That was followed by a trip to the Republic of Korea to visit the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, and the 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

If you have not been in Korea in the last five years you would hardly recognize it.

Korea has changed dramatically and the quality of life for our Soldiers assigned there is good as or better than Soldiers assigned to the continental U.S.

On the heels of that trip, was a visit to Camp Zama, Japan, home of the 78th Avn. Bn. (Prov.).

The "Ninjas" are a first class unit and serve as outstanding representatives of our branch.

In closing, the future of our branch continues to depend on the efforts of all our Aviation Soldiers.

God bless you and God bless America.

Above the Best!



CSM Donald R. Sanders is the command sergeant major of the Aviation branch at the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.

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Aviation Basic Officer Leaders Course

SPECIAL FOCUS

TRANSFORMATION

Changing to Provide Ready Warfighters

By MAJ Paul Berg

On Sept. 7, 2006, the last Aviation Officer Basic Course, or AVOBC, Class 06-21 graduated at Fort Rucker, Ala.

What has happened to the AVOBC?

Fort Rucker still instructs an officer basic course and flight school but the AVOBC has been revamped and has become the Aviation Basic Officer Leaders Course (ABOLC III).

What Is BOLC?

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command adopted a three-phase officer education concept in 2003 and created a model for a new basic officer leaders course (BOLC).

As a result, the initial officer training as we know it today transformed from the old two-phase program of commissioning lieutenants and sending them to branch-specific officer basic courses to a three phase program: BOLC I, II and III.

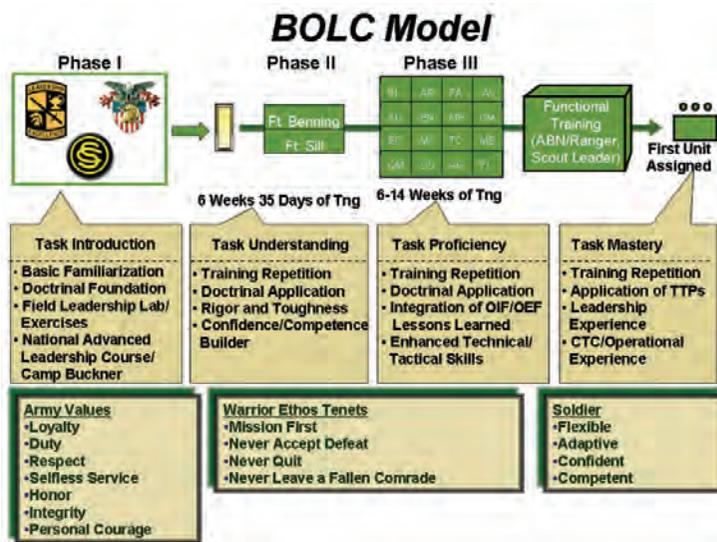
The BOLC I phase is the pre-commissioning source, just as training is done today at the U.S. Military Academy, the Officer Candidate School, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps at college campuses.

BOLC II is conducted at Fort Benning, Ga., or Fort Sill, Okla., prior to arriving to Fort Rucker. BOLC III is the new name for each officer branch basic course.

BOLC II

Today, newly commissioned Aviation branch officers must first attend BOLC II at Fort Benning or Fort Sill prior to arriving to Fort Rucker for ABOLC III.

BOLC II is a rigorous six-week, branch-immaterial



course in small-unit leadership and tactics designed to challenge officers physically and mentally.

During this “hands-on” phase, the BOLC II curriculum includes combatives, physical-fitness training, foot marches, advanced land-navigation, weapons training, rifle marksmanship, practical exercises in leadership, nuclear, biological and chemical operations, and the use of night-vision equipment.

The BOLC II phase also encompasses lessons learned from the global war on terrorism, the Warrior Ethos, the nine battle drills, and 40 warrior tasks.

Some of the advantages of BOLC II are the basic Infantry warrior tasks that are now being instructed that were never instructed in the old AVOBC.

For example: branch officers now have familiarization of the M-240B, M-249M, M-2, MK-19, employing hand grenades, conducting operations in an urban environment, and combatives training from level I to III.

Also, the officers has been transitioned into the Army and has been conducting physical fitness on a daily basis for the past six weeks.

Finally, under the old AVOBC model, officers only went into the field during the field training exercise (FTX) for seven total days; however, now officers will have had four FTXs, for 17 days of field duty prior to arriving at Fort Rucker.

ABOLC III

Company D, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt., implemented BOLC III last August 14.

BOLC IIIA IIIB MODEL (Current)

| Week | IIIA-1 | IIIA-2 | IIIA-3 | IIIB-1 | IIIB-2 | IIIB-3 | IIIB-3days |
|-------|-----------|------------|---------|-------------------|------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Day 0 | Academics | CAD Supply | Digital | Aviation Doctrine | Warfighter | FTX | Counseling Graduation |

Ethics
Cultural Awareness
IPB/A2P2/SOSO
Manage ATP/COE
Risk Management
Battle Focused TNG
History of Army AVN

Digital:
ABCS
FBCB2
MCS-L
AMPS

Aviation Doctrine:
Attack Operations
Assault Operations
Cav Operations
AAR/A2C2
Rehearsals
Air Ground
Integration
9mm range
UAV

Warfighter:
Air Mission Brief
Planning Cells
Avn Mission Planning
RCTD/AVCATT-A x3
(NTC-Database)

FTX:
Convoy Class
PCC/PCI/Recon
Convoy STX
Quartering Party Ops
Avn Mission Planning
RCTD/AVCATT-A x3
(Fallujah-Database)

CAD:
Supply Operations
CSS
Ground Maintenance
Aviation Maintenance
Threat ID

The old AVOBC model was 6 weeks after flight training and included survival, escape, resistance and evasion Level B academics only training; combat service support, aviation maintenance and aviation doctrine classes, a Warfighter and a field training exercise.

ABOLC III changed its design from the AVOBC model by moving three weeks of the course before flight training (BOLC IIIA) and having the other three weeks after flight training (BOLC IIIB).

The purpose is to get all aviators to their unit within 45 days after their last training flight.

In the first three weeks of BOLC IIIA, many of the non-aviation classes that were taught during initial entry rotary wing training are moved up before flight training.

Also during BOLC IIIA, an entire digital week is added instructing Army Mission Planning System, the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below system and the maneuver control system (light).

BOLC IIIB is taught after flight training and includes an Aviation doctrine and tactics week, an aviation warfighter exercise, and an FTX.

Our objective is to graduate officers and allow for permanent change of station leaves, all under 45 days, and help keep the officers current in their aircraft.

Conclusion

The Aviation officer basic course at Fort Rucker is now called the Aviation Basic Officers Leaders Course. All future Army aviators after commissioning will attend BOLC II at either Fort Benning or Fort Sill prior to starting flight school.

BOLC II is teaching the junior officers Infantry skill sets they would not receive at Fort Rucker.

With these changes, the future of Army aviators in initial officer training has had a major transformation which will benefit our branch and Army as a whole by producing the finest aviation officers and aviators in the world.



MAJ Paul Berg is the commander of Co. D, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt., and oversees the student training in the aviation basic officers and warrant officer basic courses at Fort Rucker, Ala.

AH-64 Apache Exceedance Warning System

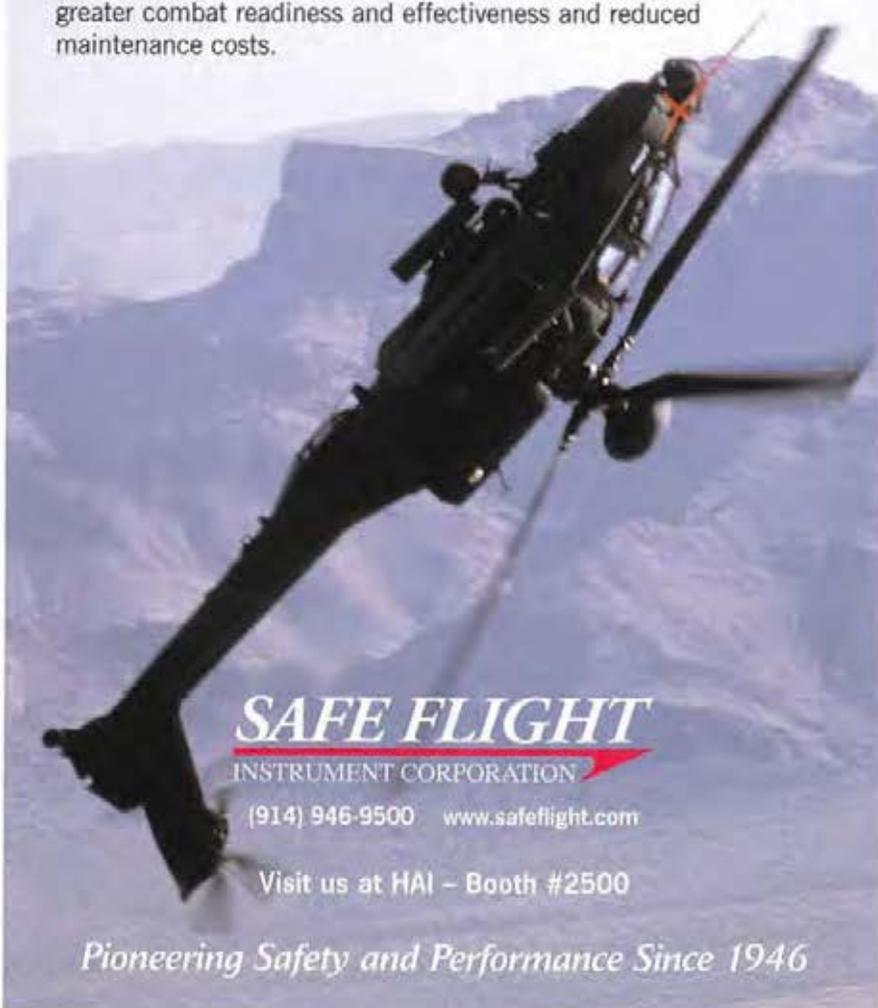
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Safe Flight's Exceedance Warning System, already flight tested and installed on the Bell/USN TH-57, features a collective shaker to give pilots a distinct tactile warning when operating limits are being approached.



The critical advantage is less wear and tear on the aircraft, resulting in less exceedance-related maintenance and component replacement. The maintenance cost savings alone will pay for the Exceedance Warning System in one year. In addition, the system is retrofittable by field maintenance teams.

The result is a win-win for the U.S. Army AH-64 Apache Program – greater combat readiness and effectiveness and reduced maintenance costs.



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The Air Corps Advisory Group members pose near an Mi-24 Hind.



ARMY PHOTOS BY CW3 TIM BASSO

BUILDING **the Afghan National Army Air Corps**

By COL John T. Hansen

They made history in December by providing half their helicopter fleet to help a neighbor reeling from incredible disaster, they have flown over 500 flight hours this fiscal year, and they have been supporting the counter-insurgency fight as an essential Army asset.

They are the Afghan National Army Air Corps.

They are proud, determined and capable in their own right; and the Air Corps Advisory Group (ACAG) of the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A) is here to expand on those capabilities in a very big way.

After nearly 25 years of warfare, the Afghan ground transportation infrastructure networking the country was destroyed.

Lines of communication remain slow, dangerous and impassable in many locations.

Much of the country remains accessible only by air due to the geography of the region.

Decisions from the 2002 Bonn conferences included provisions to maintain an Afghan Air capability to facilitate and assist in movement of critical supplies in the war ravaged country.

Perennial springtime floods and frequent seismic activity combine for routine need to airlift supplies and personnel to aid in disaster response.

Election ballots for national elections and payroll for fledgling governmental services required fast and secure means of delivery throughout the country.

Now the country has a maturing land force which needs airlift to move, resupply and accommodate other services support.

But there is much work to do to turn a base-level capability into a professional, progressive-thinking force.

Once an Air Force with over 500 aircraft to include Mi-17 Hip and Mi-24 Hind helicopters, MiG-21 fighters, SU-22 interceptors, AN-12/26/32 Antonov airlifters, and an array of tactical bombers, the Afghan Air Corps (AAC) now has seven Mi-17, six Mi-35, and five Antonovs.

A fledgling vestige of a once-formidable capability.

The 3,000 former airmen kept in the ranks present great advantages and significant challenges in fielding the new AAC.

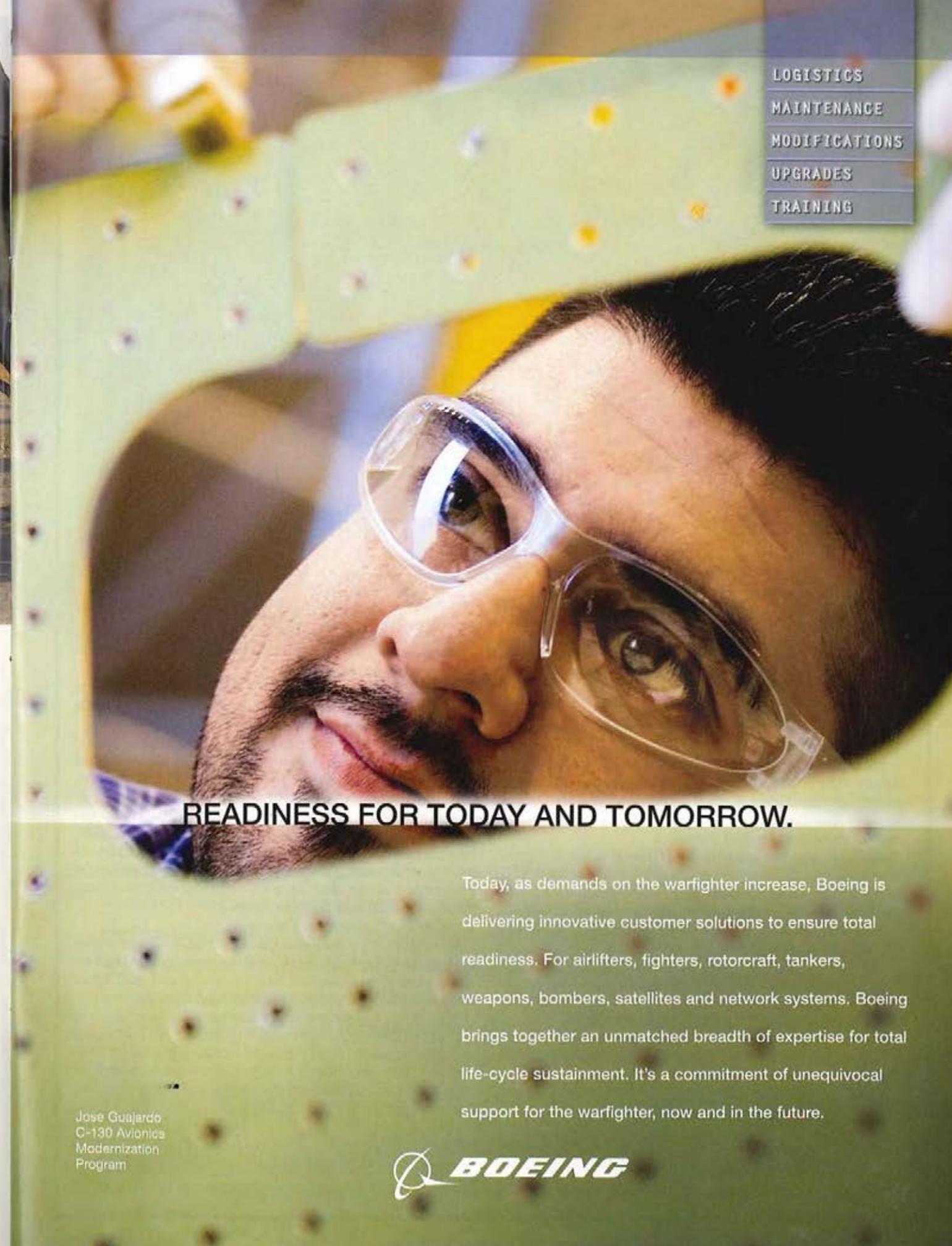
The expertise pool is deep; there are many idle aviators.

