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ON THE COVER

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: CAE is one of the world's leading providers of rotary-wing simulation, training, and mission rehearsal systems. On the cover is a CAE Medallion™-6000 visual image taken from an Afghanistan common database (CDB). CAE recently delivered MH-47G Chinook and MH-60L-DAP Black Hawk combat mission simulators to the 160th SOAR(A) that feature the revolutionary CDB, which will significantly enhance mission rehearsal capabilities. CAE also recently delivered the first UH-72A Lakota cockpit procedures trainer to the U.S. Army. *Caption provided by the advertiser.*

Briefings...

LATE-BREAKING NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS NOTES

Celebrate 100 Years of Military Aviation

The Centennial of Military Aviation celebration is set for Sept. 6 at Fort Myer, Va., and is hosted by the Army with support from AAAA and the Washington-Potomac Chapter. For more information contact the Fort Myer Public Affairs Office at (703) 696-4979/3283.

Aviation Warfighting Center Changes Name

Army Vice Chief of Staff GEN Richard Cody signed a memorandum June 6 approving the transformation of the Army Aviation Warfighting Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., into the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE). The "Center of Excellence" concept is a Training and Doctrine Command initiative to consolidate operations and missions to ensure standardization, effectiveness and consistency of training and doctrinal development. Two notable changes occurred June 16 with the inactivation of Hqs. Co., 1st Bn., 13th Avn. Regt. and the deactivation of the 1st Bn., 210th Avn. Regt. Other USAACE changes include gaining official control in October of the Aviation Logistics School at Fort Eustis, Va. The USAACE consists of the 1st Avn. and the 110th Avn. brigades; the 3rd Bn., 210th Avn. Regt. at Fort Bliss, Texas; the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Tng. Bn. at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; and the 1st Bn., 222nd Avn. Regt. at Fort Eustis.



Fort Rucker Opens New Headquarters

The "Home of Army Aviation" at Fort Rucker, Ala., cut the ribbon on a new 55,000 square foot headquarters building May 29. Construction on the \$10 million facility began in January 2007 to replace building 114, a two-story wood frame headquarters in use since 1942. The building houses the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and the Fort Rucker Garrison command groups, several of the directorates, and features a new conference room facility.

Iraq UH-60 Crash Results Obtained

An investigative report published June 9 in the Honolulu Advertiser details the findings of a UH-60 helicopter crash Aug. 22, 2007 near Kirkuk, Iraq, that killed four crewmen from Troop D, 4th Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., and 10 Soldiers. The 224-page Army investigation, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, did not provide a definitive answer as to what caused the crash. However, a signed Feb. 10 Memorandum for Record from LTG Ray Odierno in Iraq states the Corpus Christi Army Depot inspected the post-crash airframe and discovered a severed tail-rotor drive shaft. The memo reads, "An 'unknown foreign object' in the tail rotor housing traveled aft and became lodged between the housing and the tail rotor drive shaft, causing gouging and cutting damage to the tail rotor, which then failed by sheering forces while under torque." The CCAD report concluded that the failure of the T/R drive shaft was the primary cause of the crash.

NY Guard Aviation Heads to Combat

About 160 Guardsmen from the New York-based 3rd Bn., 142nd Avn. Regt., are heading to Operation Iraqi Freedom. A farewell ceremony was held June 1 for the air assault unit, which is taking 20 UH-60 Black Hawks and picking up 10 more coming with Co. C from the 1st Bn., 106th Avn. Regt., Mo. ARNG. The 3-142nd began mission preparation last fall, spending two 3-week training periods at Fort Drum. They began two months of mobilization training June 6 at Fort Sill, Okla. prior to heading to Balad for approximately 10 months to support the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, as part of the 34th Cbt. Avn. Bde. (Minn. ARNG).

CORRECTIONS

Due to an editorial error in the June issue, a caption of a photo on the recent change of command at the 160th SOAR inaccurately reported that COL Kevin W. Mangum had been announced as nominated to the rank of Brigadier General by President Bush. This was an error and is incorrect. ARMY AVIATION regrets any confusion or concern this may have caused.

We apologize to MG James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, for misidentifying him in the MAY issue on page 39 in convention recap photo 35. Nuttall was the guest speaker in the photograph.

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AAAA: Working for You, Your Family and the Army

In late June, we had a very productive meeting between AAAA's Senior Associates and GEN Dick Cody, the Army vice chief of staff, addressing the senior associates for his last time while in uniform.

As a reminder, our associates are a group of 12 retired, non-aviator, senior general officers – who have volunteered their time under the leadership of retired GEN Jack Keane – to help represent your interests to key decision makers in and out of government.

GEN Cody spelled out the challenges that lay ahead for Army Aviation and engaged in a very frank discussion with the largest turnout ever of our associates.

The discussions centered on the size of the Army and the impact on your deployments and family life; and ranged from roles and missions with unmanned systems; to the status of weapon systems like the armed reconnaissance helicopter, the light utility helicopter and the new joint cargo aircraft; and much more.

We cannot thank Dick Cody enough for taking the time on numerous occasions to brief our senior associates and get them up to speed on the issues that so affect the lives of you and your family. We'll sorely miss Dick as he heads for his Aug. 1 retirement.

BG James O. Barclay III has taken the reins of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, Ala.

We look forward to working with him soon, especially on the upcoming Aircraft Survivability Equipment Symposium from Nov. 3-5 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tenn., and during the Unmanned Aircraft

Systems Symposium this Dec. 8-10 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va.

These are great opportunities to meet the key decision makers in each of these fields and give them feedback directly from the field.

These symposia bring together the entire aviation community – from active duty, the National Guard and Reserve; to the trainers and the acquisition, research and development folks – and pays huge dividends for our Army.

By the time you read this, the AAAA Scholarship Foundation and Awards Committee will have completed their business in Washington, D.C., selecting the 2008 scholarship recipients from over 300 applicants this year. Please see the August/September issue for the results presented by MG (Ret.) Dick MacMillan, your AAAASF president.

Finally, the AAAA National Office has just gone "live" internally with the new enterprise-wide software for the membership database. In the next few months they will roll out the new Web facing module allowing you to go online and directly update your personal information or renew your membership.

Again, we bid a fond farewell to Dick Cody and Duz Packett in their retirement. We wish them all the best and thank them for their outstanding service!

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

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



AAAA staff members, software and subcontractor vendors are pictured training on the new enterprise-wide software for the membership database. In a few months, AAAA members will be able to access their own data to correct addresses, etc.



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Passing of the Branch Colors

By MG Virgil L. Packett II

Editor's note: *This is MG Virgil Packett's final article as the 11th chief of the Aviation Branch. We bid "Aloha" to Duz and Ululani Packett as they begin a new chapter in their life and thank them for their many contributions to ARMY AVIATION magazine.*

It's a great day to be your Aviation Branch Chief! It has been exciting and an honor to be able to say that for the past two years.

As I reflect, I'm both humbled and motivated by the incredible effort and sacrifice of our Aviation Soldiers, families and supporters. I want to personally thank you for your passion, dedication and professionalism.

I know that you will give BG Jim Barclay the same as Army Aviation enters a new chapter under his leadership July 11.

Helicopter Diplomacy

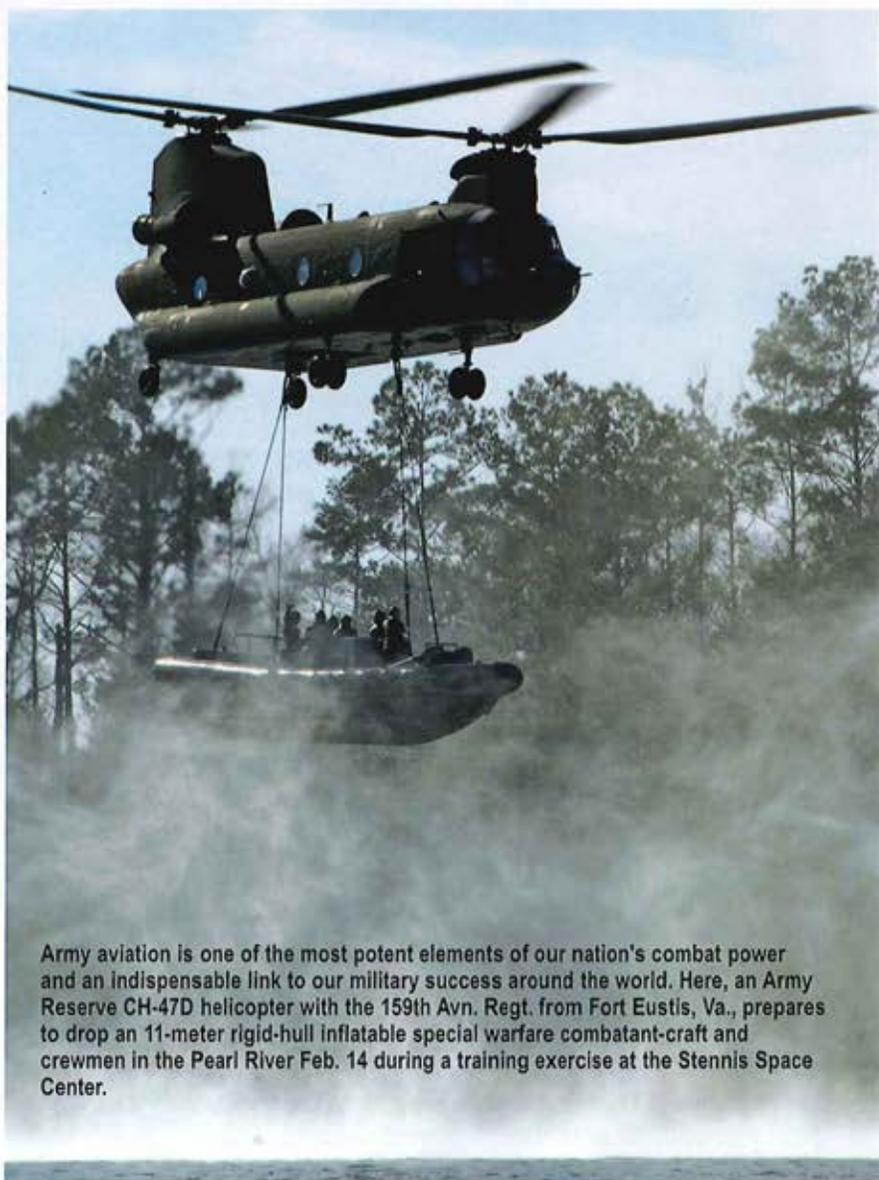
Aviation is the most potent element of our Army's combat power and an indispensable link to our military success in today's fight around the world. No other branch has a longer reach, larger grasp, or more comprehensive impact for our fighting forces than aviation.

Aviation will continue to be a bridge to joint synergy and will be the premier enabler for our forces as our new starts mature and leaders grow to optimize our formations.

The international impact of the U.S. Army helicopter is tremendous. Our presence instills hope and confidence even in the most intense crisis situation. And for our enemies, our visible or undetectable presence delivers the opposite.

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

It is awesome to observe how our



Army aviation is one of the most potent elements of our nation's combat power and an indispensable link to our military success around the world. Here, an Army Reserve CH-47D helicopter with the 159th Avn. Regt. from Fort Eustis, Va., prepares to drop an 11-meter rigid-hull inflatable special warfare combatant-craft and crewmen in the Pearl River Feb. 14 during a training exercise at the Stennis Space Center.

Soldiers around the world are revitalizing the air-ground legacy that was born in Korea and gained a new level of maturity and respect in Vietnam.

The Branch Team

Branch progress has been crystallized under the leadership of the Army

Vice Chief of Staff GEN Dick Cody.

As a branch team, we remain relevant by staying in touch with the field units and tied to our programs along with our industry partners.

Great effort and contributions from the informal Aviation Board of Directors over the past few years have

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provided the vision and ability to realize success beyond reasonable expectations. Paul Bogosian, MG Jim Myles, MG Jim Pillsbury, BG Steve Mundt and John Shipley have all worked diligently to prove that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The synergy gained from our acquisition, sustainment, programming and technical communities allow aviation to provide today's dominating capability for our ground forces.

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

With the "Comanche dividend" reinvested, we are well on the way for the next 25 years of programmed aircraft and aviation equipment.

As we integrate seven new aircraft and the survivability and support enablers, we are maintaining and strengthening our linkage with the maneuver, fires, intelligence, logistics, maneuver support and the medical centers of excellence.

Human Dimension

But let there be no doubt, with all of the incredible tactical and technological innovations, the Soldier is our centerpiece. It starts with the Soldier and ends with the Soldier.

In these tough and challenging times, our aviation Soldiers are rising to the occasion and are our shining stars.

Enabled by our strong Training and Doctrine Command leadership and positive command climate under GEN Scott Wallace and LTG Bill Caldwell, we can ensure that the standards are never compromised and that leader development reigns supreme.

To our aviation Soldiers, families, and dedicated supporters: it is truly people like you that make this branch so unique, capable and distinctive.

The branch and the heritage that you create daily attracts and retains the very best that our nation has to offer. It has been an honor and a humbling experience to be your branch chief.

Thank you for your dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Because of your effort



The "Comanche dividend" has greatly benefited both the active and reserve component combat aviation brigades with modernization and support equipment. An AH-64D Longbow from the 1st Bn. "Gunfighter," 1st Avn. Regt. prepares to launch on a May 26 mission in support of Task Force Iron, 1st Armored Division, in northern Iraq. The 1-1st Avn. is assigned with the 1st Inf. Div. from Fort Riley, Kan.

we remain "Above the Best!"

I want to personally thank each of you for your leadership and service these past two years. You are all a huge part of the success the branch now enjoys.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to my command team: Wally Golden, Bill Wolf, Ellis Golson, Command Sgt. Majs. Don Sanders and Buford Thomas, Chief Warrant Officers Randy Gant and Brent Driggers, along with the Garrison Commander Scott Larese, who helped chart the course.

They, along with the entire Aviation Center of Excellence team, made contributions that will serve our branch for years to come.

My thanks to our multitude of volunteers, the spouses, and the professional organizations – such as AAAA, AUSA and the Community Foundation – who provide the personal touch.

Plus, there are no more patriotic communities than those of the Wiregrass Area here in Alabama. Coupled with the grand support from Mack Dove, our civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army from Dothan, we have earned special recognition nationally.

Thanks to the opportunities provided to our branch, units, Soldiers and families by AAAA – we are better today than ever. Bill Harris, Jim Snider and the National Executive

Board are among our most active and visible supporters. The first to step up in time of need, AAAA is there for our branch.

And finally, the past 37 years have been an incredible journey that would not have been possible or as rich of an experience without the passion and support that Ululani has given me and our Army. Thank you.

There are so many family members, friends, mentors and fellow Soldiers that have contributed along the way. Again, thank you.

While I strongly believe we leave the Aviation Branch and Fort Rucker better – the job of seeing transformation and modernization, and the Global War on Terrorism through to completion, is not finished and will require everyone's attention.

Under the leadership team of BG Jim and Deb Barclay, the Aviation Branch will continue to provide our Soldiers at all levels with great leadership and the right equipment and training.

Aviation Proud and Army Strong!



MG Virgil L. Packett II was the Aviation branch chief and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, Ala. He relinquished command July 11 and retires after 36 years of service to the nation.

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Aviation Training and Industry Partner Challenges

By CSM Donald R. Sanders

As I make trips out to the field to see our non-commissioned officers and Soldiers, I'm routinely asked about improving the enlisted training conducted at Fort Eustis, Va.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; and Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

With this in mind, I'll discuss examples of training challenges that have been brought to my attention and our efforts to resolve them.

Additionally, I have listed some challenges that will require some innovative thinking, and I ask our industry partners for help in developing some possible solutions.

A Need for Welders

We have heard from commanders and maintenance NCOs in the field on the need for an "aviation" welding program for our Soldiers. In fact, we used to conduct this training years ago with our 15G aircraft structural repairers military occupational skill (MOS).

We discontinued this training when the Ordnance Branch assumed responsibility for training and included machinists and welders in our aviation unit formations.

Over the years however, with the increased need for a technical specialization skill in aviation welding, a training gap has emerged.

With the consolidation of the 44B welder and 44E machinist specialties into one MOS, there is a definite need for us to explore the need for a dedicated aviation welder skill.

Thus, the Aviation Logistics School at Fort Eustis – along with the Ordnance Branch at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., and the commands that support our welders training at the Corpus Christi Army Depot in Texas and the Naval Air Depot at Cherry Point, N.C. – are working to develop a program of instruction (POI) to formally train our Soldiers in aviation welding techniques.



One of the recommendations from the field is to find a means to connect or link the non-rated crewmember trainer with the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 to help training NCOs by using the same visual scenario database already loaded into the EST 2000. Here, SSG Gary Sarver, a CH-47 flight engineer instructor with Co B., 3d Bn., 238th Avn. Regt., Ohio Army National Guard, engages targets with his M-240H machine gun during requalification June 11 during his unit's annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Industry Help for Aviation Challenges

A first challenge is with the non-rated crewmember trainer (NCMT).

Currently the NCMT being used by our enlisted aircrew members in our continental U.S. combat aviation brigades has garnered good reviews.

However, there are some recommendations from NCOs in the field to "connect" the NCMT so it can work with the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 (EST 2000).

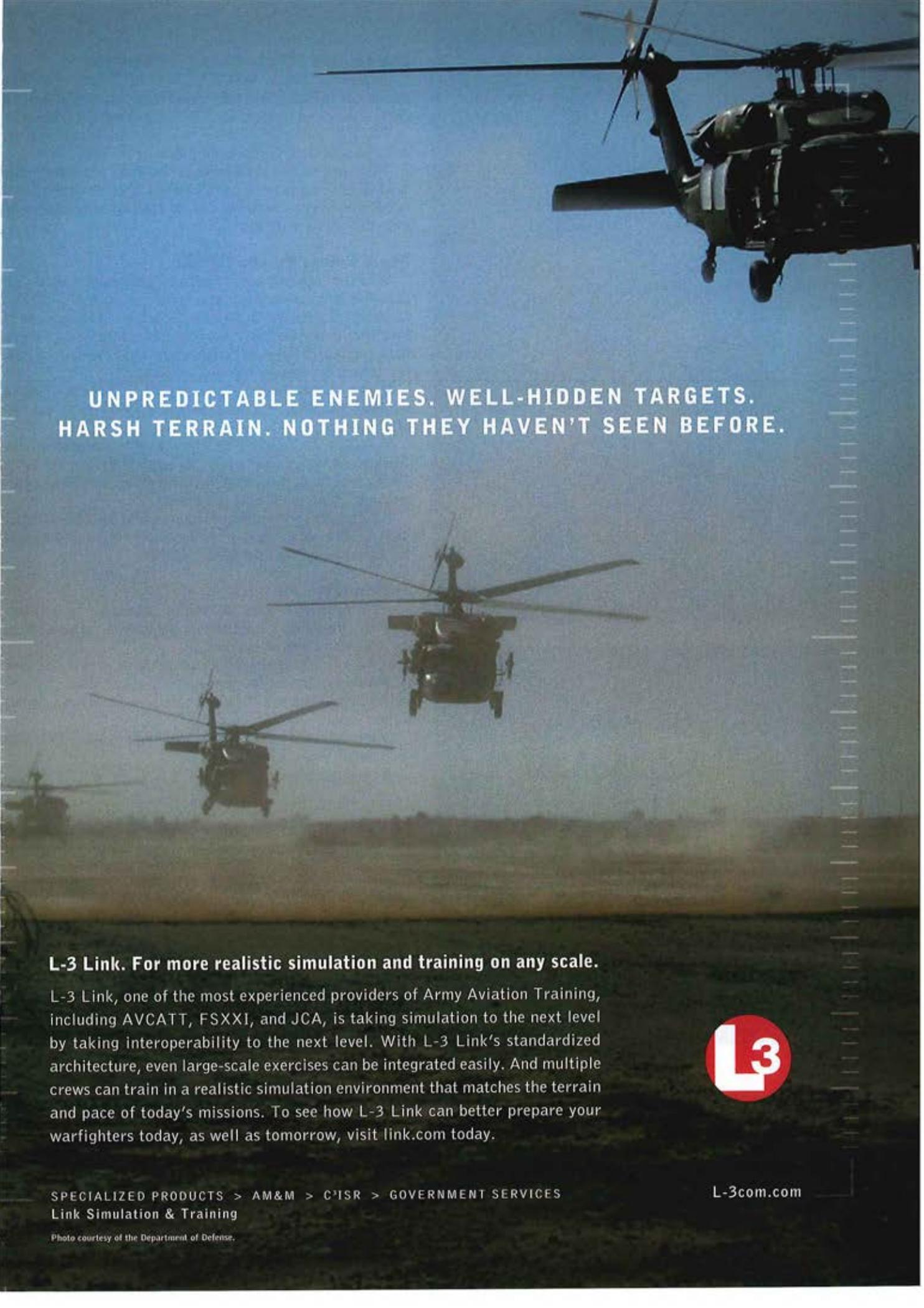
This would help NCOs in units to take Soldiers from initial familiarization on an M-240H machine gun in the EST 2000 and transition to the NCMT by using the same visual scenario database already loaded into the EST 2000.

Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS) Training

Feedback from the field among the operations NCOs and Soldiers is that they would like to have a DVD that has three training simulations packages for the battle command systems.

These systems are the Aviation Mission Planning System (AMPS), the Tactical Airspace Integration System (TAIS), and the Command Post of The Future (CPOF). The DVD would run all three programs simultaneously so Soldiers can toggle between screens.

The intent is to allow an operations NCO to conduct "sergeants time" training using a desktop with two screens, eliminating the need for lengthy setups of three ABCS systems and supporting architecture for a 2 to 3-hour block of training.

A formation of military helicopters, likely AH-64 Apaches, flying over a field. The helicopters are silhouetted against a clear blue sky. The lead helicopter is in the upper right, with others trailing behind it towards the left. The ground below is a flat, open field.

