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Maryland MUSKET

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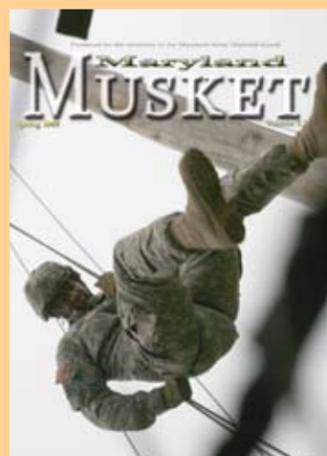
Baltimore Ravens host Military Appreciation Day



During training, JFHQ Soldiers trained to prevent Humvee rollovers using the High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), learned how to conduct the basics of convoy operations during combat with the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer, and honed their basic rifle marksmanship skills using the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000. Photography by Sgt. Rodney Ankeny

on the cover...

A Joint Force Headquarters Soldier repels from a stationary blackhawk during annual training. Photography by Sgt. Rodney Ankeny



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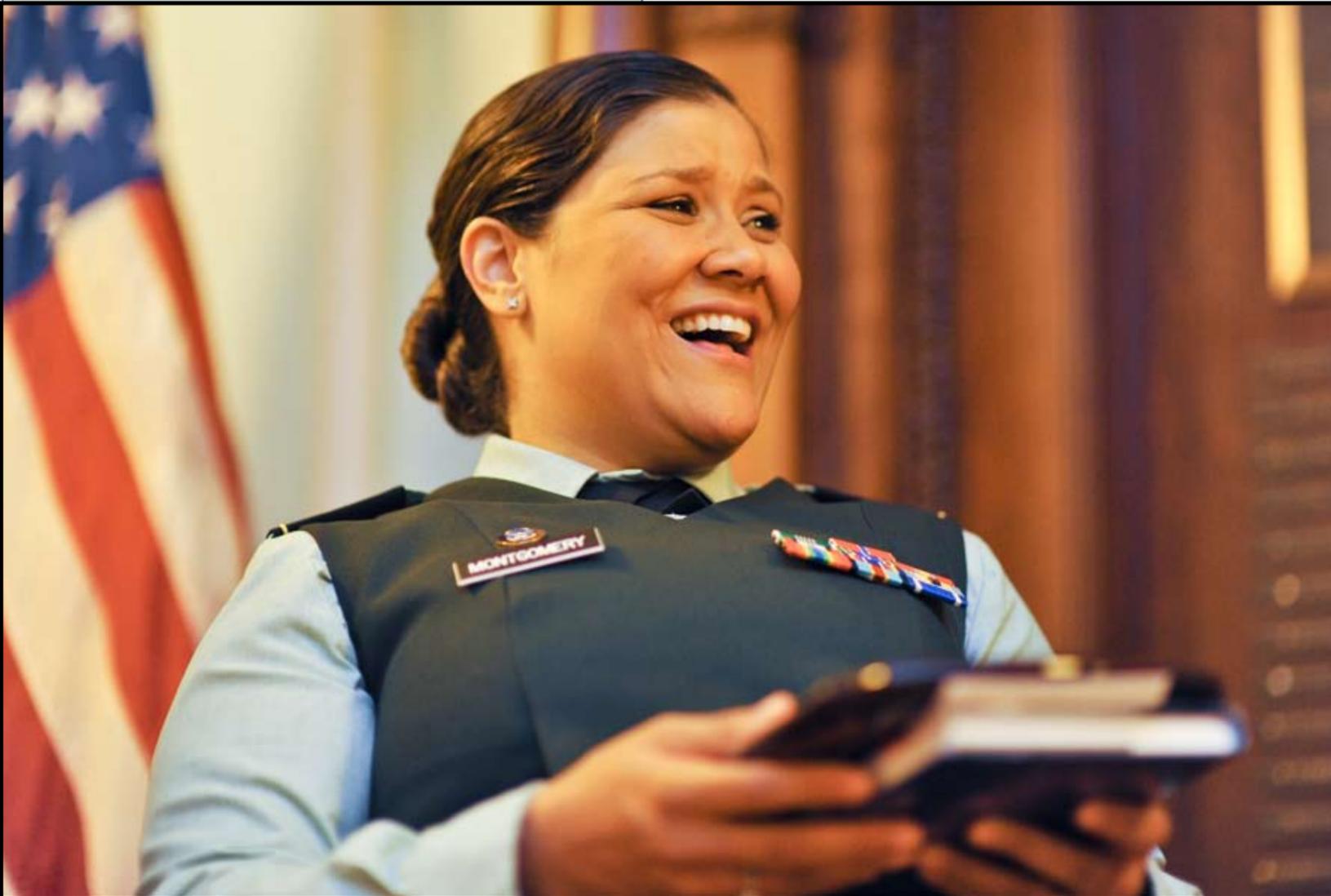
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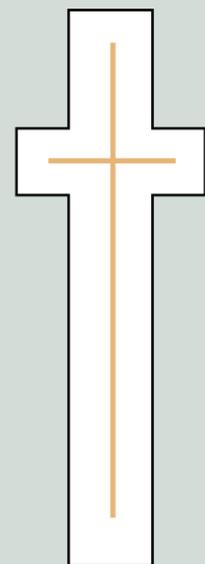
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LEADING A MINISTRY OF SOLDIERS