The Afghan Ministry has a difficult task of directly accessing the best and retiring the rest.

Protracted war had also destroyed every facet of Afghan governmental infrastructure and process.

All ministries are being rebuilt and struggle with routine management.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) is well on its way to self-sufficiency.



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Jose Guajardo
C-130 Avionics
Modernization
Program

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ARMY PHOTOS BY CW3 TIM BASSO

An Mi-17 helicopter conducts door gunnery weapons firing on range 1E at the Kabul Military Training Camp.

The decision to limit the MoD to a single service – Army – was a wise one.

An attempt at fielding an Army and Air Force at the highest levels would certainly have stymied the rapid growth at the General Staff level and bogged down Ministry development as services would invariably compete for extremely limited resources.

An AAC structured within the National Army followed this logic.

Within the AAC, however, an Afghan air force structure was built upon to leverage an existing and familiar design.

As such, the Corps has a wing, group and squadron structure akin to the U.S. Air Force.

The ACAG is a joint/combined team of aviators, infantrymen, logisticians and civilians, and combines the best practices, tactics, techniques and procedures into a mentoring campaign plan to build a modern Army Air Corps.

In a country with over 70 percent illiteracy rate, every aviator in the Afghan AAC is literate; many have advanced degrees courtesy of the former Soviet Union.

But terms of reference in every function, from leadership to maintenance management, are also Soviet, and like that system, these techniques fail in all categories.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to the ACAG team is the daily consistent reinforcement of new concepts and ideas

in leadership, management and caring for soldiers.

The ACAG mission is to train, mentor, equip, resource and set the conditions for self-sufficiency for the ANA Air Corps to deliver an enduring air capability.

The AAC's essential tasks are to conduct presidential airlift, and to provide support to the MoD, General Staff and ANA Regional Corps with combat, combat support, and combat services support from the air.

Additionally, the ACAG conducts strategic-level coordination with U.S. Embassy aviation advisors, International Security Assistance Force; Afghan Ministries of Transportation, Interior, and Defense; Presidential Protective Service, and other Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and coalition airspace users.

ACAG Concept of the Operation:

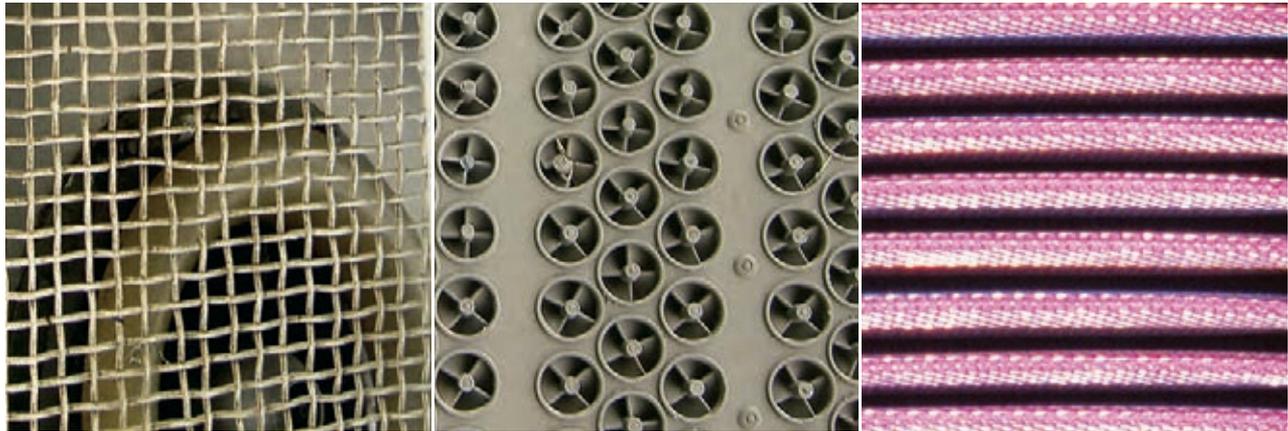
Resource, coordinate and guide current AAC operations in support of the GoA, MoD and the Army, while reforming organization, structure, and command and staff functions at squadron, group, wing and corps levels.

Reforming the Corps as it executes daily operations in support of the MoD requires agility, but we are leveraging current operations to advance the mentoring mission.

Every time an aircraft is flown, there are hundreds of opportunities to reinforce mentoring goals in reforming the corps across all lines of operation.

The end state is a developed, decentralized air capability for habitual and rapid response in support of regional Afghan National Army assets; a modernized fleet and cen-

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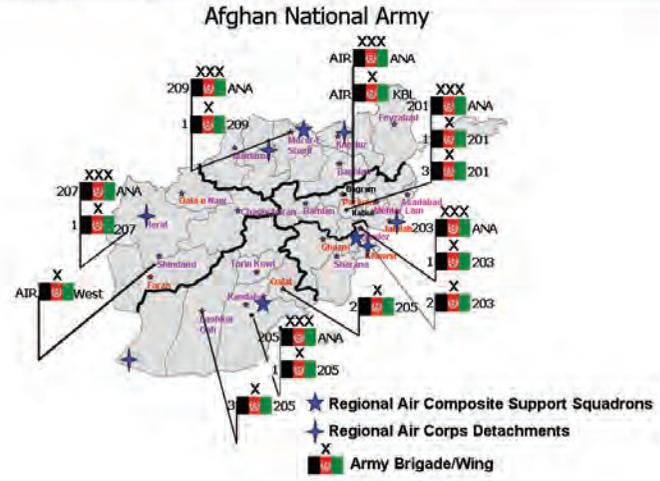
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Afghan National Army Air Corps

| Current Fleet | | 2011 Fleet | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|----|
| AN-12 | 0 | TBD Medium Lift | 19 |
| AN-32 | 3 | TBD Light Lift | 28 |
| AN-26 | 2 | MI-17 | 63 |
| MI-17 | 7 | MI-35 | 24 |
| MI-35 | 6 | TBD Turbo-Prop | 20 |
| L-39 | 2 | TBD Trainers | 18 |
| | | | 14 |



SPECIAL FOCUS STABILITY AND SUPPORT OPERATIONS

tralize posture to maximize tactical airlift national coverage; and to deliver an institutional training capability to train future soldiers and airmen.

There are three overlapping phases of development for the AAC.

Phase 1 expands the Kabul Wing and Corps Headquarters at the Kabul International Airport; executes Presidential Airlift; and fields 10 regional detachments.

Phase 2 fields an additional Air Wing at the former air base at Shindand in the western region of the country; and establishes an Air Training Center at Shindand.

The low density of civilian air traffic and remoteness of the location make Shindand an ideal air training center.

Phase 3 fields three Regional Composite (fixed and rotor wing) Support Squadrons to provide direct support to the associated army corps.

Phase 1 of delivering the Afghan National Security Forces an initial-capability air corps has personnel accessions as the top priority.

Directly accessed former Afghan Air Force personnel will cover down on Kabul-based facilities and support infrastructure to provide sufficient garrison and sustainment for personnel and equipment.

Poor facilities are a significant hindrance to progress in this phase.

A \$125 million ramp, multi-echelon maintenance hangar complex and cantonment project is underway at Kabul International Airport.

When complete in January 2008, it will be Central Asia's most modern aviation maintenance facility.

Phase 1 will end when the conditions are set to achieve a capability to conduct most operations with little mentor or ETT assistance.

Phase 2 intent is to deliver a rotary and fixed wing capability in the south and west of the country to allow for maximum national coverage and reduced response time for aircraft support.

The development of this phase will build on already existing facilities at the former fighter base in Shindand.

The remote location and low civil-air traffic density of Shindand also make it an ideal location for aviation training.

As a training center, Shindand development should account for all institutional air training requirements.

Expect initial basing of aircraft this December, and full wing strength should be accessed by August.

Final facilities occupation for the Air Wing is planned for April 2008, with the Air Training Center facilities operational by October 2008.

Phase 3 intent is to deliver a rapid response rotary wing airlift capability to the ANA regional Corps garrisoned around the country.

The AAC has small detachments at ten locations around the country now.

These small elements are designed to receive and service transient aircraft, passengers and cargo.

During *Phase 3*, three of these detachments expand into Regional Support squadrons to support the 203rd, 205th and 209th Corps areas.

The 207th Corps, headquartered in the western regional capitol of Herat, will receive air support from wing assets posted at Shindand Base.

Corps development and mentoring the "Big Five."

The ANA Air Corps Program Development Team (PDT) consists of five Aviation Program Developers with experience in aviation standardization, safety, unit level maintenance and supply, flight operations, and aviation petrol-oil-lubricants (POL) operations.

They serve as policy and program developers for specific assigned functions.

They advise AAC leaders at appropriate levels on tactics-techniques-procedures and programs within their respective functions.

The mentor/trainers recommend resource requirements and other program enablers to CSTC-A ACAG leadership.

They design and present staff training and assistance to staff officers and NCOs within the corps, wing and squadron level headquarters.

The PDT recommends regulatory guidance in air and ground safety management to include the conduct of pre-mission and post-mission procedures.

All hands on training is now being executed by Afghan instructor pilots.

The program leverages the current capacity of former

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The Trustees are especially interested in nominations of lower ranking personnel who participated in Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War On Terrorism.

Contact Janis Arena, 1-800-722-ARMY ext 132; email Janis@quad-a.org, or visit the AAAA web site: www.quad-a.org

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For details call 203.268.2450 or visit www.quad-a.org

Afghan Air Force pilots and instructor pilots qualified in existing fleet systems to become instructors and trainers within the flight squadrons.

All of these IPs require instruction on best practices in methods of instruction vis-à-vis international civil aviation operations and modern flight training procedures.

Although capable in their own right, there is a significant gap in knowledge of current methods and programs of instruction.

The ACAG team will expand from its current size of 25 trainers and mentors to over 253 within the next 12 months to properly execute its train-the-trainer and train-the-leader mission.

Many of the former air force personnel will not be accessed into the new Air Corps due to age limitations and/or ethnic balance restrictions.

The ACAG has tapped into this experience base to assist in the development of critical functions within the Kabul Air Wing.

Additionally, as an initial step toward mentoring AAC assets in the regional detachments, these experienced former Afghan Air Force personnel are assigned in teams of two to perform as liaisons to the ACAG.

In all, 42 former Afghan Air Force experienced personnel are on the team working together with ACAG trainers and mentors.

The effect has been significant.

Many of these former Afghan Air Force personnel are revered and respected by Corps personnel.

The challenges ahead are many for both the Afghan Air Corps and the ACAG.

Partnership with the U.S. Aviation Task Force assigned to CJTF-76 and the U.S. Air Force Air Expeditionary Wing, both stationed in Bagram Air Base, has served to further underscore the efforts of the ACAG.

Afghan leadership see first-hand the elements of mission-ready units – strong leadership, standardization and safety in all functions, an empowered NCO Corps with authority, responsibility and autonomy, and other time tested and proven aspects of our great force.



COL John T. Hansen is the chief of the Air Corps Advisory Group of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

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Desert Diablos in Afghanistan

AVIATION SUPPORT

A "Desert Diablos" Huey II fires countermeasure flares during an operation in Afghanistan.

to the "Other" Ground War

By CW5 (Ret.) Guy R. Charlton

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

The U.S. Department of State (DOS), through its own deployable, organic air wing provides both rotary and fixed-wing aviation support to another, unseen ground fight in Afghanistan.

A fight being prosecuted by select Afghan police forces, international partners and U.S. government agencies outside of U.S. Defense Department supported by Afghan and international policy.

This fight centers on coordinated efforts to eradicate opium poppies in several provinces, where the resulting product rapidly makes its way to Europe and the Middle East; and where its immediate value can provide a cash-infusion directly to insurgent forces for payroll or for the purchase of weapons to continue their fight against the central government and its coalition partners.

In parallel with direct actions by both U.S. and coalition military



U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

forces against the insurgency, these other core U.S. departments, agencies and international partners work primarily to facilitate constructive

growth and improvement in the country's infrastructure and foster the ability of a significant portion of the civil population to sustain itself without

growth and improvement in the country's infrastructure and foster the ability of a significant portion of the civil population to sustain itself without

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SPECIAL FOCUS STABILITY AND SUPPORT OPERATIONS



U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

A pair of U.S. State Department UH-1 Huey II aircraft are unloaded from a C-17 cargo aircraft at Kandahar Air Base.

resorting to illicit means.

Strategically-placed at hardened U.S. and coalition forces installations in both central and southern Afghanistan, the DOS Air Wing operates a small rotary-wing aviation force focused on aerial support to ground eradication of one of the largest opium poppy crops in the world.

The DOS Air Wing, formally known as the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Office of Aviation, based at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., is the executive agent for DOS aviation support of international counter narcotics efforts.

Acting on the direction of the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), the DOS Air Wing fields and manages several Aviation Programs around the world, focused on illicit crop eradication, aerial support of counter narcotics interdiction efforts and support of International Police training and mentorship.

The Air Wing fielded its current force of ten UH-1H II (Huey II) helicopters to Kandahar Air Base in January 2006, to an initial stand-up skeleton crew of pilots, mechanics,

logisticians, administrative and information technology support personnel.

U.S. Army and Air Force elements on-site provided extensive support to DOS during this period.

Aircraft and support equipment arrived by Air Force C-17s and was offloaded and assembled in the largest hangar on Kandahar Air Base.

Used at that time for ground equipment storage and outbound palletized cargo, the huge aluminum-skinned, bombed-out hangar was offered by the Kandahar Air Base and Task Force commanders for DOS use until such time as permanent facilities inside the new DOS compound are available.

Operating within the U.S. Embassy Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) and at the direction of the U.S. Ambassador, the INL-programmed DOS Air Wing support is focused mainly on the international war on drugs.

In Afghanistan, the ground poppy eradication effort (for which Air Wing aviation support is primarily programmed) occurs commensurately with the Afghan poppy growing cycle.

The eradication season in southern Afghanistan in provinces such as Kandahar and in the heavily-planted

and hotly-contested Helmand Valley is from approximately Feb. 1 until April 30.

The Eradication season in the northern and central provinces is roughly May 1 until Aug. 30.

Once the Kandahar aircraft were assembled, test-flown and crew currency and orientation goals were met in early February 2006, the T-703-engined Huey II aircraft immediately entered service supporting an Afghan Ground Eradication Forces (AEF) live deployment to the Helmand Valley.

The AEF, comprised of elements of the Afghan National Police (fully-manned at approximately 600 troops) is organized to deploy to the field as smaller separate units and remain on-site for extended periods to eradicate poppies.

The AEF is a “manual ground eradication force” using tractors, mowers and sickles to eradicate illicit poppy growth.

Air Wing aviation elements support AEF with aerial reconnaissance, aeromedical evacuation, and gun ships equipped with 7.62 Gau-17 mini-guns and M-240D machine guns for use in emergency ground forces extraction and convoy-cover during poppy eradication operations in government-approved locations.

To develop an operational support capability in the north and central regions, DOS Air Wing chose to exploit existing pilot experience in the program for high-altitude operations and to develop crew skills to a continuation-training level prior to the beginning of the northern Afghan eradication season.

Four aircraft and approximately 25 persons were split-off from the Kandahar package in late-March 2006 and based at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul.