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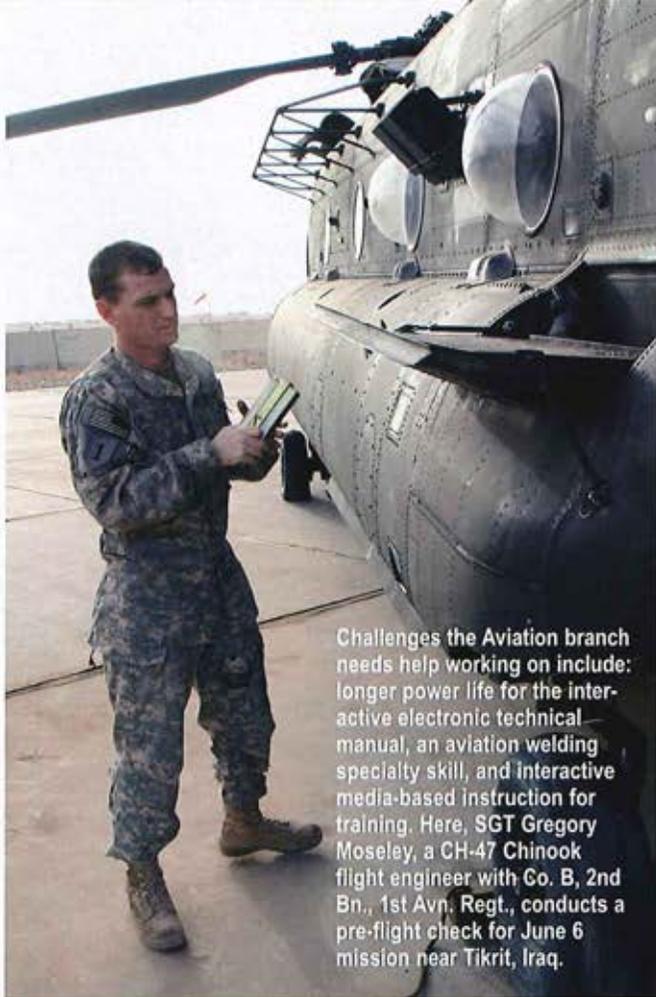
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Photo courtesy of the Department of Defense.



ARMY PHOTO BY MAJ ENRIQUE VASQUEZ

Challenges the Aviation branch needs help working on include: longer power life for the interactive electronic technical manual, an aviation welding specialty skill, and interactive media-based instruction for training. Here, SGT Gregory Moseley, a CH-47 Chinook flight engineer with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt., conducts a pre-flight check for June 6 mission near Tikrit, Iraq.

Interactive Media-based Instruction

Within the next 2 years TRADOC will begin to include the use of interactive media-based instruction (IMI) in all NCO Education System (NCOES) professional courses.

The IMI phase of NCOES will become a prerequisite prior to attending the resident phase of NCOES.

Thus, one of the challenges is "how do we modularize the IMI instruction so a particular block of instruction that needs updating or deletion can be done without having to redo the whole program?"

More Power for the IETM

When an aircraft crew chief or maintenance specialist uses the interactive electronic technical manuals (IETM) at an aircraft on the flight line for an extended period of time (more than an hour), the user must either power down the computer or take an extra battery with them, or worse, print the maintenance task out on paper!

In my travels, I have seen some clever Soldiers build a makeshift adapter or converter and hook it up to the aircraft battery.

It would be good if industry could manufacture an adapter/converter that could be used with the aircraft's power source when our Soldiers are using the IETM computer or develop a longer life battery.

I'm sure there'll be an engineer tearing his hair out after hearing this. However, we need a better solution to extend the operational use time of the IETM.

Summary

As I travel and visit our NCOs and Soldiers, I'm continually impressed with their dedication, intelligence, ingenuity and professionalism.

Again, as we ensure that our training is relevant and realistic in order for them to perform their duties, I'd ask our industry partners to help us develop some better solutions.

Our aviation warriors are clearly making a difference in the Global War on Terrorism.

Above the Best!



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

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Constant Mission Readiness

Our long-term involvement with Flight School XXI has enabled FlightSafety to play a key supporting role in the Army's ongoing transformation efforts. FlightSafety remains the top choice for military professionals looking for the best possible training and the security of being fully prepared for duty.

For more information on military training, please contact John Marino, Vice President, Defense Training Systems, at 703.414.5500.

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An Assault Commander's View

on Training and Designating Air Mission Commanders

By LTC Adrian R. Farrall

All too often a deployed unit arrives in theater -- conducts reception, staging, onward movement and integration, and flies local area orientations -- and quickly begins flying combat missions.

This often leaves by default the senior ranking aviator of a combat flight team as the air mission commander.

Considering that on a typical day during our Operation Iraqi Freedom-V deployment, the "Marne Assault" battalion had at least a dozen air mission commanders (AMC) operating in the Multi-National Division-Center area of operations, the majority of

them being lieutenants and CW2s, it was critically important that they understood the commander's intent during every mission.

Having trained and designated dozens of AMCs over the past two years as "Marne Assault 6," I offer a few lessons-learned for battalion and squadron commanders to consider as they develop an AMC program for their units.

Although this article was written from an assault battalion commander's perspective, many of the principles discussed could apply to any aviation unit.

To be considered for air mission commander designation, 4-3rd Avn. Regt. pilots-in-command are required to be Readiness Level 1 in night vision goggles to start as a Tier 1 AMC. Here, Soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Bde. Cbt. Tm., 3rd Inf. Div., off-load Co. C Black Hawks at Combat Outpost Carver after a night mission Feb. 28.

I view the training and designation of AMCs as a continuous four-step process:

1. Conduct battalion commander led AMC academic training.
2. Conduct company-level AMC flight training.
3. Bn. commander formally designates AMCs; review and update as required.
4. Bn. commander reviews and approves AMCs on the daily flight schedule.

AMC Academic Training

The first step in this process is to conduct academic AMC training; battalion commanders should personally lead this training.

Units should begin this process at home station, well in advance of any major collective training.

The academic training we conducted, considered an officer professional development session, lasted between 1-1/2 to 2-hours depending on audience size and participation.

Appendix E of Training Circular 1-210 gives an excellent outline to assist in the preparation of AMC academic training.

Additionally, I recommend commanders address the following.

First, publish your standing commander's intent with regards to daily aviation operations using the *purpose, key tasks and end-state* format.

Second, all AMCs must clearly understand that aviation exists to support the ground force commander, plain and simple. That means we must be time-on-target each and every mission; use common sense, good judgment and remain flexible while serving as an AMC.

I do recommend conducting the academic training again upon arrival in theater (and as required) with input and recommendations from the outgoing commander you relieve in place or transfer authority with.

This will allow your AMCs to review and discuss classified theater-specific information and vignettes (from serious incident report "story boards") that may not be easily available at home station due to security requirements.

An excellent bridge between academic training and actual flight training is the use of simulation at home station, most notably the use of the AVCATT - aviation combined arms tactical trainer.

We made good use of the device at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., combining air assault and AMC tactics, techniques and procedures at the platoon level.

This was a great experience for our young lieutenants and new warrant officers prior to deployment.

Conduct AMC Flight Training

The second step in the process is to conduct AMC flight training.

As the commander, you are without

a doubt the primary trainer in the battalion. As such, it is critical that commanders progress to night vision goggle (NVG) or night vision system pilot-in-command (PC) status as soon as possible.

Given that the first year of command in a "life cycle" aviation unit is typically consumed with completing aircraft reset and preset maintenance and aircraft modifications, attending the leaders training program and a subsequent mission rehearsal exercise, I understand from first hand experience that this is a challenge.

Accordingly, I recommend you monitor the flight training portion as required, but delegate that part of the AMC training program to your company commanders to further develop AMCs at the unit level.

There is no formal process here, rather the practical application of the topics - as discussed during the academic portion of the AMC training process - in a simulated or actual flight environment.

Formal AMC Designation

Once the academic and flight training is complete, the battalion commander should formally designate all AMCs in writing, much like we designate a mission briefer and the mission approval authority.

I believe it's in the third step, the use of a 3-tiered AMC designation system, which is the cornerstone of our AMC program's success.

Tier 1 is our entry level designation for AMCs, where all of our new Readiness Level 1 (RL1) NVG platoon leaders and RL1 NVG warrant officer PCs begin performing as an AMC.

Missions flown in this category include the "Marne Express," a daily ring-route passenger air movement mission, and other morning, afternoon and night mission requests. The majority of our missions fall into this category.

Tier 2 is our mid-level designation for AMCs, with most of our experienced RL1 NVG platoon leaders and RL1 NVG PCs performing as an AMC under this category.

Tier 2 missions include all Tier 1 missions, as well as the division rapid reaction force and any brigade combat team direct support operations.

These missions are often subject to "dynamic re-tasking" and it's the reason why this category is more stringent in regards to AMC experience.

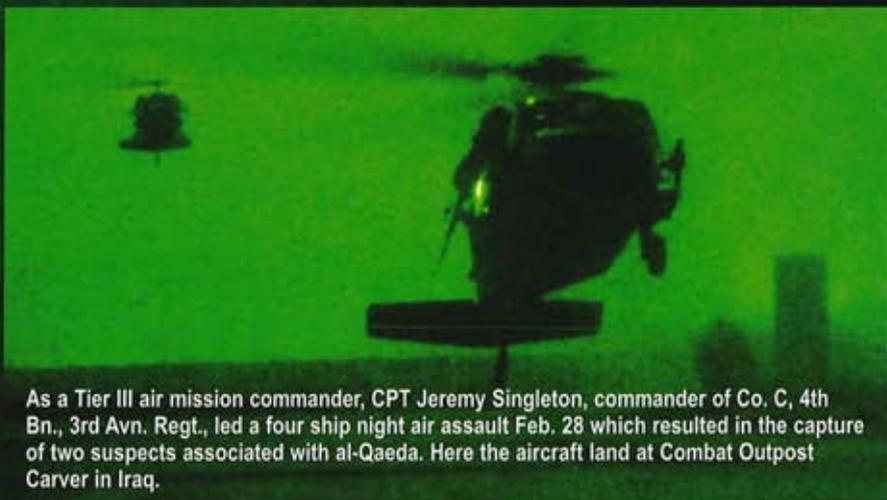
Tier 3 is reserved for our most experienced AMCs. These AMCs include assault platoon leaders (lieutenants and junior captains) who are NVG PCs, assault company commanders, a select group of senior warrant officers, the battalion's executive officer and S3 operations officer, and the battalion commander.

Missions included all Tier 1 and 2 missions, as well as multi-ship air assaults with 4 or more aircraft.

The risk potential for last minute changes to the plan and during mission execution posed the greatest risk - along with the fact that both the enemy and weather have a vote.

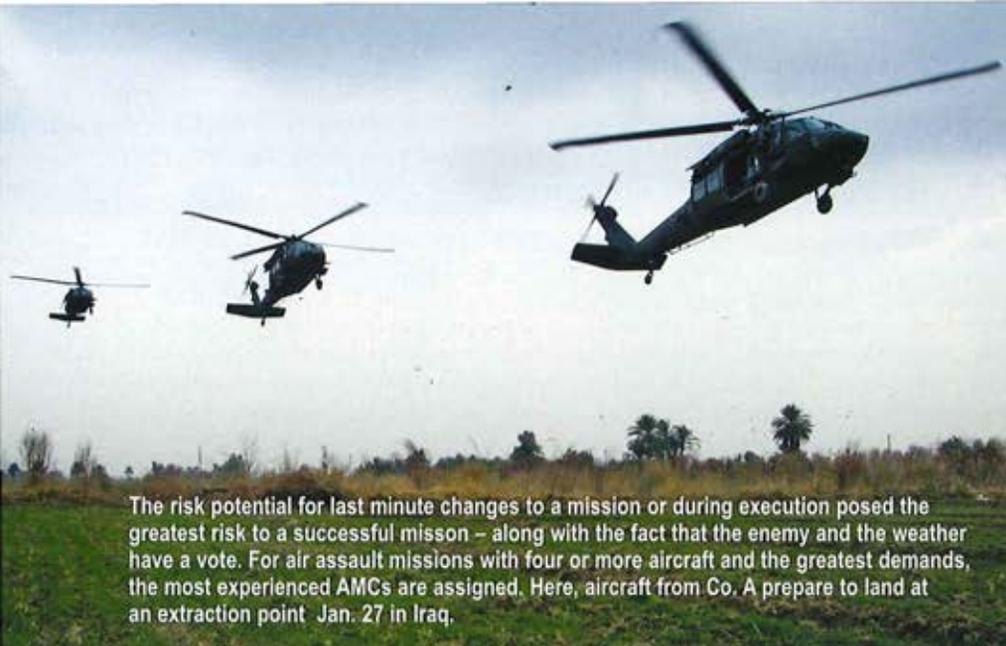
Thus, the need for the most experienced AMCs in this category.

Finally, I review and update the AMC designation list every couple of months based on company commander and senior warrant officer input, as well as what I observe from flying with each of the line companies.



As a Tier III air mission commander, CPT Jeremy Singleton, commander of Co. C, 4th Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt., led a four ship night air assault Feb. 28 which resulted in the capture of two suspects associated with al-Qaeda. Here the aircraft land at Combat Outpost Carver in Iraq.

ARMY PHOTOS BY SGT TIMOTHY KRUGSTON



The risk potential for last minute changes to a mission or during execution posed the greatest risk to a successful mission – along with the fact that the enemy and the weather have a vote. For air assault missions with four or more aircraft and the greatest demands, the most experienced AMCs are assigned. Here, aircraft from Co. A prepare to land at an extraction point Jan. 27 in Iraq.



Air mission commanders must clearly understand that aviation exists to support the ground force commander; that means meeting time-on-target each and every mission, similar to Operation Iron Boston conducted Jan. 27 by Co. A, 4-3rd Avn., in Iraq.

Approving AMCs on the Flight Schedule

The final step in this process is to review and approve AMCs on the daily flight schedule.

A technique that we use is to post the flight schedule on a secure internet network “shared drive” three days in advance. This also coincides with the 72-hour assault planning cycle at the battalion level.

Each evening, the battalion con-

ducts a flight synchronization brief where the next three days of flight schedules are approved by the battalion commander (initial mission approval).

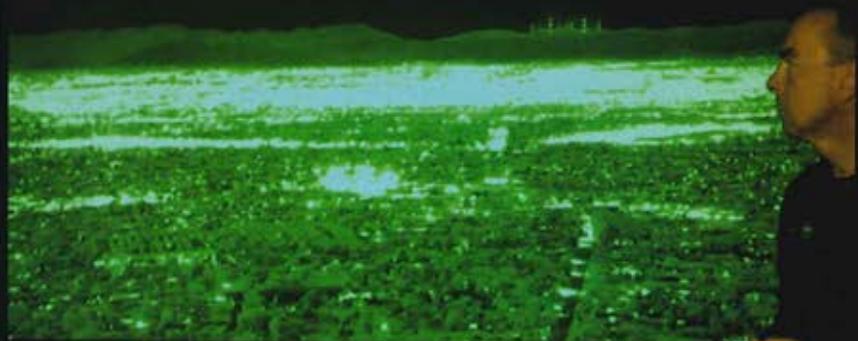
Key to this process is the identification and approval of the air mission commander for each mission.

The designated AMC then completes the risk assessment worksheet and turns it in to the appropriate final mission approval authority.



Each evening, the 4th Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt. conducts a flight synchronization brief where the next three days of flight schedules get an initial mission approval by the battalion commander. Key to the process is identifying the air mission commander for each mission.

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Summary

Given the dynamic nature of the type and number of missions we execute on a daily basis, its imperative to develop and execute a solid air mission commander training and designation program to set the conditions for sustained mission success.

This ultimately allows us to better support the Task Force Marne ground forces by giving air mission commanders the flexibility to operate within the confines of a commander's intent versus the confines of a “briefing sheet.”

I wish you all the very best and God's speed during your command and deployments.

Marne Assault!



LTC Adrian “Rick” Farrall is the commander of the 4th Bn. (Assault), 3rd Avn. Regt., with the 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde., Hunter Army Air Field, Ga. He finishes his 15 month deployment in support of Task Force Marne combat operations with Operation Iraqi Freedom-V in August.

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CW4 Matthew Fitter, a UH-1H pilot with the Falcon Team, maintains situational awareness for effective air-ground integration, as he flies over "Circletown" during a NATO operational mentor liaison team training exercise at the Hohenfels Training Area.

ARMY PHOTO BY SFC ALEX GOONER

"Falcon Team" Mentors Train Warfighters for Aviation Combat Employment

By CPT John B. Davis and CPT Junel Jeffrey

As countries around the world decisively engage the enemy in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), defense forces must be trained and proficient in tasks necessary to defeat adversaries on the battlefield.

Successful mission accomplishment begins well before even the first shot is fired. Many would argue that in order to perform well, a fighting force must first be well trained. This is the belief of observer/controllers at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) at the U.S. Army Hohenfels Training Area in Germany.

Forces at JMRC work diligently to ensure that U.S., joint and multinational warriors are trained and ready to defeat terrorism wherever it may lie, anywhere in the world.

Through training scenarios and exercises tailored to fit the needs of each individual training unit, JMRC enables warriors to train on missions and tasks prior to operational deployments.

An integral aspect of JMRC training involves preparing units to interact with aviation assets on the battlefield and evaluating aviation units for deployment. This is the mission of JMRC's illustrious "Falcon" observer/controller (O/C) team.

The JMRC aviation O/C support team was originally constructed as two separate and distinct groups, the Ravens and the Falcons.

While the Ravens provided opposition forces or OPFOR with aviation support, the Falcons were tasked to deliver O/C support.

The two teams were later merged into

one organization, collectively known as the JMRC Aviation Detachment. Together they continue to train U.S. Army Europe's aviation and ground combat units with feedback and world-class OPFOR aviation operations.

Falcon team senior mentor LTC James Barker, who recently returned from a 15-month deployment in Iraq as the 2nd Sqdn., 6th Cavalry Regt. commander, says that a combination of factors make the Falcon Team unique.

"There are only 10 units that still utilize the UH-1H Huey helicopter that was made famous during its service in Vietnam," Barker said, "We are the only Huey unit in U.S. Army Europe."

"We belong to one of only three combat training centers in the U.S. Army and the only one located outside the United States," Barker said.

"Because of our location, our mission supports many more multinational training events than the other combat training centers."

JMRC O/Cs recently hosted eight separate countries in support of NATO Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) training.

The OMLT are key contributors to the NATO International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan helping to develop the Afghan National Army, and are embedded throughout ANA ranks.

Falcon Team O/Cs integrated the "teach, coach and mentor" philosophy by simulating both medical evacuation and attack/scout gunship missions with their fleet of Huey helicopters.

LTC Jody Petery, the JMRC's senior cavalry and armor team mentor responsible for training OMLTs, says the Falcons play a vital role in realistically preparing ANA and OMLTs to interact with aviation assets.

"This training is extremely important, as it's the 'bread and butter' of aviation assets available to ANA and OMLTs in Afghanistan," Petery said. "In most cases this is the only time these teams get to work with live aircraft."

The aviation training accomplishes several key training objectives including: air-to-ground integration, medical evacuation training, aviation planning, and close combat attack call-for-fire training.



ARMY PHOTO BY SPC ALEX GOODINEZ

A Falcon Team UH-1H Huey serves as an attack asset to provide over-watch security support to an Afghan National Army-led cordon and search operation.

"Interaction with the Falcon pilots teaches how to talk/coordinate with air assets to get the best effects possible while ensuring coalition forces are in a safe position to employ aviation munitions," Petery said.

Each OMLT member had the opportunity to call for and "bring in" medical evacuation and attack aircraft — essential skills Soldiers must grasp to successfully request air support in their often remote operating bases.

"We used to strive to get wounded Soldiers evacuated from the battlefield within the 'golden hour' after he or she is wounded," Barker said. "Today, Army aviation's goal is to be there within 'platinum minutes.'"

Petery says the Falcon Team's use of a crawl-walk-run methodology teaches the OMLT about aircraft and munitions capabilities, while the latter phase of training is dedicated to showing how to employ attack aviation and how medical evacuation continues to help strengthen the mission to defeat Taliban fighters, who often operate in complex terrain.

"Indigenous security forces must be made capable of securing their population and borders from terrorists and extremists," Petery said, "NATO operational mentor and liaison teams and the training conducted at JMRC provides an extremely valuable service to both the Global War on Terrorism in the short term and the ability of the U.S. Army to sustain the fight in the long term."

LTC Brian Dillon, the commander

of 3rd Bn. (Attack/Recon), 159th Avn. Regt., recently validated his unit's aviation proficiency during a mission rehearsal exercise (MRE) at JMRC in preparation for a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

Dillon said the Falcon Team was 100 percent focused on making his battalion better, and their professionalism and recent combat experience directly contributed to ensuring his unit was trained for deployment.

"Years ago, O/Cs focused on doctrine and deficiencies," Dillon said, "Today, the Falcon O/Cs are focused on practical solutions to common challenges aviation units face while deployed. The O/Cs all have recent experience with similar challenges and they were able to provide practical recommendations that have been tested and verified on the modern battlefield."

Since returning from an Afghanistan deployment in 2006, the 3-159th Avn. had had few opportunities to conduct force-on-force operations as a battalion.

Dillon said the training was not easy, and his unit had several obstacles to overcome while at Hohenfels.

"As a new commander [the MRE] afforded me the opportunity to shape our tactical operations center procedures and clarify my expectations to the staff on effective ways to conduct attack helicopter operations in combat," Dillon said.

Because there are never enough opportunities for troops to interact with aviation units, many believe that consistency is the key when conduct-



ARMY PHOTO BY SPC ALEX GOODINEZ

French troops carryout an "emergency" sequence as they await for an inbound medevac helicopter to transport wounded evacuees to treatment and safety.



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As American, French and Afghan National Army troops conduct an outer cordon mission during a NATO operational mentor liaison team training at the JMRC, a UH-1H helicopter provides outer cordon security, helping to add realism and training opportunities for participating trainees.

ing aviation training and preparing for deployment.

“Working with coalition partners on the battlefield is a fact of life. Aviation training is always best when you are supporting an actual ground force,” Dillon said.

In preparing units for deployment, the Falcons say the biggest challenge is keeping abreast of the most current doctrine and tactics, techniques and procedures when preparing training plans.

While all of the Falcon O/Cs are combat veterans, Barker says experience ages vary rapidly because things constantly evolve on the battlefield.

“It’s our responsibility as aviation professionals to ensure these troops are trained and confident when working with aviation downrange. Our team directly contributes to the Global War on Terrorism by helping to train and validate aviation units getting

ready to deploy to Afghanistan and Iraq,” Barker said.

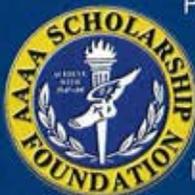
Aside from more training rotations on the horizon, the Falcon Team plans to retire their UH-1 helicopters in 2010. The team will trade in their legacy helicopters for new UH-72A Lakota light utility helicopters.

With these new aircraft the Falcon Team will no doubt continue its proud training history.

“We’re the last stop in the pre-deployment training pipeline,” Barker added about his Falcon O/C Team. “When we are done with a unit, we say ‘you’re ready to deploy!’”



CPT John B. Davis is a Falcon Team aviation observer/controller and CPT Junel Jeffrey is the public affairs officer at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany.