Photography and text by Spc. Steven Scott



The Military Chaplain's Association's presented Chaplain (Capt.) Rebekah Montgomery of the Maryland Army National Guard with its Distinguished Service Award Friday July 17, 2009 at the 5th Regiment Armory.

"It's humbling to be recognized by my peers and colleagues for my service," said Montgomery, the Maryland Army National Guard's 58th Troop Command Brigade Chaplain and the deputy personnel chaplain at the National Guard Bureau.

These peers span from Maryland to Florida to Afghanistan, and there is no shortage of testimonies from them about Montgomery's stellar service.



"Chaplain Montgomery consistently displays a positive attitude, successfully handles difficult challenges, and always cares for soldiers," said Chaplain (Col.) Jim M. Fogle-Miller, a Florida Guardsman who was the Task Force Chaplain that Montgomery served under while she was deployed in Afghanistan. Her service there "set the highest standards," he commented.

She set these standards by displaying the dedication and selflessness that has come to characterize her in the eyes of her colleagues.

Montgomery seamlessly transfused her years of practicing Goju, a traditional martial art from Okinawa, into a positive outlet for the soldiers by running a dojo at Camp Phoenix in Kabul. Montgomery, a black belt in Goju, also taught a power yoga class to soldiers and civilians while deployed, she said.

"I love teaching and keeping up a physical discipline to augment my spiritual disciplines of prayer and reflection," said Montgomery.

About six months after being deployed with the Florida Army National Guard, she transferred to the 729th Brigade Support Battalion in Maryland. She was the battalion chaplain there until they were disbanded at the beginning of this year.

She served under Lt. Col. William Wall, who was then a major and the Battalion Executive Officer. He recounted the numerous times Montgomery traveled to provide church

services to the over 600 Soldiers of the 729th BSB who were located in six different places.

Wall also lauded her support of the State Chaplain's "Partners in Care" program and her coordination for the state's "Marriage Enrichment Weekend." The 35-year old wife and expecting mother was also a primary instructor for that weekend.

"Capt. Montgomery is an extremely dedicated soldier, officer, and chaplain," Wall said. "She constantly [takes] the initiative to be with soldiers, talk to soldiers, and minister to their needs," he added.

Montgomery, however, doesn't just provide spiritual support; she is willing to support the mission in any way possible.



"You never know where she will pop up," said 1st Lt. Jennifer Hahn, the state family program director, as she recalled their annual training where she remembers seeing Montgomery serving chow and clearing weapons.

"It's not often you see a chaplain in these settings, truly getting involved with Soldiers," said Hahn. "It was refreshing to see her there and to see that she cared enough to go out of her way to make herself available," she added.

Maybe the reason that Montgomery is so dedicated is because after 9/11, she said she felt compelled to serve her country while serving God.