During that period, living quarters were constructed in Kabul and temporary aircraft ramp space was secured and modified to house the northern unit, where they currently reside until completion of their permanent main operating base facilities on a 110-acre parcel of land at Kabul International Airport.

Fielded Air Wing programs are typically manned by commercially-contracted former military pilots from all services, but tend to have a “heavy army aviation presence” in the rotary-wing pilot population.

This is because of the high-level of rotary-wing tactical expertise needed in the programs and the inherent benefits of the "aviation standardization mindset" that comes with successful long-term experience as a military aviator.

The DOS Air Wing program in Afghanistan is manned with and managed by former and retired U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy pilots, with a smattering of former military pilots from other countries within which DOS has fielded programs.

The Air Wing unit in Afghanistan supports a full-year's calendar of events from several programs.

Emphasis is placed on support of the six-month Afghan eradication seasons in the south and north.

However, in the "off-season" from Aug. 15 to Feb. 15, considerable support is provided to other U.S. and international programs, including aerial support of interdiction by deployed elements of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and NATO's International Security Assistance Force who, working with select Afghan police units, conduct raids on illicit laboratories and execute search warrants, make arrests and seek extradition of drug-offenders.

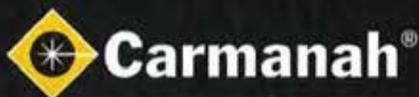
The fleet of aircraft supporting the U.S. Embassy Air Wing counter narcotics effort in Afghanistan includes a general support commercially-contracted element.

A 52 passenger AN-74 Antonov tactical transport jet, currently-configured to accommodate 30 passengers and routine cargo, and two MI-8 Hip and an MI-26 Halo helicopters round-out the current aviation support package during the six-month eradication season.

Because of the limited ability to safely and reliably move by ground through Afghanistan, this aviation capability, combined with the tactical mission utility and overall capabilities and versatility of the Huey II fleet, provides a vital aerial-link in mission support and routine passenger, equipment and cargo transfer.

❖ ❖ ❖

Retired CW5 Guy R. Charlton is the Counter-narcotics Aviation Program Manager and the senior aviation advisor for the Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.



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Thoughts on Leadership for Combat

By COL Douglas M. Gabram

War story about the intangible definition of air/ground integration...

Bearcat 6, the air mission commander of an attack weapon team (AWT) consisting of 2 AH-64Ds, had just arrived on the scene of an improvised explosive device (IED) attack against a U.S. convoy in Iraq.

In the explosion, there was a U.S. Humvee heavily damaged, and one Soldier was dragging the remains of his buddy away from the wreckage.

The ground elements were trying to sort out the situation and care for the wounded.

Our AWT maneuvered around the site trying to locate a triggerman and provide immediate security for the stricken convoy, while simultaneously calling in and securing critical MEDEVAC support from a nearby U.S. base.

One of the AH-64s located a possible anti-Iraqi force triggerman and vectored the ground elements, callsign "*Hardrock*," to the location.

This individual was detained and later found to be involved with the IED.

What happened next was the true definition of air/ground brotherhood.

The *Bearcats* and *Hardrock*, who had previously worked together, continued to build an incredible level of trust and cohesion.

Immediately after the memorial for the fallen Soldiers in the deadly IED attack, *Hardrock 6* asked *Bearcat 6* to share some time with his Soldiers.

As I watched from a distance, our four pilots that had been on scene that deadly day embraced those young infantrymen and shed tears together.

Not much was said, just the unspoken respect and bond of combat, knowing they would all put their lives on the line for each other.

It starts with trust and must be earned, it didn't come free that day, but it was definitely understood and can't be measured in a checklist.

The above vignette highlights the bond between ground Soldiers and aviators.

At the end of the day, our sole function as Army aviators is to support ground forces, providing reliable, responsive and lethal aviation support precisely where required on the battlefield.

Linked to this end state are four pertinent elements that we as leaders and warfighters have an obligation to address in our formations.

These elements are: leading, training, maintaining and caring.

Focusing on these areas we can positively influence individuals or units in the preparation and/or execution of this ongoing Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), and ultimately continue to protect our Soldiers on the ground.

I had the privilege and honor to command an attack helicopter battal-

ion for 40 months and served two tours in Iraq while in command.

As I reflect upon that experience, I am totally humbled by our Soldiers' commitment to this mission, the special brotherhood of combat, and their selfless sacrifice to a greater cause.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "History does not entrust its freedom to the weak and timid."

That is why our Soldiers are leading the way during this conflict, clearly continuing to demonstrate their strength and courage on this complex battlefield.

LEADING

Our junior leaders and Soldiers are some of the sharpest we have witnessed in many years and have firmly demonstrated their unconditional commitment during sustained combat operations over the past four years.

We have more combat experience

in our junior ranks than in the past 20 years; some mid level captains and NCOs have two or three Operation Iraqi or Enduring Freedom tours under their belts.

These Soldiers are faced with tough decisions whether or not to stay with the Army.

As many clearly understand, the toll on our family members continues to increase with multiple deployments.

Many great Soldiers will make the hard decision to leave our ranks for the right reasons, but now more than ever we need these good people, with all their attributes and experience to stay the course.

The question posed to all of us is... "*How do we keep America's finest in the Army?*"

Lead them with passion.

Be honest with Soldiers and get personally engaged in their welfare. In this game, you can't coach from the sidelines or by email.

I came across this quote years ago from a local business leader, "Some can fake attitude, some can fake enthusiasm, but you can't fake passion."

Stand for something and believe in what you stand for.

Don't be one of those leaders who ride the centerline of life (also known as "fence sitters") because he or she is worried about what everyone thinks.

Pick a side and put your Soldier's interests at the top of the list.

Take responsibility for your actions, because the successes of your Soldiers are theirs; and their failures are yours.

Pass down the accolades and credit and take the criticism and mistakes as your own. This is called the price of leadership.

Always emphasize teamwork and focus on the team in all aspects of your organization.

Too many leaders consistently use the word "I" and "me" in their daily language. This sends a clear message – there is no "I" in *team*. The true teamwork concept and practice starts at the top.

Everyone on the roster has some-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The author and then Battalion Commander LTC Douglas Gabram, left, with CW5 Greg Turberville, unit standardization instruction pilot, and MAJ Jeffrey White, executive officer, give a "thumbs up" in Iraq.

All our pilots carried these 10 rules on their person:

- 10 Expect No Mercy Gun Pilot Rules
1. Never leave your wingman.
2. Whatever happens – always fly the aircraft first.
3. Most important part of the flight is take-off and landing (heads out).
4. Before take-off ... two power levels to fly with hand (both verbally confirm).
5. Know and understand the rules of engagement – the trained gun pilot knows when to pull the trigger and when not to.
6. In all aspects of your mission – Do not be predictive – the enemy has a vote.
7. Altitude and airspeed = survivability.
8. Tape management – talk to the tape like it will be on CNN.
9. Think ahead of the aircraft and situation ... always ask what if? (brainstorm).
10. Fly only as fast as you can see.

thing to offer. You just have to figure out how to harness individual talent to enhance the overall team.

Many professional sports teams have an abundance of superior talent, but can't win because they have a group of selfish individuals instead of a team working towards one common goal. Sometimes an assist is just as good as a basket when it involves taking care of Soldiers in a combat environment.

When the going gets tough and bad things happen as they often will during a year long deployment, your true test in the end will be whether you built a selfless team with the common goal of taking care of each other.

Develop a playbook or theme that you can rally around or circle the wagons.

On a daily basis using various delivery methods, we always strived to communicate and go back to our core philosophy and theme through three general orders:

1. Stay positive
2. Stay alert
3. Take care of each other

These were rather simplistic, but during the turbulence of two deploy-

ments and the non-predictable fog of war, they seemed to work pretty well. One of my top three post command after action review (AAR) points would be — focus on the basics.

If you can't block and tackle properly, how are you going to call an audible on the line of scrimmage?

Some examples important and relevant during this fight are: clear communications with the ground elements, pre-combat checks, pre-combat inspections (PCC/PCI's), disciplined mission briefing procedures, accurate reporting, safety/standardization, pride of ownership, and steel on target.

Promote and endorse adaptive and flexible leadership at the lowest level. This war is being fought and won at the team (2 aircraft) and squad levels.

Choosing the proper pilots-in-command, aircrews, and air mission commanders may be the most important selections we make in Army aviation. Additionally, during all missions, evaluate the accident and tactical risks.

The enemy always gets a vote; but weather, wires and the harsh environment has taken its share of lives and equipment.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is the risk worth the benefit?
- Can I do anything else to mitigate the risk and still get the mission done?

Our junior leaders are making operational, and in some cases, strategic decisions in this conflict.

Train them, give them clear commander's intent, trust them to execute and make the right decisions, then they will make you proud.

Even though we are executing or preparing for combat operations, leaders cannot stop mentoring, coaching and training subordinates.

You are developing the next generation of combat leaders.

Always solicit and listen to Soldier and team feedback.

AAR everything; capture this data and share it with others.

Repeating the same mistake will lead to complacency, poor judgment and possible loss of life.

Consequently, take time to reflect what you did right and what you need to improve for future operations.

TRAINING

Everything we do should focus on preparing our Soldiers mentally, emotionally and physically with a focus



Soldiers from HHC, 1st Bn., 101st Avn. Regt. in front of the "Expect No Mercy" tactical operations center, at Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

How do we keep America's finest in the Army? Lead them with passion! Be honest with soldiers and get personally engaged in their welfare. In this game you can't coach from the sidelines or by email. "Some can fake attitude, some can fake enthusiasm, but you can't fake passion."

A very important consideration when utilizing scout/attack teams or when flying any combat mission is variation of altitudes, flight patterns, and flight techniques to counter the surface-to-air missile and/or small arms threat.

Another serious issue that is generating controversy is over flight of urban areas during combat operations.

Many units are forced to routinely fly over urban areas due to support requirements and mission sets.

We must always strive to remain unpredictable and consider pattern analysis, escape routes, altitude, air-speed, contingencies, and recovery and extraction assets.

Remember, history has proven the probability of being engaged by both small arms fire and shoulder fired missiles increases when you fly over built up areas.

Be on guard for aerial ambushes during ALL missions.

Definitely have a unit autonomous personnel recovery plan in place.

If you want a report card, go ask your supported BCT's. Doctrine, TTP's, CCA formats only gets you into the fight. What happens after that is the true understanding of the basics; adaptive leadership at the team level, and passion for taking care of the ground Soldiers as well as your wingman is what wins the day. Even with all the technology our airframes bring to the fight... if you don't have the "warrior spirit", you may as well not even break friction with the ground.

on building the team for the next combat deployment.

The average dwell time now between deployments is approximately 8 months.

We must be smart about how we train, where we train, and what we train. Simultaneously, you need to get the right team on the field.

Do whatever it takes to get your team together as early as possible. This will include key personnel decisions and help from your chain of command, especially for E6 and above.

Challenging issues include: Soldiers with multiple deployments; Soldiers that will PCS, ETS or retire prior to the next deployment.

Especially critical are the 1SGs, company commanders, senior warrant officers and primary staff.

Train and prepare for split-operations and multi-functional task force formations.

Think about how you would command and control from two or three remote locations.

Considerations are forward arming and refueling points, maintenance packages, task organization linked to aircraft capabilities, and key personnel locations, just to name a few.

Leverage simulators at every opportunity to replicate degraded aircraft performance with high density altitude and gross weights.

Identify aviators to attend High Altitude Army Aviation Training Site (HAATs) – this was a combat multiplier and effective risk mitigation control measure during our deployments.

Practice dust and brown out take-offs and landings when applicable and feasible.

Think about various weapons configurations based on the threat and environment conditions.

Don't forget about your staff aviators – they will pay huge dividends during the course of a year-long deployment.

The new Commanders Guide (TC 1-210) spells out new timelines for RL-1 aviators to become pilots-in-command.

Formulate your plan early so you are not giving PIC rides during reception and staging (RSOI) in theater.

Most of the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) we are currently using in Iraq and Afghanistan have evolved, changed, and in some cases, have been created based on the threat and operating environment.

Consider "pink teams" or "scout/attack teams" which involves the employment of OH-58D and AH-64D aircraft paired together—depending on mission set and area of operations.

While not a new TTP (can be traced back to the teaming of AH-1 Cobras and OH-6 Cayuse "little birds" during the Vietnam War), this TTP has been modified to maximize the capabilities of the modern platforms, weapon systems and sensors.

By leveraging this TTP in certain situations or mission sets, we can mitigate the tactical risk imposed on our aircrews while increasing our effectiveness and lethality to the ground commander.

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No Mercy Ready reaction force in front of the Battalion TOC.

I can't emphasize enough rule number 6... Do NOT be predictive. Have a task and purpose.

Ask "why?" and don't accept "well that's how we always have done it." Mix it up whenever you can and fight complacency everyday through passionate leader involvement.

When you put your head on the pillow tonight, ask yourself, "what I have done today to better prepare my soldiers for combat?"

As highlighted in the opening vignette, our job is to support the Soldier on the ground...period.

I'm often asked, "what are you most proud of after your tours of duty in Iraq?"

My answer is "our team's relationship and performance for our supported ground Soldiers!"

Effective air/ground integration is first built on trust and human relationships.

The first task we executed was face to face coordination with our ground unit's leadership.

If you watch the movie, "We were Soldiers, Once...and Young," there was a great illustration of the bond between the infantryman and the aviator.

LTC Hal Moore and MAJ Bruce

Crandall started this relationship with a beer and continued it with unconditional loyalty between units and leaders in combat.

I always reflect back on this example of what right really looks like.

We must do everything we can to establish a lasting and sincere relationship of trust with our Infantry brothers.

Start building these relationships before you deploy.

This special bond, formed between Soldiers in combat, hasn't changed over the course of history as captured in the written note from General William Tecumseh Sherman to General Ulysses Grant highlighted below.

MAINTAINING

The flying hours and associated fully mission capable rates being flown during sustained combat operations are unprecedented.

Our crew chiefs and NCOs certainly are the real MVPs of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

The mark on the wall for all units deploying is extremely high. Our ground commanders expect us to be there when it counts. Consequently, you must maintain your aircraft.

Crandall recently awarded the Medal of Honor. More than 40 years after demonstrating heroism for his ground brothers, retired LTC Bruce Crandall received the Medal of Honor... the narrative for our nation's highest award credits him with displaying leadership by example and fearless courage as he "voluntarily flew his unarmed Huey through a gauntlet of enemy fire on flight after flight, delivering desperately needed ammo, water and medical supplies into one of the most hotly contested landing zones of the war. He personally led a flight of 16 helicopters in support of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, which was out of water, running dangerously low on ammo and engaging about two regiments of North Vietnamese Army infantry determined to overrun and annihilate them."

You must have a solid phase plan using your aviation unit maintenance, aviation support battalion, and contractor assets to produce the combat power required to accomplish every mission.

Hold platoon leaders accountable for their aircraft, keep commanders informed, and enforce pride of ownership starting at the crew chief level.

The P4T2 analysis (problem, plan, parts, people, tools and time) greatly contributed to our overall maintenance success, especially during split-based operations.

Back to the team concept – your production control and quality control officers are critical in the overall success of your maintenance operation.

Choose them wisely and incorporate them in your tactical planning and execution.

During our first OIF deployment, we averaged 800 hours a month on our 24 AH-64Ds; the second OIF, we were at 1,500 hours a month.

The message is the pace and demand for aviation support will continue to grow.

The OPTEMPO and flying hours will continue to increase as we suc-

William Tecumseh Sherman in a letter to Ulysses S. Grant wrote...

