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Winter 2013


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*On the cover:*

Maryland National Guard service members provide support for the Baltimore Ravens' victory parade Feb. 5. The Guard provided transportation for the players and their families over the parade route, Baltimore City Hall to M&T Bank Stadium. The Maryland Guard's participation in this victory parade is an extension of a long-term relationship with Ravens.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office.)



# CONGRATULATIONS BALTIMORE RAVENS!



Maryland National Guard service members supported the Baltimore Ravens' victory parade Feb. 5. The Guard provided transportation for the players and their families over the parade route, Baltimore City Hall to M&T Bank Stadium, as they show appreciation to the fans. The Maryland Guard's participation in this victory parade is an extension of a long-term relationship with Ravens.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington



# Troopers take to the tropics

By Staff Sgt. John Higgins  
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, recently showed how quickly and efficiently they can project their capabilities during a weekend training mission to Puerto Rico.

No matter what the weather is, for some reason, it's worse on a military flightline. It's colder or hotter and always windier.

Soldiers with Maryland's B Troop, Charlie Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, were reminded of this curious fact on a Friday morning in late February as they boarded air craft at both Hagerstown Airfield, Md., and Warfield Air National Guard Base, Md. National Guard units from four other states took the Marylanders on a five-hour flight to the commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Several Soldiers remarked the dramatic temperature change was like their most recent trip to Kuwait, the traditional gateway to U.S. Central Command's area of operations. They settled into barracks on Camp Santiago quickly, setting their gear out for the next morning and checking maps of the training area. C Company would leave at 1 a.m., and B Troop would step off at 6 a.m. Soldiers trained in land navigation, known as "land nav" in military slang, with a twist: each squad not only had to find their points on a map, but should they see another squad moving, that squad's movements would be called in as enemy movement.

"We chose this mostly because it's new terrain to the soldiers, and the topography is great for orienting yourself without too many electronic accoutrements," said Staff Sgt. Erik W. Rittler, a team leader with B Troop. He spat the word "accou-



Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, practice water survival skills during a weekend training mission to Puerto Rico on Feb. 23, 2013. (Courtesy Photo.)

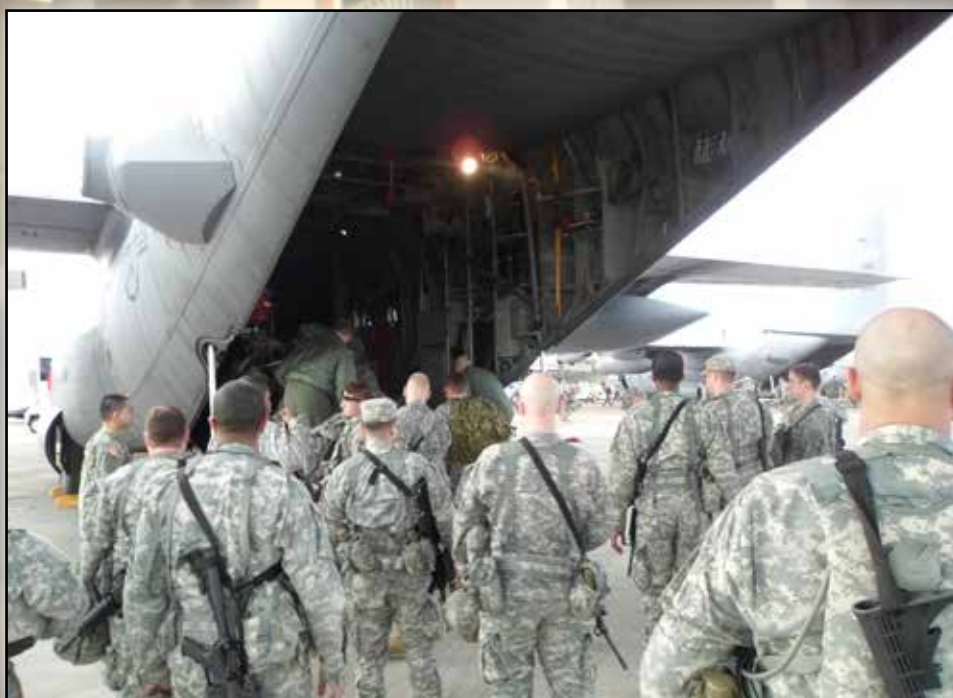
trements" with extra emphasis, like most people would use the phrase "bells and whistles", with a sneer through his tightly maintained regulation moustache.