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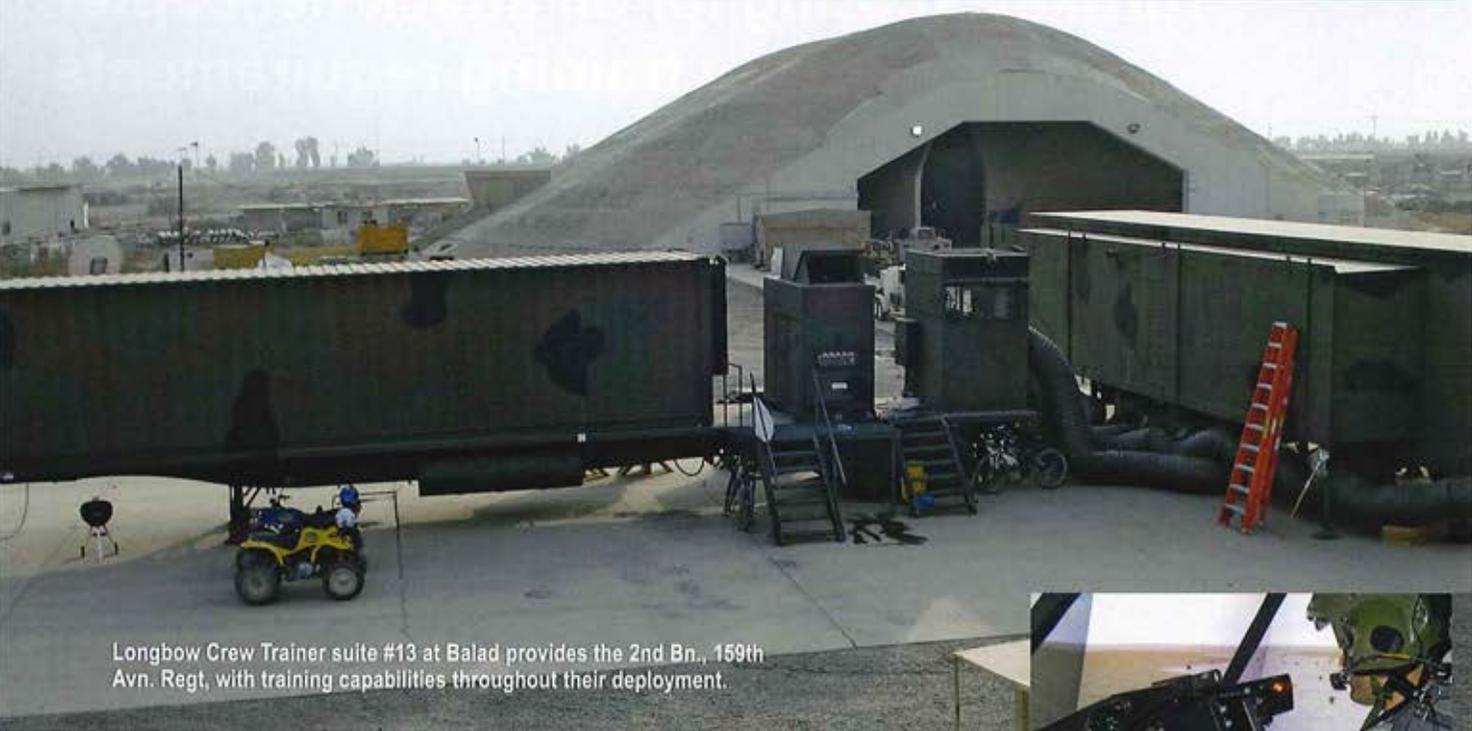
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Longbow Crew Trainer suite #13 at Balad provides the 2nd Bn., 159th Avn. Regt, with training capabilities throughout their deployment.



ARMY PHOTO BY RON BARLON

Pilots use the Longbow Crew Trainer at home station to train new tactics and techniques for future deployments. Here, CW2 Matthew Scott with the 1st Bn., 4th Avn. Regt. flies a training scenario June 10 in an LCT front seat device at Fort Hood, Texas.

By LTC Robert J. Johnston
with MAJ Joseph M. Herman and
CW4 David E. Kather, Ret.

When the first Longbow Crew Trainer (LCT) rolled out of the Boeing Company's St. Louis production plant in 2000, it was the Apache Project Manager Office's responsibility to conduct the initial unit fielding.

The mission was to incorporate a training device that was deployable and maintainable to support Longbow units at home station, as well as to any unit deployed to a combat theater.

The fielding plan allocates one device to each of the fielded AH-64D Longbow units.

As of June, 22 LCTs are fielded to institutional and non-tactical (TDA) units, and to tactical (TO&E) units.

The oversight of the LCT program and fielding falls to the Longbow Apache Program Manager and his training devices team. This team consists of active duty military, Army civilians and contractors.

Fielding the LCT and providing the

unit a valuable tool to keep their skills honed entails pre-mission planning and multi-echelon synchronization with the tactical unit, support organizations, and transportation requirements – which can include the U.S. Air Force.

The areas where the devices are deployed are surveyed by a representative from the Product Manager for Training Devices team.

Once the device is in place, a contracted logistics support contractor ensures the hardware and software are installed, and then a government test team ensures the integration is complete by conducting a series of aircrew training manual based validation tests.

Once these tests are completed, the device is released to the unit as “ready for training.”

Deployed to the Fight

In April 2005, the LCT was first fielded to Iraq to support the 1st Bn. (Attack), 101st Avn. Regt. of the 101st Airborne Div.

This marked the first time strategic

airlift (STRATAIR) was used to transport an LCT overseas to support a deployment.

STRATAIR greatly reduced the time a unit went without its LCT, due to tear down, transport, and subsequent set up at the deployed location.

Today, a total of nine of the 17 TO&E unit LCT devices have been or are currently deployed to a theater supporting combat mission training.

Each time the LCT replaces the aircraft for conduct of training, the posture of the warfighter improves by

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One of the trailer sections which makes up an Apache Longbow Crew Trainer suite is off loaded from a U.S. Air Force C-5A Galaxy transport aircraft in April 2005 in Iraq. This mode of transport reduces transport time by 90 percent making the LCT available to units for immediate training.

ARMY PHOTO BY RANDY NELSON

retaining, sustaining and refining aviator flight and tactical skills.

LCT use in the combat zone further reduces the aircrew and aircraft's exposure to risk, while significantly enhancing the logistical train by decreasing the quantity of fuel and parts needed, as well as lowering the maintainers' workload with reduced aircraft training flights.

Bottom line, using the LCT improves the commander's ability to focus on and fight the war.

The majority of deployed units use contracted instructor/operators or I/Os to manage the training conducted in the device and execute the unit commander's training plan.

This technique frees up key unit personnel, specifically instructor pilots (IP), to focus on combat mission planning and provides the commander with the maximum amount of people available to conduct operations.

The first devices deployed to theater were re-deployed back to the United States for required software lot upgrades and RESET at the end of 2006.

Changing Roles

In October 2006, stewardship for maintenance and sustainment of fielded simulation devices transferred from the Project Manager for Apache to the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation.

Now, after fielding the AH-64D aircraft and simulation devices for the past eight years, PM-Apache voluntarily took responsibility on Oct. 1, 2007 for the contracting of LCT I/Os for the deployed units. And PM-Apache offers support to the Installation Management Command, who is responsible for installation support in the continental U.S. to contract garrison I/O support for units with the LCT when requested.

A Field Installation Readiness Support Team (FIRST) contract vehicle provided by the Army's Forces Command was used to expedite the contracting process and obtain I/O support into theater in the shortest time possible.

This arrangement permits the LCT I/O support team, who trains with their unit at home station, to also deploy and continue training the unit while deployed.

Realistic Combat Training

Iraq is an ever-changing area of operations. Apache crews must remain fluid to modifications of their tactics, techniques and procedures. I/Os, under the supervision and guidance of the unit's standardization section, develop and execute training that includes new concepts of operation.

Included in the training scenarios are air assault, close combat attack and high value targets engagements; cordon and search; special operations forces insertions; convoy escort;

improvised explosive device (IED) and vehicle-borne IED ground attack response, and missions involving unmanned aircraft system integration.

These missions generate changes in standard operating procedures for both air and ground units.

Direct feedback, first-hand knowledge and the Center for Army Lessons Learned, have been the biggest contributors to expanding the portfolio of LCT training scenarios.

These missions highlight the aircraft's vast communications spectrum and weapons capabilities.

The need to train line pilots into team leaders and decision makers was made significantly easier with the use of the LCT.

Efforts made by our contract I/Os have vastly enhanced the instrument training capabilities when instrument approach plates for the Iraq database were added to the coverage areas.

This further assisted aviators in the region by allowing practice approaches prior to their in-flight experiences and greatly enhancing crew safety in an emergency IFR situation.

Shortcomings and Upgrades

The simulation devices are excellent for training, however, not all simulations scenarios can be supported within the current Longbow Crew Trainer design.

The shortcomings of the LCT would have possibly gone unnoticed in a sterile, non-hostile threat envi-

ronment, or if the previous cold war tactics, techniques and procedures were not refined.

Missions, tactical environments and employment methods have evolved rapidly to support the warfighter.

Advancement of weapons systems, fuel systems, and software Lot upgrades are integrated in the aircraft slightly ahead of the LCT's ability to facilitate the improvements.

The limited ability to change the weather or match the exact flight conditions in which the aircraft are operating is just a couple of areas that are being addressed by future LCT upgrades.

Better brown-out and white-out representations, as well as the flexibility to incorporate new missiles and rocket designs and types into the device, are programmed for future improvements.

These challenges are being met head on by the Longbow Product Manager's Training Systems Office government test team and the manufacturer itself, and are planned for development in the Extended Block II and Apache Block III upgrades.

Summary

The Apache Training Devices personnel work strenuous hours to ensure the training of America's premier pilots is the best we can provide.

The entire team — from those in uniform, to government civilians, and our patriotic contractors — has a single focus of ensuring Longbow pilots have the training capabilities they need available to them in the LCT.

It is worth noting that four former-Longbow pilots who have worked as contract I/Os over the past several years have all returned to active military service.

The purpose of a training device is to prepare the user. The Longbow Crew Trainer is fulfilling this purpose, at home and in the war zone, ensuring our Apache pilots are the best.



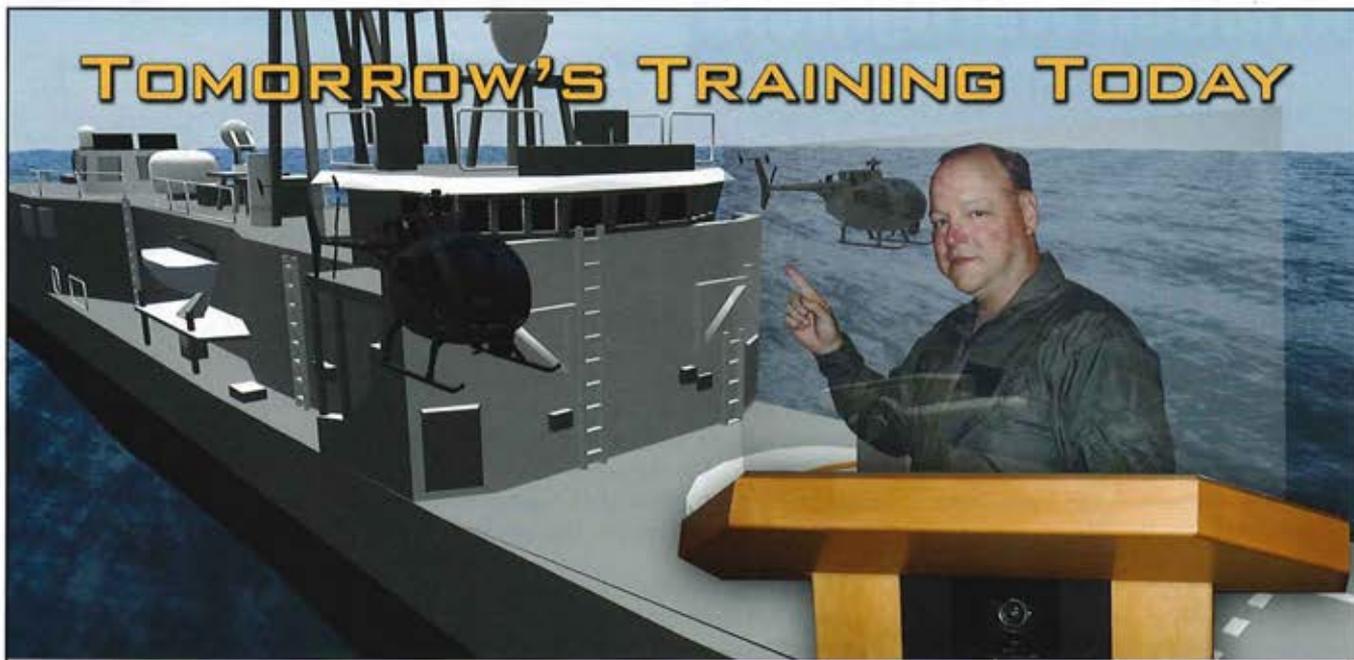
LTC Robert Johnston is the Longbow Apache program manager and MAJ Joseph M. Herman is the assistant Longbow Apache program manager for Training Devices, Program Executive Office for Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Retired CW4 David Kather is an aviation simula-



ARMY PHOTO BY JAMES REVELS

Preparing for a Jan. 31 training period in the LCT (front to rear), CW4 Al Gollmyer, 2-159th Avn. standardization officer; CPT Jarat Ford, Co. C commander; and retired CW4 Dan Coulter, a contracted LCT instructor/operator with S3 Inc., pose for a photo together.

tion subject matter expert and contractor with System Studies and Simulation, Inc., working with PM-Longbow Apache.



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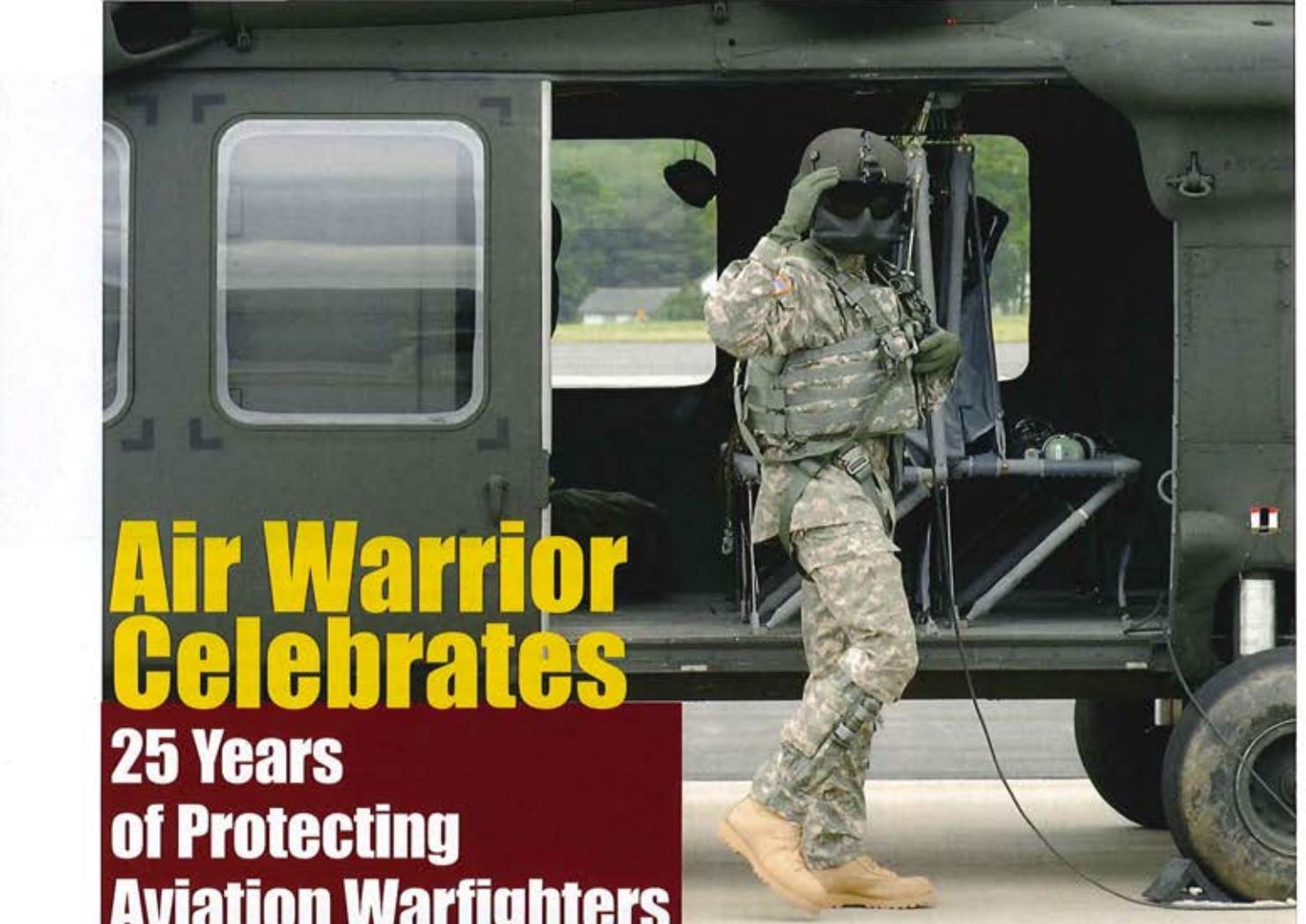


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Air Warrior Celebrates 25 Years of Protecting Aviation Warfighters

By Debi Dawson

The Air Warrior ensemble provides the capability for a downed aircrew member to evade the enemy, survive and return to safety. Here, an Army National Guard aviation Soldier wearing the AW ensemble prepares for a flight at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

The Army is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its aviation life support program this year.

Air Warrior, a part of the Soldier Warrior Project Manager's office with the Program Executive Office - Soldier, will be recognized during an August 25 ceremony the day before the Aviation Life Support Equipment User's Conference at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Former product managers and employees of the Air Warrior Product Manager's Office and its previous incarnations will gather together with current leaders and staff to mark this momentous occasion.

The Air Warrior has long been designated by the Army as the focal point for all aviation life support equipment (ALSE) life-cycle management.

The program provides helicopter crews with protective and survival

gear, as well as operational support equipment and clothing.

In the Beginning—the 1980s

The origins of today's Air Warrior program can be found in 1983, when two organizations under the Army Materiel Command—the ALSE Manager's Office and the ALSE Development Team—merged to become the Product Manager for Aviation Life Support Equipment (PM-ALSE).

LTC Karl R. Griffin, acting PM, led this small but dedicated band of acquisition professionals on their mission to provide full life-cycle management of ALSE equipment, including the development of new items and readiness responsibilities for fielded ALSE. This new office, in St. Louis, Mo., continued the development of survival radios, laser eye protection, the AH-64A aircrew aviation oriented

mask, and the HGU-56/P helmet, all of which remain key components of today's Air Warrior program.

In the mid-1980s, PM-ALSE grew into two divisions: Logistics and Readiness.

Material development actions included the AH-64 aircrew mask integration, installation of emergency location transmitters in Missouri Army National Guard aircraft, and work on the mini-boat floatation kit.

In 1987, PM-ALSE was assigned to PEO-Combat Aviation, which in 1988, combined with PEO-Combat Support Aviation to form PEO-Aviation.

PM-ALSE moved full steam ahead on projects including the aircrew integrated helmet system, the aircrew microclimate conditioning system (now known as the microclimate cooling system), the M-43 mask, and the inflatable body and head restraint system.



The Electronic Data Manager is an electronic kneebord that enables crew members to plan missions quickly and react to mission changes while in flight.



The HGU-56/P aircrews integrated helmet system increases mission effectiveness by offering enhanced comfort, improved impact protection, retention and sound attenuation.

ARMY PHOTOS BY CATHERINE DERVAN

Moving Forward in the 1990s

Operation Desert Shield was a watershed event for PM-ALSE, as the PM sent many core sets, including helmets, laser eye protection, nuclear-chemical-biological masks, and cooling systems, overseas to deployed aircrews.

Most importantly, the early '90s saw the establishment of the Aircraft Integrated Equipment (AIE) program, the precursor of today's Air Warrior ensemble.

The AIE program identified and developed technologies and equipment that would function as an integrated system for rotary-wing aircraft, provide mission tailoring, and accommodate the anthropometrics of the aircrew population.

A memorandum of agreement was signed by the Army and the Navy in the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 1992 for the joint study and development of AIE.

In 1994, PM-ALSE was "promoted" to a project management office with a civilian manager. John Shannon, the new acting project manager, was responsible for managing 15 programs in a variety of life-cycle phases.

New systems fielded during this time include the SRU-37/P life raft, the helicopter oxygen system, and the HGU-56-P aviator helmet, which significantly increased head protection for aircrews.

Forming a New PM

In 1996, PM-ALSE became the Aircrew Integrated Systems (ACIS) Project Management Office. CPT Bradley Wood became the first assistant product manager for Air Warrior.

The mission of the program was to ensure all personal equipment worn by Army aircrews was effective and fully integrated with mission equipment that was worn, carried by, or kept readily accessible to aircrew members.

Previously, the lack of effective integration resulted in helicopter crewmembers carrying a burdensome volume of personal gear.

Cumbersome personal equipment had the potential to degrade mission effectiveness by increasing fatigue, reducing mobility, limiting visibility, and restricting their ability to safely fly the aircraft and perform mission functions. Air Warrior's goal was to remedy these problems.

The PM-ACIS fashioned a new acquisition strategy for Air Warrior, completing an acquisition program and straw man that provided an ensemble example for prospective bidders for Phase I of the restructured program.

On Nov. 6, 1996, the request for proposals for Phase I was released.

The goals of Air Warrior were to improve aircrew safety, increase air-

crew and passenger survivability, and enhance aircrew performance in high technology aircraft.

The AW mission needs statement addressed the requirement for fully integrated mission equipment, survivability, and nuclear, biological and chemical protection.

It provided crew member equipment system integration, man-machine interface, weight savings, increased survivability, and higher potential for improved mission performance at an overall reduced cost.

Change is Good—Late '90s to Present

In 1997, the PM moved from St. Louis to its current location at the Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

In 2000, the office reverted from a project manager back to a product manager and integrated into PM Aviation Electronic Systems, then Aviation Electronic Combat.

Major accomplishments during this time were the selection of the initial Air Warrior ensemble that entered engineering and manufacturing development and the decision for the PM to serve as the prime systems integrator for the AW program.

In 2002, the PM moved to PEO Soldier under PM Soldier Warrior as the newly renamed Air Warrior Product Office.

Today, Air Warrior, under the direction of LTC Shannon Womack, product manager, works tirelessly to develop and field integrated Soldier systems that increase freedom of movement at flight controls, increase mobility to safely operate aircraft systems, facilitate entering and exiting the aircraft, and enhance comfort to increase mission duration in full mission-oriented protective posture gear.