"I knew wherever I was that you thought of me, and if I got in a tight place you would come – if alive."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COL Doug Gabram, center, stands with 10 1-101st Avn. Soldiers who were recently inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael during their deployment to Tikrit, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

cessfully integrate aviation support across the full spectrum of conflict.

Our young leaders need to understand the art and science of maintaining appropriate bank time.

It is a direct reflection of the general health of your fleet, allows you to surge when needed, and promotes proper maintenance management techniques.

A simple rule to live by is, “fly what you can maintain.”

History does not entrust its freedom to the weak and timid...

Gen Dwight Eisenhower

CARING

Soldiers don’t care how much you know, until you show them how much you care.

This is a 24/7 obligation and is not defined in any Army manual.

Caring takes on many forms and can be shown in many ways. For example, establish and enforce rules of personal behavior. It’s a combat deployment, not a field trip.

Establishing and expecting a level of professional and personal behavior demonstrates not only to the Soldiers, but to their family members as well,

that you care about all aspects of the team.

Trust me, this is an area many Soldiers won’t comment on; but in fact the majority is vastly in favor of strong committed leadership and rule enforcement.

Our Soldiers and families are the most precious asset we have. They are raising their right hands and reenlisting for the greater good, because they believe in our country and our Army.

We must truly take care of them, not just in word, but in deed and protect their best interests during this turbulent time in our Army.

Get to know your Soldiers, their strengths and weaknesses, and make them a valuable member of your team ...only then can you truly lead them.

Many understand there are numerous challenges regarding the GWOT, which has now gone on longer than our involvement in World War II.

Everyday we turn on our televisions and see there are various opinions on how this war should be handled. To say we are at a critical juncture would be a serious understatement...the stakes have never been higher.

A decisive example of warfare which has proved itself true once again is the enemy always gets a vote.

This has forced us not only to modify and change our overall strategy,

but also our tactical TTPs to accomplish our mission, remain relevant and protect our force.

Even though the insurgency continues to evolve and adapt to our tactics, make no mistake our Soldiers and leaders have done a magnificent job staying ahead of this enemy.

There have been and will be more tough days ahead, but we have the best trained and disciplined Army in the world.

We must continue to lead, train, maintain and care for our Soldiers whom will always make our country proud and succeed in the face of adversity.



COL Douglas Gabram commanded the 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He is now attending the Senior Service College Fellowship Program at University of Texas, Austin, and is slated to command the 1st Cavalry Division’s combat aviation brigade next year.

Leave the politics to the politicians, stay in your lane, and focus your energy on taking care of our Soldiers

TH-67 Soars to Historic Milestone

By Marti Gatlin



ARMY PHOTOS BY MARTI GATLIN

The TH-67 Creek helicopter, with student pilot WO1 Jacob Rettig and primary instructor-pilot Steven Dodge aboard, readies for departure from Cairns Army Airfield Jan. 16. This aircraft was used to fly the one millionth flight hour.

After more than a dozen years, instructor-pilots, students and maintenance crews reached an aviation milestone Jan. 16 at the home of Army Aviation — the one millionth flight hour in the TH-67 Creek training helicopter.

Used to train initial entry rotary wing students in primary, instrument and basic warfighting skills, the Creek is a Bell Helicopter model 206B Jet Ranger III.

To mark the event, Steven Dodge, Lear Siegler Services, Inc. primary instructor pilot; WO1 Jacob Rettig, student; and Jeffery Bowden, Army Fleet Support flightline mechanic presented U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center commanding general MG Virgil L. Packett II, a framed, commemorative memento at a celebration held Feb. 8 in the maintenance hangar at Cairns Army Airfield, Fort Rucker, Ala.

Packett said the one millionth hour is a remarkable example of combining bureaucracy, leadership and industry to train more than 15,000 aviators and the TH-67 has allowed and enabled

Soldiers to become aviators in safe and reliable ways.

Replacing the UH-1H Iroquois (Huey), the first TH-67 Creek arrived at Fort Rucker Oct. 15, 1993.

MG Dave Robinson, then the 16th commanding general of U.S. Army Aviation Center and Fort Rucker, and CW3 Howard Swan logged the first flight hour in the 01C model, according to post historical accounts.

Robinson, now retired, and Swan, a CW5, attended the commemoration, in which the first TH-67 was displayed.

Over time, Robinson said, some modifications have been made to the TH-67 such as removing the rear seat flight instrument panel and adding air conditioning.

He called the aircraft resilient and said it handled well in repeated emergency-procedures training as well as actual, random emergencies.

“Training in the TH-67 is far more than stick wiggling,” Robinson said. “It is where we first touch the soul of a warrior— an intangible thrust inside the being of all combat aviators.”

Dodge and Rettig flew the historic one millionth training hour.

In June 1994, Dodge flew the first training flight with two students in the TH-67 after its arrival here.

Dodge served 20 years as an Army aviator before his current position.

“I’m happy to be a part of history, and represent the former and present instructor-pilots and maintenance crews working towards this milestone. It was just as satisfying as the first training flight,” said Dodge.

“The TH-67 has met and far exceeded all the safety and training

requirements the Army could have asked for in my opinion.”

Rettig, who joined the Army about 10 months ago, said he was honored to fly the one millionth hour with Dodge.

“I’ve always wanted to fly, and I have always been interested in it since I was a kid,” said the 20-year-old Milwaukee native.

Among the Creek Indian Nation members attending Thursday’s ceremony and who took part in the helicopter’s acceptance ceremony, was Tim Martin, Creek Indian Enterprises president.

“As (MG Packett) indicated, we’re proud of the fact that the Creek is the base training model for the Army aviators of today,” Martin said.

“In this time of war all over the world, we certainly take pride in the fact that the Creek is the helicopter that’s been training our troops to go. We were here in 1993 to put it into service.”

Since the Army acquired the TH-67, student grades have improved, the course failure rate has been cut in half, and the helicopter has provided a highly reliable student- and instructor-friendly, low-cost airframe for nearly 15,000 Army aviators, Army officials said.

Today, Lear Siegler Services, Inc. provides the flight training contract and Army Fleet Support furnishes maintenance support.



Marti Gatlin writes for the Army Flier command newspaper with the Public Affairs Office at Fort Rucker, Ala. This story was re-edited for Army Aviation magazine.



Student pilot WO1 Jacob Rettig, left, and primary instructor-pilot Steven Dodge of Lear Siegler, Inc., complete the aircraft logbook after landing Jan. 16 from their historic one millionth flight training hour in the TH-67 Creek at Cairns Army Airfield.

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Home Station Mission Readiness Exercise



Soldiers load onto a UH-60 Black Hawk for a mission.

Knighthawks Train on Home Turf

By CPT Jeffrey Adams

Soldiers from 2nd Bn. “*Knighthawks*,” 3rd Avn. Regt. executed a home station mission readiness exercise (HSMRE) in order to support the 1st Bde. Cbt. Team (BCT), 3rd Infantry Division.

The rotation, normally conducted at the National Training Center (NTC) in California, was moved to Fort Stewart, Ga.

The unit learned many valuable lessons on the way to completing a successful exercise.

NTC rotation 06-09 provided 2-3 Avn. with countless opportunities to train, improve and adjust operations, and also presented some unique challenges.

Additionally, the location of the exercise on Fort Stewart presented a variety of advantages.

The key to the success of the rotation ultimately took place weeks before the exercise started.

The completion of a three-week long ‘Raider Focus’ proved indispensable to set the foundation for air-ground integration and the ability to hit the ground running when the rotation commenced.

The *Knighthawks* trained key leaders from all four maneuver battalions on aviation-related topics, to include employment of aviation in combat, setup of pickup zones and landing zones, aircraft loading/unloading, 9-line emergency calls and medical evacuation procedures.

Coordination and integration of air and ground assets played a leading role during combat operations and the task force could be successful by dedicating the necessary amount of time and resources to train on it.

The importance of the fact that the *Knighthawks* and *Raider Brigade* rehearsed and learned these items prior to mission execution cannot be understated.

Having such information disseminated and rehearsed prior to execution in ‘the box’ alleviated confusion, increased Soldier safety and allowed for maximum time spent conducting important training.

The following diagram illustrates the progressive nature in which 2-3 Avn. established and executed air-ground integration.

NTC 06-09 gave the *Knighthawks* an opportunity to conduct a wide variety of training not only on aviation operations, but ground operations as well.

The headquarters and headquarters company and newly added forward support company trained on entry control point operations, Warlock employment, reactions to indirect fire and convoy operations, to name a few.

It was an excellent time to put to use all the new elements of a general support aviation battalion.

As far as aviation operations, NTC 06-09 enabled the *Knighthawks* to train inexperienced aviators on



COURTESY ARMY PHOTOS

Soldiers are escorted to waiting UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Co. A, 2-3 Avn., for a "Raider Express" shuttle flight from Wright Army Airfield to the mission readiness exercise area at Fort Stewart.

tactics, techniques and procedures for operations in combat.

An added bonus came because of the location of the exercise on Fort Stewart.

Due to area familiarity, the unit's instructor pilots focused 100 percent on combat training without losing time conducting orientations and learning new local flying rules.

NTC 06-09 truly allowed 2-3 Avn. to focus its efforts on training as a fully functional aviation battalion and train on full spectrum aviation operations.

The HSMRE was the first time the *Knighthawks* were able to set up a functional tactical operations center (TOC) with its new team since redeploying from Operation Iraqi Freedom III, enabling the unit to learn multiple lessons.

The *Knighthawks* set up the TOC based on coordination between staff members and commenced operations.

Throughout the exercise, the goal was to constantly form and distribute a common operational picture (COP) to key players on the battlefield.

To aid in the formation and distribution of the COP, the 2-3 Avn. received feedback on how it could operate more effectively and efficiently.

Observer/controllers (OCs) taught classes on 'TOC-nomics' and presented examples from past rotations to give a variety of ideas for possible employment in combat.

In addition, the OCs, along with the help of some civilian contractors, provided a wealth of knowledge on the integration of new technology and effective dissemination of critical information in a combat environment.

One of the major accomplishments of the HSMRE was operator training on the command post of the future, or CPOF.

Fort Stewart civilians spent multiple days in the TOC training Soldiers.

The *Knighthawks* completed NTC 06-09 with six fully qualified CPOF operators, and the basic skill training of all TOC personnel.

The rotation played a major role in the refining and adjustment of standard operating procedures, operations and technology integration.

From an operational standpoint, NTC 06-09 provided the tactical operations (TACOPS) officer an opportunity to assist with aviation threat analysis information, training on personnel recovery (PR), and integration of the aviation mission planning system into flight operations.

Technical information about various threat systems and how they affect aviation operations assisted the unit intelligence officer (S2) with providing aircrews a greater situational awareness of the battlefield.

The analysis of weapon systems, capabilities and how aviation counters the threats also provided the S2 with a greater understanding of aviation on the battlefield.

The S2 finished the rotation with added knowledge about the unique challenges of intelligence dissemination in an aviation unit.

The mission rehearsal exercise provided a valuable training climate for flight crews, TOC personnel and the 1BCT on PR requirements and procedures.

This training culminated with a successful downed aircrew recovery exercise using both air and ground forces.



An AH-64D Apache Longbow from Co. C, 1-3 Avn. Regt., lands near the TF 2-3 Avn. TOC for a mission brief.



COURTESY ARMY PHOTO

1LT Yonatan Abebie, standing, makes a radio call in the Co. C, 1-3 Avn. command post during the home station mission readiness exercise.

Furthermore, the TACOPS officer buttressed the flight operations officer and the brigade aviation element (BAE) by serving as an expert on airspace coordination, analysis of air mission requests, and airspace control orders, providing an environment for a safe aerial battlefield.

Drawing on lessons from OIF III, the *Knighthawks* and 1BCT successfully planned operations and de-conflicted airspace, enabling all parties to accomplish their objectives.

Following daily airspace meetings, TACOPS was able to provide complete graphical representation of the battle space for both lift and attack aircrews, increasing their situational awareness.

NTC 06-09 provided some unique challenges as well.

Organizations such as NTC come with scenarios specific to the Southern California desert.

Although those scenarios fit perfectly to the environment at NTC, they did not always work as well on the Fort Stewart range due to local regulations and procedures.

However, the discrepancies provided an excellent opportunity for *Knighthawk* personnel to improvise and adapt in order to best meet the needs of the ground unit.

One of the significant impacts of the differences in training environment was a large amount of time spent de-conflicting the NTC plan with the local Fort Stewart regulations.

As stated, it was a unique challenge, but one that was overcome.

Due to home station requirements and additional planning and coordination, the *Knighthawks* wanted to minimize the impact on training and allow for realistic simulated combat operations.

As a result, 2-3 Avn. opted to send a liaison officer (LNO) to work at the BAE in order to provide 1BCT with constant aviation coverage.

The LNO was an extra knowledgeable person to work with the infantry brigade and proved extremely valuable.



The tactical operations center, or TOC, of Task Force 2-3 Aviation was established at Wright Army Airfield, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Although it is impossible to conduct operations exactly the way they are conducted in combat, the NTC and the Joint Readiness Training Center do the best job in simulating actual combat operations.

Finally, NTC 06-09 provided a unique advantage, being it was executed locally at Fort Stewart. With the high operations tempo of units involved in the Global War on Terrorism, time at home with family becomes critical.

The combat aviation brigade (CAB) job is to support the commanding general and the ground commander.

Therefore the CAB provides aircraft and Soldiers to support all four BCTs at Fort Stewart, the NTC and the Joint Readiness Training Center.

The amount of time spent away from families was cut almost in half by conducting the MRE at home station; and aviation units get an increase in training time and opportunities to not only train new aviators, but also increase the proficiency of already experienced combat pilots.

In addition, the most critical resources aviation units have are time and aircraft availability. The HSMRE helped maximize both resources.

First, the shortened timeline from not having to deploy and redeploy to NTC provided that much more time to train junior aircrews locally.

Secondly, the lack of deployment to NTC helped critical aircraft hours be spent on combat and mission training and not on a long, cross-country flight to California.

This is the most important thing commanders do prior to deploying to combat and it is a much easier task to accomplish when conducting training exercises locally.

Our NTC 06-09 provided 2-3 Avn. the opportunity to conduct excellent training, improve and adjust operations and presented a few challenges.

The end state is the *Knighthawk* Battalion is a much more capable and cohesive unit than prior to its training.

With personnel movements what they are, it is important to maximize training with all the new people in order to allow for the smoothest transition possible in combat.

When the *Knighthawks* next deploy there is no doubt that it will be an effective and efficient fighting unit.



CPT Jeffrey C. Adams is the assistant S3 training officer for 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.



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Our Military Kids

A Program Making a Difference for Children of Deployed Reserve and Guard Forces

By Gail Kruzel and Linda Davidson

When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq he said, "Please don't send cookies, care packages or socks. Just help take care of our children."

Our Military Kids is heeding his plea.

Our Military Kids (OMK) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to making essential extracurricular activities available to school-aged children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military personnel.

When a military parent is deployed, extracurricular activities become all the more important for keeping kids involved and on track.

In the case of Reserve and National Guard personnel, family incomes often shrink when a parent is deployed, thus making it more difficult for a child to participate.

And although the government makes significant resources available to children of active duty military at installations, these resources are often inaccessible for children of Reserve and National Guard personnel; over 60 percent of all reserve families live more than 25 miles from the nearest military base.

OMK provides grants to school-aged children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and NG military, grants that help fund their participation in youth sports, fine arts and tutoring programs.

The program gave its first award to a Virginia child in March 2005.