He went on. "It's small training area, we're kind of confined. With boundaries and mountainous terrain all around us and with six separate teams operating in this area, they have to be tactically proficient in moving through the area."

"Everyone wants to get it over with; moving fast as [they can] like 'I'm done with this.' I'm the same way, so I know, but everyone should be patient." said 2nd Lt. Michael C. Herrera to several of his troops during the exercise.

They discussed how people were moving and how the low-moving Soldiers were much harder to spot, as the training area had experienced a wildfire the day before removing much of the higher-growth vegetation that would have concealed troop movements.

That kind of "tactical patience" is important in urban environments,



Courtesy Photo.

like the Battle of Fallujah in Iraq and in rural environments, like the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan.

Later that day, Herrera elaborated: “The basic idea is to ‘make a scout a scout’ back to basics, the core stuff that all scouts need to know. In such a small area, it could take 40-50 minutes to move 100 meters.”

Patience is just one part of the training, and Capt. Eric Nelsen, commander of B Troop, found that getting to the training area held broader military lessons.

“With minimal preparation, we are able to extend ourselves from Maryland out to probably anywhere in the United States - very quickly and be ready to provide a service or services to another host country - or National Guard entity.” said Nelsen.

This training will help the 158th soldiers qualify this summer in the Army National Guard’s eXportable Combat Training Capability or XCTC, a system to evaluate military units to be sure they are ready for deployment, Nelsen said.

And while the Maryland Guard prepares for the XCTC, the “big picture” benefits of this training were apparent to the unit’s commander, Lt. Col. Bradley Martsching.

“The fact that we deployed simultaneously from multiple loca-

tions using aircraft from four different Air National Guard units increased the complexity of the event but also the training value.” said Martsching. “Additionally, we demonstrated a rapid employment capability by establishing both digital and voice communications via our tactical [high frequency] and [satellite communication] radios with our home locations over 2,500 kilometers away.”

The 158th’s place and capability within the National Guard’s multi-level mission has only expanded in the past decade, and the training reflected this, said Martsching.

“The ability to quickly deploy and establish operations is essential in our role as military first responders, but it also applies to other civil support operations as well as offensive and defensive operations associated with war-fighting.”

The next day, the Soldiers packed up their gear and got on their military flight back to Maryland.

Back from the heat and into the February cold again, some of them were already discussing future deployments, the next drill and what the future might hold for them, their unit and their place in the National Guard.



(Above) Sgt. James Hawley, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, Maryland Army National Guard, second from right, instructs younger soldiers on the basics of land features, navigation and orientation at Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico, Feb. 22, 2013. (Photo by Staff Sgt. John Higgins.)



Courtesy Photo.

# ENGINEERS LEARN ROBOTIC WARFARE



By Staff Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington  
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard's 253rd Engineer Company (Sapper) in La Plata, Md., spent their drill weekend training with a Mobile Training Team to become certified robot operators. The Jan. 12-13 drill weekend also included breaching doors, Modern Army Combatives and weapons familiarity.

"This is the first time the robots have been brought in. This is something that we're going to sustain on a regular basis," said Capt. Alexi Franklin, commander of the 253rd Engineers.

Although Soldiers operate it using a gaming system controller, the 510 Packbot FasTac is not a game.

"The controls are natural because the interface is a gaming controller," said Pvt. Brett Beauregard, a native of Waldorf, Md., a full-time college student and a

recently certified 510 Packbot operator. "Younger generations are more comfortable with video games. This gives them a simple interface that they're used to."

The 510 Packbot Unmanned Ground Vehicle with the Fast Tactical Maneuvering kit allows Soldiers to approach dangerous objects from a safe distance. Its cameras can look through windows and around doors to investigate and neutralize potential threats.

"The three main missions of combat engineers are mobility, counter mobility and survivability. This is mobility training," added Franklin. "The robots can help identify hazards and get them out of the way."

The more than 50-pound robot moves at a top speed of 5.8 mph and can lift 5 pounds with the arm fully extended horizontally.

"My first time going up and down stairs [with the Packbot], I was quite nervous. It's an expensive piece of equipment. If you lose the center of gravity, it's possible it could flip over," said Beauregard. "In a combat situation, you only have one chance at it."