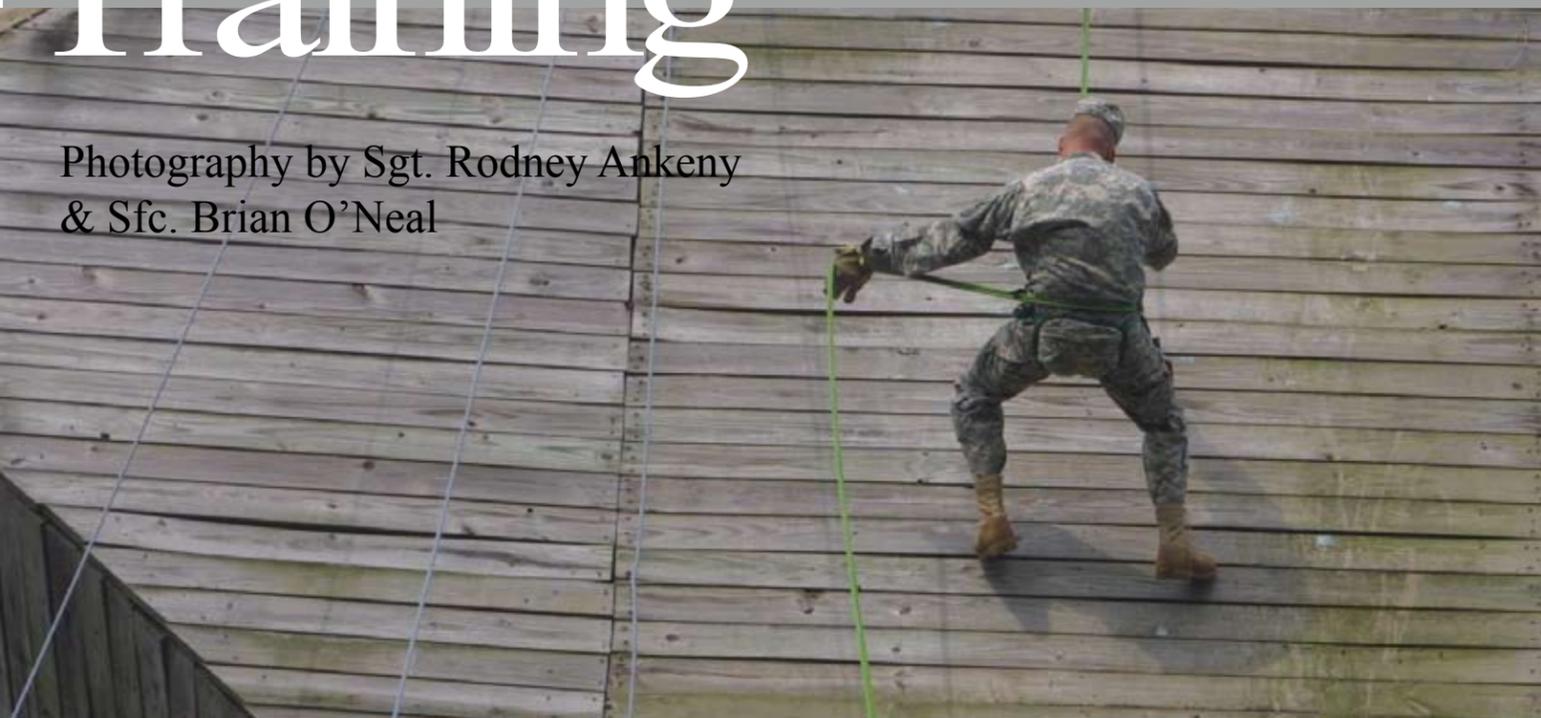
"I didn't know very much about the military and took a leap of faith," she recalled.

This leap has led to a stellar almost six-year career that has been recognized by her compatriots. It has been recognized with an early promotion to captain, a Bronze Star Medal, and now this Distinguished Service Award.

"I'm convinced she deserves this award," asserted Wall. "I've worked with many different chaplains throughout my career, but none have ever worked harder or been more effective in the ministry of Soldiers than Capt. Montgomery.

Joint Force Headquarters Annual Training

Photography by Sgt. Rodney Ankeny
& Sfc. Brian O'Neal



Social Media

Text by Spc. Thaddeus Harrington

No longer an outlet for college students to meet people, social networking sites, have left its mark on information gathering and the sharing of ideas and content.

These sites have turned the average Joe and Jane from an audience member to a producer. They make it easier for people to post content, broadcasting their message to a wider audience and invites people's perspectives.