Air Warrior also enhances downed crew member survivability in escape and evasion situations.

Equipping Aviation Warriors

More than 15,000 Army aircrew members have been equipped with the Air Warrior ensemble which includes:

- *Improved laser eye protection* against low energy laser threats.
- *The Microclimate Cooling System*, which provides cooling to flight crew members to increase mission duration.
- *The Electronic Data Manager*, giving the aviator the capability to quick-

IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE



Photo courtesy of SFC Kevin Doheny

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Recent Air Warrior Evolution



The Air Warrior ensemble has undergone multiple changes as a result of lessons learned from use in war and from advancements in technology and materials.

ly plan missions and react to changes in-flight with a user-friendly, touch-screen, kneeboard computer with GPS, moving map, sunlight readability, electronic messaging, and Blue Force Tracker for situational awareness.

- The *Aircrew Integrated Helmet System*, with enhanced comfort and improved impact protection, retention and sound attenuation.
- The *Aircraft Wireless Intercom System*, which provides secure wireless communication between crew members during high-risk medical evacuation missions.
- The *Cockpit Air Bags System*, which protects against multiple hazards with a crash-activated, inflatable protection system that prevents or reduces injuries and lowers mortality risk.
- The *Army Aircrew Combat Uniform and Fire Resistant Environmental Ensemble*, both managed by PM Soldier Equipment, which enhances aircrew comfort and provides fire protection.

Continuing the Tradition

PM Air Warrior's dedication has not gone unnoticed by the brave men and women flying with the latest equipment. "Any time I need to leave the aircraft, I'll have the proper gear," said SGT Justin Hutchinson with 236th Med. Evac. Co., who in 2007 received the 10,000th Air Warrior system.

Today, the program has become so effective that other U.S. military branches and international allies have invested in the system.

"Air Warrior has a great tradition of 25 years of service to Army aviators," Womack said. "We're continuing that tradition with our focus on Army aviators and building on it with support to the mounted community, as well as other services' and countries' aviators."

Today's Air Warrior is 25 years in the making and deserves every accolade.



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

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Military Aviation Celebrates 100 Years

Recreating Aviation Origins to Inspire the Future

By Paul Glenshaw



Orville Wright conducts a demonstration flight over Fort Myer, Va., in 1908. The building in background on right is the current headquarters, but was the hospital at that time. LT Thomas Selfridge died there following an earlier crash.

Consider the scenario: a revolutionary aircraft, developed in secrecy. A lengthy bidding and contract negotiation between the Army and the developer.

Highly publicized flight demonstrations, interrupted by a tragic accident. Flight trials eventually concluded, followed by training for several Army officers. It sounds contemporary, but it's a story nearly 100 years old. We don't think of the Wright brothers as defense contractors, but they were.

The world paid little attention to their first flights in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, N.C. Five years later, in 1908, everything changed. Orville Wright came to Fort Myer, Va., with his secret airplane to complete the first requirement between the Wrights and the U.S. Army — public flight demonstrations.

More than a year later, on Oct. 19, 1909, LT Benjamin Foulois handed Wilbur Wright an Army check for \$20,000. The balance of \$10,000 would be paid when Wright completed the training of three officers, the final requirement of the contract.

This process got the Army its first airplane.

Aviation Reborn

Now, in 2008, the Wright Flyers of 1908 and 1909 are being reborn.

The Wright Experience of Warrenton, Va., working under contract to the Discovery of Flight Foundation, is creating exact, airwor-

thy reproductions of the originals.

These aircraft will take part in public celebrations being planned to observe the Centennials of the events of 1908 and 1909, when the Wright brothers and the U.S. Army joined together to create powered military aviation.

These reproductions will not only honor their vision and courage, they will serve to educate and inspire generations to come. The reproduction Flyers are outstanding tools for teaching the fundamentals of engineering and the scientific process. The open framework of the Wright machine, with its simple mechanics and sophisticated design, is at once engaging and challenging: "So that's how it works." and also, "How did they figure it out?"

Students at all levels will learn by seeing wing warping and canard control demonstrations, and handling components of the machine.

As we prepare the next generations of innovators, the models presented by the Wrights and their Army partner give us a crystal clear example of the kind of imagination, courage, persistence, and faith that are required to bring any great innovation to practical reality.

Secrets and Requirements

The Wright brothers' challenges were many. They conducted their 1904 to 1905 flight testing in the seclusion of Dayton, Ohio, and refused to demonstrate the airplane publicly without a contract. They

alone had the secret of flight, and knew that once they flew for others to see, the competition would explode.

The Army specifications were within their reach: two men sitting upright, flying at least an hour, at 40-miles per hour. But no one, not even the Wrights, had actually done it.

Other than some brief practice in May 1908, neither Wright had flown in three years. Public skepticism of their claims was intense. Even the *New York Times* had opined, "They are either fliers or liars."

The Army contract was not the Wrights' only deal. A French business syndicate agreed to purchase a Wright machine, with similar conditions.

In the late spring of 1908, Wilbur traveled to France, and took off at Le Mans on August 8. As he easily banked into his turns, the French were stunned.

He wrote Orville, "The newspapers and the French aviators nearly went wild with excitement...You would have almost died of laughter if you could have seen them."

The aviation revolution had begun.

Aviation Firsts for the Army

Orville arrived at Fort Myer in late August 1908. On Sept. 9, he broke Wilbur's duration record, flying for over an hour. Later, he took up LT Frank P. Lahm, the first Army officer to fly in an airplane. Orville demonstrated beyond all doubt that he was

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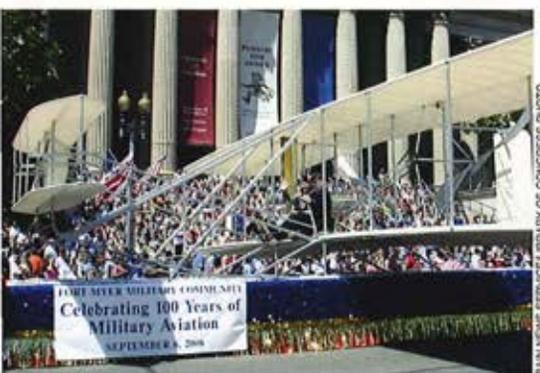
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capable of sustained flight. "The thing seems so easy," said one Army officer, "that it is difficult for me to believe that Mr. Wright has solved one of the great problems of the ages."

LT Thomas Selfridge was chosen for the first official trial, a one-hour endurance flight with a passenger. On Sept. 17, they rose to an altitude of about 100 feet. Orville felt a light tapping from the rear of the machine, followed by two big thumps. He cut the power. The machine slewed around before turning headfirst toward the ground. It began to right itself, but not in time.

Orville and Selfridge were buried in the wreckage. Orville's thigh and several ribs were broken. Selfridge died later of a fractured skull, the first fatality in an airplane crash.

It was clearly an accident: one of the propellers, made of laminated wood, came apart at its glued seams, wobbled out of balance, and clipped a control wire. The 1908 Flyer was destroyed.



A reproduction of the Model A Flyer was featured in the National Memorial Day Parade, May 26 in Washington, D.C. COL Laura Richardson, commander for Fort Myer, joined the onboard mannequin of Orville Wright to help wave to the parade attendees.

100 Years Later

Now, for the first time in 100 years, it has reappeared. Since no complete plans exist, the Wright Experience has spent thousands of hours pouring over photographs and documents to understand and manufacture each component.

Not yet fully complete, it made a sneak preview appearance in the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., with COL Laura Richardson, the commander of Fort Myer, on board.

With sufficient support, the Flyer will be completed to play a major role in a joint forces celebration being planned at Fort Myer for Sept. 6,



The airframe of a Model A Flyer under assembly with the Wright Experience of Warrenton, Va. Craftsman Ken Hyde inspects the front end of the aircraft before coverings are installed. Note the scale of the aircraft to Hyde.

2008. It will then go to the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center as an educational, interactive exhibit.

The story does not end with the 1908 Flyer. The Wrights returned to Fort Myer in June 1909 with a new machine. Their contract specified a \$2500 bonus for each mile over 40 miles-per-hour the Flyer flew in its speed trials. The brothers were prepared to go as fast as possible; Orville would do all the flying.

Setting Records

On July 27, Orville took off with LT Lahm for the endurance flight, with a crowd of thousands, including President William Taft, in attendance. He flew for one hour, 12 minutes, and 57 seconds.

Three days later, LT Foulois joined him on the final test: a timed, 10-mile speed run to Shutter's Hill in Alexandria, Va., and back. With an average speed of 42.5 miles an hour, the Wrights earned an extra \$5000 bonus.

The trials were over. On August 2, the Flyer was accepted as the first Army airplane.

Pilot Training

For the officers' flight training, Lahm found a site near the Maryland Agricultural College just outside of Washington.

On October 8, Wilbur began training LTs Lahm, Humphries and Foulois in College Park. Humphries and Lahm soloed. Foulois was

trained, but was sent to France before he could solo.

The 1909 Flyer, now designated as "Signal Corps #1," was sent to Fort Sam Houston in Texas in 1910 with Foulois. He completed his own training, and set up the first aviation detachment, getting by on an appropriation of \$150. The machine was decommissioned the next year. It has been on display since 1911 at the Smithsonian Institution.

Reviving the Past

Signal Corps #1 will also be reproduced by the Wright Experience and will return to its first field.

In 2009, the College Park Airport will celebrate its centennial, and the Flyer is being built for a second interactive, educational display at the College Park Aviation Museum.

Lieutenants Lahm, Selfridge, Foulois and a handful of others believed in the potential of flight before many of their superiors. They gave the Wrights something they needed, and something we need today: believers and doers.

A century later, their story still inspires and educates.

For more information on planned Centennial of Flight events visit www.discoveryofflight.org or www.wrightexperience.com.



Paul Glenshaw is the director of the Discovery of Flight Foundation and resides in Silver Spring, Md.



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Effectively Teaming

Attack Aviation, Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Close Air Support



These four frames from a Shadow unmanned aircraft system video feed into the tactical operations center of the 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div., provide imagery of an enemy defensive position being destroyed by a fixed-wing kinetic strike. Teaming UAS with weapons platforms and ground force commanders helps to provide precision strikes on combatants.

for Combat

By LTC Kevin J. Fowler and CPT Michael L. Osmon

In July 2007, CPT Jason James and his team of OH-58Ds from the 3rd Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt. were assigned to conduct security for an aerial re-supply flight, as well as several other follow-on missions. It was nothing unusual, as ground elements in remote patrol bases regularly receive deliveries of water and supplies.

The Scout Weapons Team (SWT) was tasked to provide security for the "Smugglers" of the 4th Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt., a UH-60 air assault unit, as they landed and offloaded cargo, ensuring that enemy forces could not attack the Black Hawk helicopters when they were most vulnerable.

After James reported the landing zone being "ice" – signifying no visible threats present – the aircraft landed, dropped cargo and departed without incident.

Several minutes later, after shifting to an over-watch of a convoy, James received a change of mission from "1-Geronimo" the tactical operations center (TOC) of the 1st Bn., 501st Parachute Inf. Regt.

The 1-Geronimo battle captain related that his Shadow unmanned aircraft operator had identified a blue "bongo" truck with three armed males in black clothing, a typical extremist uniform at the time.

The SWT arrived at the target area, located the truck and established positive identification, then executed sev-

eral close combat attacks to destroy the truck and enemy personnel.

Battle Space Dynamics

Frequent mission changes, dynamic re-tasking, and reaction to time sensitive targets – using mutual support between rotary wing, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and close air support systems – have become commonplace within the Multi-National Division-Center (MND-C) and with the 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde. (CAB).

Although OH-58D and AH-64D aircrews fly their monthly flight hour maximums, many of the operations areas do not receive adequate aviation coverage. The vast amount of terrain assigned to maneuver brigades, with the finite number of ground patrols, aeroscout and attack airframes, has made unmanned systems an invaluable enemy detection platform.

Leveraging the Shadow, Predator and ScanEagle UAS, along with Aerostat and Joint Land-Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Network Sensor assets, has led to better targeting, faster reactions to enemy activity, and provided deterrence against attacks on coalition forces.

Combined, all of these elements provide better force protection and aviation support for the maneuver forces on the ground.

With command and control of these assets centralized at the maneu-

ver brigade or battalion, planners and battle-staff proficient at integrating, synchronizing and clearly directing these resources make substantial gains in securing their entire area of operations.

To facilitate this, aircrews must maintain situational awareness throughout their battle-space to be able to react to significant events.

The 3-17th Cav. and a detachment from Co. B, 277th Avn. Spt. Bn., both from the 10th Mountain Div. at Fort Drum, N.Y., deployed as part of the operational surge force in May 2007 and were placed under the command of the 3rd Inf. Division's 3rd CAB from Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

To maximize capabilities, assets from both the 3-17th Cav. and the 1st Bn. (Attack), 3rd Avn. Regt. were placed under operational or tactical control of the other throughout the deployment.

While operating in the MND-C area of operations, several techniques evolved in the use and employment of UAS, and the added presence of Navy and Air Force fighter aircraft served as superb multipliers in increasing the rates of target destruction in the southern Baghdad and outlying areas.

However, despite these attack aviation surge forces conducting 24-hour coverage throughout the MND-C area, many observed targets remained undeveloped due to constraints on



PHOTO BY CPT ROBERT W. HARRIS

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior from Troop B with Task Force 3-17th Cav. conducts an engagement with 2.75-inch rockets near Baghdad in Iraq. Note that a rocket is visible in the far right of the photo.

ground maneuver forces or other limitations.

To compensate, 3rd CAB aircrews developed many varied tactical situations during the 15-month deployment, integrating unmanned aircraft systems and close air support (CAS) assets, while directly supporting five brigade combat teams (BCT).

Leveraging the BAE

The 3-17th Cav., as Task Force 3-17, was initially assigned battle-space over the areas of the 2nd BCT "Commando" of the 10th Mtn. Div. and the 4th BCT "Spartans" of the 25th Inf. Div.

The Commando's brigade aviation element (BAE), under the leadership of MAJ Darren Cox, was extremely proactive and energetic in supporting missions with rotary-wing attack aviation, UAS coverage and CAS assets for many of their operations.

Additionally, Cox personally observed the UAS feeds and relayed information to the aircrews and ground force commanders, allowing them to benefit from the UAS operator's observations in near real-time.

Cox and the Commando brigade staff were also proficient in leveraging the Persistent Surveillance and Dissemination System of Systems, which allowed them access to live feeds of the numerous sensors on the battlefield, and significantly increased the effectiveness of time sensitive targeting using combined arms platforms.

Getting Results

Although the tactic of teaming UAS with rotary wing attack platforms was instrumental for many mission types, it had superior results on air assaults.

In one example, CPT Derek Smith, the air mission commander for a team of AH-64D Longbow attack helicopters (controlled by TF 3-17), was assigned as air assault security for Operation *Harpoon Thrust*, conducted by the "Golden Dragons" of TF 2-14th Inf.

After Smith's team of Longbows completed reconnaissance on the two landing zones (LZ), the TF 2-14 Inf. Co. B commander requested that the Longbow aircraft focus on the south-

ern LZ, where enemy contact was most expected.

After two "Smuggler" UH-60 aircraft inserted the assault force, the objective exploded with activity.

When 15 enemy personnel ran in different directions, the assault force commander committed the 3rd ID's division ready reaction force (DRRF) with additional air assault forces.

The Longbow team successfully guided the DRRF elements to detain 11 of the enemy, but could not locate any other hostile personnel.

The Golden Dragon TOC and the Commando BAE relayed live UAS feeds to the ground force company commander and the AH-64D aircrews, talking them onto targets and allowing successful Longbow engagements on the remaining enemy.

Combining SWT, UAS and CAS

During the 3rd ID's Operation *Marne Avalanche* in September 2007, CPT Michael Osmon, Troop C commander, TF 3-17 Cav., and his team of OH-58D Kiowa Warriors, were conducting reconnaissance of several assigned routes and areas.



An F-16C/J Fighting Falcon similar to this one helped to provide laser designation for an OH-58D to engage an enemy target with a Hellfire missile during a November 2007 operation.

The SWT checked in with the BAE for 4th BCT, 25th ID, and was updated on significant enemy activity in a sector where no coalition forces were operating.

The BAE directed the SWT to contact the 1-Geronimo TOC, who briefed that local nationals were under attack from al-Qaida members, and that some Iraqi citizens had been injured by gunfire.

Osmon maneuvered his team to observe and provide timely reporting.

Upon arrival of the SWT, the area did not appear to have any significant activity, although it is not unusual for the enemy to blend back into population centers and cease hostile activities when attack helicopters arrived on station.

The 1-Geronimo TOC prudently asked the SWT to remain several kilometers away from the objective area, and then observed the area with their Shadow UAS, which can typically operate undetected even in daylight conditions.

Removing the SWT from the objective area had the desired result.

A small enemy patrol began maneuvering again, departing from a local mosque and cemetery in a military wedge formation.

1-Geronimo called the SWT back into the area, and cleared the OH-58D aircraft to engage a partially destroyed building where the enemy

forces had set up a defensive position.

After firing a Hellfire missile and 11 rockets, the SWT received feedback from the Shadow operator that there was good effects on the target and no personnel had departed the building.

Critically low on fuel, the OH-58Ds handed the task of observation back to the Shadow.

Minutes after the OH-58Ds departed, the Shadow operator detected 10 more enemy beginning to maneuver near the engagement area.

The 3rd CAB's S3 re-tasked an AH-64D team from an adjacent BCT sector to assist with engagements and to ensure continuous attack aviation coverage of the area – dynamically re-tasking aircraft between BCT areas became a 3rd CAB battle drill and helped to provide responsive support to time sensitive targets.

The enemy fighters took refuge in a dense palm grove, providing them some cover and concealment.

The OH-58Ds arrived back on station, followed shortly by the AH-64Ds.

The Kiowa Warriors engaged the enemy position with high-explosive and flechette rockets; and the AH-64Ds followed with more rockets and 30mm chain gun fire, receiving enemy small arms fire in return.

The 1-Geronimo TOC declared a "troops-in-contact" and called in F-16

fighters assigned up over the MND-C battle-space, and transitioned observations to a second UAS after the first one broke station.

The ground force commander laterally separated the attack aviation from the impact area, coordinated an artillery strike, and sequenced the F-16s to drop two bombs on the target area while under observation by the OH-58Ds.

The coordinated actions and participation of rotary wing, CAS and UAS were effective in stopping the enemy attacks, and resulted in better security for the small town nearby for months afterwards.

Joint Targeting

The flexibility of Army aviation assets is a combat multiplier in itself, as the freedom of aircraft to operate independently of the terrain provides the ground maneuver units another dimension of protection and improved response times.

In November 2007, an Aerostat observation balloon overlooking a major highway observed two people emplacing improvised explosive devices (IED).

The ground unit called in CAS, who initially located but then lost acquisition of the two individuals.

An OH-58D SWT was called to conduct reconnaissance of the area, but the enemy had hidden.

After an extensive search with no results, the SWT departed for refuel and the two enemy personnel began to move again, now reacquired and tracked by an F-16CJ Falcon aircraft.

The OH-58Ds were given a target handover by the F-16CJ, received clearance to engage from the ground forces, and fired eight HE rockets at a dense reed-line where the IED implanters were hiding – even though the crews could not identify the personnel.

Ground forces requested engagement with a missile, and OH-58D engaged the enemy with a Hellfire missile while the F-16CJ provided the laser designation.

During their OIF 07-09 rotation, TF 3-17 Cav. and 1-3rd Avn. executed several remote engagements using F-16, F/A-18 and Predator UAS to laser designate targets; and OH-58D and AH-64D aircrews have contributed to multiple successful engagements by CAS assets through

various target identification and marking techniques.

Lessons Learned

As the scenarios above highlight, the teaming of rotary wing, unmanned aircraft systems and close air support assets bring the capability of a “persistent stare” on enemy activity.

The diverse capabilities of the different systems complement each other to enhance the survivability of the ground forces operating in a canalized, often confusing battlefield where there are no “front lines.”

It is known that the enemy will change their behavior in the presence of rotary wing aircraft.

The UAS and Aerostat systems lend stealthier reconnaissance and observation of enemy activities, and having them linked with attack assets has created greater opportunity to engage and destroy the enemy.

UAS and CAS also fill the gaps when helicopters must refuel and rearm – maintaining continuous visual contact with enemy forces as the vertical stare-down of both platforms overcome even major inter-visibility lines – and are especially successful in tracking vehicles over long distances.

The dozens of successful battle handovers, cross-service cooperative engagements, and timely integration of UAS and CAS systems experienced by TF 3-17 Cav. aircrews during this deployment are substantive proof of the implementation of what was once emerging and theoretical doctrine.

The critical links in ensuring that these teaming concepts produce lethal effects are *preparation* and *communication*.

The mission planners at division level, the maneuver brigade staff, and the aviation battalion operations personnel must have a practical understanding of the finite number of CAS sorties, the weather constraints of the UAS and rotary wing assets, and must be able to evaluate when these assets can best be combined for maximum lethality on the battlefield – often without notice.

The more prepared the aviators, ground company commanders, and UAS operators are to share the information and the capability that their systems bring, the more effective all the platforms become.

As optical capabilities, UAS payloads, and aviation technologies



ARMY PHOTO BY SGT RYAN MATSON

An AH-64D Longbow attack helicopter flies a combat patrol over the desert terrain between Tall Afar and Mosul, Iraq. This weapons platform carries rockets, missiles and a 30mm chain gun.

advance, these effective teaming techniques will likely shape a significant portion of Army aviation’s future force and doctrine.



LTC Kevin Fowler is the commander of the 3rd Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt. and

CPT Michael Osmon is the Troop C commander, based at Fort Drum, N.Y. Both are serving with Task Force 3-17 Cav. and attached to the 3rd Inf. Division’s combat aviation brigade in support of Multi-National Division-Center in Iraq.



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The Women Who Support Those Who Fly "High Above the Best"

By Judy Konitzer

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) celebrated its golden anniversary on July 29. During these 50 years, NASA has sent 12 men to walk on the moon, launched 120 space shuttles, guided dozens of spacecraft to explore our solar system, and provided countless technological achievements.

While much is known about our 14 Army astronauts, perhaps little is known about their wives.

They too are incredibly strong, inspiring, energized, and like their husbands, genuinely appreciative of the experiences afforded them.

I had the pleasure of meeting with several ladies of our current Army astronauts for breakfast May 13 near the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where we talked candidly about their experiences.

These spouses share a passion in their husbands' dreams, and in spite of the rigors and risks of the business, they were obviously thriving in their environment.

When their husbands traded their Army camouflage for NASA blues, they joined an elite group.

To date, less than 1 percent of the 41,000 people who have applied to be astronauts have been selected to serve (only 321 individuals have earned that honor).