While it was planned to keep the program at a regional level for a period of time, it expanded nationally in April 2006 due to the compelling stories and desperate pleas for support being received at the OMK headquarters.



OMK has now provided grants to over 1,000 children in 47 states and the District of Columbia, to all branches of the Reserves and NG, and has raised enough funds that it has not had to turn away any eligible child.

The OMK program has been able to award grants to children like Kayla, a charming six-year-old who was experiencing emotional difficulties stemming from separation from her

deployed father and her worry for his safe return.

Kayla's mother was aware of her child's academic difficulties but was nonetheless shocked to find out at the end of the school year that Kayla's teacher had recommended she be held back and not advanced to the second grade.

This was yet another crushing blow to an already distressed child.

Not only was Kayla missing her father, she would no longer be in the same class as her friends.

Her mother applied to Our Military Kids for a grant to help pay for tutoring services during the summer months, hoping this extra attention and academic guidance would put Kayla back on track for the second grade in the fall.

It was reported that Kayla, now in the second grade, is receiving excellent grades on her report card!



Our Military Kids provides grants to school-aged children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military personnel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The following are some of the other families helped by OMK grants.

■ Bonnie, a mother to children aged 10, 9, 8 and 5 was undergoing cancer treatments while her husband served in Iraq. The fatigue from the chemotherapy was making it a challenge to keep up with her four active children during the school year and she was concerned about how she would manage during the summer months.

OMK provided funding for all of her children to attend an 8-1/2 week summer camp.

This fun, but structured, summer-time routine provided the children with a safe haven while Bonnie focused on her recovery.

■ Margaret, the mother of eight kids ages 11 through 1 years, home-schools her children.

Her desire was to have her children join the area YMCA so they could learn to swim, and perhaps, participate on the swim team.

The family budget was tight while dad was away and Margaret turned to OMK and requested grants for five of her children to participate in the YMCA swimming program.

It was a request OMK happily fulfilled.

■ Jill, the busy mom of three active children, asked for a grant for her 5 year-old son, Joe.

She explained that Joe wears bilateral cochlear implants and has a desire to read.

His father usually spends the evenings teaching him.

She had located a special education instructor with the ability to tutor Joe.

OMK paid for the tutor and now Joe is showing remarkable progress and is actually reading!

These families have at least two things in common: a loved one who is a member of the Guard or Reserve forces serving our country in a foreign land; and children recognized and supported by Our Military Kids for the sacrifices they are making while their parent is away.

OMK is a true public and private partnership having received funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the federal government and many corporations, and hundreds of individuals.

The major contributors include not only defense contractors such as General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin,

The Boeing Company, but also various Target stores, and the Freddie Mac Foundation.

Individuals donating to OMK can be assured 100 percent of one's contribution is going directly to funding the activities of the children.

OMK has a strong, involved board of directors that governs an ethical and prudent operation.

There is also an impressive advisory board that includes a former defense secretary, retired generals from each military branch and other individuals with a strong commitment to the military and the military family.

Families who have used the program have remarked it is easy to access and has a very fast turnaround.

To submit a request for a grant, eligible families are encouraged to apply for funding through the Our Military Kids website or by calling the national office to receive an application.

Each applicant is required to provide documentation that confirms his or her eligibility as a child of a

deployed or severely injured Reserve or National Guard service member.

Applicants must also specify the qualifying extracurricular activity for which funding is requested and identify the organization that provides the activity.

Upon approval, a grant check is issued on behalf of the child and mailed directly to the designated organization.

The child is sent a congratulatory letter, a certificate and an OMK patch.

The maximum grant award is \$500.

Our Military Kids believes that every child of deployed military personnel is important.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.ourmilitarykids.org, call (703) 734-6654, or mail: 6861 Elm Street, Suite 3-F, McLean, Va. 22101.



Gail Krusel and Linda Davidson are the founders and executive directors of Our Military Kids in McLean, Va.

President's Cockpit *continued from page 6*

At the end of February, the Tennessee Valley Chapter hosted the 33rd Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium — the biggest and best in years.

Army Astronaut COL Jeff Williams was truly out of this world with his photos and dialogue of his six months in space.

Another highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the Gold award of the Order of St. Michael to Paul Bogosian for his significant contributions to Army Aviation.

I also participated in additional chapter events in March.

A new chapter (yet to be named) hosted its inaugural luncheon on March 21 in Frankfort, Ky.

CW5 Mark Grapin is leading the charge of kick starting what will be a strong ARNG Chapter.

By the way, Mark will receive the "James H. McClellan Aviation Safety" award at the convention.

This was followed by the North Texas Chapter hosting a meeting in conjunction with Bell Helicopter's March 22 dedication of their new

ARH-70A facility at Alliance Field.

I returned to Huntsville March 23 to attend the Tennessee Valley Chapter's first annual Army Aviation Ball.

Finally, the February Senior Executive Associate meeting had to be postponed because our Chairman GEN (Ret.) Jack Keane was called to Iraq by GEN Dave Petraeus, but is on track for the end of March.

As always, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you, our nation's Soldiers and your families, especially with the recent increase of Army Aviation casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention very soon.

Thanks for helping us to achieve our mission of "AAAA: Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier."

Tom Konitzer
AAAA President
president@quad-a.org

New CH-47F Chinook Begins Army Operational Test Flights

The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Mo., reported Feb. 19 the first production CH-47F Chinook helicopter for the Army has moved into operational testing (OT) at Fort Campbell, Ky. The aircraft completed acceptance and developmental flight testing in December. Co. B, 7th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt., 159th Cbt. Avn. Bde will conduct the tests. The OT phase, which ends in April, includes more than 60 flight test hours that simulate a wide range of mission scenarios. The Army expects to begin fielding the aircraft in July 2007.



BOEING COURTESY PHOTO

First 3 UH-72A Delivered to Army

EADS North America, Arlington, Va., reported Feb. 6 it has provided the first three UH-72A Lakota aircraft to the Army ahead of schedule since contract award in June 2006. The aircraft were delivered Nov. 29, Dec. 20 and Jan. 30, over three months ahead of schedule, respectively. These three Lakotas are assigned to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., where the Army will conduct initial operational testing. Ten more Lakotas, of the 16 scheduled for delivery in 2007, are currently on the production line at the American Eurocopter production facility in Columbus, Miss.

NGC Awarded AH-64D Laser Rangefinder and Designator Contract

Northrop Grumman Corp., Apopka, Fla., received a \$23.6 million Army contract Jan. 22 to deliver 275 spare laser transceiver units (LTU) to be installed on the AH-64D Longbow helicopter's target acquisition designation sight (TADS). Under the terms of the contract, NGC's Laser Systems business unit will provide LTU replacement systems and spares beginning in late 2007, with final deliveries in 2009. The LTU has both a laser transmitter for range finding and designating targets, and a receiver for determining target range. The TADS enables the gunner/copilot to detect and identify targets on the battlefield and engage them with laser-guided Hellfire missiles.



BOEING COURTESY PHOTO

Robertson Aviation Lands New Leadership

Robertson Aviation, LLC, Tempe, Ariz., recently announced the appointment of retired COL Thomas "Tom" Harrison as president and general manager of Robertson Aviation effective Jan. 31. Harrison was formerly a vice president and program manager for the Army's light utility helicopter program with EADS North America Defense in Huntsville, Ala.

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

The Boeing Co., Ridley Park, Pa., was awarded Feb. 28 a

\$48.1M contract for long lead items for procurement or remanufacture of CH-47 aircraft to the MH-47G configuration. Work should be completed by Aug. 30, 2008.

AeroVironment Corp.*, Monrovia, Calif., was awarded Feb. 14 a \$46.7M contract for procurement of RQ-11 small unmanned aircraft systems (known as Raven), and associated initial spare packages. Work will be performed in Simi Valley, Calif., and should be completed by Jan. 11, 2008.

AAI Corp., Hunt Valley, Md., was awarded Feb. 9 a \$61.2M contract for performance based logistics for the SHADOW unmanned aircraft systems. Work should be completed by Oct. 31.

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, San Diego, Calif., was awarded Feb. 9 an \$11.6M contract for acquisition of four extended range multi-purpose Block 0, unmanned aircraft systems, associated support equipment, and initial spares. Work will be performed in San Diego (65 percent), Adelanto (5 percent) and Palmdale (5 percent), Calif.; and Salt Lake City, Utah (25 percent), and should be completed by Dec. 18.

Hellfire Systems L.L.C., Orlando, Fla., was awarded Feb. 7 a \$196.7M contract for various Hellfire missiles in containers. Work should be completed by Feb. 28, 2011.

Tyonek Fabrication Corp.*, Madison, Ala., was awarded Feb. 7 an \$8.9M contract for fit form functional replacements of the UH-60 relay panels. Work should be completed by Nov. 30, 2009.

DynCorp International L.L.C., Fort Worth, Texas, was awarded Jan. 31 a \$95.5M contract for life cycle contractor support and maintenance for the entire fleet of C-12, RC-12 and UC-35 Army Fixed Wing Aircraft. Work should be completed by Jan. 31, 2008.

The Boeing Co., Ridley Park, Pa., was awarded Jan. 31 an \$80.9M contract for spare parts for the CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Work should be completed by Dec. 31, 2013.

Tyonek Fabrication Corp.*, Madison, Ala., was awarded Jan. 31 a \$21.4M contract for fit form functional replacements for the UH-60 Blackhawk. Work should be completed by Nov. 30, 2009.

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ARMY AVIATION ASSOCIATION

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

The fiscal year 2007 Captain, active Army competitive category promotion board results were released Feb. 8. Congratulations to the following 274 officers.

2525 Alvarez, Paulina
 385 Anderson, Glenn O.
 3329 Anderson, Lucas R. *
 100 Anhut, Nicholas R.
 105 Apostle, Alexander
 2898 Arnold, Stephan J.
 2891 Attaway, James A. *
 2323 Bairley, Alan M.
 2882 Barnes, Justin D.
 2937 Basenberg, Jensen T. *
 2288 Bennett, Adam D. *
 259 Bennett, Chad A.
 1516 Benoit, Beth A.
 104 Benoit, Keith R.
 3040 Benson, Ian H.
 689 Bergemann, Kris J. *
 2409 Bet, Adam T. *
 1683 Betz, Travis *
 2442 Bickford, Robert J. +
 2333 Bigger, Lori L.
 107 Biggers, William T.
 2372 Bitter, Samuel
 1868 Blevins, Douglas A. *
 1684 Boenitz, Eric S. *
 3067 Boldt, Philip J. *
 106 Braine, Kevin I.
 109 Brewer, William B.
 2906 Brewington, Thomas
 2310 Brockbank, David C.
 1069 Brooks, Neapolian A. *
 3260 Brubaker, Jason C.
 2557 Buckingham, Ryan J.
 3297 Buono, Donna J. *
 1506 Burfield, Jordan L.
 2515 Burke, Holly J.
 2672 Burke, Kyle D.
 1024 Bustamante, Richard *
 111 Cannon, Wesley R.
 3388 Canupp, Jimmie L.
 110 Carter, Brent C.
 3238 Casiday, Billy B.
 2141 Cerniglia, Adam
 88 Chastain, Joshua R.
 2114 Christian, Ashlie I.
 2479 Clapp, Frederick L. *
 885 Clark, Derek M. *
 2341 Clifton, Dabney A. *
 53 Cohen, Benjamin M.
 251 Copeland, April D.
 2446 Cousineau, Joy F. *
 2432 Crapanzano, Robert
 63 Crucet, Antonio III
 2152 Cuevas, Xenia M.

3232 Dadisman, Zachary L.
 2995 Dailey, James D. *
 3822 Danos, Shauna E.
 2410 Daschle, Michael D.
 261 Davidovitch, Peter *
 2134 Davies, Michael W.
 1002 Deatrick, Daniel S. *
 2998 Deloach, John B.
 2667 Desaulniers James *
 1011 Deterding, Aaron M.
 2956 Dickhart, Charles W.
 2639 Dickman, Ross B. *
 3286 Difabio, Anne M.
 2488 Diko, Anna L.
 2444 Dirienzo, Thomas P.
 2504 Dishong, Christopher
 2197 Doleac, Kenneth A.
 3714 Dowdy, Joseph G.
 2555 Duff, Jeremy T.
 2551 Duncan, Christopher *
 3919 Easley, Matthew G. *
 1663 Easterling, Travis
 3578 Eaton, Elizabeth S. *
 94 Edwards, Brian T.
 3773 Eilers, Courtney E. *
 77 Evans, Andrew S.
 3039 Farrell, Michael A.
 3588 Feezor, Alisha E. *
 2427 Fennell, Michael A.
 1659 Ferguson, Elizabeth *
 679 Fischer, James R.
 2494 Fitzpatrick, Bryan
 345 Flinton, David B. *
 3316 Fontenot, Merry J.
 3961 Ford, Matthew T. *
 4287 Freshour, Jacob W. *
 674 Gale, Scott D. *
 4206 Galvin, Michael A.
 2369 Gates, Bradley C. *
 2965 Gaylor, Kyle E.
 2560 Gharbi, Amir A.
 175 Gibbs, Jeremy M.
 667 Glenn, Brian K.
 2469 Gray, Nelson B. *
 308 Greer, Charles E.
 2385 Griggs, Randall S.
 252 Hartnett, Timothy B. *
 1515 Hayes, Mark P. *
 2281 Healey, Dustin *
 254 Henderson, Sean J.
 2475 Herman, Mark W. *
 260 Hertz, Matthew P.
 3391 Hill, Jesse A. *
 3845 Hill, Patrick L.
 2380 Hinds, Josephine T.
 1118 Hoover, Calvin R. Jr
 2103 Hortman, John D.
 1841 Howard, Ashley N. *
 2298 Hsiung, Stanley
 662 Huckbody, Darek L. *



ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. JOE BATTLE

Change of Command

LTG James D. Thurman became the 52nd commanding general of V Corps during a Feb. 6 ceremony at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany. The event also served as a welcome home ceremony for hundreds of Soldiers returning from Iraq. Thurman succeeds MG Fred Robinson, who took over as acting commander when LTG Ricardo Sanchez relinquished command after three years in the job. Thurman moved from Fort Hood, Texas, where he relinquished command of 4th Inf. Div. in December after 2-1/2 years in command. He commanded more than 50,000 troops assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad, including about 20,000 Iraqi soldiers and police during his 2006 deployment to Iraq. Above: U.S. Army Europe Commander GEN David D. McKiernan, left; COL Robert Rush, V Corps deputy chief of staff; and Thurman salute as they review troops during Thurman's assumption of command ceremony.