The 253rd will not receive a robot of its own but will continue to use the



MTT from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to conduct future training on the robot.

The two-day basic operators course consisted of classroom instructions and basic familiarity on the first day. The second day was more hands on. The Soldiers learned to climb stairs and navigate obstacles. After the hands-on they faced the certification.

“I’m there to ensure that it functions properly that it can get the job done and that it’s capable of picking up objects and moving them,” added Beauregard.

The first of the two-part certification course included preventive maintenance checks and services, Packbot set up and a functions check. The second part included maneuvering the 510 Packbot over a pre-defined, obstacle-laden 100-meter course, performing basic tasks like picking up and placing objects, driving and manipulating the camera.



# Soldier receives keys to the City of Crisfield

By Lt. Col. Charles Kohler  
Maryland National Guard Public  
Affairs Office

A member of the Maryland National Guard from Salisbury, Md., was honored for his outstanding service during Superstorm Sandy at a ceremony in City Hall in Crisfield on Friday, Dec., 21.

Mayor Percy J. Purnell presented the “Keys to the City” while Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, awarded Staff Sgt. Joel H. Dixon the Maryland Distinguished Service Cross for his leadership during Superstorm Sandy.

“It was a chaotic situation. He took charge and was directing the citizens to make sure they were safe,” said Purnell. “As a result of the storm’s devastating tidal surge of 6 to 7 feet, hundreds of citizens had to be evacuated from Crisfield.”

In Maryland, Crisfield took the brunt of the storm in late October, leaving homes and businesses under water, and the National Guard was called to help with preparation and recovery from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1.

“I am always pleased when our Soldiers are called and perform as you



Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, poses with Staff Sgt. Joel H. Dixon, Maryland Distinguished Service Cross, and Mayor Percy J. Purnell, after Dixon was given the Keys to the City of Crisfield for his leadership during Superstorm Sandy.

did,” Adkins told Dixon. “Your performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of the citizen Soldier.”

The “Keys to the City” of Crisfield consisted of a crossed oyster “stab-

ber” and crab knife. They illustrate the importance of the blue crab and oyster on the economy of the town. They are presented to dignitaries in appreciation for their contributions to the city.

## Unit awarded prestigious award

By Lt. Col. Charles Kohler  
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

The 1297th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion received Maryland’s “Outstanding Unit Award” from the Military Officers Association of America during a ceremony



on Feb. 24, in Havre de Grace, Md. “This is our way of recognizing units in the community whether they are active, guard or reserve,” said Maj. John Whitman USAF (Ret), president of the Maryland council of chapters of MOAA, nation’s largest and most influential association of military officers. “This unit had an outstanding service record in a combat environment.”

While deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the unit successfully accomplished its war-

time mission with supreme professionalism and skill, contributing significantly to the combat operations in the area. The 1297th CSSB provided sustainment support on an area basis to the U.S. and specified Coalition Forces in Regional Command-South (RC-S) by enabling further operational reach to disrupt insurgent forces, secure population areas, build national security capability, and support the growth of governance and development in order to build a stable Afghanistan.





# MARYLAND 400: BRINGING HISTORY BACK

By Staff Sgt.  
Thaddeus Harrington

The Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution awarded six Maryland Guard service members the Maryland 400 Distinguished Service Medal during a luncheon Feb. 23, at the Towson Country Club. The luncheon coincided with former President George Washington's birthday, which was Feb. 22, 1732, some 281 years ago.

Sgt. Delvon Anderson, Staff Sgt. Sonja Christian, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) David Corkran Jr., Col. (Ret.) Wayne Johnson, Maj. Robert Marchanti II (Posthumously)



and Master Sgt. Olen Smith III were this year's recipients of the Maryland 400 Medal.

The first medals were awarded Aug. 27, 1936, during the 29th Division's encampment at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. The medals were awarded annually to deserving Soldiers until 1941 when the 29th Division mobilized for World War II. There is no record of the medal being awarded after World War II.

Sixteen of the early 1940s medals were discovered in late 2009. The business that struck the medals still had the original die. The Maryland Society decided to reissue this

medal as the Maryland 400 Distinguished Service Medal.

The medal was authorized in a June 1, 2012, change to Maryland Military Department Regulation 672-1. All Maryland National Guardmen, currently serving or retired, are eligible for the medal.