Robbie Kimbrough, married to LTC Robert S. Kimbrough, said it has been Shane's childhood dream come true.

Dawn Kopra explained that her husband LTC Timothy L. Kopra has worked toward his goal ever since seeing Apollo astronauts walk on the moon in the late 1960s.

Life with NASA

Selection to the NASA program brings a stability not afforded many military spouses.

Most families have settled in the



Wives of the Army's current astronauts met with Judy for breakfast and to share their experiences May 13 in Houston, Texas. From the left are: Robbie Kimbrough, Peggy Creamer, Anna-Marie Williams, author Konitzer, Diana Forrester and Dawn Kopra.

Clear Lake community near the JSC, and most arrive with young children who attend the local schools with children whose fathers are also astronauts.

They are not singled out as anyone special, which allows them a sense of normalcy.

Families live in a civilian community without the benefits of a traditional military base – but it is not a remote site.

The locals are very helpful and friendly, the school systems are good, and activities and sports programs abound.

Kimbrough says she misses the commissary.

Cindy McArthur, wife of retired COL William S. McArthur Jr. who serves now as a civilian astronaut, misses seeing people in uniform – which reminds her that “we’re a military family.”

Afforded Opportunities

The longer tours with NASA afford spouses the opportunity to pursue their careers.

McArthur taught kindergarten for 10 years prior to working for NASA's Education branch where she is the project lead with the *Teaching From Space* office at JSC.

Anna-Marie Williams, wife of retired COL Jeffrey N. Williams who's also a civilian astronaut, works for a law firm.

Diana Forrester, married to retired COL Patrick Forrester, is a registered nurse working in a local neo-natal intensive care unit, and Kopra works from her home as a paralegal for a law firm.

Peggy Creamer, whose husband is COL Timothy J. “TJ” Creamer and commander of the Army Astronaut Detachment, along with Kimbrough and Kopra have younger children



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and all volunteer at their schools, churches and athletic organizations.

Support Groups

Although there are no formal training modules for spouses and family members of astronauts, the Astronaut Office and Family Support Office, using a military model for its family support structure, both offer a variety of educational opportunities with speakers, tours and other programs to help families better understand the complexities of NASA's missions and training.

Additional briefings and manuals are provided for families of those astronauts assigned to a space flight, as well as the JSC language center is available to prepare for trips to the space launch and recovery facilities of NASA's Russian partner.

"As Army wives, I think we're already well prepared," McArthur explained, "You understand your spouse's dedication to a mission and recognize that this dedication can sometimes make family life challenging."

Creamer says she appreciates these educational and informational opportunities, but also what is provided through the Astronaut Spouse Group.

"What I appreciate most is the ability to share common experiences and a support net that understands my family's situation," she said.

The ASG meets regularly and proved especially valuable during the 2003 *Columbia* accident.

Kopra was the ASG president then and recalled,

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Barbara Morgan, mission specialist on Space Shuttle Endeavor (STS-118), presented Cindy McArthur with NASA's *Silver Snoopy* award May 13 in recognition of her contributions and support for the Astronaut Office's education activities and with Endeavor's mission in August 2007. The Silver Snoopy pin (flown during a NASA mission) best symbolizes the intent and spirit of the Space Flight Awareness program. Here (l to r) flanking McArthur are educator-astronauts Joe Acaba, Ricky Arnold, McArthur, Ellen Baker, Dottie Metclaf-Lindenberger and Morgan.

"Like an Army spouse group would have done, we did our best to help with both practical and emotional needs for the affected families.

"We also liaised with the Astronaut Office to help ensure all the families were receiving information about the accident investigation and being provided with any support they might need as well," Kopra added.

Family Involvement

Space exploration is an international endeavor and all agreed that it has been a wonderful experience establishing friendships with those from other nations.

Cooperative efforts with Russia on the International Space Station (ISS) mean extended travels and stay in Star City near Moscow for training.

NASA supports one trip for families during training, one for launches, and one for landings.

If the launch is at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, a big meal is planned for a limited number of extended family members after their having a physical to make sure they won't spread germs to the crew.

However, children under 16 are not allowed to see their parent after he or she enters into a week-long quarantine.

Preparing children for a mission

includes sharing what their parents will be doing and not acting stressed.

Creamer's son Patrick, inspired by his father's skills, has participated on robotics teams at every school level with the *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology* or FIRST program that NASA sponsors, and is a member of Team 118, one of several nationwide.

Forrester's son Patrick is pursuing Army aviation and is in flight training at Fort Rucker, Ala.; their other son, Andrew, was a 2004 AAAA scholarship recipient and recently graduated from the University of Texas in Austin.

Forrester also related the special experience of her husband viewing space from outside the shuttle where the view is unrestricted.

"I can only imagine what he saw as he described space and the beauty of the earth, its colors, weather patterns and land formations from this vantage point," Forrester recounted. "Viewed from space, Earth has no borders, which have caused strife and countless wars."

"The earth seems small and even fragile – the thin atmosphere is all that protects it. It was an amazing and spiritual experience for him gaining an even greater appreciation of God as the mighty creator. It changes your

ideas about how things are and about life," she said.

At the Forefront

"Our husbands accept the fact that they are science experiments," Williams said, along with their other responsibilities.

New pharmaceuticals for reducing bone and muscle loss and vertigo after long duration flights will have future applications for the general public.

Another commitment for astronauts is that of public relations and education, where opportunities for families to travel (at their own expense), for these appearances provide memorable experiences.

Communication while in space is provided through emails, phone calls and videoconferences in their homes every Sunday.

Prior to the 2006 AAAA Convention, Tom and I were present in the JSC Mission Control when then-COL Williams changed responsibilities with Bill McArthur onboard the ISS and presented McArthur with the Order of St. Michael Gold medallion.

Williams' wife was present and I still remember the conversation between them from space after the presentation.

He had been trying to call Anna-Marie on her cell phone and could not reach her.

Life goes on, and sometimes you are just not available even if someone is calling "long distance."

What we experienced along with the levity of the moment was the mutual respect and camaraderie of all who were there.

Summary

Our Army astronauts and their families have contributed greatly to NASA's success.

There are more stories to be shared for a future article.

We wish all a Happy Anniversary!

Learn more about NASA at www.nasa.gov.



Judy Konitzer is the family readiness editor for ARMY AVIATION; if readers have questions relating to the NASA families, other questions or suggestions – please address them to judy@quad-a.org.

The Joint AAAA—USAWOA Membership Program

A First Year Update



By CW5 Gary Nisker and MG Joseph L. Bergantz, Ret.

We have just completed our first year of the joint membership program between the Army Aviation Association of America and the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association (USAWOA).

Both associations have reduced their normal fee schedules to allow everyone to participate in membership of both organizations simultaneously.

In the first year of this 3-year test program this initiative has attracted 103 members.

This concept has been well received and other military associations within The Military Coalition have been asking about the possibility of forming similar alliances much like ours.

This interest had us change the name of this program from "Dual Membership" to the "Joint Membership" program to allow for the possibility of other associations to take advantage of similar opportunities.

This effort was originally developed to attract more members to both AAAA and USAWOA. The idea is to appeal to aviation warrant officers who belong to one or the other association, or in many cases, to neither association.

In setting up the program, the current dues structure was reviewed and adjusted so that each association reduced the membership fees that it independently charges, in order to make the package attractive to the warrant officer community.

AAAA and the USAWOA will advertise and promote this program in our respective publications.

As a member under the joint membership program, the warrant officer enjoys all the privileges of both associations at a reduced personal cost.

The program officially started June 2007. Please see the joint membership form located on page 62.

Reaching Out

Aviation warrant officers are an under represented group of people in both of our associations.

While WOs make up approximately 70 percent of the Aviation Branch, only 18.2 percent of AAAA's membership are warrant officers.

Aviators make up 48 percent of the WO Corps population, but only 15.4 percent are members of USAWOA.

Our associations are made up of aviation warrant officers, perhaps much like yourself, who believe in the value of "service."

Many now serve on active duty, or stand ready with the National Guard or Army Reserve. Others served honorably in the past and retired from an aviation career.

However, all, no matter what their status, are concerned about the future and show commitment to serve our nation.

How We Serve

As associations, we also serve the Army, the Aviation Branch, the Warrant Officer Corps, our warrant officer families, and the communities in which we live.

At the Congressional, Department of Defense and Army headquarters level, this is done through our association's involvement within The Military Coalition.

Our voice joins the voices of some 33 other military organizations representing 3.5 million members, who seek to support and preserve laws, funds and policies which are fair and proper for America's service members, retirees and their families.

However, at the DOD and Army Headquarters level, our associations are the only professional organizations which act and speak exclusively for Army aviation warrant officers.

Through a variety of approaches and timely actions, we make our positions and concerns known to senior Defense Department and Army leaders.

At the local chapter levels, our association members regularly involve themselves in active service projects both on and off installations.

Members help to fund scholarships and support worthy charities, dedicate

time and energy to humanitarian service, and also serve one another.

Many chapters organize and sponsor welcome committees, mentor groups, professional development seminars, support sports competitions, produce newsletters, and work various social activities.

Some chapters also have home pages and many more are coming up on the Web.

We invite you to visit our association websites at www.quad-a.org and www.usawoa.org to learn more about our great organizations and benefits, and to locate the AAAA and USAWOA chapters nearest you.

Joint Membership

In an effort to attract the under represented population of aviation WOs, our two associations decided to combine efforts and offer a joint or simultaneous membership to both organizations. For one low price an individual can join both associations.

This initial program will end on May 31, 2010, at which time we will thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness and validity of the program.

If the program continues to bring in new members and both organizations wish to continue it, the program will go forward.

The stated end object is to attract the aviation warrant officer as members of both associations.

Most would agree that these are very attractive rates for membership in two worthy associations, so if you are interested please take advantage as soon as you can.

Help us get the word out to make this program a huge success.

For more information, please contact either AAAA or USAWOA.



CW5 Gary Nisker serves as the national vice president of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association and retired MG Joseph Bergantz serves as AAAA's vice president for Membership.



SGT Raymond Speed, the unit movement non-commissioned officer for Co. D, 3rd Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., carries wood on July 1 at Camp Taji for an equipment container to rest on before his unit and equipment ship out to the Baghdad International Airport.

MG Jeffery Hammond, left, the commanding general of Multi-National Division-Baghdad and the 4th Inf. Div., presented an Air Medal June 27 to CPT Brian Schlesier, an AH-64 Apache pilot assigned to 4th Sqdn., 3rd Arm. Cav. Regt., at Camp Taji. Apache pilots like Schlesier and others at the awards ceremony are credited with taking on a critical role in operations in Sadr City during a spike in violence beginning in late March.

MND-Baghdad Aviators to Move to Other Missions

By SFC Chris Seaton

After seven months of service as Multi-National Division – Baghdad’s aviation brigade, Task Force XII moved to other locations and missions within theater following a relief in place with the incoming 4th Cbt. Avn. Bde., 4th Inf. Div., which is based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

TF XII originally stood up at Camp Taji in December 2007.

The task force is comprised of approximately 700 Soldiers from the 12th Cbt. Avn. Bde., including the brigade’s headquarters, most of the 3rd Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., and a forward logistics element from 412th Avn. Spt. Bn.

The CAB had been serving at Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad since July 2007.

The Soldiers of TF XII were joined by the 4th Sqdn., 3rd Arm. Cav. Regt., which also deployed from Fort Hood, and an air traffic services company from the 7th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt. at Fort Campbell, Ky.

“This has been the finest performance by an aviation unit I’ve ever seen,” said MG Jeffery Hammond, the commanding general of MND-B and the 4th Inf. Div., during a small ceremony to recognize the accom-

The task force attack aviation element, 4-3rd ACR, flew more combat hours during the period than any other attack formation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

plishments of some of the Soldiers.

“If I had my way, you wouldn’t be going anywhere,” Hammond joked.

Besides an already heavy flight schedule taken on by the task force to support passenger travel and air assault missions of the brigade combat teams within MND-B, Hammond credited TF XII with playing an integral role during a spike in violence in Baghdad’s Sadr City during late March and most of April.

In support of heavy fighting in the area, the task force attack aviation element, 4-3rd ACR, flew more combat hours during the period than any other attack formation during Operation Iraqi Freedom, said COL Timothy Edens, TF XII commander.

“Sadr City will go down in history as

a turning point in this war,” Hammond said, “You were a big part of that.”

The Headquarters and Hqs. Co. for TF XII returned to LSA Anaconda to reassume the role of command element for Multi-National Corps–Iraq aviation assets.

The remaining elements of TF XII, currently assigned to Camp Taji, including 4-3rd ACR, much of 3-158th Avn., and a forward logistics element from 412th ASB, will move to Baghdad International Airport in support of MND–Central following their relief in place with units of the 4th CAB.

All elements of the 12th CAB, who currently serve in Iraq, will return to Germany in early fall at the completion of their 15-month tour in Iraq.

Hammond left one piece of advice with the aviators as they prepared to move on to other missions: “Be brave, bold, aggressive and smart,” he said. “Then, get a little rest – and start it all back up again.”



SFC Chris Seaton is the public affairs officer for Task Force XII, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Camp Taji, Iraq.

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

Army's C-27J Spartan Completes 1st Flight

Alenia North America, Washington, D.C., announced June 17 the first C-27J Spartan for the Joint Cargo Aircraft program successfully completed its maiden flight from Alenia's Caselle plant facility near Turin, Italy. The JCA #1, slated for delivery to the Army this year, took off June 16 under poor weather conditions for a 40-minute test flight to check takeoff, functional checks and landing operations. This milestone begins a test program that will include about 70 hours of flight and 180 hours of ground tests, with the preponderance of the tests being conducted in Caselle.



PHOTO BY PATRICK SREAVAN

Army Orders CH-47 Transportable Flight Simulators

WestWind Technologies, Huntsville, Ala., reported June 12 the award of a \$37 million Army contract to build additional CH-47 Transportable Flight Proficiency Simulators. The Cargo Helicopter Project Management Office at Redstone Arsenal placed the order for the production of five build-to-print units and associated spares, with unit deliveries scheduled to begin in January with final delivery by October 2009. In January, WestWind delivered its first two CH-47 TFPS units ahead of schedule and marked the first time CH-47 simulators have been built in Huntsville.



PHOTO BY JEFF WHITE

First Sky Warrior Aircraft Deploy to Iraq

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., San Diego, Calif., announced June 12 that two Sky Warrior Block 0 extended range, multi-purpose unmanned aircraft are now operational in Iraq, supporting U.S. Army ground forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The first Sky Warrior mission for aircraft WY-201 occurred April 18 and lasted 10.5 hours. The second aircraft, WY-202, was deployed at the end of April. The Army has ordered a total of seven Block 0 SW aircraft, which are expected to join the first two operational UAS before the end of the year.



First UH-60M Battalion Completes Fielding

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., delivered the 30th UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter June 11 to the 4th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt., making it the first operational Army unit equipped with the new advanced aircraft. The 4-101st Avn., an air assault battalion, is part of 159th Cbt. Avn. Bde. at Fort Campbell, Ky. "What has been accomplished over the past seven months is nothing short of phenomenal," said LTC Bert Vergez, UH-60M Helicopter Product Manager, about the fielding of the unit's final Black Hawk.

Army Receives Aircraft Maintenance Platforms

Precision Lift Inc., of Seneca, S.C. and **West Coast Weld Tech Intl.**, of Great Falls, Mont., announced June 2 they began deliveries on a \$19.9 million contract providing 200 aircraft maintenance platforms to the Army. The 5-year contract was awarded earlier this year by the Army Aviation and Missile Command and provides maintenance platforms for AH-64D, CH-47 and UH-60 helicopters.

First Guard Unit Gets UH-72A Lakota



Lakota is Co. C, 1st Bn., 114th Avn. Regt. (Service & Support), and all 11 pilots and 22 unit maintainers have completed qualification training, many shown here at the ceremony. The 1-114th Avn. performs homeland security, counter-drug and other operations. The Mississippi Guard is scheduled to receive eight LUH aircraft. These are the 28th and 29th LUHs delivered by EADS-NA.

Unmanned Helicopter Demo Flies Supplies

Lockheed Martin and **Kaman Aerospace Corp.** demonstrated to Army representatives April 23 the feasibility of transporting supplies to ground troops by an unmanned helicopter. During a 45-minute flight at Fort Eustis, Va., an unmanned K-MAX demonstrated autonomous take-off and landing, pick-up and delivery of a 3,000-pound sling load, and the ability to autonomously re-plan and detour from its designated route for mission changes and battlefield threats. The event also illustrated the ability of a single ground operator to use both spoken and data commands to control the aircraft via data link, perform precision maneuvers, and easily transfer control to another ground operator for maximum interoperability.



LOCKHEED MARTIN PHOTO

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

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., was awarded June 13 a \$5.4M contract for UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter sustainment stock parts. The contract is to be completed by Dec. 31.

Northstar Aerospace, Inc., Chicago, Ill., announced June 6 it received new orders valued at \$60M for the production of gears, components and spare parts for the CH-47 Chinook helicopter. The new orders are slated for delivery through 2012.

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., was awarded May 30 a \$34M contract for three UH-60M helicopters and post DD form 250 installation of auxiliary power unit kits. Work is expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2012.

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., was awarded May 29 a \$22.9M contract for UH-60 Black Hawk spare parts and procurement for rotor blades. Work will be performed in Stratford and is expected to be completed by Aug. 31, 2010.

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AVIATION GENERAL OFFICERS

The Office of the Army Chief of Staff announced June 2 the promotion of **BG William T. Crosby** to his current rank. He is serving as the Deputy Program Executive Officer for Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The Office of the Army Chief of Staff announced **MG James E. Simmons** was placed on the retired list effective June 1. Simmons had accumulated more than 34 years of service, serving last as the deputy commanding general of the III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas.

CHANGES OF COMMAND, CHARTERS & RESPONSIBILITY

COL Scott Kaminski relinquished command June 30 of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Center to **COL Ruiz-Isales** at Fort Rucker, Ala. Ruiz-Isales previously served as the assistant chief nurse of the Womack Army Medical Center, at Fort Bragg, N.C. Kaminski retires after 31 years of service in the health care field, including four years with the Reserves, and may return to private optometry practice in the New England area.

LTC James C. Dugan relinquished command of the 4th Bn., 160th SOAR(A) to **LTC Michael J. Hertzendorf** July 17 at Fort Lewis, Wash. Hertzendorf previously served as the joint air officer for the U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Dugan retires after 21 years of Army service.

LTC Van J. Voorhee, Jr. assumed command of the 1st Bn., 160th Spec. Opns. Avn. Regt. (Abn.), during an assumption ceremony June 11 at Fort Campbell, Ky. COL Clayton Hutmacher previously commanded the 1-160th Avn., but departed early for command of the 160th SOAR from COL Kevin Mangum. Voorhee previously served as a squadron commander with the U.S. Aviation Support in Newport News, Va.

LTC John R. Evans, Jr. relinquished command of the 2nd Bn., 160th SOAR(A) to **LTC Thomas R. Drew** June 11 at Fort Campbell, Ky. Drew previously served as the S3 operations officer of the regiment. Evans will continue to serve with the regiment in a staff position.

Program Manager **LTC Scott Bosse** relinquished the Apache Sensors Program to **LTC John M. Vannoy** in a change of charter ceremony July 18 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Vannoy's previous acquisition assignment was as the test director and executive officer for the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site located on Kwajalein Atoll, Pacific. Bosse completed a successful three year assignment and retires after 22 years of service. He plans to remain in the Huntsville area.



"Warriors" Get New CSM

CSM Scott Spiva passed his responsibility as the senior NCO of the "Warriors" 1st Air Cav. Bde. with the 1st Cav. Div. to **CSM Glen Vela** June 26 at Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, Texas. Vela previously served as the CSM of "Cold Steel" the 615th Avn. Spt. Bn. under the 1st ACB. Spiva is headed to an assignment at Fort Lewis, Wash. Above, Vela, left, accepts the 1st ACB colors from COL Douglas Gabram, the 1st ACB commander.

COL Derek Paquette, the Apache Project Manager, will conduct a change of charter with **COL Shane Openshaw** on Aug. 14 at the Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Openshaw previously served as the director of Integration for the Future Combat Systems Brigade Combat Team program. Paquette completes a successful three year assignment and will retire after 26 years of military service.

COMBAT AWARDS



KW Pilots Receive DFC

Four OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilots were pre-

sented America's oldest military aviation award and the military's fourth highest award for valor in a ceremony held May 22 at the Hall of Heroes on Fort Bragg, N.C. The Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to **CPT Toni Boikanyo**, **CW4 Michael Zanders**, **CW3 Jason Anderson** and **CW3 Bryon Means**, pictured above (l to r), all with the 1st Sqdn., 17th Cav., 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde., for gallantry and their heroic actions during combat operations on April 15, 2007 in Iraq. Without regard for their own safety, these aviation warriors prevented the capture of a Coalition and Iraqi Security Force base. Their selfless and brave acts denied a potential strategic victory to anti-Iraqi forces and ultimately saved numerous Coalition Force and ISF lives. Furthermore, after one of their aircraft was downed by enemy fire, the aircrews conducted the first OH-58D self-extraction in hostile territory, and returned again to the battlefield to assist ground and aviation elements.



1ACB Pilots Awarded DFC, Air Medals

Four 1st Air Cav. Bde. attack pilots were honored for bravery in combat during their 2007 deployment to Iraq during a May 22 awards ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas. **CW3 Christopher Ezell**, was awarded the nation's highest aviation medal for bravery in combat, the Distinguished Flying Cross, for his valorous actions during an engagement in Baghdad, Iraq, April 10, 2007. Ezell, an AH-64D helicopter pilot with the 4th Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., and his co-pilot **CW2 Richard Fisher** were flying a routine mission when they received a radio call of ground forces pinned down by enemy fire. Responding, Ezell, Fisher and their wingmen—**CW2 Craig Francis** and **CPT Matthew Carlsen**—arrived to search the area for enemy forces. Despite severe weather moving in and the dangers from enemy fire, the two crews were able to kill combatants and provide maneuver opportunities for the ground force. Above, Ezell, on right, salutes BG Frederick Rudesheim, the 1st Cav. Div. deputy commanding general, after receiving the DFC medal. Francis and Carlsen were awarded Air Medals with Valor. Fisher was recommended for the DFC, which is still being processed.



ARMY PHOTO BY MAJ ENRIQUE VAQUERO

3-1st Avn. Soldiers Receive Awards

Three members of the 3rd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt., were recognized June 14 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq for their actions and bravery in combat. **LTC James H. Bradley Jr.**, left, the 3-1 Avn. commander, received the Silver Star; **CW3 Lyndle Ratliff**, center, a pilot with Co. B, received the Distinguished Flying Cross; and **SPC Kenneth Steinmetz**, a door gunner with Co. B, received the Air Medal with "V" device for valor. All were cited for their actions while flying in support combat operations on Jan. 16 east of Balad.