Social media can be considered anything that can help build a community next-door neighbors or internationally. It allows for the viral spread of ideas – content. Although some use these networking sites to air what many deem trivial these sites have also served as an outlet for citizen journalism in places where reporters and news agencies were denied access. Whether Joe Snuffy posts about wanting to get some ice cream or a citizen in Iran shares their thoughts on the election social media sites have proved to be source of real-time reporting.

Social media encompasses communications, multimedia, opinion sharing, collaboration, and entertainment sites. Although very popular, sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and Flickr were not utilized for the benefits they provided and were blocked on Maryland National Guard computers. As times change so must people and the organizations in which those people are members.

The Maryland National Guard issued the Maryland Army National Guard Policy for Social Media and Website Use on July 15, 2009. It addressed things such as operations security, first amendment rights, being transparent – staying in your lane, and representing yourself and its reflection on the National Guard. Most importantly, that it's a personal decision to participate in social networking and it's also a personal responsibility to uphold integrity of the Military.

The first paragraph of the policy states that social networks and blogs are an increasingly popular means of communicating. They open incredible doors for Citizen Soldiers to communicate in a public forum and create their own content on the Web. As these types of emerging technologies begin to replace traditional modes of communication, it is incumbent upon MDNG leadership to not only familiarize itself with the trends, but also to ensure that our mission is not adversely affected within this new online context.

Many military officials have maintained a presence through social media.

“Gen McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau started twittering four days ago [July



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12, 2009] . . . He has been putting an update or two up there every single day about what he's doing, what he's thinking and what he's feeling. I think people, Soldiers and Family members connect to that. They connect to the personal-ness, the authenticity,” said Maj. Rick Breitenfeldt branch chief online social media NGB.

Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis, supreme allied commander, Europe and commander of U.S. European Command, started the blog ‘From The Bridge’ the day he assumed his post as commander on July 2, 2009.

Army Gen. William E. Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command and a Morgan State University graduate, created the blog ‘AFRICOM Dialogue’ Dec. 21, 2007 to describe the command's goals.

Military public affairs practitioners, those who collect and disseminate info, will have a new use for slightly new media to aid in informing its audience.

“Public Affairs wise it [Twitter] has a huge implication because we could provide real-time up-to-the-minute, accurate information to the media,” said Breitenfeldt. “If used correctly social media can help us tell our story, its like going where the people are. . . It's a little bit of community relations. This community is just online”

Social media outlets allow increased ability to link, tag and bookmark content, helping to gain search engine visibility. No longer are news, information, and ideas a one-way conversation it's a discussion. This conversation helps keep the buzz going and allows for the audience's point-of-view. This participating helps spread messages further and faster and strengthen relationships with the audience

“I think this is a great way to allow leadership to communicate with its Soldiers, Soldiers to communicate with their families, and all three to communicate with each other,” said Breitenfeldt.

On May 31, 2009, key leaders from the Maryland National Guard, the District of Columbia National Guard and National Guard Bureau put their skills to test during NGB's motorcycle Experienced Rider Course held at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

Motorcycle safety has become a priority throughout the Army in recent years. According to the U.S. Army Motorcycle Safety Guide, the popularity of motorcycles has skyrocketed and correspondingly, motorcycle accident rates have increased among Soldiers. The increase in motorcycle riders throughout the Army may be attributed to the rise in fuel prices and the dealer incentives given to Soldiers returning home from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Sann, Maryland National Guard senior enlisted leader, said "This bike is my gift to me after coming home from Iraq."

NGB has noticed this trend and is implementing programs to keep our Soldiers safe. Mr. John Cicilese, NGB Safety and Standardization Branch, coordinated two Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses at Fort Meade in May. NGB's approach is in line with Army training practices as outlined in Army Regulation 385-55. The courses are not contracted out to civilians, but instructed by certified National Guard Soldiers. Maj. Ernie Smith, Alabama Army National Guard, and Sgt. Jeremy Galster, Louisiana Army National Guard, were the rider coaches for the Basic Rider Course held on May 29-30 and for the Experienced Riders Course held on May 31. All rider coaches are certified through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation before they are selected to instruct Soldiers.