941 Hudson, Rhian A. *
 2955 Hunt, Brian A.
 2702 Hunt, Wesley P. *
 1922 Huston, Erica
 41 Hutson, Michael F.
 1513 Irving, Steve H.
 2697 Jablonski, James A.
 3777 Jackson, Ammon U.
 1863 Jackson, Benjamin R.
 2331 Jackson, Luke T.
 1833 Jacobsen, Jared M.
 2563 James, John E.
 3390 Johnson, Amy E. *
 2404 Johnson, Cameron M.
 2270 Johnson, Levi R.
 2435 Johnson, Patricia M.
 663 Johnson, Travis A. *
 2534 Jones, Raymond C.
 299 Kaminski, Michael E.
 1901 Karrels, Sean H. *
 2869 Katzenberger, Benjamin *
 2597 Kazmarek, Robert A. *

3577 Kearney, Aaron L. *
 1968 Kelly, Robert C.
 2549 Kelly, Ryan V.
 3292 Kennedy, Lucas J. *
 2069 Kenny, Margaret A.
 3619 Kia, Aaron M.
 2044 Killoran, Matthew D. *
 3281 Kiluk, Courtney L.
 3584 Kittlesen, Jason S. *
 2407 Klich, Christopher
 2145 Koch, William L.
 3847 Kofod, Michael G.
 2387 Kruper, Samantha M.
 3267 Kruse, Luke D.
 2587 Kuen, Andrew J.
 2462 Lewis, Benjamin G.
 3530 Lewis, Kari E. *

* = AAAA Member
 + = Life Member

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ARMY AVIATION ASSOCIATION

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

2429 Lindberg, Paul E. *
 2403 Loux, Thomas J. *
 103 Lowery, Jill K.
 1060 Lundeby, Michael B.
 3200 Lyons, Jeremy H. *
 595 Maldonado, Ricardo
 1108 Mallya, Bariki N. *
 2592 Marion, John M.
 1072 Martinez, Guillermo
 2052 Massey, Robert P. *
 2958 Matters, David A. *
 3010 Matthews, Amanda S.
 303 Matthews, Kevin W.
 3950 McBride, Robert C.
 871 McFarland, Scott B. *
 4286 McLaughlin, Cory N. *
 2217 McLean, John M. *
 3655 Melki, Lindsey C.
 2977 Merrill, Kevin T.
 265 Miller, Trent D. *
 677 Minckler, Ryan E.
 2267 Mogensen, Matthew D. *
 656 Monette, Brett L. *
 901 Morehead, Chadwick *
 1756 Morris, Gabriel L.
 2979 Morris, Katherine J.
 1511 Mulder, Jonathan R.
 2182 Neal, Paul B. *
 2524 Olsen, Edmund J.
 3824 Olson, Eden M.
 3846 Opfer, Julie L. *
 2037 O'Reilly, Egan L.
 2209 Pafford, Brent J.
 2336 Paladino, Matthew N.
 1168 Pankuch, Anthony B.
 1685 Pearce, Michael A. *
 3592 Pearson, Jeffrey R. *
 1286 Perezbirriel, Dario
 4072 Perry, Julie A. *
 4288 Pickett, Jonathan E.
 1715 Post, Ryan W. *
 1124 Pounds, Troy W.
 2023 Powell, Michael A. *
 4252 Puente, Robert J.
 3385 Pyun, Melissa A.
 658 Rauschert, Lara M.
 2120 Recla, Benjamin J. *
 2184 Revels, Robert W.
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 3057 Riddle, Bryan E. *
 1103 Rieck, Andrew D.
 4043 Rigney, Michael J.
 3011 Robinson, Jennifer
 255 Robles, Gema
 1514 Rogers, Laura J.
 2232 Root, Thomas P.
 2642 Rosenfeld, Socrates
 82 Rousseau, David B.
 249 Sampsel, Johnathon
 945 Sancineto, Loren M.
 943 Sawyer, J. B.
 3551 Schlesier, Brian C. *
 2181 Schuchard, Ross J. *
 2951 Schultz, Quenton L.
 2049 Schwetz, David M. *
 3300 Sevigny, Steven P. *
 2076 Sharkey, John W.
 241 Shouse, Kyle A.
 253 Sidwell, Lisa L. *
 2272 Silva, Brian J. *
 2246 Simpson, Joshua
 1700 Singleton, Philip J. *
 2430 Smead, Aaron T.
 2643 Smith, Sean T.
 2365 Smoot, Adam V. *
 292 Sparks, Erik R.
 1673 Stachler, Nicholas *
 2368 Steinbock, Mark D.
 653 Stevenson, Jennifer
 2354 Stilwell, Jacquelin *
 2293 Stone, Jonathan R.
 582 Strickland, Tracy A. *
 1635 Sulpizio, Donald J.
 633 Sutton, Jared D. *
 1930 Swanson, Eric P. *
 2268 Swanson, Howard M. *
 2613 Swanson, Justin J.
 2465 Taite, Norvel *
 2242 Tatmantlyree, Gill T. *
 3858 Taylor, James R. *
 291 Taylor, Nicholas J.
 3100 Thomas, Richard
 247 Tolin, John C.
 2066 Torres, James M. *
 112 Tucker, Brendan M.
 2620 Urso, Michael J. *
 2599 Valdivieso, Anthony
 108 Vanhise, Austin S.
 1725 Vos, John R.
 1509 Walker, Merrill W. *
 2583 Wallace, Paul R.
 528 Warfield, Mark A.
 680 Warner, Matthew J. *
 2644 Watson, Michael
 2148 Weaver, Jeffrey S. *
 1722 Webb, Christopher D.
 703 Weipert, Michael J. *
 445 Whitesel, William S. *
 4044 Whitney, Nathan H.
 2307 Whittle, Stephanie
 2946 Wicktor, Eric J.
 2452 Wilbourn, Samuel R. *
 2284 Wild, Shaun M.
 1650 Wolcott, Robert N. *
 294 Wong, Johnny
 1867 Wood, Bonnie L.
 2101 Woods, Lorilyn M.
 2530 Woody, Clinton R.
 2200 Woody, Susan K.
 2586 Yambing, Kenneth C. *
 2024 Yohe, Derrick A.
 1601 Zotter, Christopher



Combat Awards

Four Soldiers from the 1st Bn. (Attack Recon), 82nd Avn. Regt., attached to the 25th Cbt. Avn. Bde. were awarded the Purple Heart during an awards ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq on Feb. 2. The Soldiers received injuries when their vehicles were hit by shrapnel from detonating anti-tank mines while on patrol. Pictured above (l to r) are: **SPC Daniel Ortegon**, **1LT Brian Murtagh**, **SPC David Shepherd** and **SPC Eric Long**. Murtagh said, "Our body armor and up-armored vehicles played an important role in saving our lives."

The fiscal year 2006 Captain, Reserve Components competitive category promotion board results were released Feb. 22. Congratulations to the following 48 officers.

Barg, Steven K.
 Belfi, Matthew J. *
 Brummond, Richard
 Burk, Tyler G.
 Castro, Tyon V.
 Chacko, Shiby J.
 Chermacke, Nathan *
 Couch, Jeff M.
 Cross, Gary L.
 Dillon, Andrew T.
 Duckworth, David S.
 Fontaine, Donald E.
 Frye, Richard A.
 Giles, George B. *
 Hale, Fred R.
 Halko, Matthew J.
 Hilzendager, Brent *
 Jungels, Jeffrey J.
 Kearney, Jeremy A. *
 Koyles, Bryan S.
 Lacicero, Patrick
 Landrum, Steffen T.
 Leisten, Mark T.
 Lippy, Aaron J.
 Loy, David A.
 Marsolais, Richard
 May, Jacob E.
 Messick, Jeremy E.
 Micklus, Robert L.
 Miller, Roy E.

Miller, William J.
 Musick, Brian L.
 Ramirez, Julius S.
 Redding, Michael L.
 Ridgel, Donna M.
 Rodriguez, Juan A.
 Roman, Teddy
 Sallin, Mark E. *
 Schmidt, John B.
 Scotson, Clayton B.
 Shiley, Joshua C.
 Stanley, Adam C.
 Stepler, Aaron P.
 Taylor, Frank C.
 Walton, David P.
 Wells, Robert D.
 Whitley, Lisa M.
 Wilkerson, Nicholas

The academic year 2007-08 Senior Service College slate released Feb. 13. Congratulations to the following 21 officers.

Air War College
 LTC Hevel, James *
 COL Jellison, Joseph *

Army War College
 LTC Ambrose, Paul *
 COL Artman, Spencer *
 COL Copen, Lorelei *
 COL Daum, Richard *
 LTC Diaz, Brian *
 LTC Goodsmith, Jon *
 LTC King, Grady *

POTM

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

LTC Lamb, Morgan *
LTC Mathias, Steven *
COL Morgan, Terry

Walsh School of Foreign
Service Fellowship,
Georgetown University
LTC Almeida, Pedro +

Industrial College of the
Armed Forces
LTC Doerer, Robert *
LTC Lopez, Orlando *
COL Quackenbush, Robert *

Joint Center for Political and
Economic Studies
LTC Koucheravy, Richard *

National War College
LTC Brandon, James *
LTC Gayler, William *
LTC Richardson, Mark *

Naval War College
LTC Hinsdale, Adam

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 07-07, 48 Officers,
Graduated Feb. 8

ABOLC

LT Ryan N. Abbott DG
LT Cameron M. Keogh HG
LT Natalie G. Mallicoat HG
LT Marco A. Acevedo *
LT John P. Ballantyne *
LT Heidi J. Beekman *
LT Jason C. Brandle
LT Nissa A. Carlson *
LT Antonio Crucet
LT Ryan L. Harrison *
LT Thomas R. Kivlen *
LT James B. Nifong
LT Jung W. Pak
LT Bradley R. Pray *
LT Carina L. Roselli
LT Michael A. Thomas

AWOBC

WO1 Jason E. Seal DG
WO1 Brandt S. Ameigh HG
WO1 David A. Keppler * HG
WO1 Joshua J. Buffham * HG
WO1 Timothy J. Woznica HG
WO1 Matthew J. Williamson CL
WO1 Keith J. Bailey
WO1 Scott S. Coon *
WO1 Kaitlyn M. Cornwell *
WO1 Donald A. Galbreath *
WO1 Stephen B. Hasty
WO1 Jonathan R. Hatt *
WO1 Scott M. Kimmle
WO1 Brian J. Liliberte *
WO1 Benjamin F. Locke
WO1 Shannon T. Martin
WO1 Christopher E. Might *
WO1 Trina M. Moreno *
WO1 Brennan M. Moss *
WO1 Chad R. Olsen
WO1 Dominick J. Petro *
WO1 Joseph B. Rogers *
WO1 Steven L. Shankle *
WO1 Yossarian Silano
WO1 Christopher D. Sprung
WO1 Laine C. Stahr *
WO1 Jonathan E. Sykes
WO1 Pedro J. Vargas-Lebron
WO1 Brent M. Walker
WO1 Joshua J. Wallick
WO1 Ashley A. Weber *
WO1 Christopher J. Willer

Class 07-08, 46 Officers,
Graduated Feb. 22

ABOLC

LT Morgan H. Laird DG
LT Nathan L. Parker * HG
LT Kevin E. Ryan * HG
LT Michael R. Gabrhel * HG
LT Shannon K. Kelley HG
LT Scott A. Baccigalopi *
LT Douglas L. Brauch
LT Luella J. Dooley
LT Michael W. Flint *
LT Blake K. Huff *
LT Thomas P. Kavanaugh *
LT Jonathan C. Lewis *
LT Peter S. Mamone *
LT James C. Mandel *
LT Alexander R. Nee
LT Jay D. Patton *
LT Aaron J. Pluto *
LT Samuel M. Price III *
LT Curtis D. Rubendall
LT Craig E. Sheley
LT Christopher Sood
LT Russell W. Tidaback *
LT Matthew R. Van Epps
LT James D. Wells *



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC KRISHNA M. GAMBLE

Desert Hawks Take Command

LTC Donald Kwan, center, and CSM Patrick Powers unfurled the battalion colors during the transfer of authority ceremony Feb. 17. The 1st Bn. (Attack Recon), 285th Avn. Regt., Arizona Army National Guard, assumed aviation operations in the Salerno region of Afghanistan from the 1st Bn., 183rd Avn. Regt. from the Idaho ARNG.

Re-enlistments

GEN Richard A. Cody, Army Vice Chief of Staff, was on hand to help re-enlist seven 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde. Soldiers for a combined total of 42 years of continued service in the Army during his Feb. 11 visit to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Cody rendered the oath of enlistment to the following Soldiers from two units: From the 122nd Avn. Spt. Bn.: **SSG David A. Brown**, four years as a machinist; **SSG Robert K. Derk**, six years as a CH-47 crewchief; **SSG Seth A. Necessary**, reenlisted indefinitely as a wheeled vehicle mechanic; **SPC Tristan G. Edwards**, four years as an avionics systems repairer; **SPC Wendy M. Moy**, six years as an aircraft powertrain repairer. From the 3rd Bn., 82nd Avn. Regt.: **SGT Robert J. Tarrant**s, six years as a UH-60 crewchief, and **PFC Pearley W. Boatwright IV**, five years as a wheeled vehicle mechanic. All Soldiers will stay within the brigade.

AWOBC

WO1 Brian M. Thomason * DG
WO1 David L. Fleckenstein HG
WO1 Joshua P. Price HG
WO1 Rebecca A. Bemis HG
WO1 Justin B. Bernache
WO1 Gregory D. Burns *
WO1 Joe M. Foor
WO1 Paul L. Galan *
WO1 Sean P. Hennessy *
WO1 Jonathan W. Hensley *
WO1 Charles R. Hoelzel
WO1 Thomas D. Johnson *
WO1 Mark A. Lewis
WO1 Jason L. Lilly
WO1 Brendan G. Madden
WO1 Frank G. Marsh

WO1 Calvin J. Milbach *
WO1 Ryan C. Norwood
WO1 Jeremia L. Passmore
WO1 Terry L. Varnadore
WO1 Mitchell J. Wiese *
WO1 Jennifer A. Winsley

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

SUPPORT FOUND FOR RESERVE COMPONENT ACIP EQUITABILITY

During the past several months AAAA, working with other TMC organizations and the National Guard, has found firm support to implement aviation career incentive pay (ACIP) for Reserve Component aviators at the same levels as the active Army.

With the Reserve Component performing as the Army's operational reserve, RC aviators on a continuous basis must accomplish the same flight standards, meet physical requirements, and achieve the same academic standards as their active duty aviators.

ACIP equity is needed promptly to enhance the retention of experienced RC aviators.

NEW CONGRESS PICKS UP STRIDE

The post-election reorganization of the committees, moving into new offices and the hiring of staff is progressing well enough to permit printing of the congressional directories for the 110th Congress in early March.

Legislative activities included debates on nonbinding war resolutions, receipt of the 2008 President's budget, extension of the continuing resolution for 2007, the dropping of bills to consider this year, following the new House's majority's initial 6 bills and other items.

NON-BINDING RESOLUTION ON THE IRAQ WAR

Majority parties in both houses attempted to pass nonbinding resolutions disapproving of a troop surge in Iraq while maintaining their support for the deployed troops.

- On Feb. 9, the Senate majority failed on their first attempt when 60 cloture votes could not be found to prevent a possible filibuster.
- On Feb. 16, after 4 days of debate, the House majority passed their nonbinding resolution 246 to 182.
- On Feb. 17, the Senate majority was prevented from passing the House version of the resolution by the cloture rule.

PRESIDENT'S 2008 BUDGET

On Feb. 5 the \$2.9 trillion federal budget for fiscal year 2008 was delivered to Congress with \$630B for defense and a \$93B supplemental budget for the Iraq War during the rest of 2007.

- While increasing domestic spending 1 percent, the budget calls for reducing or eliminating 141 programs for a saving of \$12B in 2008 and sets the government on a track to balance the budget in 2012.
- Significant cuts and other changes that were made to the Future Combat Systems program to save \$3.3B through 2013 included cancellation of two unmanned aircraft systems, suspension of development on a robotic vehicle, and a stop work order on the XM307 that was to replace existing crew served weapons.
- Opponents criticized the budget for reduced spending on Medicare and plans to extend the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

COL Curtis J. Herrick (Ret.)