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC THOMAS WELLS

Apache Pilots Defeat Heavy Gun

The Air Medal for valor was presented June 10 to two AH-64D pilots with the 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde. at Camp Striker, Iraq. **1LT Ryan Murphy**, being pinned above, a platoon leader, and **CW3 Daniel Lynn**, a pilot (center), are both assigned to Co. B, 1st Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt. On Sept. 6, 2007 Murphy and Lynn were flying south of Baghdad on a security mission when their aircraft took fire from insurgents in a suspicious van. Lynn then noticed muzzle flashes from a heavy caliber anti-aircraft machine gun firing at them and another Apache. Without breaking station Lynn and Murphy faced down the heavy caliber weapon, engaging it with their 30 millimeter chain gun, killing two enemy anti-aircraft gunners.

RE-ENLISTMENTS



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC THOMAS WELLS

3CAB Reenlists 800 Soldiers During Combat

The 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde., 3rd Inf. Div., marked its 800th Soldier to re-enlist during a combat deployment since the unit deployed in May 2007. During the last 35 days of its 15-month deployment, one unit proves it isn't tough to keep Soldiers in the Army. **SSG John Sosebee**, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of 3rd CAB legal team, was the 800th Soldier to take the oath of re-enlistment on June 20 at Camp Striker. "That's about one-third of the brigade, right there," said MSG Barry Norris, the 3rd CAB senior brigade retention NCO, who has approximately 2,700 Soldiers with him in Iraq. "I don't think I've ever seen 800 in 14 months," Norris said. This is the 3rd CAB's third deployment to Iraq, as well as Sosebee's third deployment too. Above, Sosebee takes his oath of re-enlistment from CPT Brendan Cronin, the 3rd CAB trial counsel.

SPOTLIGHT

TF49 Flight Surgeon Takes 2007 Honor



ARMY PHOTO

The Society of U.S. Army Flight Surgeons recently honored two Task Force 49 medical officers with top awards for their service with the TF's Troop Medical Clinic in Iraq. **CPT Abigail Raez**, flight surgeon with the 412th Avn. Spt. Bn., was awarded the 2007 Theodore Lyster Flight Surgeon of the Year Award. The Lyster award honors the flight surgeon or aeromedical physician assistant in the active or reserve component who has made the most significant contribution to Army aviation medicine during the year as observed by his or her fellow flight surgeons, aviators, or chain of command. "Dr. Raez is an incredibly dedicated physician who recently completed her board certification while

deployed to Iraq, seeing patients and helping stand up the field TMC which supports nearly 10,000 Soldiers and civilians in Logistical Support Area Anaconda," wrote MAJ Daniel Bartlett, the 412th ASB executive officer, in his recommendation letter to the society's awards committee. The society awarded **CPT Eric Jacobsen** with a 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award for his service with the 5th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., serving in Basrah.

deployed to Iraq, seeing patients and helping stand up the field TMC which supports nearly 10,000 Soldiers and civilians in Logistical Support Area Anaconda," wrote MAJ Daniel Bartlett, the 412th ASB executive officer, in his recommendation letter to the society's awards committee. The society awarded **CPT Eric Jacobsen** with a 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award for his service with the 5th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., serving in Basrah.



PHOTO BY MSG DEREK C. LINES

Busting 5000 Over Baghdad

CW4 Jeffrey A. Harford, an AH-64 Apache Longbow pilot with the 4th "Longknife" Sqdn., 3rd Arm. Cav. Regt., reached a major milestone for any aviator – his 5,000th flight hour on March 22 while deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq. Harford returned to active duty from retirement specifically to deploy with the 4th Sqdn. to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. Above, after completing a mission over Baghdad, Harford raises his hand to signify over "5,000" hours, and receiving congratulations from LTC Kenneth T. Royar, 4-3 Cav. commander. Harford will return to Fort Hood, Texas, and take over as the 4-3rd Cav. rear detachment commander.



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC THOMAS WELLS

Hitting 100,000 Flight Hours

The **3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde.** surpassed a remarkable milestone May 13 by flying more than 100,000 flight hours in less than 12 months while deployed to combat in Iraq. This total does not include unmanned aircraft systems, but with UAS assets the total flight hours for airframes surpasses 120,000 flight hours. The 3rd CAB, based at Camp Striker, reached this milestone while in support of Multi-National Division-Center and providing attack helicopter support to MND-Baghdad. Above, members of Co. B, 603rd Avn. Spt. Bn. at the Baghdad International Airport, pose for a photo in front of one of the AH-64D Longbow helicopters they help to maintain. Co. B's maintenance support was an integral part of the 3rd CAB's ability to sustain a high enough operational tempo to reach the 100,000 hour milestone.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

WARRANT OFFICER CANDIDATE SELECTIONS

The Army Recruiting Command released May 21 the selection list of enlisted service members to attend the Warrant Officer Candidate Course at Fort Rucker, Ala. Upon successful completion of the six-week course, they will be appointed to the rank of WO1 and attend training for specialty certification. Congratulations to the following 44 Soldiers, and the Airman and the Sailor selected for aviation related career fields.

153A—Helicopter Pilot

SFC Michael Bonenfant
 SFC Irvin Mitchell
 SFC Charles Myers *
 SFC Jose Olivero-Cruz
 SFC Eric Schuster
 SFC Aaron Stone
 SSG Jeffery Ahlheim
 SSG Andrea Baker
 SSG Ernest Barela
 SSG Curtis Bartholomew
 SSG Thomas Baskerville
 SSG Cyrus Bernard
 SSG Daniel Borisov
 SSG Matt Boyd
 SSG Jesse Brenay
 SSG Jerry Colton
 SSG Bryan Crumpler
 SSG Jason Dersch
 SSG Michael Fransioli
 SSG Shane Johnson
 SSG William Lavendier
 SSG Benjamin Marquis
 SSG Jared Morris
 SSG Fernand Muffoletto
 SSG David Rush
 SSG Jesse Tait
 SSG Douglas Thoele
 SGT Kristopher Ahrens
 SGT Whitney Boyles
 SGT Eric Bridge
 SGT Nicholas Egbert
 SGT Matthew Kravulski
 SGT Paul Laser
 SGT Steven McCaffrey
 SGT Ashley Sherrill
 SGT Jacob Uber
 SPC Kyle Caspersen *
 SPC Peter Erb
 SPC Gregory Kilpatrick *
 SPC Gabriel Noxon *
 SPC William Rutledge
 Tech. Sgt. Gary Desserich
 Hosp. Corpsman 2nd Class
 Brady Freeman

350F—Unmanned Aircraft

Operations Technician

SFC Robert Hill *
 SSG Anthony Blacharski
 SGT Jonathan Wynn

FLIGHT SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

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

Class 08-15, 37 Officers, Graduated May 29

ABOLC

LT Ryan E. McDonald
 LT Andrew D. Lauffer *
 LT Sean P. Keresey *
 LT Kevin P. Britt
 LT Klee Dienes *
 LT Thomas J. Dolice
 LT Brandy L. Fields *
 LT Thane A. Jackson *
 LT Margaret M. Larson *
 LT Richard J. Macchio
 LT Ethan W. Miller *
 LT Jonathan W. Ryder *
 LT Aaron T. Schmutz *

DG
 HG
 HG

AWOBC

WO1 Jason R. Williams *
 WO1 Daniel A. Vinson *
 WO1 Joseph C. Alexander *
 WO1 Timothy J. Evan
 WO1 Amanda L. Collins *
 WO1 David K. Sylvester
 WO1 Brandon P. Adams *
 WO1 Daniel J. Bugarin
 WO1 Stephanie M. Cutright *
 WO1 Amanda M. Gard
 WO1 Heidi M. Hessel *
 WO1 James L. Hoffman *
 WO1 Charles G. Kojak
 WO1 Christopher R. Mattson
 WO1 Zane K. McGlade *
 CW2 Joshua D. Ozment *
 WO1 Randall A. Parsons
 CW2 Joshua S. Perdue
 WO1 Kemp J. Phelps
 WO1 Rodney J. Phoremam *
 WO1 Matthew B. Reid *
 WO1 Eric D. Schriener

DG
 HG
 HG
 HG
 HG

WO1 Luciana Spencer *
 WO1 Voltaire S. Valbuena *

Class 08-16, 44 Officers, Graduated June 12

ABOLC

LT Matthew A. Hill *
 LT Matthew L. Green *
 LT Mark J. Luker *
 LT Brandt G. Anderson
 LT Logan G. Cloaninger *
 LT Mario A. Elalam
 LT Jeffrey R. Hayes *
 LT Markus E. McClain *
 LT James W. Millican
 LT Peter P. Pagni *
 LT Kyra J. Rodriguez
 LT Brian G. Smith *
 LT Zach G. Valentine
 CPT William W. Wood *

AWOBC

WO1 Thomas J. Brown *
 WO1 Jonathan A. Kopp
 WO1 Steven M. Williams *
 WO1 Jonathan B. Millward *
 WO1 Jason R. Dallas *
 WO1 Justin R. Neal
 WO1 Gordon H. Beatte
 WO1 Johnathan D. Booth
 WO1 Joshua J. Christy *
 WO1 Dorothy C. Gerow *
 WO1 Jordan B. Hardin
 WO1 Joshua J. Hattery
 WO1 Eric E. Huff *
 WO1 Bryan M. Jacobson *
 WO1 Matthew S. Johnson
 WO1 Daniel M. Jones *
 WO1 Christian M. Lakars *
 WO1 William H. Lynch *
 WO1 Andrew T. McCowen *
 WO1 Jeffrey W. Nelson
 WO1 Rebekah M. Nelson
 WO1 Robert W. Nickison
 WO1 Ryan J. Norvell
 WO1 Joshua J. Payne *
 CW2 Nicholas J. Potter
 WO1 Farouk A. Rawdah *
 CW2 Eric W. Senn
 WO1 Steven R. Snyder *
 WO1 Ross A. Wise *
 WO1 Jacob R. Zumbrunnen *

DG
 HG
 HG

DG
 HG
 HG
 HG
 HG
 CLG

Class 08-17, 44 Officers, Graduated June 25

ABOLC

LT Christopher C. Zell *
 DGLT David A. Daniels *
 HGLT Richard K. Lee
 HGLT James D. Allen *
 LT Justin J. Leroux
 LT Ryan J. Lugo *
 LT Kyle J. Maki *
 LT Jason C. McCoy *
 LT Robert C. McDonough
 LT Tyler A. Merritt *
 LT Jacqueline J. Miller *
 LT James J. O'Dell
 LT Brian J. Snook

LT Jacob D. Vaniko
 LT Adrian Velez
 LT Matthew M. Wood
 LT Thomas J. Young *

AWOBC

WO1 Kyle E. Hartman *
 DGWO1 Joshua M. Gray
 DG HGWO1 Adam M. Enge *
 HG HGCW2 Derek R. Fisbeck *
 HG HGWO1 Robert A. Lackey *
 HGWO1 Joshua P. Aronack *
 WO1 Daniel J. Britz *
 WO1 Andrew S. Conner *
 WO1 Chad E. Conner *
 WO1 Matthew K. Dolan
 WO1 Nicholas M. Forbes *
 WO1 Jason P. Gillispie *
 WO1 Brian P. Howard *
 WO1 Steven R. Jordan
 WO1 Jeremy M. Lamm *
 CW2 Brandon S. Little
 WO1 Jared L. May *
 WO1 Nathaniel D. McKean
 DG WO1 Benjamin H. Patrick *
 HG WO1 Abraham M. Rach
 HG WO1 Patrick C. Reape
 HG CW2 Denise R. Sanders
 HG WO1 Carl R. Smith Jr. *
 CLG WO1 Kylene R. Sylvester *
 WO1 Timothy N. Thomas
 WO1 Ryan R. Trant *
 WO1 Wade R. Whidden *

UAS OPERATOR GRADUATIONS

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

Class 08-06 Graduated July 2

SPC Angela Fontanelli HG
 SGT Michael Avery
 SPC Scott Boatwright
 PFC Jonathan Dameron
 PV2 Aaron DeMars
 PFC Nicholas Kao
 SGT Michael Kernodle
 SGT Steven Langen
 PV2 Geoffrey Miller
 PFC Anthony Perdue
 PFC Paul Schindler
 SGT Eric Scovel
 SGT Greg Smith

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

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE
**Class 08-05
Graduated June 19**

PFC Mathew Basham
LCPL Kimberly Beamer USMC
SGT Nicholas Cline
PFC William Delaplain
SPC Michael Dickerman
PV2 Gregory Enochs
PV2 Jeffrey Garrison
PFC Bradley Johanson
PFC Logan Mancini
PV2 James McGowan
SPC Christopher Odette
PFC Quinten Rose
SGT Antonio Sandoval

**PV2 Zachary Willingham
LCPL Kristin Zamichieli USMC
Class 08-04
Graduated May 15**

PV2 Josiah Knopsnider
SPC Tyler Brownell
SGT Kevin Burke
PV2 Ryan Johnson
PFC Matthew Louwagie
PFC Mario Lujanocenza
SPC Trevor McDaniel
PFC Eric Mehaffey
PV2 Ryan Mungall
PFC Joshua Palowitch
PFC William Patterson

HG

PV2 Brandon Proffitt
PFC Matthew Purcell
PV2 David Ronca
PV2 Daniel Sisneros
PV2 Scott Wick

**Class 08-03
Graduated May 15**

CPL Frankie Avalos, USMC
PV2 Robert Adams
PFC Roy Bankhead
PV2 Jordan Black
PV2 John Borquez
PFC Ryan Carroll
PFC Jaquelyn Chaparro
PFC Kyle Dewyer
PV2 Eric Fradette
PFC Adam Gordon
PV2 James Hutchins
PV2 William Jasper

HG

PV2 Jason Laskin
SGT Skeeter Lowe
CPL Nathan Marple, USMC
PV2 Julia Palm
SSG Daniel Sampson
PV2 Michael Townsend
LCPL William Vinson III, USMC

**Class 08-01
Graduated May 15**

PFC Troy Capehart
SSG Andre Clovis
PV2 Giordano Duro
PV2 Zachary Embry
PV2 Jacob Jackson
PFC Benjamin Johnson
SPC James Lollar
SPC Marshelle Machtan
PV2 Thomas Sullivan
PV2 Calvin Wade

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ASE Symposium

Nashville, TN
November 3 - 5, 2008

- Field Commanders Classified Sessions
- TACOPS Officers
- ASE Award
- Exhibits
- Feedback from the Field


UAS Symposium

Arlington, VA
December 8 - 10, 2008

- U.S. Army Aviation Branch Leaders
- Joint Integration Panel
- UAS Awards
- Exhibits
- Feedback from the Field

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OCTOBER

- Avionics
- Aircraft Survivability Equipment
- Safety

Contact: **Bob Lachowski**
Advertising Director

Tel: (203) 268-2450 x 131
E-mail: bob@quad-a.org

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.



CW4 Carter



PFC McNair Jr.



PFC Waltenbaugh



SPC Green



MAJ Douglas

Operation Enduring Freedom

Two Soldiers supporting Operation Enduring Freedom died June 5 at Kandahar Army Airfield, Kabul, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when their OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed around 6:30 p.m. during a maintenance test flight. Killed were:

CW4 James Carter, 42, of Montgomery, Ala., a maintenance test pilot.

PFC Andre Devon McNair Jr., 20, of Fort Pierce, Fla., an armament/electrical/avionic systems repairer.

Both were assigned to Co. B, 96th Avn. Spt. Bn., 101st Cbt. Avn. Bde., Fort Campbell, Ky.

Command officials stated that no hostile fire was involved and the cause of the crash is under investigation.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

PFC Joshua E. Waltenbaugh, 19, of Ford City, Pa., died June 3 in Taji, Iraq, of a gunshot injury to the chest sustained in a non-combat related incident. He was an aviation mechanic assigned to the 4th Sqdn., 3rd Arm. Cav. Regt., Fort Hood, Texas.

SPC Quincy Jermel Green, 26, of Jacksonville, Fla., died June 2 in Tikrit, Iraq, of injuries sustained in a non-combat related incident. Green was a chaplain's assistant with the Hqs. Spt. Co., 601st Avn. Spt. Bn., 1st Cbt. Avn. Bde., 1st Inf. Div., Fort Riley, Kan.

Both incidents are under investigation.

Homeland Defense

A 36 year old aviation major attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., was killed in a motorcycle accident May 31 in Leavenworth County.

According to a preliminary Kansas Highway Patrol report, **MAJ Sean Cedric Douglas**, of North Carolina and residing in Lansing, was driving a motorcycle about 6:45 p.m. when he hit a pickup truck broadside and died in the crash.

Douglas was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on June 19.

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

IN MEMORIAM



LTC William G. White Sr.

Retired LTC William George White Sr., 85, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., died May 20 at the Treasure Coast Hospice in Fort Pierce. White was a Charter and Life member of the AAAA, joining in 1957; and also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for his World War II and Vietnam service.

He was born May 22, 1922 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he resided during his formative years.

White enlisted in the Army Ordnance Corps during WWII and after about eight months in service, was promoted to the rank of first sergeant (the company commander could promote up to 1SG). He was a part of the D-Day invasion in June 1944. After the war, White temporarily left the service for a couple of years,

but later re-entered as a Signal Corps officer in the Army Reserve. There he was selected for flight training and then flew fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, to include the new UH-1 and AH-1 helicopters, during his career.

Retiring in 1968 from Fort Belvoir, Va., White went on to work for the State Department and the Justice Department in Thailand, and later with Bell Helicopter in Iran before the Shah fell.

White's survivors include his children Sharon L. Rahn of Boca Raton and Sandra L. Herman, both of Baltimore; William G. White Jr. of Port St. Lucie; Patricia A. White of Stuart and Edward H. White of Port St. Lucie; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Boy Scouts of America.

Burial with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery is scheduled for Aug. 18.

CARING NATION

This legislative report presents the results of a decisive legislative period for the Defense Department, military families, veterans and retirees. At the center of these accomplishments are lengthy bipartisan negotiations that are achieving compromises among the White House, the House and the Senate.

The results are from majority votes by the Congress of a grateful and caring nation, which is providing support for military members who are serving and have served our country in war and peace. As in previous years, the 34 organizations of The Military Coalition, including the AAAA, continue to perform significant roles in helping Congress shape this legislation.

PRESIDENT SIGNS "HEART" ACT

President Bush signed "The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2008," H.R. 6081, on June 17 authorizing a \$2 billion package of tax breaks for active and reserve personnel and veterans.

Among the provisions, the HEART Act:

- Makes permanent the inclusion of combat pay as earned income for the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Makes permanent the provision allowing active duty reservists to make penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans.
- Allows survivors to roll-over military death gratuity payments into tax-advantaged savings accounts.
- Permits reserve component members to withdraw money from flexible spending accounts without penalty.
- Allows a tax cut for small businesses that continue salary payments to reserve component members who are called to active duty.
- Extends the period which veterans may amend a tax return to five years to recover overpayment of taxes as a result of delayed disability awards.

WAR SUPPLEMENTAL AND NEW GI BILL APPROVED

After months of struggle, President Bush signed the approval for the \$162 billion War Supplemental Bill June 30. The House passed the supplemental in two parts on June 19, the day after a bipartisan compromise was reached with the White House.

The war funding package that passed 268 to 155 votes includes:

- \$162B for continued combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan until after the Presidential inauguration in 2009.
- \$62.8B over a 10-year period for the new GI Bill; a major improvement with the transferability of some benefits to military spouses and children.
- \$8.2B for a 13-week extension of unemployment insurance for laid-off workers who have used all 26-weeks of their current benefits.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

COL Curtis J. Herrick (Ret.)

AAAA Representative to The Military Coalition (TMC)

The other domestic needs package passed 416 to 12 votes with \$16.05B and allocated to provide food disaster assistance overseas, build veterans' hospitals, cover Census Bureau cost overruns, and improve safety oversight of food and medical products.

The Senate passed the War Supplemental package 92 to 6 votes on June 26, sending the legislation to the president for signing prior to the 4th of July break. However, the Senate was unable to achieve closure (by 60 votes) to end the debate to support the House in repealing the mandatory 10.6 percent reduction in fees paid by Medicare and TRICARE to doctors treating the elderly and the military.

Other items in the legislation include a \$465 million initiative that partners the U.S. with Mexico and other Central American nations in an effort to crack down on violent drug-trafficking gangs. It provides nearly \$2.7 billion in relief for states that experience disasters, such as the recent flooding and tornadoes in the American Midwest.

SENATE HOLDS FISA BILL AFTER COMPROMISE

On June 20 in another bipartisan compromise that ended a year-long battle with the Administration, the House passed 293 to 129 votes the update of the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

The bill is reported to empower the nation's spy agencies, while protecting the privacy rights of U.S. residents and citizens.

The agreement, which gives tele-communication companies the ability to have privacy lawsuits dismissed if they demonstrate to a federal judge that they received a written Administration assurance that the spying was legal, drew fire from some House members and the American Civil Liberties Union.

On June 26 immunity objections delayed Senate action on FISA until after the 4th of July.

DOD AND VA FY2009 AUTHORIZATIONS POSSIBLE

Although most congressional leaders are doubtful about being able to finish all 13 appropriation bills in an election year, Congress seems to be moving toward the approval of the fiscal year 2009 authorization acts for the Department of Defense, Military Construction

and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen said that funding the Defense Department with a continuing resolution at FY2008 levels could have a devastating impact on both ongoing operations and acquisition programs.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said funding shortages could impact programs such as not receiving 14 Predator unmanned aircraft systems, and not having \$9B to increase Army and Marine Corps end-strength, \$1B for search and rescue, and \$246M to stand up the new U.S. Africa Command.

HOUSE LEADS THE NDAA

On May 22 the House approved by a 384 to 23 vote the \$531.4 billion National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 5658, for fiscal year 2009.

House Appropriations Subcommittee approved June 12 the \$47.7B VA and \$24.8B MILCON appropriation bills.

Although the House approved the FY09 NDAA, it is subject to negotiation in the conference committee with the Senate.

Some items are mentioned below to show the Congress's efforts to support the military in the time of war.

The NDAA would authorize a 5,000 Soldier increase, a 3.9 percent pay raise for military personnel, and rejects TRICARE fee increases.

Significant resources were provided for unfunded readiness initiatives by the services, equipment for the reserve components, as well as funds for the construction and repair of defense facilities, such as military barracks.