The original sculptor's medallion from which the medals were struck as well as the Maryland Military Department Bulletin #8 issued by Maj. Gen. Milton Reckord, adjutant general of Maryland, in the mid-1930s are on display at the Central Branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Maryland is the only state in the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution that has a specific medal honoring the National Guard.

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## Battlefield Surveillance Brigade announces top Soldiers

Courtesy Story & Photo

Sgt. William White of B Company and Spc. Samuel Clark of A Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry came away with top honors after a tough day of competition Jan. 19, as the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade selected its "Best Warriors."

The day started at Ruhl Armory in Towson, Md. with a welcome briefing by Brigade Command Sergeant Major Donald R. Connelly. Following the briefing, candidates proved their proficiency on weapons and medical evacuation procedures. The Soldiers then moved to a nearby trail for testing

on individual movement techniques and a four-mile ruck march (or run, for some candidates). Returning to Ruhl Armory, the candidates completed a map reading examination before changing uniforms for a board appearance. Each noncommissioned officer and Soldier faced a battery of questions by the senior brigade NCOs.

Evaluators tested the candidates on their personal and professional achievements, Soldier skills, performance, and a wide variety of military knowledge. While all candidates from the subordinate units performed well, in the end there could be

only one winner for each of the two categories.

Both winners spent most of 2011 and part of 2012 deployed to the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt with the 1-175th Infantry supporting the Multi-national Force and Observers mission. During the deployment, Soldiers had plenty of time to focus on developing their military knowledge and physical conditioning. It certainly paid off in this competition.



(From left) Sgt. William White, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Command Sergeant Major, Richard Magnum and Spc. Samuel Clark pose after White and Clark won their respective levels of the brigade's Best Warrior Competition.

White and Clark will represent the brigade in the Maryland Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in April.

# On the +LINE



**1** The Hero to Hired Mobile Job Store visited Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, near Reisterstown, Md., March 9, 2013.

The Mobile Job Store travels across the country to help members of the Guard and Reserve find employment through the H2H program. The Mobile Job Store allows Guard and Reserve service members, spouses and veterans to search for available jobs through the H2H jobs website, specifically designed to connect service members with military-friendly civilian employers who have made a commitment to hire veterans.

**2** The Maryland Army National Guard held a deployment ceremony March 7, 2013, at the CW4 Melvin Sherr Readiness Center, in Parkville, Md., for the 290th Military Police Company. More than 90 members of the 290th will be serving for approximately one year in Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. This will be the 290th's fifth deployment since Sept. 11, 2001.



3 The 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, received Maryland's "Outstanding Unit" award by Military Officers Association of America during a ceremony on Feb. 10, at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middleriver, Md.

Maj. (Ret.) John Whitman and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jack Fringer, both retired from the U.S. Air Force, presented the award.



3



4

4 Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, hosted a delegation from the Estonian Parliament's National Defense Committee March 6, at the Camp Fretterd Armory near Reisterstown, Md.

Mr. Mati Raidma, chairman of the Estonian Parliament's National Defense Committee, led the delegation as they discussed military support to civil authority and cyber defense. The delegation also toured the state emergency operations center. The visit was part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program where Maryland has been partnered with Estonia for 20 years.

5 The Recruit Sustainment Program of the Maryland Army National Guard conducted their battle handoff ceremony on Feb. 24, at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, near Reisterstown, Md. The RSP is designed to introduce new recruits to the fundamentals of the U.S. Army before they leave for Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training.

"The easy part is over," said "Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hinz, assistant adjutant general for Army. "You have been in a controlled environment, and now you'll have to manage you civilian life along with your military career. You will continue our legacy and history of answering the call to service of the citizen-Soldier."



5

# CHAPLAINS UNITE, PRESENT ORDER OF CHAPLAIN AWARD

By Sgt. Crystal Hudson  
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chaplains and assistants from the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Defense Force met for a 3-day conference and annual training at the Weinberg Center on Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, Md.,

Feb. 25-27.

The 12th annual meeting brought together the Maryland Military Department's Chaplain Corps to share ideas, discuss strategies and learn about resources available to service members and their Families.

An emphasis was placed on how to best support Soldiers and Airmen during times of transition and change.