Maj. Smith expressed that the goals of both courses are to save lives and make motorcyclists more defensive riders. The Basic Riders Course is an introduction to motorcycle riding. The instruction begins at pointing out all the controls and components of the motorcycle itself. The course follows a logical approach to riding. Instructions on how to mount the motorcycle, start it and manipulate levers and buttons begin the day. By the end of the course, students are slowly weaving through a course of traffic cones and practicing U-turns. Generally, the basic course offers smaller motorcycles for the students to practice with.

The Experienced Riders course requires the motorcyclists to bring their own motorcycles. Maj. Heidi Brodmarkle, NGB G-8, commented that she learned a lot about the handling of her bike.

As registration was occurring, all the students were milling around and checking out each others bikes. The bikes varied from a full touring Harley Davidson to a sleek Triumph sport bike to a pair of Vespa scooters. The concept of the students riding their own machines is similar to the Army's Battle Focused Training. Train as you fight translates into learn and train on what you ride. Every motorcycle has distinct handling characteristics, and it is important to practice the basic skills on the motorcycle you ride.

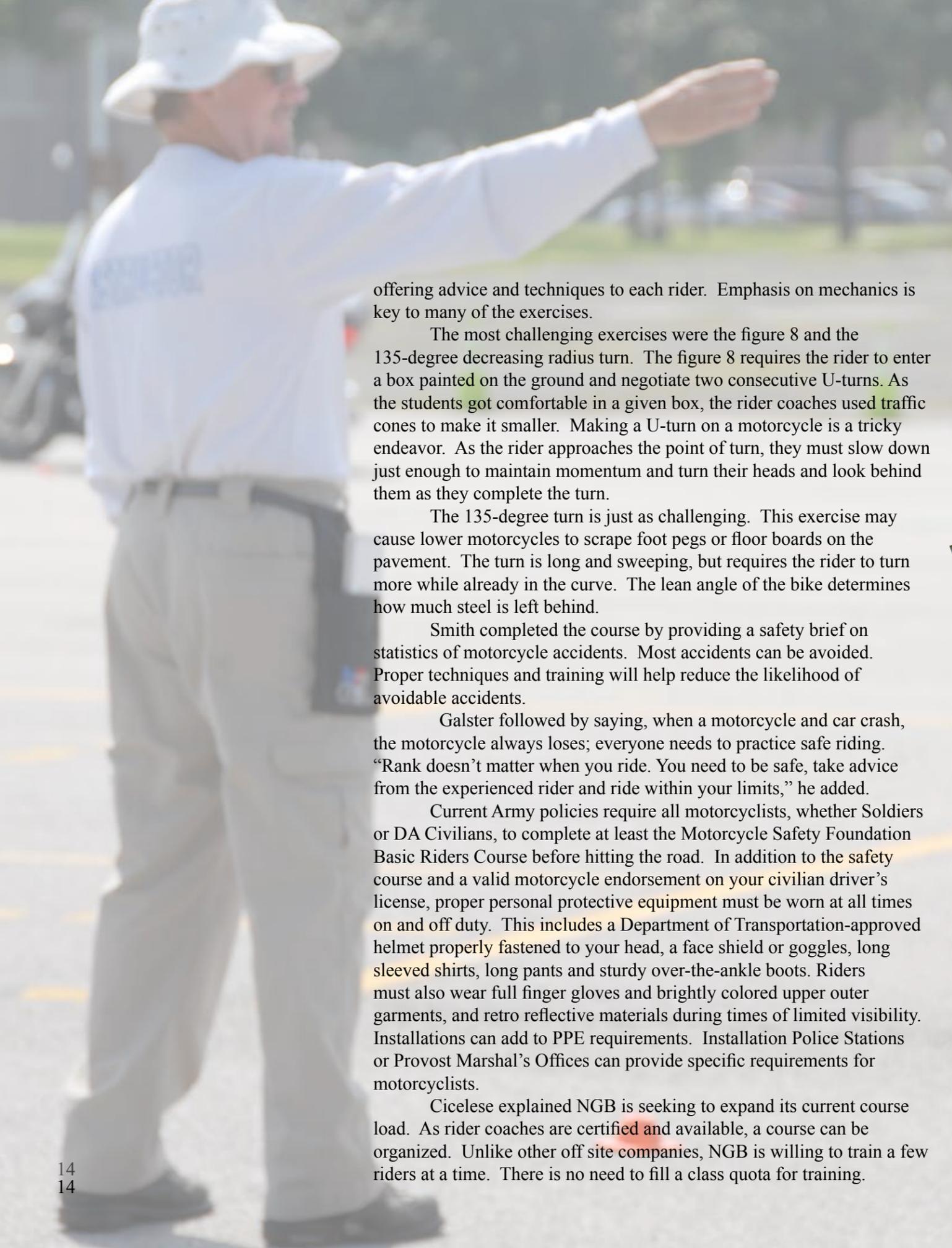
The Experienced Riders Course picks up where the Basic Course ends. The warm up exercise is similar to the final road exercise of the Basic Course. All students begin riding around the exterior of the "Motorcycle Range", practicing a series of 90-degree turns and transitioning into a series of offset weaves. They conclude by having all riders take the clutch hand off the handlebars to demonstrate control of the motorcycle.