The House VA subcommittee legislation, \$4.6B above the president's budget, includes:

- \$568M to increase enrollment of Priority 8 veterans by 10 percent.
- \$50M more to increase the beneficiary long distance travel reimbursement from 28.5 to 35 cents a mile for care.
- \$300M to address the backlog of non-recurring maintenance at medical facilities.
- \$58M for medical research in trauma, mental health and other areas which are critical to finding the best treatments for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Some of the House NDAA measures that are drawing White House veto threats are:

- The mandate for Iraq to pay for certain costs

Continued on page 56

Order Of St. Michael & Our Lady Of Loreto Awards



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC THOMAS MULLS

Savannah Chapter (Deployed)

The top NCO of the 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde. was recognized for his leadership and service with the presentation of the Silver medallion of the Order of St. Michael at the Baghdad International Airport in Iraq. COL Daniel Ball, 3rd CAB commander, presented the award and certificate on June 18 to **CSM Richard D. Stidley**, left, on the 29th anniversary of his 1979 enlistment in the Army. Stidley led the way as the command sergeant major of the first brigade to transform into a combat aviation brigade and deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom-III in 2005. He has 43 months of deployment time in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and OIF. Stidley told Soldiers gathered at the ceremony that he doesn't have much civilian time. "On 9 June I graduated high school, and 9 days later, June 18th, I enlisted in the Army," he said, "And I haven't looked back since." Stidley and the 3rd CAB are returning to home station at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., after deploying to combat for a third tour, this time as part of the 2007 surge build up.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH SANCHEZ

Tennessee Valley Chapter

In recognition of her continued outstanding service and support of the aviation warfighter, **COL Michelle F. Yarborough** was presented with the Silver medallion of the Order of St. Michael April 16 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. TVC President Robert Birmingham, left, assisted by AAAA President James Snider, honored Yarborough during her change of charter cere-

mony as the project manager for Aviation Systems with incoming PM COL Anthony Potts. Yarborough has served since July 2004 and has assured the success of many of aviation's key enabling systems during her tenure to include: the improved data modem, global positioning systems, the ARC-220 long range radio, the aviation mission planning system, the tactical airspace integration system, aviation ground support equipment, the fixed wing fleet, and the new C-27J joint cargo aircraft. She also successfully initiated efforts to resolve the gap facing simultaneous aviation operations with current forces and future combat systems. She is now the director of Aviation & Intelligence Electronic Warfare Systems with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology in Washington, D.C.



PHOTO BY NICOLE MILLER

Aviation Center Chapter

The Silver medallion of the Order of Saint Michael was presented to **COL Richard Stockhausen** May 29 in the new Post headquarters building for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, Ala. MG Virgil L. Packett II, the commanding general, was joined by Diana Stockhausen to recognize Stockhausen, the director of the Concepts and Requirements Directorate, for his service and accomplishments in supporting the warfighter and contributing in the developments of future capabilities. Stockhausen has departed and is now serving in Iraq.



PHOTO BY NICOLE MILLER

Aviation Center Chapter

AAC President Bob Carter, left, and LTC Thomas Trossen inducted **MAJ Clarence L. Carroll III** into the Honorable Order of St. Michael May 22 during the quarterly chapter meeting held at the U.S. Army Aviation

Museum, Fort Rucker, Ala. Carroll, the departing executive officer for the Army's Air Traffic Services Command, was honored with the Bronze medallion for his years of selfless aviation service, and his untiring support of Soldiers, the branch, and the Army. Carroll has changed duties and is deployed to Iraq working with a military transition training team.



PHOTO BY CDR MARK E. GAFFIN

Bluegrass Chapter

In what could be called a mass awards ceremony, retiring **MSG Sharon S. Newby** with the Kentucky Army National Guard was showered with numerous awards and honors May 17, including induction into the Order of St. Michael. Newby, a personnel services supervisor with the 63rd Theater Avn. Bde., was honored for nearly 30 years of outstanding service, during her retirement ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Frankfort. COL Benjamin F. Adams III, 63rd TAB commander and BGC president, presented Newby with the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal, the Master Aviation Badge and the Bronze OSM Award. A true behind-the-scenes professional, Newby worked tirelessly in communications security, logistics, operations, finance, personnel services and even hands-on aircraft repair during her career. Newby plans to continue her college studies in retirement in Frankfort area.



PHOTO BY DAVID ALTON

Bluegrass Chapter

BGC President COL Benjamin F. Adams III inducted retired **LTC Phillip D. Pittman** into the Honorable Order of St. Michael at the Kentucky Guard Aviation Dining Out March 15, held in Versailles, Ky. Pittman, a program manager with

L3 Communications in Bluegrass Station, was honored with a Bronze OSM medallion. He distinguished himself over the course of a long and successful career in aviation, which started as a young WO1 flying OH-6A scout aircraft in Vietnam. He later accepted a direct commission and served a second tour in Vietnam flying special reconnaissance missions as a RU-8D platoon leader. As a major, Pittman served as fixed wing project officer for the Bell XV-15 vertical take-off and landing aircraft. He also participated in Operation "Honey Badger" – a precursor to today's 160th Spec. Opns. Avn. Regt. Pictured above (l to r) are: COL Ricky Branscum, BGC senior V.P.; Mrs. Connie Pittman and Pittman.



Bluegrass Chapter

LTC Terry M. Orange was one of several honorees to be inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael during the Kentucky Guard Aviation Dining Out March 15 in Versailles, Ky. Orange is the commander of the 1204th Avn. Spt. Bn. in Independence and was recognized for his years of service in aviation and to the nation. He has commanded every aviation echelon unit with the Kentucky ARNG and has been at the front of nearly every major recent change to the force structure of Guard aviation. His mishap-free flying record is an inspiration to a generation of young aircrew members, and has won the admiration of his peers and superiors. Here, Mrs. Randi Rene Orange joins her husband for the presentation of his Bronze OSM medallion and certificate.



Members at Large

On the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of service, **SFC Michael Deckard** was honored with induction into the Order of St. Michael on May 16 at the Fixed Wing Army National Guard Aviation Training Site in

Bridgeport, W. Va. MSG Kevin J. Wood, the FWAATS's Senior NCO, presented Deckard with the Bronze medallion and certificate. Deckard served over three decades in aviation, starting as a UH-1 helicopter door gunner in Vietnam, to being a C-23 veteran in Operation Desert Storm, to accumulating over 6,000 flight hours, and finishing his career as a C-23 flight engineer standardization instructor with FWAATS. Deckard plans to rent beach umbrellas at Ocean City in Maryland, and hopes you'll come by and rent one.



Morning Calm Chapter

LTC Cory Mendenhall, commander of the 1st Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt., presented departing **CPT Michael Athanasakis** with the Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze medallion of the Order of St. Michael on May 23 at Camp Eagle near Wonju, Korea. Athanasakis was honored for his service and accomplishments as the Co. A commander; and for his 12 years in uniform, 8 years in aviation. A senior aviator in the AH-64A Apache with nearly 1,200 flight hours, he has exceeded the high standards of unparalleled mission execution while serving in command. Above are: Mendenhall, Athanasakis and CW4 Troy DeGolyer, battalion standardization instructor pilot. Athanasakis is now attending the Marine Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Va., in lieu of the captain's career course.



Tennessee Valley Chapter

Gary Nennering, left, the G3 operations officer of the Aviation and Missile Command, and retired **LTC Mike McClellan**, right, TVC's V.P. for Programs, honored retiring **Richard C. Ordway** with induction into the Honorable Order of St. Michael April 24 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. During his retirement ceremony, Ordway was

presented with the Bronze medallion and certificate. Ordway served over 28 years in federal civilian service as a team member, leader and executive manager within the aviation rotary wing development and sustainment community. His final position was as the deputy project manager for the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, responsible for total life cycle management of four separate product lines and all materiel matters pertaining to the aircraft. He has held the responsibility to plan, program, manage and execute a research, development and procurement budget in excess of \$1.5 billion annually. A former conventional and special operations pilot, he also served as an infantry officer and a senior aviator, with two tours in Vietnam earning four Bronze Star Medals and 15 Air Medals for valor. Ordway plans to remain in Huntsville, enjoying his favorite hobby of sailing.



Tennessee Valley Chapter

COL Neil Thurgood, TVC's senior V.P., presented retired **CW4 William C. "Chuck" Ogle** with the Bronze medallion during his induction into the Honorable Order of St. Michael May 30 in Huntsville, Ala. Ogle, who is retiring from his senior technical specialist job with the Southwest Research Institute, was honored for over 40 years of dedicated service to Army aviation. Ogle has also been an exceptional sponsorship chairperson for the TVC's programs, increasing support for the events, membership expansion and the quality of the chapter's programs. Ogle and his wife Lynda plan to be "RVing" across the country to spend quality time with their daughter Holly's family in Nebraska and son Heath's family in Florida.

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PHOTO BY JOE BACK

Washington-Potomac Chapter

A husband and wife team were inducted into the Honorable Orders of St. Michael and Our Lady of Loreto during a May 13 retirement at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. The WPC's V.P. for Scholarships retired COL Michael Moody presented the Bronze OSM medallion to retiring LTC Michael Cyr and the OLL lapel pin to Linda Cyr for the couple's outstanding service and support to Army aviation during their time on active duty. Michael is the reconnaissance helicopter staff synchronization officer on the Army's G8 staff and is recognized for his more than 20 years of leadership while serving in numerous command and staff positions. Linda has led and worked in many volunteer organizations over the past 20 years, supporting Soldiers, family members and units.



PHOTO BY LTC LARRY A. HART

Wright Brothers Chapter

WBC President COL Stu Driesbach took the opportunity to honor Mrs. Nicki Lynn Acker during the occasion of her husband's retirement from the Army, with her induction into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto April 5 in Columbus, Ohio. Driesbach presented Acker with the OLL lapel pin and certificate for her more than 30 years of support and contributions to the Army and the Aviation Branch, and most importantly to Soldiers and their families. Acker is married to COL Christopher Acker, who was retiring after serving as active Army advisor to the Ohio Army National Guard.



PHOTO BY SGT BRANDON D. LITTLE

Griffin Chapter (Deployed)

Five senior aviation leaders deployed with Task Force XII in Iraq were honored with induction into the Order of St. Michael May 31 at Camp Taji for their contributions to the Aviation branch and war effort. TF XII and 12th Cbt. Avn. Bde. commander COL Timothy J. Edens, also the deployed GC president, presented Bronze medallions to MAJ Warren Whitmire, CSM Mark W. Lindsey, SFC Vincent P. Branchetti, SFC Shon P. Skinner and SFC Barick L. Watts. All have contributed to the safety, efficiency and professionalism of the Aviation branch throughout their careers and have been key in the successes of the 12th CAB and TF XII in supporting the stability and security operations of the Multi-National Division-Baghdad and Multi National Corps-Iraq. Whitmire is the TF S2 intelligence officer and Lindsey is the CSM for the 4th Sqdn., 3rd Arm. Cav. Regt. Branchetti is the brigade's senior air defense and airspace NCO, Skinner is the airfield defense operations center NCOIC, and Watts is the brigade's senior fire support NCO. Pictured above, l to r, are: CSM H. Lee Kennedy, TF XII CSM; Whitmire, Lindsey, Branchetti, Skinner, Watts and Edens.

Legislative Report

Continued from page 53

of the U.S. military presence.

- Revoke the base-closure law that would govern future base closures.
- Stop closure of Walter Reed Army Hospital until DOD provides a hospital service relocation plan.
- Require congressional approval for a status-of-forces agreement with Iraq.

TROOPS REMINDED TO STAY APOLITICAL

As the country approaches a national election, Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reminds all that "...the U.S. military must remain apolitical at all times.

The military is and always must be a neutral instrument of state no matter which party holds sway. Keeping our politics private is a good first step. The only thing we should wear on our sleeve is our military insignia."

THE ROTORCRAFT CAUCUS

In June, Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY), a former Army aviator, joined the Rotorcraft Caucus to apply his interest and experience to help shape national "vertical take off and landing" technology.

The Rotorcraft Caucus will participate in examining the two-year sweeping joint vertical lift assessment recently directed by Defense Secretary Gates that is due in the

third quarter of FY2010.

The assessment is expected to influence the requirements of the joint heavy lift aircraft and a joint Multi Role Helicopter for future reconnaissance and attack missions.

ARMY COMMUNITY COVENANT

During the Army's Veterans Service Organizations & Military Service Organizations Leadership Conference on June 4, attendees were briefed concerning the "Army Community Covenant." The program was initiated in 2007 to develop and foster more effective state and community partnerships with Army installations and units to help improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer from state to state.

For the best practices being used by community leaders to implement their covenants and better support Army service members can be found at: www.acsim.army.mil/community_covenant.

FIRST FEMALE NOMINATED FOR FORTH STAR

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced June 23 that President Bush nominated LTG Ann E. Dunwoody for appointment to the rank of general and assignment as commander of the Army Materiel Command.

If the Senate confirms her nomination, Dunwoody will become the first woman four-star general.

NEW MEMBERS

Air Assault Chapter

SGT Richard Gonet
SPC Yasemine N. Lomax
Paulo R. Salazar, III
Jack B. Turner
1LT Katie L. Urban

Aloha Chapter

CPT Randy P. Lefebvre

Arizona Chapter

CW2 Robert F. Buss, Ret.
Robert L. Cunningham
Michael J. Lamey

James L. Schamadan

Armadillo Chapter

CDT Justin D. Williams

Aviation Center Chapter

WO1 Herbert D. Addison
WO1 Kevin D. Afflick
WO1 Jonathan R. Akre
WO1 Nathan E. Alicie
WO1 Jason B. Allman
WO1 Eli D. Arnold
WO1 Jeffrey D. Aspinwall
2LT Rachel M. Aswad
WO1 Juan A. Ayala
2LT Steven P. Bane
WO1 Kenneth L. Barker
WO1 David E. Bartholome
2LT Andrew K. Barton
WO1 John M. Bates
WO1 Jonathan T. Bennett
WO1 Jacob S. Beno
WO1 Bruce R. Beuckman
2LT Curtis W. Bounds
WO1 Jay S. Bown
Carol A. Boylston
WO1 Kyle A. Braun
WO1 John R. Briggs Jr.
1LT Randell M. Brooks
2LT Jared H. Brynildsen
WO1 John C. Buckmann
WO1 Cory J. Burggraff
2LT Stephanie N. Burns
2LT Michael F. Castelli
WO1 Preston W. Caudill
WO1 Michael W. Caveness
WO1 Erik W. Colburn
WO1 Ryan D. Comstock
WO1 Stephen R. Cook
WO1 Richard E. Cooper
WO1 Jose M. Cordero
CW4 Danny J. Cowden
WO1 Jason L. Cutsforth
2LT Heather M.C. Daugherty
WO1 Jeffery M. Decker
WO1 Christopher A. Demoss
2LT Jonathan I. Dickson
LT Colon Downey
WO1 Gary T. Duncan II
WO1 Aaron E. Eads

WO1 Charles K. Eckart
WO1 Douglas S. Everts
WO1 David E. Forster
1LT Erin R. Fox
WO1 Eric A. Franz
WO1 Jeremy A. Frazier
WO1 Kyle L. Frazier
2LT Joshua M. French
WO1 Christopher P. Garcia
WO1 Carl D. Gatlin
WO1 Karl B. Gawron
WO1 Niki Gayda
WO1 Luke A. Gibson
WO1 Jay M. Glossup
WO1 Orbin I. Gonzalez
WO1 Brandon J. Gregory
2LT Kristen A. Hammer
1LT Anne M. Hammerstrom
2LT James J. Hankinson
WO1 Kurt R. Hannemann
WO1 Parry C. Hazen
WO1 Matthew R. Henline
2LT Mickala S. Henson
WO1 Cory A. Hermes
WO1 Shawn N. Hinds
WO1 Sean R. Hoffmann
2LT Andrew S. Howell
WO1 Kelcey J. Huffman
WO1 Jack E. Hughes Sr.
2LT Kurt P. Hunt
WO1 Marcus A. Hursey
2LT Michael J. Jenkins
WO1 Jonathon G. Jervis
WO1 Catherine F. Johnston
2LT Daniel T. Jones
WO1 Phillip D. Jones
1LT Marco P. Juan
2LT Michael J. Keblesh
2LT James P. Kelly
1LT Christian C. Kilpatrick
2LT Justin J. Koenig
2LT Nickalous A. Korbut
2LT Craig A. Kuphall
WO1 Jason M. Lambert
2LT Christopher A. Lawson
WO1 Jonathan E. Lee
WO1 Michael Lee
WO1 Michael D. Lilly
2LT Ross M. Lockwood
WO1 Garrett R. Lusk
WO1 James C. Lynch
CW4 Daniel L. MacGregor
WO1 Anthony S. Marion
1LT Zachary C. Mauss
2LT Jared R. Maxwell
WO1 Matthew E. McAdams
2LT Matt D. McCann
2LT Josh P. McCluce
WO1 Joshua R. McCoy
2LT Chris A. McFarland

2LT Andrew S. McMillion
2LT Alejandro Mendoza
WO1 Justin C. Meyer
2LT Zachary A. Miller
WO1 Benjamin H. Moore III
2LT Liam A. Moran
2LT Michelle R. Morrison
2LT Julius S. Myers
WO1 Jonathan R. Noble
WO1 Michael A. Norris
CPT Stephan L. Nowakowski
1SG Jose A. Nunez
CW4 Sean M. O'Donnell
2LT Zachary R. Olson
2LT Anthony N. Parsai
WO1 Ross A. Pate
WO1 David L. Patterson
Richard B. Paul
WO1 Matthew D. Peltzer
2LT Donald R. Petrash
2LT Kyle D. Pickett
1LT Michael R. Pinter
2LT Jessica C. Pizur
WO1 Robert P. Porter
SGT Romualdo Nunez Portes
1LT James M. Powers
WO1 William J. Preston
WO1 Daniel R. Reed
WO1 Robert R. Reed
WO1 Jonathan D. Rivera
WO1 Rickey L. Roberson
2LT Heather M. Robinson
2LT James R. Robinson
WO1 William A. Roquemore III
WO1 David M. Rosamond
WO1 Dustin A. Ross
CPT Joshua R. Ruisanchez
2LT Christopher J. Saager
2LT April J. Santos
1LT Stephen C. Sarrasin
WO1 John R. Schave
2LT Josiah D. Schlessman
CPT Jeremy D. Scott
WO1 Justin M. Seimet
WO1 William T. Sherman
WO1 Jason D. Shull
WO1 John C. Smith
WO1 Nathan W. Smith
WO1 Ray L. Smith
WO1 Matthew D. Spence
1LT Greg S. Sterley
WO1 Robert E. Stevens
2LT Casey A. Stewart
2LT Justin M. Stewart
2LT Matt E. Stewart
CPT Ryan P. Stewart
WO1 Masaki Sudo
WO1 Pierre R. Summerton
2LT Russ A. Sundby
2LT Brian K. Tapley

WO1 Michael F. Tharp
1SG Anthony S. Thorn Sr.
2LT Miller A. Tisson
2LT Katharine M. Urosevich
WO1 Jared H. Vincent
WO1 Ty S. Wagner
2LT Lesley R. Wayman
2LT James C. Webster
WO1 Eric J. West
2LT Isaac A. White
2LT Matthew J. Williams
CPT Scott E. Wohlford
WO1 Jeremy C. Young
WO1 Robert E. Zeller

Bavarian Chapter
MAJ Kenneth C. Wilson

Black Knights Chapter
CW5 Richard E. Korycinski

Bluegrass Chapter
BG Norman E. Arflack
SGT Tammie R. Carpenter
CDT Zach G. Ethington
PFC Michael J. Floyd
SGT Lori M. Goodlett
CW4 Kenneth H. Grider
SFC Brian S. Hedden
CDT Richard T. McClard
SFC John S. Rutt
SSG Christopher S. Searcy
SFC William T. Stocker
1LT James H. Syrowski
SPC Joy F. Wilbanks
2LT Kaiya C. Wurtele

Central Florida Chapter
Josh Beecham
Terry M. Edwards
Tom C. Feeney
Helen T. Gennarelli
W. Frank Gennarelli
Lauren N. Hempstead
CW4 William R. Hutchison, Ret.
SSG Leroy A. Konesko
CDT Charles J. Padera
CDT John S. Padera
CDT Dustin P. Roark
CDT Doel A. Salcedo II
Ronald W. Tarr
2LT Nicholas E. Toth
Mary W. Trier

Colonial Virginia Chapter
SSG Jeffrey U. Ayema
SSG Brent W. Berg
SGT Andrew D. Booker
SSG James G. Crenshaw
1SG Ozzie D. Ellis
Adam M. Farrar
SFC Brian N. Grantham
SGT Adam C. Hahn
SGT Timothy B. Inglis

Continued on page 60

AAAA Chapter News



PHOTO BY SPC FRED FLOMMAN

Bluegrass Chapter

The BGC honored Kentucky Guardsman **SPC Michael R. Baggett**, left, as the "CPL Eddie Ward" Soldier of the Month for May during a May 19 ceremony at the Wellman Armory in Frankfort. Baggett, a supply specialist, was recognized by MAJ Phillip D. Robinson, Co. B commander, 351st Avn. Spt. Bn., and presented with a certificate during the unit's monthly drill. Baggett has dedicated countless hours of his personal time in assisting the unit in recovery and reset from its recent deployment to Iraq; and assisting in the reorganization of key unit supply functions. He untiringly inventoried countless toolboxes, cleaned out and organized storage cages, assembled and disassembled cabinets, and logged hundreds of miles traveling between Frankfort and Fort Knox to turn in and receive equipment.



PHOTO BY SPC THOMAS MILLS

National Executive Board

During the Jan. 25 AAAA Scholarship Foundation Executive Committee meeting held in Washington, D.C., talk about supporting aviation Soldiers deployed to Iraq came up, along with a discussion about a recent conference call held with CSM Keith Dawson, a long-time AAAA member who is the CSM of the 603d Avn. Spt. Bn., 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde., in Iraq. Since the annual "Girl Scout Cookie" season was underway, the SFEC members wanted to do something a little unique and send some "home flavor" over to the troops. So the SFEC members passed the hat, collecting \$252. The money bought eight cases of Girl Scout cookies, 72 boxes in all, to mail over to Dawson to share with the 603rd ASB. Above, members of Co. A's supply support activity team 3 happily hold up their favorite cookies with Dawson, kneeling down.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARRETT

Corpus Christi Chapter

Members of the CCC and employees from the Corpus Christi Army Depot participated in "Operation Paint Brush" on June 7 to help a local couple make repairs and paint their home in Corpus Christi, Texas. The CCC and CCAD have been participating in the annual project which paints homes of the elderly, disabled and lower income families in the Corpus Christi community for over 20 years. Mr. J & Sons Construction, a local contractor, made repairs to the house – replacing old siding, window and door frames, fixed supports to the front porch, and installed a chain link fence around the front yard. CCAD and area businesses helped to provide the paint, with the other supplies provided by the volunteers. Pictured here in front of the home are some of the folks who helped (from the left): COL Joe and Anita Dunaway, CCC's president and first lady; CW4 Lee Lobeck, homeowner Dallas Thornton, Sharon Haynes, Audrey Gossett and Marciann Young.