"Now we are faced with reduced resources, and we are moving into a period that some of us have never experienced... that is a garrison force. What that means is a peacetime force," said Maryland Army National Guard

Chaplain (Col.) William S. Lee. "No matter how the circumstances may change, we are going to need to continue to provide support."

Lee took the role as the leader of the conference and provided the attendees with "the most effective and useful" resources available to them to best meet the needs of service members.

Lee stated that this annual meeting is a great opportunity for the chaplains, old and new, to get to know each other, as well as maintain existing relationships.

"We sustain ourselves together," said Lee. "We are in this together."

The guest speakers included senior military leaders and civilian subject matter experts that specialized in veterans assistance programs and service member resources.

Command Sgt. Maj. Brian S. Sann, Maryland National Guard senior enlisted leader, stressed the importance of chaplains in the military during his remarks at the beginning of the conference.

"Being heroic is always part of the Chaplain corps," said Sann. "You all do far more than any mission statement. The Chaplain Corps covers down on [almost] every program."

The more than 3,000 chaplains currently serving are an invaluable part of the U.S. military said Sann.

"All of us, at some point in time, need some-



During a ceremony at the Chaplain Eugene P. O'Grady Chapel, Chaplain (Col.) William Sean Lee recognized Lt. Col. Weedon Gallagher recognized as the 2013 recipient of the Order of Chaplain (Capt.) Eugene P. O'Grady Award. He was selected because of his dedication to his Soldiers' spiritual fitness during his time as commander of the 1297th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The 1297th CSSB deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and 2012.

one that we can go to,” he said.

The looming federal budget cuts were a concern among speakers and guests of the conference like many people in the Department of Defense.

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles R. Bailey, deputy chief of chaplains, said everyone is getting ready to slow down.

“The war, if nothing else, has brought us together as one team,” he said. “We had to pull together in foreign lands. We are the greatest military force in the world. We have never been better than we are now.”

With uncertainty comes stress, and Bailey wanted to advise his audience that now is the time for them to remain strong.

“There has never been a more-needed time for [chaplains] than right now,” Bailey said. “We have produced. We have done unbelievable stuff.”

Bailey encouraged his fellow chaplains and assistants to continue to provide excellent support to service members.

“We have gone wherever [troops] are,” Bailey said. “Great things are expected now. When you have a reputation of being that good, they are going to ask you to do better.”

A Maryland National Guard officer was presented with the Order of Chaplain (Capt.) Eugene P. O’Grady Award during a ceremony at the Chaplain Eugene P. O’Grady Chapel at the end of the conference.

Lt. Col. Weedon Gallagher was selected to be the 2013 recipient of the award due to his dedication to his Soldiers’ spiritual fitness during his time as commander of the 1297th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The 1297th CSSB was deployed to Afghanistan in

2011 and 2012.

“I want my Soldiers to do well; I want them focused,” said Gallagher. “When we are in the fight, I want them focused on fighting. Resiliency helps me get the most out of them when we are in the fight.”

“Getting encouragement in your chest is more important than cleaning weapons or fuel for your trucks,” he said. “You need to fuel your Soldiers.”



# Maryland Guard Partners With Bosnia for Peace, Security

By Amaani Lyle  
American Forces Press Service

Armed forces from Bosnia and Herzegovina deployed with a military police task force to Afghanistan's Kandahar province in January, thanks to ongoing training and integration with the Maryland National Guard.

The integration, which began in 2003 through the National Guard State Partnership Program, ranks among the Bosnia Armed Force's top accomplishments since civil unrest began in the former Yugoslav republic region two decades earlier, said Evelyn Farkas, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs.

"This partnership is a testament to the great strides Bosnia has made to become a real contributor within the international security landscape," Farkas said. "The troops are stepping up and showing significant progress in their capabilities and professionalism, moving them closer toward the goal of membership in the NATO alliance."

Citing one of the most recent success stories of U.S. National Guard and foreign nation pairings, Farkas explained

that Bosnia's highly-trained and capable force shows promise that would have seemed unachievable in the mid-1990s. But the Maryland National Guard, she said, has brought a sense of community that distinguishes itself from conventional joint training missions.

"The Bosnians display a great sense of pride, confidence and teamwork that has, in part, been built during these military and security exchanges," Farkas said. "The work they're doing with the Maryland National Guard has not only primed them to support International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan missions, but [also has] prepared them for international security involvement around the world."