Over the course of the day, Smith explained the next exercise and offered techniques while Galster straddled his bike and demonstrated the exercise. Then the students negotiated the exercise with the coaches observing and



Motorcycle Safety Course

Photography by Spc. Loni Kingston & Text by SFC O'Neill



offering advice and techniques to each rider. Emphasis on mechanics is key to many of the exercises.

The most challenging exercises were the figure 8 and the 135-degree decreasing radius turn. The figure 8 requires the rider to enter a box painted on the ground and negotiate two consecutive U-turns. As the students got comfortable in a given box, the rider coaches used traffic cones to make it smaller. Making a U-turn on a motorcycle is a tricky endeavor. As the rider approaches the point of turn, they must slow down just enough to maintain momentum and turn their heads and look behind them as they complete the turn.

The 135-degree turn is just as challenging. This exercise may cause lower motorcycles to scrape foot pegs or floor boards on the pavement. The turn is long and sweeping, but requires the rider to turn more while already in the curve. The lean angle of the bike determines how much steel is left behind.

Smith completed the course by providing a safety brief on statistics of motorcycle accidents. Most accidents can be avoided. Proper techniques and training will help reduce the likelihood of avoidable accidents.

Galster followed by saying, when a motorcycle and car crash, the motorcycle always loses; everyone needs to practice safe riding. "Rank doesn't matter when you ride. You need to be safe, take advice from the experienced rider and ride within your limits," he added.

Current Army policies require all motorcyclists, whether Soldiers or DA Civilians, to complete at least the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Riders Course before hitting the road. In addition to the safety course and a valid motorcycle endorsement on your civilian driver's license, proper personal protective equipment must be worn at all times on and off duty. This includes a Department of Transportation-approved helmet properly fastened to your head, a face shield or goggles, long sleeved shirts, long pants and sturdy over-the-ankle boots. Riders must also wear full finger gloves and brightly colored upper outer garments, and retro reflective materials during times of limited visibility. Installations can add to PPE requirements. Installation Police Stations or Provost Marshal's Offices can provide specific requirements for motorcyclists.

Cicelese explained NGB is seeking to expand its current course load. As rider coaches are certified and available, a course can be organized. Unlike other off site companies, NGB is willing to train a few riders at a time. There is no need to fill a class quota for training.



Gone...



But Not Forgotten

Photography and Text by Sgt. Jennifer

FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

110th



Nearly a century of history ended Saturday for one Maryland National Guard unit, as the 110th Field Artillery Regiment's colors were retired in a deactivation ceremony on the Pikesville Military Reservation.

"It's a very sad occasion," said Lt. Col. Matthew L. Packard, commander of the 110th FA Regiment for the past two years. "But having gone through the ceremony, I'm very proud of having been in this battalion, and to stand alongside some of the very great men who have served here, and their families who have supported them."

The unit originated as the Light Artillery Battery in 1915, and nearly two years later, officially became the 110th FA, assigned to the Maryland National Guard's 29th Infantry Division.

As part of the 29th ID, the 110th FA went on to storm Omaha Beach on D-Day at Normandy, France, in 1944. The regiment was involved in a number of campaigns, which included Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and, most recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The deactivation of the regiment is only a part of a larger U.S. Army reorganization plan.

"It's a process," said the adjutant general of Maryland, Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins. "Our Army goes through changes and transformation, and we look at what the needs are and the requirements. The United States Army is shutting down artillery units all over the globe, and that's what hit us."