AAAA Representative to The Military Coalition (TMC)

- Military analysts point out that today's defense constant dollar spending at 3.9 percent of gross domestic product is well below the 11 percent in the Vietnam War and the 4.1 percent of the 1990s.
- With the Army performing the bulk of the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan supporters are strongly recommending that the Army's traditional share of the Defense budget grow from 24 to 28 percent.
- About \$60B will be required over several years to pay for adding the 92,000 Soldiers and Marines announced in the President's State of the Union Address.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION THREATENS BRAC

The House extended the continuing resolution enacted by the previous 109th Congress for 11 appropriations with some modifications through Sept. 30 and forwarded the bill to the Senate.

Although the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program in the Military Construction budget received an additional \$1B above 2006 levels to \$2.5B, the program is still a staggering \$3.3B short of meeting 2007 funding requirements.

GEN Schoemaker said, "We have developed a carefully synchronized, closely knitted stationing plan to enable us to meet our global commitments while fighting the long war."

Projects include 42 barracks complexes, 30 training and support facilities, 46 operations and maintenance facilities, approximately 90 reserve component facilities in 45 states, and re-basing at Eglin AFB, Fla.; Fort Bliss, Texas; and in Italy.

If this BRAC funding drop off is not fixed by the Senate, several members of Congress have suggested that the Army seek the funds on an emergency basis in the upcoming 2007 supplemental budget.

DROPPED BILLS

"Dropped bill" is the term used by members of Congress when introducing their legislation into the annual approval process.

This process often begins with a kickoff press conference to announce the success of generating the bill and to garner support from members of Congress, supporting organizations and constituents.

Some recently dropped bills that are supported by The Military Coalition are:

- Senate Bill (S-439) and companion House of Representatives Bill (HR-303) would authorize immediate concurrent receipt for all retirees

with at least 20 years of service who have disability ratings with the VA.

- HR-784 would accelerate the effective date for 30-year, paid Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage from Oct. 1, 2008 to Oct. 1, 2007.
- HR-690 would lower the age requirement for reserve retired pay eligibility from 60 to 55.
- HR-657 would allow the survivor of a retired service member to keep the member's full retired pay for the month of death.
- S-450 and companion HR-748 would repeal Medicare payment caps for outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology services that are set to expire at the end of 2007.

On Feb. 15 a "Total Force G.I. Bill" was dropped by Senate and House representatives that extends equitable eligibility to members of the reserve components for educational assistance programs.

PROGRESS OF 6 INITIAL HOUSE BILLS

The 1st of the 6 bills, the "minimum wage bill" passed by the House in their initial 100 hours as a new majority, was approved by the Senate with the addition of tax incentives for the small business employers.

The House approved 360 to 45 their version of the bill Feb. 16 with the tax breaks and will be participating with the Senate in conference committee to resolve the differences.

Armed with the Senate rule of cloture, Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is preparing to work with the majority on the remaining five bills.

CONGRESS SHORT ON MILITARY EXPERIENCE

The 110th Congress has 29 senators and 101 representatives with military experience, a lower number than in 1945 when 196 veterans served on the hill.

As a result, organizations representing veterans and military personnel spend more time educating Congress on military issues.

Many expect that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will fuel a resurgence of veterans in national politics.

TRICARE CONSIDERING FEE INCREASES

Increases to TRICARE enrollment fees and co-payments are included in the 2008 budget to rebalance the growing cost of health care between the government and beneficiaries.

The Future of Military Healthcare Task Force is to provide an interim report May 1 to Congress to address the need for higher TRICARE fees for the 3.1 million beneficiaries.

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

Connecticut Chapter

On Jan. 20 the Connecticut Chapter helped welcome home the "Griffins" of Co. G, 126th Avn. Regt., Conn. Army National Guard, of Task Force No Mercy back from service in Iraq. Activated June 17, 2005, the aviation intermediate maintenance unit supported the 172d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and the aviation battalions of 1-101st Avn., 2-101st Avn. and the 10th Mountain Div. Cbt. Avn. Bde. battalions, together with additional ARNG members from Alaska and Tennessee, and civilian contractors. The CC coordinated over twenty inductions into the Order of St. Michael with Bronze award presentations to unit personnel, including: kneeling (l to r): CW4 Renato Astolfi, CPT Patrick Miller, SFC Wilhelm Yungk, MAJ Tim Seery, 1SG Mark O'Donnell and CW2 Shawn Carey. Standing: Rita O'Donnell, SFC Ron Giroux, Kim Appleyard, Michelle McCarty, MAJ Mark Strout, Janet Strout, CW4 Mike Behuniak, SSG Jim Reed, SPC Michael Boscarino, CW4 Doug Duguay, SFC Jose Feliciano and CW4 Mike Vollero.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

VMI/VWIL Chapter

AAAA President Tom Konitzer was the guest speaker for the Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (Mary Baldwin College Corps of Cadets) chapter meeting Feb. 22 in Lexington. Here cadets Mallory Showalter-Wilde, VWIL member; Jen Leccadito, president of VWIL Chapter; and Shawn Driver, president of VMI chapter, present Konitzer with speaker thank you gifts following his presentation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Connecticut Chapter

The "Griffins" of Co. G, 126th Avn. Regt., Conn. Army National Guard, received a *Superior Maintenance Award* from the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation for their outstanding record during their year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Kevin Bredenbeck, Sikorsky's director of Flight Operations, presented the award to the unit during their Welcome Home ceremony Jan. 20. Pictured above CW5 Thomas Bothur, center, and MAJ Tim Seery, commander, accept the award from Bredenbeck. Thanks to CC Senior Vice President Charlie Brady for ensuring these Soldiers were properly recognized.



COURTESY PHOTO

Wright Brothers Chapter

The WBC welcomed a visit from AAAA President retired BG Tom Konitzer during their chapter meeting Feb. 14. Treasurer retired CW3 Ed Helwig gets a "Top Gun" credit for signing up 16 new members to the WBC. Pictured here (l to r) are chapter officers: CW4 (Ret.) Carl Cohan, V.P. for Programs; CW4 Lewis Meyers, secretary; LTC Larry Hart, senior V.P.; Konitzer, Helwig and LTC Stuart Driesbach, president.

FALLEN HEROES

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

Operation Iraqi Freedom

The shoot down of a UH-60 Black Hawk in Iraq Jan. 20 took a toll in senior officers and noncommissioned officers, half belonging to the Army National Guard. The helicopter on a routine mission transporting passengers between forward operating bases crashed around 3 p.m. south of Baqubah, about 30 miles northeast of Baghdad killing 12 Soldiers. Various media sources cite a Pentagon official indicating a surface-to-air missile was used by the enemy. The Aviation Soldiers killed were:



COL Kelly

COL Paul Michael Kelly, 45, of Stafford, Va.; Joint Force Headquarters, Virginia ARNG.
MAJ Michael Vernon Taylor, 40, of North Little Rock, Ark.; 1st Bn., 185th Avn. Regt., 77th Avn.

Bde., Arkansas ARNG.

CPT Sean Edward Lyerly, 31, of Pflugerville, Texas; 36th Cbt. Avn. Bde., Texas ARNG.

1SG William Thomas Warren, 48, of North Little Rock, Ark.; 1st Bn., 185th Avn. Regt., 77th Avn. Bde., Arkansas ARNG.

SFC John Gary Brown, 43, of Little Rock, Ark.; 1st Bn., 185th Avn. Regt., 77th Avn. Bde., Arkansas ARNG.

The other Soldiers killed were: COL Brian D. Allgood, 46, of Okla.; LTC David C. Canegata, 50, of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; CSM Roger W. Haller, 49, of Davidsonville, Md.; CSM Marilyn L. Gabbard, 46, of Polk City, Iowa; SSG Floyd E. Lake, 43, of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; SSG Darryl D. Booker, 37, of Midlothian, Va; CPL Victor M. Langarica, 29, of Decatur, Ga.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

A former California Army National Guard pilot died Jan. 23 in Baghdad, Iraq. **CW4 Arthur Laguna**, 52, of Sacramento, was flying an MD-530F helicopter for security firm Blackwater USA on a convey escort mission when his aircraft was shot down around 10:30 a.m. Four other security personnel were killed in the incident. Laguna had most recently served with the 812th Med. Evac. Co. (Air Ambulance), Mather Airfield.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Two AH-64 Apache pilots supporting combat operations near Najaf, Iraq, died Jan. 28 of wounds suffered when their helicopter crashed after being shot down by enemy hostile fire.

Killed were:

CPT Mark T. Resh, 28, of Fogelsville, Pa.

CW3 Cornell Clinton Chao, 36, of Orange City, Calif.

Resh was with HHC and Chao was with Co. B, 4th Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., 1st Air Cavalry Bde., 1st Cav. Div., Fort Hood, Texas.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

An AH-64D Longbow in trail position conducting a morning combat air patrol came under heavy machine gun fire Feb. 2 and was brought down near an island in the Tigris River near Taji, Iraq. Two pilots died of wounds suffered in the crash.

Killed were:

CW4 Keith Yoakum, 41, of Hemet, Calif.

CW2 Jason Garth Defrenn, 34, of Barnwell, S.C.

Both Soldiers were assigned to Co. A, 1st Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., 1st Air Cavalry Bde., 1st Cav. Div., Fort Hood, Texas.

The incident is under investigation.



CW4 Yoakum



CW2 Defrenn

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

Establishment of the Christopher W. Gavora Scholarship Fund



Christopher W. Gavora, 17, son of retired COL William and Jill Gavora, died Feb. 24 as a result of an injury sustained in a baseball pre-game warm-up accident at Grapevine High School in Grapevine, Texas. An avid New York Yankees fan, Christopher was a junior pitcher on the school's Varsity Baseball Team. COL Gavora retired last year after serving more than 27 years in the Army and Army Aviation. In memory of Christopher and recognition of his father's service to the country, the Tennessee Valley Chapter in association with the Army and the Aviation branch has established the Christopher W. Gavora Memorial Scholarship. Anyone wishing to contribute may send donations to the AAAA National Office, 755 Main Street, Suite 4D, Monroe, CT 06468-2830. Checks should be made payable to "AAAA National Scholarship Foundation, Inc." and clearly designated for the Gavora Scholarship Fund.

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

NEW MEMBERS

AIR ASSAULT CHAPTER
FORT CAMPBELL, KY
WOC Jason H. Carmichael
MSG Harmon D. Cross
CSM Ernest P. Elliott
CW4 Kenneth H. Grider
1LT Trent D. Miller
SFC David M. Moore
SPC Douglas B. Rein
1LT Mark E. Sallin
ALOHA CHAPTER
HONOLULU, HI
1SG Joseph A. Pagliaro
MSG David C. Wallace
AMERICA'S 1ST COAST CHAPTER
JACKSONVILLE, FL
CW3 Sherman Bennett
ARIZONA CHAPTER
MESA, AZ
Mr. Charles Aybar
Ms. Julie Sblendorio
SSG Lou Scherer, Ret.
BIG RED ONE CHAPTER
FORT RILEY, KS
CW4 Craig L. Nida
BLACK KNIGHTS CHAPTER
WEST POINT, NY
CDT Edward A. Clark
CDT Matthew R. Clawson
CDT Heather L. Cobb
CDT Joseph C. DiFrancesco
CDT Kenneth R. Dougher
CDT David M. Flaherty
CDT Peter Gerbuth
CDT Craig A. Hermiller
CDT Michael J. Hill
CDT Darin K. Hunter
CDT Erin M. Jensen
CDT Steven M. Kumie
CDT Jennifer L. Lewis
CDT Megan P. McConnell
CDT Matthew L. Miller
CDT Curtis B. Nelson
CDT Nathaniel A. Peper
CDT Kevin M. Power
CDT Kelsey J. Riise
CDT James L. Roberts
CDT Kyle R. Storjohann
CDT Justin S. Thomas
CPT Howard C. Titzel
CDT Scott J. Vetter
CDT Thomas R. Wagner
CDT Isaac D. Yancey
CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER
ORLANDO, FL
Mr. Brett R. Henley
Mr. Kosek, Christian L.
Ms. Heather J. Kosek
Mr. Nicholas P. Lattanzi
Ms. Michelle M. Milliner
Ms. Lynn M. Mroz
Mr. Louis J. Norman III
MAJ Donald L. Welch, Ret.
COLONIAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER
FORT EUSTIS, VA
MAJ Marc C. Dorrer
Dr. Steven A. Smith
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
STRATFORD, CT
SGT Domingos Fernandes
Mr. Richard L. Green
Mr. Stan Spielvogel
Mr. Michael A. Thornberg
CORPUS CHRISTI CHAPTER
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Mr. Abdirahman M Abdikarani
Mr. Chris M. Beebe
Mr. Lucas C. Beshara
Mr. Fred M. Canales
Mr. Kresten L. Cook
Mr. Robert J. Creek
SGT Brian K. Gawrys
Ms. Angela M. Gonzalez
Mr. Ernest Guzman III
Mr. Phu D. Lam
Mr. Goran Mackie
Mr. Robert S. Martinez
Mr. John W. McGovern
Mr. Joshua Melendez
Mr. Jonathan R. Muggridge
Mr. Brian K. Plaisance, Jr.
Mr. Luis Quilarque
Mr. Thomas Sandoval
Mr. Christopher F. Schofield
Ms. Leah S. Stephens
Mr. Felix S. Tagle
Ms. Donna M. Trevino-Rios
Mr. Baback Vaziri
Mr. Basil E. West
DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER
PHILADELPHIA, PA
CPT Gerald P. Schuck
EMBRY RIDDLE EAGLE
DAYTONA BEACH, FL
CDT Michael P. Brissam
CDT Jessica M. Craig
CDT Daniel R. Duckworth
CDT Gregory E. Gallenzo
MAJ Bernard C. Green, Ret.
SSG Joseph D. Hall
CDT Robert N. Hjuler
CDT Daniel W. Hubert
CDT Danay Jimenez
CDT Oren H. Kauffman
CDT Kevin G. Phillips
CDT Chris D. Potts
CDT William B. Shaw
CDT Christina D. Spivey
CDT Derek A. Stewart
CDT Kristin R. Yampaglia
FLYING TIGERS CHAPTER
FORT KNOX, KY
SPC Joseph J. Carraro III
1LT Jeremy A. Kearney
SSG Merritt L. Whitelov IV
GREATER ATLANTA CHAPTER
ATLANTA, GA
Ms. Wendy Abney
Mr. Richard C. Beatty
LTC William S. Bows
SPC Sidney G. Braswell
Ms. Tina Butler
CPT Anthony E. Duplechien
CPT Jason A. Ellington
LTC Greg S. Gentry
Ms. Carol Grizzle
Mr. Hal Harless
CSM Edward O. Hepler
MSG Reggie L. Jones
MAJ Michael J. Kanzler
CW2 Chris S. Kernan
CW4 Jeffrey K. King
Mr. Simon Kirk
CPT Robert E. Lowrance
Mr. Mike McCourt
CPT Emmett Shead Jr.
LTC Joel J. Slagle
Mr. John V. Thornton
LTC John Till
Mr. Cliff Vaughan