NATO officials said they have long since championed nation partnership and collaboration, concepts that have gained particular interest in an era of fiscal uncertainty.

"The partnership with Bosnia yields benefits that are hard to quantify on paper, but definitely result in forces that are now better equipped, more credible and

making progress toward meeting NATO standards -- which ultimately creates efficiencies,"

**"This partnership is a testament to the great strides Bosnia has made to become a real contributor within the international security landscape," Farkas said.**

**"It's all about sharing our experiences as the National Guard and building trust and confidence in the citizens of their country," Adkins said.**

Farkas said.

Army Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, Maryland's adjutant general, said the program builds partnership capacity and relationships as it facilitates Bosnia and Herzegovina's journey to NATO membership.

"We build relationships at the squad, platoon and company level, where these individuals work together time after time, and we've seen that come together in the Bosnian deployment with us to Afghanistan," he said. "The Bosnians are willing and able partners in anything we do on the battlefield."

In many cases, the general added, the training is reciprocal.



“They’ve provided sound instruction and expertise in dealing with mines and other things they’ve experienced in their country [so] we can take advantage of their knowledge,” he said.

Adkins also has seen the 20-year journey in Maryland’s additional partnership with Estonia, noting that both Maryland and Estonia are coastal states with populations centered in a large port city.

“It’s all about sharing our experiences as the National Guard and building trust and confidence in the citizens of their country,” Adkins said. “It’s also important to show the relevance of what the military does to support the local community in their country.”

Trust at the senior level resonates at all levels,

and ideally allows U.S. and Bosnian troops to tackle problems, place resources against those problems and brainstorm on final solutions, Adkins added.

“It’s critical that everyone in the command sees the value of the exchanges and partnerships to develop that trust,” he said.

Farkas said she remains optimistic that Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to thrive within the State Partnership Program, which now features 65 participating nations that enhance U.S. combatant commanders’ capabilities around the world.

“There is still work to be done, but Bosnia certainly continues to move forward with the support of the National Guard,” she said.



# Air Guard's newest officers flying high



By Tech. Sgts. Chris Schepers and David Speicher  
175th Wing Public Affairs

December 7, a date which to most is linked to the attack on Pearl Harbor. For six members of the Maryland Air National Guard, December 7, 2012, is a date to remember when they were commissioned and pinned on the rank of second lieutenant. All six members graduated together from

the Academy of Military Science, Maxwell Air Force base, Alabama.

Normally one or two members of the same unit are in a class together.

“Having other members of the Maryland Air National Guard there with me made the transition from the enlisted side to the officer side much easier,” said 2nd Lt. Jake Weiser, a C-27 pilot candidate.

“It was great because I knew that

I had a support structure outside my team. I was able to help other Maryland members. It was good that we all had the opportunity to go as a group, and we would make it out as a group,” said 2nd Lt. Charles J. Wille, now a maintenance officer with the 175th Maintenance Squadron. Wille was voted class speaker. He spoke to the families during the open house part of the graduation.



“Anytime you did a group activity, you had the support of your fellow Maryland Air National Guardsmen,” he said.

“It was like an additional layer of trust and assurance,” said 2nd Lt. William O. Ferguson, cyberspace operations officer, 175th Network Warfare Squadron.

“It was difficult. It was very similar to basic training for the first couple of weeks. We were put in leadership positions right away,” said 2nd Lt. James R. Sells, an A-10 pilot candidate with the 104th Fighter Squadron.

2nd Lt. Jake Weiser, 135th Airlift Squadron said, “Lessons from basic training were instrumental in officer’s school. I felt like instructors expected prior enlisted to teach non-prior enlisted about enlisted life.”

“AMS was a lot harder than basic training,” said 2nd Lt. Rachel G. Bowen, officer-in-charge, Manpower and Personnel Flight, 175th Force Support Squadron. Bowen, who said her parents were both officers and inspired her, wanted to become an officer since she was 11 years old.

Wille recalled 2nd Lt. Brandon M. Krantz, a C-27 pilot candidate, showing initiative from day one. There were only three copies of the dorm setup manual for 100 students. Krantz went to a copy store so everyone would have a copy. “Maryland made an impact for the entire school. We learned that information is not something to be hoarded,” Wille said.