PHOTO BY JASON GALINDO

Tennessee Valley Chapter

The TVC held their annual AAAA Scholarship Golf Tournament May 15 at the Hampton Cove Golf Course in Huntsville, Ala. Over 240 members and friends of AAAA came out to enjoy a day of liquid sunshine and participate in a good cause. With the help of 44 corporate sponsors, the TVC raised \$9,250 for scholarships, surpassing last year's high mark. Winners in this year's tournament included two teams, one team of MG James Myles, COL John Olshefski, John Cook and George China, and the team of LTC Eric Post, Vicki Carpenter, Jason Clowers and Jim Bolton. Above (l to r), TVC President Bob Birmingham; China, event organizer; and Myles display the check for AAAA and thank the sponsors and assembled players for their generous support and donations.



PHOTO BY JACK BECKETTE

Tennessee Valley Chapter

The TVC hosted its annual AAAA Spring 2008 Bass Tournament April 26 at Wheeler Lake, near Decatur, Ala. Despite predictions of rain, both the check-in and shotgun start was dry for the 55 anglers in their 29 boats. As participants gathered at the "Hard Dock Café" for the results, the TVC Bass Tournament was officially renamed the "Bob Vlasics Classic" after Bob Vlasics for his 17 years of outstanding leadership and dedication to semi-annual bass tournaments. The team of Chuck Hemm and Rusty Strickland took first place with 5 bass weighing 17.05 pounds. Less than a pound separated first and second as Michael Garlen and Morris Sheehan produced their 16.20 pound catch. Biggest fish honors went to Matthew Brunaugh for his 6.2 pound bass. The tournament did well as 88 bass tipped the scale for over 164 pounds. TVC thanks all of its sponsors for helping to make the tournament a success. Pictured here (l to r) are: Tom Geoffroy and Vlasics congratulating the first place team of Hemm and Strickland.

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



Monmouth Chapter

The 4th annual "Support Our Heroes" Military Ball was held May 17 at Fort Monmouth, N.J., sponsored by the Fort Monmouth area professional associations, including the local chapters of AAAA, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, the Association of the Old Crows, the Association of the U.S. Army, the Signal Corps Regimental Association and eight other organizations. Part of the evening's celebration was the presentation of financial support to the Fisher House Foundation, Inc. The Fisher House program, established in 1990, has 38 houses nationwide near medical centers treating wounded service members and provides temporary lodging and other services to family members visiting or assisting with treatment. The homes are usually within walking distance or have transportation available. Donated by the Fisher family and Fisher House Foundation, the houses are supported by donations and volunteerism and provide eight to 21 suites and can accommodate 16 to 42 family members. Above, James Weiskopf, 2nd from left, the FHF's vice president for Communications, accepts a check for \$150,000 from several local chapter presidents. Above left are Robert Fasulo, AUSA; Weiskopf; Ed Carnes, AAAA; Larry Singer, AOC; and Steve Makrinos, AFCEA. Above right, AAAA Executive Director Bill Harris, left, joined MC President Ed Carnes, right, for the presentation of a \$10,000 check to Weiskopf from the Monmouth Chapter for the Fisher House Foundation.

NEW AAAA ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL RECIPIENTS

GOLD

BG Stephen D. Mundt

SILVER

George G. Van Riper
COL William H. Morris
CSM Raleigh L. Matthews
COL G. Garrick Kelly
COL Kevin W. Mangum

BRONZE

SFC Michael Blecha
SFC Luddington
BG Harrison
CW3 Theodore Tucker
CSM Patrick R. McGuire
MAJ Renee L. Mann
CW4 Richard E. Arnold
LTC James E. Baker, Jr.
David Swaine
Terrence Sheehan
MAJ Marcus L. Varnadore
William M. Storrs
Frederick D. Jordan
Ozzie D. Ellis

LTC Michael J. Knippel
MAJ John H. Knightstep
CW5 Richard K. Chenault
CW4 Brian O'Leary
1SG Marcus Morales
CW4 Greg D. Shirley
MAJ Scott M. Lenzmeier
Bernard Pete Berger
COL David E. LeBlanc
MAJ Mark A. Smith
CW4 David Burrell
CW4 Mark Vieth
CPT Steven A. Turner
CW3 Matthew V. Fitter
CW3 Rovert E. Carpenter
SFC Norris Wrenn
1SG Christopher Mulvihill
CW3 Alמוש S. Irby
CW2 Jason J. Tyskiewicz
1SG David M. Wagner
CW4 James M. Hogg
CPT David Garcia
MAJ Douglas W. Benett
MAJ Joshua A. Etzel
MAJ Donald W. Stoner
MAJ Warren J. Whitmire
SFC Charles E. Smith
CPT Matthew S. Warren
SFC Shon P. Skinner

SFC Barick L. Watts
SFC Vincent P. Branchetti
SFC Michael Deckard
CW5 John C. Carman
CW4 Richard A. Clayton
CW5 Steven H. Mueck
MAJ Brian C. Stehle
MAJ Scott A. Kobida
BG Joseph L. Votel
BG Rodney O. Anderson
MG David M. Rodriguez
LTC Dennis J. McKernan
CPT John W. Merkel
George Holland
MAJ Frank P. Intini III

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Aviation Center Chapter

LTC Allan Pepin,
Senior Vice President;
MAJ John B. Broam,
VP Programs;
CPT Clay Livingston,
VP Scholarship

Oregon Trail Chapter

LTC Christian Rees,
President;
COL Timothy Kelly,

Senior Vice President;
1LT Brady Phillips,
Treasurer;
CW4 Barry Brown,
VP Membership;
MAJ Alan Gronewold,
VP Programs

Thunder Mountain Chapter

Cliff Letts,
President;
Kathie Marvel,
Secretary;
CSM Danny Thurecht,
VP Membership;
Frank Flores,
VP Programs

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

SGT Kenny R. Rivvera
April 2008
Zia Chapter

IN MEMORIUM

COL James J. Kelly, Ret.
MAJ Kurt A. Rhodehamel, Ret.
CW2 Richard J. Stech, Ret.
LTC Larry H. Woodard, Ret.

NEW MEMBERS *continued from page 57*

SSG Brice A. Jackson
 SSG William A. Jacobs
 1SG Frederick D. Jordan
 SGT Jerry D. Klatt
 SFC Kevin C. Kramer
 SGT Adam D. Mercandetti
 SFC Maurice K. RobinsSSG
 Christopher W. Salmond
 SSG Jeremiah D. Still
 SSG Eric D. Sutfin
 SGT Chad A. Tucker
 COL James C. Wilder, Ret.
 LTC Mark S. Wingreen, Ret.
 SSG Jonathan D. Ziarkowski
Corpus Christi Chapter
 Arthur Flores
 Juan T. Flores
 Robert A. Reifenberger
 Roger T. Sustaie
Cowboy Chapter
 CPT Matthias E. Greene
 SFC James R. Williams
Delaware Valley Chapter
 CW3 Gerald G. Davis Sr.
 James T. Layton
Embry Riddle Eagle Chapter
 SGT William H. Agnor
 CDT Eric W. Anderson
 CDT Michael A. Hurst
Empire Chapter
 Nicholas M. Charnley
Flying Tigers Chapter
 SFC Julie A. Fulton
Greater Atlanta Chapter
 CW3 Michael A. Brown
 CDT Evan G. Georgia
 Nathan C. Gray
Griffin Chapter
 SSG Curtis A. Anderson
 SFC Henry A. CerritosCaceres
 MSG Thomas W. Graham
 CPT Patricia M. Johnson
 LTC John Y. Kornman
 SSG Lance Martin
Idaho Snake River Chapter
 SPC Jesse W. Bowery
 SFC Mark A. Hope
Iron Mike Chapter
 CW3 Mattie W. Bryant
 SPC Carmen J. Fischer
Jimmy Doolittle Chapter
 2LT Daniel M. Adams
 CW4 Anthony W. Church
 1LT Randall W. Phillips
 2LT Steven P. Seigler
Keystone Chapter
 LTC David J. Kosinski
Magnolia Chapter
 SGT Timothy B. McCarty
Midnight Sun Chapter
 CW5 James A. Noe

Monmouth Chapter
 Nicholas J. Keselowsky
Morning Calm Chapter
 Dennis C. Davenport
 CPT Thomas L. Potter Jr.
No Chapter
 CW4 Martin L. Adkins
 CPT Hayden W. Archibald
 Frank Bagnasco Jr.
 SPC Josh P. Bell
 CW4 John P. Bergmann
 WOC Billy R. Burgess Jr.
 CW2 Michael P. Chase
 SGT Christopher B. Deatherage
 SPC Nicholas T. DeLotell
 SPC John A. Dunn
 CW5 Dennis E. Dura, Ret.
 SSG Michelle Flores
 CW3 Grant C. Fritzsche, Ret.
 SPC Joshua D. Gibson
 CPT Donald G. Gross
 CPT Brian P. Guilbeau
 SGT Daniel E. Hingston
 SFC Michael A. Jackson
 CW4 Martin Kang
 CW4 Duane R. Kennard
 SGT Angela M. Maylen
 CPT James A. McLaughlin, Ret.
 SGT Nichole M. Mueller
 CW4 Scott W. Nissen
 Christopher M. O'Reilly
 CW4 Jerry Smith, Ret.
 Amanda S. Sorensen
 CW4 Bill Sweeney
 PFC Steven R. Toth
 CW3 Tim F. Vickers
 1SG Kevin L. Webster, Ret.
North Country Chapter
 SPC Carter R. Coon
 SGT Jeffrey A. Griebing
North Star Chapter
 PFC Ryan A. Erickson
 SPC Daniel J. Seward
North Texas Chapter
 SPC John A. Crosthwait
 COL Robert N. Waage, Ret.
Northern Lights Chapter
 CPT David J. Risius
Old Tucson Chapter
 CW4 Richard J. Schiffl Jr.
Oregon Trail Chapter
 SGT Darrin R. Fletcher
Phantom Corps Chapter
 SGT Eric A. Beifuss
 Laura D. Rushing
Pikes Peak Chapter
 Mr. Kenneth S. Smith Jr.
Ragin' Cajun Chapter
 CPL Gregory Barilleaux
 WO1 Latroy R. Green
Rhine Valley Chapter

CSM Micheal H. Clowser
 CW3 Leslie R. Shavers
Rio Grande Chapter
 CPT Lance E. Ruck, Ret.
Rising Sun Chapter
 CW2 Genaro M. Mata
ShowMe Chapter
 Shaun M. Defenbaugh
Southern California Chapter
 LTC Carl K. Allen, Ret.
 SPC Craig S. Ballman
 Kenneth A. Hawes
 Steven C. Martin
Tarheel Chapter
 MAJ John S. Feutz
 CW3 Christopher S. Wilson
Tennessee Valley Chapter
 MSG Jeffery L. Barrentine, Ret.
 Kathrine L. Byrd
 Sabrina W. Cate
 John Earl Chambers
 Jason M. Davis
 Susan K. Glisan
 Kyle N. Goble
 1SG Harold T. Hardee Jr., Ret.
 Charles W. Hemm
 Jesse C. Hockett
 Charles B. Huffman
 Frederick J. Hycoop
 Elteaser James
 Brian W. Kowal
 MSG Waylon E. McCain, Ret.
 Edward B. Melendez
 Edward Mendez
 Stephen E. Moren
 Joseph M. Navas Jr.
 Kristi Newton
 Scott W. Phillips
 CW2 William S. Presley, Ret.
 CW3 Alfred R. Reed, Ret.
 Janice M. Schager
 Tamara J. Smith
 Sharon L. Sparks
 Ben A. Williams
 Thomas G. Wilson
 Richard T. Zaleskie
Thunder Mountain Chapter
 CW3 Gary M. Huggins
Utah Chapter
 WOC Paul M. Blackham
 WOC Travis L. Boyer
 1LT Tyler T. Buck
 SFC Robert E. Dolim
 1SG Curtis R. Fowden
 CPT Brad Haynie
 2LT Andrew J. Jewkes
 SSG Donald E. Kitchell
 1LT Ryan D. Mundy
 SGT Cole A. Quarnberg
 WOC Joseph VanDrummeler
Volunteer Chapter

CW4 Ronald W. Addison
 SPC Cassandra N. Antes
 SPC Ashley M. Arnold
 SSG Gary W. Bailey
 PVT Thomas H. Beck
 SGT Walter C. Beddow
 PV2 David L. Borck
 SGT Brian L. Boyd
 PFC Jessica M. Castellani
 CW3 Daniel E. Cole
 SFC Harold R. Cole
 SPC Larry C. Coleman Jr.
 SPC Samuel L. Colotriano
 SPC Robert W. Courtemanche
 SSG James M. Crenshaw
 SSG Nathan J. Curland
 PFC Ashley C. Davenport
 PFC Kevin M. Dishner
 2LT Reggie D. Dotson
 SGT Douglas V. Edniston
 SPC Samuel A. Edwards
 SPC John A. Fields
 SPC Ryan L. Fields
 SPC Robert J. Finney
 1SG David P. Fullerton
 PV2 Joshua D. Garner
 SPC Chiketa M. Haislip
 SPC Jason W. Hakala
 SSG Timothy R. Hanlon
 SGT James K. Hart
 SSG John K. Hawk
 SSG Johnathan B. Haynes
 SPC Bruce A. Heidelberg
 SPC Joshua L. Hohensee
 SGT Brian S. Johnson
 PFC James D. Johnson
 SSG James M. Jones
 SPC Richard L. Lane
 SPC Cory C. Lathren
 SPC Jonathan A. Leonard
 SSG Dale E. Long
 SFC Kenneth S. Luckadoo
 PFC Jessica M. Malsor
 SFC Daryl J. Marino
 PFC Angela M. McCall
 PFC Thomas J. McKnight
 SPC Carrie S. Mitchell
 PFC Len J. Mitchell
 SPC Randy Morris Jr.
 Les Morrison
 SSG Charles L. Morton
 SGT Charles J. Mosbey
 SSG Lynn O. Murphy
 SFC Lewis H. Nobles
 SSG George M. Orrick
 SGT Joseph M. Palmer
 SFC Richard W. Pannell
 SGT William E. Pearson
 SPC Paul P. Pierpont Jr.
 SPC Juan J. Ponce-Rivera
 SGT Javier D. Rangel

« AAAA Awards



Deadline – JANUARY 1, 2009 National Awards

National Awards are presented during the AAAA National Convention.

Please visit the AAAA website: www.quad-a.org for a complete list.

Official Nomination Forms can be found on the AAAA website: www.quad-a.org.

If you have any questions please call the National Office : (203) 268-2450

Recognize Army Aviation Excellence

Upcoming Awards Deadline Dates to Remember



Deadline – AUGUST 15, 2008

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Awards

★ UAS Soldier of the Year ★ UAS Unit of the Year

Deadline – NOVEMBER 1st, 2008

National Functional Awards

Functional Awards presented during the Fort Rucker Senior Leaders' Conference:

- ★ Fixed Wing Unit of the Year
- ★ ATC Manager of the Year
- ★ ATC Company of the Year
- ★ Air Traffic Controller of the Year
- ★ ATC Facility of the Year
- ★ ATC Technician of the Year
- ★ Medicine Award
- ★ Air/Sea Rescue Award
- ★ DUSTOFF Flight Medic Award
- ★ Trainer of the Year Award

Functional Awards presented during the Cribbins Symposium:

- ★ Outstanding Aviation Logistics Support Unit of the Year
- ★ Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by an Individual Member of Industry
- ★ Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by an Industry Team, Group or Special Unit
- ★ Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by a Small Business Organization
- ★ Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by a Major Contractor

REMEMBER YOUR TROOPS *Nominate Your Choice Today!*

NEW MEMBERS

Cleveit Rhodes Jr.
SGT Phillip C. Rich
SGT Christopher E. Richardson
SPC Oscar A. Romero
PFC Ronnie L. Rutley
SGT Chiu Sheng
PV2 Kathyran J. Shipman
SGT Cedric T. Smith
SPC Martin P. Smoot
SGT Michael S. Snider
SPC Michael P. Somers
PFC Mark P. Squires
PFC Katherine A. Stanley
SPC Cherrie L. Strain
SGT Reginald M. Streefer
SPC Terry W. Taylor
SSG James A. Thielke
SPC Al M. Trim
SPC Cassandra S. Truax
CW2 Bobby B. Vajcner
SGT Lonnie Vales
SGT Christopher M. Veith
2LT Brandon K. Warren
SPC Michael E. Weston Jr.
SGT Bryan J. Willis

CW4 Rita F. Wilson
SFC Jan P. Wolfe
PFC Timothy F. Wright
SPC David R. York
Voodoo Chapter
SFC Derek J. Boudreaux
1LT Joseph W. Deville Jr.
CW2 Richard C. Hamilton
SFC Patricia M. Haynes
CW4 John R. Kennedy
SGT Thomas D. Rucker
SFC Eric A. Vorhoff
Washington-Potomac Chapter
Thomas Acosta II
CSM Thomas B. Beyard
CPT Christopher H. Clyde
CPT Mark E. Escherich
Paul Glenshaw
SPC Gregory Glover
Ken W. Hyde
Ken T. Jensen
Roy Keeler
1LT Panteley T. Matanov
GEN Edward C. Meyer, Ret.
CW4 Douglas W. Nelms, Ret.
SSG Kevin M. O'Connor

CW5 Kevin Wildman, Ret.
CW5 Gilbert F. Wright, Ret.
Winged Warriors Chapter
CPT Lawrence J. Corrado IV
CPT Joshua deFreitas
1LT Douglas G. Gray
SGT Brandon O. Greene
SSG Darryl R. Stinchcomb
Wright Brothers Chapter
SGT Caleb D. Barry
SGT Shay P. Bayless
SFC Terry L. Blackstone, Ret.
PVT Stephany L. Brown
SGT Russell A. Cantrell
CW4 Daniel L. Carlton
SGT Tracie D. Castellano
SGT Bryan A. Daneman
SPC Darren A. Debo
CW5 John R. Fraley
SSG Jay Gyurcsik, Ret.
SFC Patrick R. Harris Sr.
SGT Abner F. Johnson
SGT Sam Jones
SGT Rusty N. Kasiwara
SGT Justin B. Keith
SGT Gary L. Kirchhofer

SSG David M. Marcum
PFC Troy Matthew Martin
SGT Michael G. Mastriana
SPC Scott L. Mayes
SSG Michael Moore
MSG James M. Neal, Ret.
SGT Bob W. Parsley
SFC Michele R. Pershing, Ret.
SGT Scott A. Reynard
MAJ Jeffrey E. Richeson, Ret.
CW3 Don Ross, Ret.
SGT Rita J. Schmitt
SGT Andrew N. Schrader
CW4 Russell B. Scohy, Ret.
SGT Jason M. Stokes
SSG James M. Thrasher
SSG Nancy L. Timms
SFC Larry M. Van Syckle
CW4 Gary S. Vanderbosch
SGT Joshua R. Westhaven
SSG Christopher S. Wilson
SGT Charles R. Woodruff
Zia Chapter
SGT Noah W. Berg
WO1 Mario E. Medina
SGT Kenny R. Rivera

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2008

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sept 6 "Centennial of Military Aviation"
Celebration, Fort Myer, VA
Sept 15-18 Fort Monmouth Chapter "Army Team C4ISR
Symposium", Atlantic City, NJ
Sept 20-22 NGAUS 130th General Conference,
Baltimore, MD

OCTOBER 2008

Oct 6-8 AUSA Annual Meeting,
Washington Convention Center, DC
Oct 6 AAAA Scholarship Board of Governors
Meeting, Washington Convention Center, DC
Oct 6 AAAA National Executive Board Meeting,
Washington Convention Center, DC
Oct 20-24 USAWOA Annual Meeting, Aberdeen, MD

NOVEMBER 2008

Nov 3-5 AAAA Aircraft Survivability Equipment
Symposium, Nashville, TN

DECEMBER 2008

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

JANUARY 2009

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

FEBRUARY 2009

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

MAY 2009

May 3-6 AAAA Annual Convention, Nashville, TN
May 27-29 AHS Annual Forum, Grapevine, TX



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

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

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Address Date Birth (yyyy-mm-dd)

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Unit of Assignment Work Tel * (*DSN for OCONUS work phones otherwise commercial)

Spouse (First Name) FAX Tel:

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

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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.

Nominations are currently being requested for the 2010 induction. The deadline for receipt of 2010 nominations is May 1, 2009.

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

COLONEL NELSON A. MAHONE JR.

ARMY AVIATION HALL OF FAME 1992 INDUCTION

One of the first Army-trained aeronautical engineers, COL Nelson A. Mahone Jr. completed his graduate study in Aeronautical Engineering at Princeton University in the summer of 1952 and reported to the Army Aviation-Airborne Research & Development Office at Army Field Forces Headquarters at Fort Monroe, Va.

The 28-year Army aviator was one of the first multi-engine, instrument-rated aviators in 1954 and one of the earliest master Army aviators in 1961 with 5,800 flying hours (819 in combat) in a variety of aircraft types, holding rotary and fixed-wing instrument ratings, and was jet-qualified.

Mahone served with the Air Mobility Division of the Army's Office of the Chief of Research and Development from 1961 to 1964, responsible for coordinating and planning all aviation-related R&D programs, including aircraft, weapons, avionics, surveillance and related systems.

During 1964 to 1965, he organized and trained the Army's first aerial rocket artillery battalion, and developed the unit's tactics and techniques of employment as a new and vital part of the 11th Air Assault Division. This unit was composed of UH-1B helicopters modified to take various developmental weapons systems, including the M3 2.75-inch folding-fin rocket system.

When this division became the 1st Cavalry Div. in 1965, Mahone took the 2nd. Bn., 20th Arty. Regt. (Aerial Rocket Artillery) to Vietnam, where its success was proven in combat.

He commanded the 2-20th Arty. for seven months in combat from 1965 to 1966.

Returning to the United States, Mahone became the project manager for the light observation helicopter program from 1966-1969, during which time he had complete responsibility for the development, testing, procurement and deployment of the OH-6 Cayuse helicopter to operational units and its related programs.

In 1969, Mahone returned to Vietnam to command the 17th Combat Avn. Group which consisted of seven aviation battalions with over 600 rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

Later he was the Defense Department's project officer on the tri-service, tripartite development and evaluation of the P.1127 aircraft (forerunner to the USMC AV-8B Harrier jump jet), where the Army was executive agent for the DOD program with the British and German development and evaluation programs.

During his career he earned the Silver Star, four Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star with valor device, and 18 Air Medals.



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