CPT Michael E. Viskup
Mr. Geoffrey WerBell
Mr. Mitchell L. WerBell
Mr. Paul R. Wills
GRIFFIN CHAPTER
ANSBACH, GERMANY
Ms. Annette Francis
CW2 Kevin Hays
CW2 Philip A. Learn
CW4 James R. Rogers
SGT Abra R. Stout
CW2 Terrence M. Sutherland
SSG Brad H. Wiedeman
HIGH DESERT CHAPTER
FORT IRWIN, CA
CW4 Daniel J. Relinski
CSM Bryon E. Robinson
IRON MIKE CHAPTER
FORT BRAGG, NC
MSG Scott P. Jackson
JACK H. DIBRELL/ALAMO/
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX
Ms. Bessie M. Irizarry
JIMMY DOOLITTLE CHAPTER
COLUMBIA, SC
PFC William C. Anderson
MAJ Jackie R. Davis, Jr.
MAJ William D. Kelly
1LT Matt W. Sternal
MAJ Bobby R. Tinkler, Ret.
1SG Michael A. Uswa
KEYSTONE CHAPTER-
INDIANTOWN GAP, PA
SSG John R. Parker, Jr.
MACARTHUR CHAPTER
NEW YORK/LONG ISLAND AREA,
NY
SPC Alexandra I. Gutorski
MONMOUTH CHAPTER
FORT MONMOUTH, NJ
LTC Cris J. Boyd
MORNING CALM CHAPTER
SEOUL, KOREA
CW2 David S. Lewis II
WO1 Joshua R. Trickey
Mrs. Nicole D. Xanders-Hooks
NARRAGANSETT BAY CHAPTER
N. KINGSTOWN, RI
MG Robert T. Bray
NORTH COUNTRY CHAPTER
FORT DRUM, NY
CPT Sam S. Jin
CW4 Jon E. Magoun
CW4 Jesse G. Miller
NORTH STAR CHAPTER
ST. PAUL, MN
LTC Roy C. Brock, Jr.
SSG Dan D. Jordan
SPC Tesfaye T. Kassahun
CPT Corby A. Koehler
NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Mr. Todd A. Finney
Mr. Michael A. Gray
Mr. David E. Walden
Mr. Norman R. Walker
NORTHERN LIGHTS CHAPTER
FORT WAINWRIGHT/
FAIRBANKS AK
COL Sidney H. Morrow
OLD TUCSON CHAPTER
MARANA, AZ
CDT Timothy A. Ashcraft
OREGON TRAIL CHAPTER
SALEM, OREGON

LTC Todd E. Farmer
LTC Marc R. Snook, Ret.
PHANTOM CORPS CHAPTER
FORT HOOD, TX
MAJ Richard T. Calchera
CW3 Thomas O. Hansen
SFC Thomas G. Kingery
Mr. Isaac A. McDaniel
PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
FORT CARSON, CO
CPT John D. Hnyda
RHINE VALLEY CHAPTER
HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
Ms. Carmen E. McClanathan
CW4 Charles D. Petrie
RISING SUN CHAPTER
CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN
SFC Anthony J. Lipitt
SAVANNAH CHAPTER
FT STEWART/HUNTER AAF, GA
CPT Robert E. Hilton
SINAI CHAPTER
SINAI, EGYPT
SSG Brian M. Alvarez
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
LOS ANGELES, CA
COL Renwick R. Hart, Ret.
LTC Stephen A. Isle, Ret.
CW2 Marc P. Yablonka
STONEWALL JACKSON CHAPTER
SANDSTON, VA
Mr. Michael L. Baker
WOC Jeffrey M. Farmer
CW3 David Nichols, Ret.
TARHEEL CHAPTER
RALEIGH, NC
SGT Erik T. Whitley
1LT Lisa M. Whitley
TENNESSEE VALLEY CHAPTER
HUNTSVILLE, AL
Mr. Charlie Adams
Mr. Craig A. Addis
Mr. Thomas E. Bailey
MAJ David Bristol
Mr. Stephen E. Dirigo
Mr. Willis Epps
Mr. Lars Ericsson
Mr. David H. Ferrarone
Mr. David J. Garner
LTC Shawn Gresham
LTC Winfield Keller
Mr. William Nichols
Mr. Arthur K. Rose
COL Jay R. Snyder, Ret.
Mr. Hal Stanford
Mr. Donald R. Taylor
Ms. Frances E. Taylor
Mr. Richard Tyler
Mr. Darren A. Wagner
Mr. Jared S. Webster
Ms. Anita K. Williams
THUNDER MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
SIERRA VISTA, AZ
SGT Neil C. Anderson
PVT Zackary T. Bickford
PVT Samuel C. Bishop
PVT Carl R. Brown
Mr. Francisco J. Flores
PFC Corey S. Geesey
SPC William T. Johnson
CPT Andrew R. March
Ms. Kattie E. Marvel
PFC Jerry R. Milan, Jr.
Mr. Nicholas H. Pedersen
PV2 Luther O. York



PHOTO BY B.J. DIAZ

Rhine Valley Chapter

The Silver award of the Order of St. Michael was presented to COL Kevin S. Scherrer during a Dec. 20 ceremony in the Village Pavilion, Heidelberg, Germany. MG Daniel Hahn, the deputy commanding general of V Corps, made the presentation. After a short retirement, Scherrer volunteered to return to active duty to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Scherrer was honored for his magnificent service to the aviation community and accomplishments as the C3 Air director for the Multinational Corps-Iraq Headquarters in Baghdad. Scherrer has since re-retired and will most likely stay close to Army aviation.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Central Florida Chapter:
Mr. Jerry L. Stahl; President, CW4 Victor E. Berger, Ret.; Sr. Vice President, Ms. Karen E. Thaldorf; Secretary, Mrs. Ann S. Stahl; VP Membership, CW3 Robert E. Fraser II, Ret.; VP Industry Affairs

Embry Riddle Eagle Chapter
CDT Danay Jimenez; Secretary, CDT Christopher Catello; Treasurer, CDT Oren H. Kauffman; VP Membership, CDT Gregory B. Lewis; VP Programs, CDT Gregory E. Gallerizzo; VP Industry Affairs

Greater Atlanta Chapter
COL Brent E. Bracewell; President, MAJ Jerry R. Gray; Senior Vice President, MAJ Samuel F. Driver; Secretary, COL Alvin L. Foshee; VP USAR, LTC John Till; VP ARNG, LTC Samuel E. Seetin Jr., Ret.; Treasurer, John P. Sondag; VP Scholarship, LTC James A. MacMillan; VP FORSCOM, LTC Glenn P. Carr, Ret.; VP Industry Affairs

High Desert Chapter
MAJ Jose Bonilla; Sr. Vice President, MAJ Daniel L. Legereit; Treasurer

Rising Sun Chapter
SPC Matthew S. Adair; Secretary

Savannah Chapter
CW4 Daniel E. Connolly; VP Lift Affairs, CW4 Troy A. DeGolyer; VP Attack Affairs

Washington/Potomac Chapter

MAJ Brett D. Criqui; VP Scholarship, CW4 Ralph Ferrell; VP Membership, Mr. Steve Mauro; VP Programming, CSM Herbert McCoy; VP Enlisted Affairs, Mr. John A. Lasch III; VP Industry Affairs

ACES
William J. Cannon
Aviation Center Chapter
MAJ Benjamin S. Jones
Embry Riddle Eagle Chapter

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH
A Chapter Program to Recognize Outstanding Aviation Soldiers on a Monthly Basis

SSG John R. Parker Jr.
January 2007
Keystone Chapter

SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER
SPC Michael S. Cummings
February 2007
Washington/Potomac Chapter

NCO OF THE QUARTER
SSG Alicia Rodriguez-Cochran
February 2007
Washington/Potomac Chapter

NEW LIFE MEMBERS
COL James C. Adamson, Ret.
LTC David B. Booth, Ret.
COL Davis Clark, Ret.
COL Eugene F. Crooks, Ret.
MAJ Charles L. Deibert, Ret.
MAJ Russell L. Dunford
Willoughby S. Goin III
MAJ Felix O. Gonzales, Jr.
LTC Donald E. Hendrickson, Ret.
LTC William G. Hooks, Ret.

CW4 Christopher A. Horton, Ret.
LTC Dale W. Hurst, Ret.
1LT Nicholas Maksim
COL Chris L. Sargent, Ret.
Ronald L. Scotka
John T. Smith
James S. Whang
Frank H. Whitt
LTC Alfred J. Wolfe, Ret.

NEW INDUSTRY PARTNERS
Aero Gear
Brigade Quartermasters, Ltd.
Commuter Air Technology, Inc.
Integrated Technology Solutions, Inc.
Liquid Measurement Systems
McNally Industries-Alion Technologies
O'Neil & Assoc.
Reliance Aerotech Services
Robinson Foundry Inc.
Selex Sensors & Airborne Systems
SPEAR Labs, LLC

NEW AAAA ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL RECIPIENTS

Gold
Paul Bogosian
MG James H. Pillsbury

Silver
Thorwald E. Eide
BG Lester D. Eisner
COL Paul M. Kelly
LTC William Leach, Ret.
CW5 Edward S. Penick
CW5 Christopher J. Smith
CSM Eduardo G. Timas
CW5 Robert D. Walker

Bronze
CW4 Harry D. Champagne
CW4 Peter R. Johnson
CPT Brian J. Stickney
CW5 Dan Larson
1SGT James Schnieders
CW5 Roger Stickney

MAJ Darrin Dorin
David M. Fonda, Jr.
CW4 John C. Meyers, Ret.
MAJ Timothy Dargie
COL James G. Lynch
CW5 Joseph R. Walsingham
COL Ronald J. McMonagle, Ret.
CW4 Robert Heath, Jr.
CW4 James A. Deppen
CW4 Michael A. Mogg
SSG Kirk D. Kuykendall
SFC Anthony J. Bertone
SGT Rickey A. Brown II
SSG Jacob R. Hartman
2LT Ronald Galuppo
SGT Robert Wilson
SGT Avery Moran
SSG Frederick Blauth
SSG Mike Moy
CW4 Henry A. Rexing
CW5 James E. Smith
CW4 Phillip M. Sherwood, Ret.
MAJ Michael J. Kuenzli
MSG Henry L. Coleman
1SG Russell L. Reese
LTC Walter R. Bradley
COL William P. Babcock
CW4 Christian Chandler
SSG Donald Campbell
SSG Bradley Fish
MAJ Ronald L. Ells
CW4 Christopher B. Wheatley
David E. Oakes
John W. Martin
CW5 Brian D. Middleton
COL Alan M. Stull
MAJ Louis S. Busby
LTC Joseph W. Bowab, Ret.
LTC David J. Kammen
LTG Russel M. Honore
LTC William E. Crozier
MAJ Michael V. Taylor
SGM William T. Warren
SFC John G. Brown I

IN MEMORIAM
Ken Burdette

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

ARMY PHOTO BY LTC CHUCK PRICHARD



Frontier Chapter

Four "Spartans" from Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., U.S. Army Reserve, were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael on Feb. 10 during a welcome home ceremony in Olathe, Kan. Bronze awards were presented to *SSG Anthony Kynkendall*, *SSG Jacob Bertone*, *1SG Russell Reese* and *LTC Walter Bradley*, pictured above from left to right. These Soldiers from the CH-47 helicopter unit were recognized for their leadership, superior performance and selfless service over the years and during their recent year-long deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Pakistan. After arriving in Afghanistan they were diverted to support the "Operation Lifeline" mission following the devastating earthquake in Pakistan. The Spartans flew a cumulative 7,728 accident free hours, conducted 65 combat operations, delivered over 25 million pounds of supplies, rescued over 4,000 refugees and evacuated 300 casualties.



PHOTO BY 2LT FRANK C. FREDERICK

Army Aviation Center Chapter

The Bronze award of the Order of St. Michael was presented Jan. 12 to retired *CW5 Rodney L. Sangsland* by CPT Travis L. McIntosh, commander of Company E, 1st Bn., 212th Avn. Regt. at Fort Rucker, Ala. Sangsland, a Department of the Army Civilian, is now the deputy company standardization officer for the Flight School XXI UH-60 track with Co. E at Lowe Army Heliport. He was honored for his years of aviation service, and most recently as the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization Branch Chief, where he provided oversight of the revised UH-60 aircrew training manual to include implementation of the revised emergency procedure training, emergency GPS recovery and performance planning cards.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Monmouth Chapter

Victor J. Ferlise, deputy to the commanding general for Operations and Support, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command, was inducted Jan. 31 into the Honorable Order of St. Michael in Eatontown, N.J. MC Executive Vice President retired LTC Ed Carnes, center, assisted by retired CW4 Joe Pisano, MC vice president and AAAA National Executive Board member, presented the Bronze award to Ferlise for his support to Army aviation, Soldiers and their families through the aircraft survivability and communications research, development, engineering and sustainment programs under his purview over the years.



PHOTO BY LTC LARRY A. HART

Wright Brothers Chapter

Retiring *CW4 John R. Haas* was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael Feb. 10 during the annual Safety Stand-Down Day at the Defense Supply Center-Columbus in Ohio. AAAA President BG (Ret.) Tom Konitzer assisted WBC President LTC Stuart Driesbach and COL Rick Hall, Ohio ARNG state aviation officer with the presentation of the Bronze award to Haas. A master aviator with more than 31 years of aviation service, Haas has logged 7,000 rotary wing hours, 1,000 of which were combat hours during the Vietnam War. Haas served as the operations officer and night vision goggle unit trainer with the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 at the Rickenbacker International Airport, Ohio. Pictured above are Driesbach, Konitzer and Haas.

ARMY AVIATION

Upcoming Special Focus:

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AAAA Annual Convention
AAAA 50th Anniversary Special Celebration

JUNE ISSUE
Special Operations Aviation
Arming The Force

Contact: Bob Lachowski
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Upcoming Events

MAY 2007

- May 1 **AAAA Scholarship Applications Due**
- 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

JUNE 2007

- June 15 **Hall of Fame Nominations Due**

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

AUGUST 2007

- Aug 6-9 **AUVSI's Unmanned Systems North America 2007**, Washington, DC
- Aug 25-27 **NGAUS 129th General Conference**, San Juan, Puerto Rico

OCTOBER 2007

- Oct 8-10 **AUSA Annual Meeting**, Washington Convention Center, DC
- Oct 8 **AAAA Scholarship Board of Governors Meeting**, Washington Convention Center, DC
- Oct 8 **AAAA National Executive Board Meeting**, Washington Convention Center, DC



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Army Aviation Hall of Fame

The Army Aviation Hall of Fame sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, Inc., recognizes those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Army aviation. The actual Hall of Fame is located in the Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, Ala., where the portraits of the inductees and the citations recording their achievements are retained for posterity. Each month Army Aviation Magazine highlights a member of the Hall of Fame. The next induction will occur in May during the 50th Anniversary Convention in Atlanta, Ga.. Contact the AAAA National Office for details at (203) 268-2450.

Medal of Honor Sergeant First Class Louis R. Rocco Army Aviation Hall of Fame 1998 Induction

SFC Louis R. Rocco, a member of Advisory Team 162 with the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on May 24, 1970 northeast of Katum.

Rocco distinguished himself when he volunteered to accompany a medical evacuation team on an urgent mission to evacuate eight critically wounded Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) personnel.

As the helicopter approached the landing zone, it became the target for intense enemy automatic weapons fire.

Disregarding his safety Rocco identified and then placed accurate suppressive fire on enemy positions as the aircraft descended toward the landing zone.

Sustaining major damage from the enemy fire, the aircraft was forced to crash land causing Rocco to sustain a fractured wrist and hip and a severely bruised back.

Ignoring his injuries, he extracted the pilots and crewman from the aircraft.

Despite intense enemy fire, Rocco carried each unconscious man across approximately 20 meters of exposed terrain to the ARVN perimeter.

On each trip his severely burned hands and broken wrist caused excruciating pain, but the lives of the unconscious crash survivors were more important than his personal discomfort and he continued his rescue efforts.

Once inside the friendly position, Rocco helped administer first aid to his wounded comrades until his own wounds and burns caused him to collapse and lose consciousness.

His bravery under fire and intense devotion to duty were directly responsible for saving three of his fellow Soldiers from certain death.

Rocco's unparalleled bravery in the face of enemy fire, his complete disregard for his own pain and injuries and his performance were far above and beyond the call of duty and in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service.





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