“These individuals who I went to school with will definitely be friends for life,” Wille said. “Even outside this base, they will be there for support,”

## Couple brings their intelligence to Maryland Air National Guard

By Tech. Sgt. David Speicher  
175th Wing Public Affairs



In February the Maryland Air National Guard gained two experienced intelligence officers looking for a less nomadic life.

Majors Danielle Barrass, 135th Operational Support Flight intelligence officer-in-charge and Jason Barrass, 175th Operational Support Flight senior intelligence officer, transitioned from active duty to the 175th Wing.

“We wanted to plant roots. The job and the location offered us stability,” Jason said.

“We liked serving, but the operations tempo in the active duty was challenging. We were looking for ways to continue to serve while keeping our balance at home. We feel lucky we were able to find something here in Maryland where both of us could continue to serve,” said Danielle Barrass who served 11 years on active duty.

“We wanted to plant roots. The job and the location offered us stability,” said Jason Barrass who served 15 years on active duty. “The frequency and unpredictability of deployments and permanent change of station of active duty were not conducive to our family goals. We have family in the area. This was one of the few chances we both got at jobs at the same location.”

“With active duty, we had to move around every couple of years,” said Danielle Barrass.

At their last assignment at Air Combat Command, part of their mission was to visit active duty and National Guard units.

When they were on active duty, they were able to work with Guard units and felt they were always experienced and professional. “We met Lt. Col. [Craig] Wackford, [who recently returned to the 175th Wing.] We were impressed by him and his professionalism and this unit and its professionalism and positive culture,” said Danielle Barrass.

They have been exposed to many different mission sets, and they hope to bring that experience to their jobs here. “Our experiences are very broad across multiple aspects of our career field,” said Danielle Barrass.

Both majors are Weapons School graduates. The course taught at Nellis Air Force Base raises their weapons and tactics knowledge to higher levels. Graduates go back to their units to spread the knowledge they learned.

“We will be focusing on the inspection in the short term,” said Danielle Barrass. The unit is preparing for a consolidated unit inspection this summer, and the Barrass’s experience is welcome.

They have been married for four years. “We like it here at Martin State Airport and hope to continue here in Maryland,” said Danielle Barrass.

# Maryland Soldiers support asymmetric warfare

By Lt. Col. Sonise Lumbaca  
Asymmetric Warfare Group Public Affairs

Since its inception in 2006, the U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group, in various capacities, has provided operational advisory support and solution development to Army and joint force commanders across the globe. The unit's initiatives continue to enhance Soldier survivability and combat effectiveness, while enabling the defeat of current and emerging threats in support of unified land operations in various capacities.

In providing support to various units, whether these units are headed to combat or assisting other nations with security and stabilization, the AWG has worked with various organizations within the Army, joint community and interagency to develop, collaborate or pull information to develop rapid solutions to

the challenges the Army faces today and potentially in the future.

Among the AWG's supported commanders are members of the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserves; vital communities within the Army that provide experience, expertise and unique skill sets. These attributes are what the AWG recognizes as an important piece to the total Army concept. Although currently limited, an enduring relationship with the National Guard and Reserve community is one of the latest initiatives that the AWG seeks to nurture.

"At this point in this time the AWG is very connected with the regular Army. We are also connected with Army Special Operations community, and we have had experiences working with Army National Guard units. But that has been episodic," said Lt. Col. Michael Richardson, an operational squadron commander for the AWG.

"So the idea is that if the AWG is here to serve the Army, well, the National Guard and Reserves are also components of the Army. And so, the intent is that we continue to build our capability to serve the total Army," Richardson said.

The AWG has already benefitted from working closely with the Army National Guard. In 2008, the unit selected its first Army National

Guardsmen, Maj. Paul Gump, to work full time for the unit as an operational advisor.

Gump, originally from Fairmont, W.Va., began his military career in 1987 with the Marine Corps. He later joined the Army National Guard as an infantryman, but prior to that, was enrolled at West Virginia University.

"I was going to college, and I realized I missed being in the military, but I wanted to continue on with my education," Gump said. "Being a former reconnaissance Marine, I was looking for a similar job. Maryland had a long-range surveillance detachment, which seemed like a good fit."

Gump joined the 129th Infantry Detachment — Long-Range Surveillance in Cascade, Md., and spent approximately three years with the unit before attending Officer Candidate School. He later learned about the AWG and noted that Guardsmen and Reservists were eligible to join the unit. Gump applied and was eventually selected to become an operational advisor for the unit after successfully making it through the selection process and training program.