Adkins said the unit is being replaced by an information operations unit that is "tailored to inform the individuals on the battlefield, influence them, and defend and attack, as needed, the information systems on the battlefield."

However, the impact of such an active military heritage is not so easily surrendered.

Retired Brig. Gen. J. Donald Haynes, commander of the 110th from 1984 to 1988, hopes to see another chapter unfold for the field artillery tradition in Maryland, which has its beginnings in the Revolutionary War.

"I pray that we will very soon see another artillery unit come back to Maryland, and be stationed at Pikesville," said Haynes, "and that the lineage of the 110th FA will be returned to it."

During the ceremony, Packard dedicated an oak on the reservation's grounds to the unit.

The regiment's motto, "Sicut Quercus," means "as the oak."

In keeping with that motto, the roots of the 110th FA run deep, glimpsed in the camaraderie of its current and past Soldiers, and felt in the palpable reverence that filled the air throughout the ceremony.

"Today was a day we honored history and recognized that all our units are made up of individuals that have answered the call," said Adkins. "They serve and make sacrifices, and have done (so) in Maryland for hundreds of years. We just wanted to honor that service today and deactivate the unit with class and the appropriate respect it deserved."

... AND THE ARMY GOES MARCHING ALONG



The crowd gathered. Young and old were on their feet, and a standing ovation was given. Loud cheers erupted as they marched and drove past them. Clapping and laughter were heard amongst cheers of praise the entire length of the trip. This was a day to give back to Havre dDe Grace, a community that has supported them throughout the years.

Soldiers of the 1729th Forward Support Maintenance Company of Havre dDe Grace, Md. participated in the annual Fourth of July parade. Every Soldier had a mission and a role to play. Some were drivers, some rode in vehicles and waved to the crowd, and many walked around the vehicles. They handed out candy, National Guard t-shirts, cowboy hats, and water bottles, while ensuring that no one got hurt watching or participating in the parade.

“I really enjoy supporting and being supported by a community that has been a part of us over the years.” said Spc. Alonzo Broadwater, a supply specialist with the 1729th, and a humvee driver in the parade.

There were six vehicles used for the parade; four desert-painted humvees, a wrecker tow truck, and a uniquely-painted camouflaged humvee equipped with monster truck tires, and a large dual exhaust panel. It, with the had “Maryland Army National Guard” printed on the driver’s side and the initials JYD on the rear. Those initials stood for “Junk Yard Dog”. The Dog was a highlight favorite of the crowd and of the Soldiers themselves, leaving the crowd chanting to see more.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXT BY SGT. ISOLDA MCCLELLAND



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The Baltimore Ravens Military Appreciation Day

Photography and Text by Spc. Stephen Scott

The Baltimore Ravens' held their second annual Military Appreciation Day at their training camp in Westminster on Wednesday August 19, 2009.

There were over 500 hundred uniformed service members in attendance at this year's event, said Melanie Legrande, the community relations director for the Baltimore Ravens. This number represents a tenfold increase from last year, and it doesn't even include the many military members that were present in civilian clothing.

Legrande enlisted the help of her mother, who works in Air Force family readiness at Langley Air Force Base, to get better contacts and bolster participation this year.

Legrande's father and sister were also members of the armed forces. She said she has "a huge affinity for the military" because of this background.

"It just makes sense," said the self proclaimed "military kid" commenting on the motivation behind this event.

In addition to making sense, the Ravens' appreciation also made an impression and an impact on the service members and their families.

"I was very impressed that they allowed the members of the military out onto the field after the practice to interact with the players and the coaches," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Brubaker, job title.

During this interaction, he and his son got a chance to meet offensive lineman Tre' Stallings, wherein Stallings thanked him for his service, said Brubaker. Stallings also signed an autograph and posed for a picture with his son, he added.

Even military members who aren't avid football fans such as Staff Sgt. Carmen Wilkins, a supply sergeant with the 58th IBCT of the Maryland Army National Guard, enjoyed their experience at training camp.

"Our grandsons couldn't stop talking about it," said Wilkins.

Wilkins four grandsons range from 10 to three years old, and out of those four, three play organized recreational football.