Since being assigned to the AWG, Gump has been on multiple deployments to conventional and unique locations providing operational advisory support to units at various stages in the Army force generation cycle. He recently completed time as a troop commander, and he is now spearheading the Guard and Reserve initiative for the AWG.

"Because Maj. Gump is a long-serving National Guardsman in AWG, and he has built a lot of cred-



Maj. Paul Gump, an Operational Advisor for the U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group, photographed with Afghan children while conducting an embed in support of Village Stability Operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan Dec. 25, 2010. Gump is a National Guardsman who has been attached to the AWG for the past three years. The AWG provides Operational Advisory and Solution Development support globally to Army and Joint Force commanders to enhance soldier survivability and combat effectiveness, and enable the defeat of current and emerging threats in support of Unified Land Operations.

ibility as an operational advisor with various units during his five combat rotations (to places like Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations within the Middle East), we would like his focus to be, what I call, 'Project Total Army Integration'," said Richardson.

Gump's continued role with the AWG will be two-fold. The first piece is that the unit would be able to provide better assistance to National Guard and Reserve units because the AWG will be more in tune with their operations, training and support cycles. With Gump's extensive knowledge of the Guard community and how it operates, actions required to accomplish a task or mission can run smoother.

"The other side of it is creating a system where we can actually draw from Guardsmen and Reservists who have demonstrated specific skills and attributes through their service. We would then be able to recruit them for selection as either operational advisors or operational support personnel to serve with AWG," Richardson said.

Guardsmen or Reservists who are selected can then gain valuable knowledge and skill sets that they can eventually take back to their home unit upon completion of their service with the AWG. Those Soldiers could continue to enhance their unit's capabilities to address asymmetric, unconventional and irregular problem sets.

"We could pull these men and women as technical advisors or subject matter experts to serve with us either for short periods of time, like in lieu of annual training, or even have them come on for a yearlong assignment or potentially come for a three-year tour," Richardson added.

A big task that Gump is currently working involves getting the word out to Guardsmen and Reservists about the opportunity to serve with the AWG. Additionally, the intent is for Guard and Reserve units to look at what AWG has to offer and use those capabilities to further their initiatives. Gump has already built relationships with Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsyl-

we're trying to do. At the moment, Maj. Gump, our resident expert, is spearheading this initiative for the unit," Richardson said.

After working with Guardsmen like Gump and a few others who had been previously attached to the unit, the AWG sees the benefits of having Guardsmen and Reservists within its ranks and more importantly, the collaborative importance



(Foreground) Maj. Paul Gump, as a captain while serving as the company commander for Company C, 175th Infantry Regiment, 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Maryland National Guard, conducting pre-combat inspections prior to departing for a mission in Iraq in 2007. Gump currently is attached to the U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group. The AWG provides Operational Advisory and Solution Development support globally to Army and Joint Force commanders to enhance soldier survivability and combat effectiveness, and enable the defeat of current and emerging threats in support of Unified Land Operations.

vania, Vermont and now the Oregon Army National Guards.

"What we're trying to do here is build upon that already solid foundation within the Guard and Reserves and maybe give them something a little different to look at (using AWG's unique capabilities)...; provide them additional ways to address solution-development that enhance not only their [federal] mission, but also their [state] mission as well. That's probably the key thing right there," Gump said.

"We see a lot of good in what

in working with these organizations to further total Army initiatives.

If you are a member of the Army National Guard or Reserves, and are sergeant first class through sergeant major or captain (promotable) with completed command time through lieutenant colonel, and are interested in finding out more about the AWG, please visit the unit's website at [www.awg.army.mil](http://www.awg.army.mil). You can also contact Maj. Paul Gump at [paul.gump@us.army.mil](mailto:paul.gump@us.army.mil) or an AWG recruiter at 301-833-5366.

# Final Frame



The Maryland National Guard's Honor Guard participated in the Fallen Heroes Ceremony in the Senate Chamber of the State House in Annapolis, Md., Feb. 25, 2012. Maryland senators honored Montford Point Marines, the first African-Americans to serve in the Marine Corps., Tuskegee Airmen and six Maryland service members killed in combat this past year.

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY STAFF SGT. THADDEUS HARRINGTON**