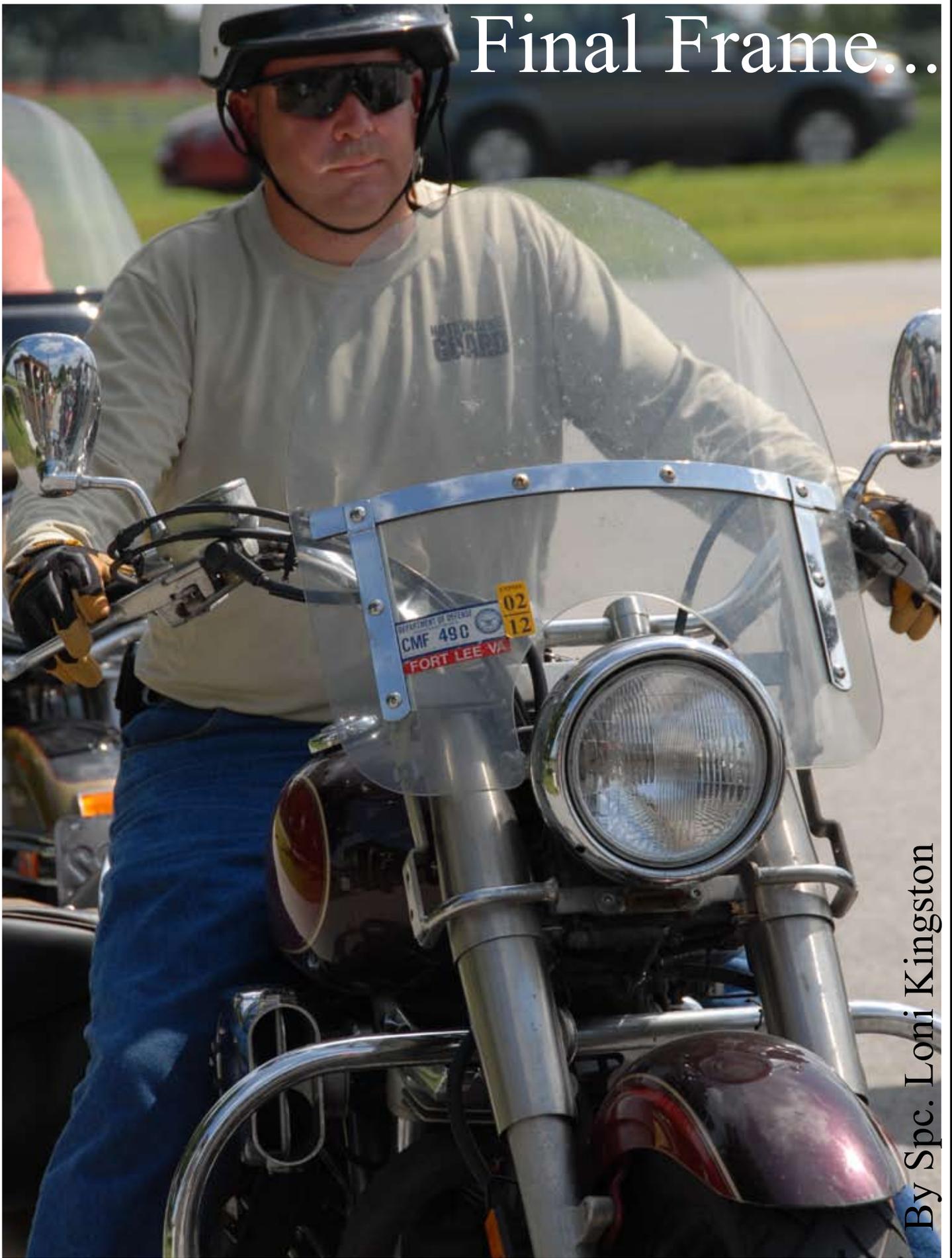
Wilkins recalled her oldest grandson saying that it was the best day of his life because he got to meet and take pictures with Ray Lewis, Joe Flacco, Todd Heap, and other players.

"To see the excitement and smiles on our grandsons' faces was more momentous than hitting the lottery," said Wilkins.

Legrande says she hopes to continue this event for many years to come, and military members such as Wilkins and Brubaker look forward to going back.



Final Frame...



By Spc. Loni Kingston