



THE

Maryland

LINE



Winter 2012

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT



Maryland is known as the "Old Line State." The name refers back to the brave Maryland Patriots that fought in the Battle of Long Island, Aug. 27, 1776. The Maryland Patriots that fought in the battle became known as "The Maryland 400."

The American Revolutionary War could have come to an end at that battle had it not been for the Maryland 400 who sacrificed themselves to allow the colonial army to escape.

The Maryland Line is a publication for the service members, Families, and friends of the Maryland Military Department, as well as community members across the state of Maryland.

The editorial content of The Maryland Line is the responsibility of the Maryland National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs officer.

Submissions:

The Maryland National Guard Public Affairs office fully supports submissions for The Maryland Line.

Please send articles and high-resolution photos to PAOMD@md.ngb.army.mil.

The articles should be in Word format and include who wrote the article; spell out all acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on the first reference; include caption information for photos - who is in the photo, what is happening, where it took place, when the photo was taken; and provide the name of the photographer.



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The Maryland Air National Guard celebrated the opening of the new Martin State Airport/ Maryland Air National Guard Crash Fire Rescue Station with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Warfield Air National Guard Base Jan. 19th. Photo by Master Sgt. Ed Bard.





To All the Members of the Maryland Military Department:

Spring is here and with it comes warmer weather and the opportunity to enjoy more time with Family and friends. However, we should not forget the risks we face during this season as our outdoor activity increases. Every year, civilian and military members of our organization are involved in on- and off-duty accidents.

We need to be aware of the challenges of the season and practice risk management in all aspects of our lives. Encourage those around you to take precautions to avoid accidents, some that could place lives at risk. Use appropriate safety equipment in all the activities. Do not drive distracted, tired, or under the influence, and always wear your seatbelt.

As we prepare for annual training, use caution and be sure to understand the risks inherent in military training. Ensure all equipment is maintained, standards are enforced, and leaders conduct risk assessments related to the mission. Use the appropriate equipment for the mission, use ground guides, have an adequate work-to-rest cycle, and stay well hydrated. Each unit should also have a designated safety officer to ensure these standards are being met.

We need to work together to reduce the number of accident-related injuries, at home and at work, throughout the Maryland Military Department. Most accidents are preventable if we each do our part to mitigate the risks and ensure a safe environment at work for our colleagues and at home for our Family and friends.

Respectfully,

James A. Adkins
 JAMES A. ADKINS
 Major General,
 MDARNG
 The Adjutant General



ANG command chief master sergeant visits Md ANG



(Front Row: L-R) Chief Master Sgt. Harold Stewart, 175th Wing command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief master sergeant of the ANG, and Chief Master Sgt. Glenn Hart, Md. state command chief, meets with enlisted members of the 175th Wing Dec. 3 in the dining facility at Warfield ANG Base.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hughes



Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, speaks with members of the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard during a town hall meeting Dec. 3 at Warfield ANG Base. Muncy represents the highest level of enlisted leadership for the ANG and is responsible for the interest regarding welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization and progress concerning the enlisted personnel under his command.

Maryland ANG ready to assist in major disaster

Story by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher

The Maryland Air National Guard recently received and trained on new equipment that allows them to be more prepared to assist local communities in the event of a natural or man-made disaster at home.

This past fall, the unit acquired a Mobile Emergency Operations Center, which is designed to support civilian entities in the FEMA region, which includes Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware. The trailer is an Air National Guard emergency management asset that could be used with either military personnel or civilian emergency responders. It is available to be used for natural disasters, aircraft mishaps, defense support to civil agencies, civil disturbances, terrorism threats,

weapons of mass destruction and special events.

"The MEOC is used as a highly capable on-scene command center to project information to senior officials of whichever agency/jurisdiction we are supporting," said Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Crabill, 175th Civil Engineering Squadron, Emergency Management superintendent.

The trailer is essentially designed to act as a temporary command post during an emergency, added Staff Sgt. Brent Deal, 175th CES, Emergency Management equipment manager. The speed of setting up and the capabilities of the trailer allows the military to give immediate support the civilian responders reacting to the disaster.

"As soon as we pull up to the site

and park the trailer, we can have people inside in a matter of minutes with phone and internet capabilities," said Deal.

The MEOC is a self-contained system which includes satellite internet with six work stations and a meeting area with video conferencing capabilities. In addition, the disaster trailer has satellite television to monitor news stations for updates on the situation, its own weather station to monitor the local weather conditions, a long range on-scene camera, Voice over Internet Protocol phone system, Ultra High Frequency and Very High Frequency radios, and a radio interoperability system.

Currently, the Guard members are still training on the equipment and have not used the facility in

a real-world emergency. However, they are hoping to reach out to local civilian responders, as well as the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, to train together on the equipment.

"We are reaching out to [agencies] outside the unit to let it be known that we have this asset," said Deal.

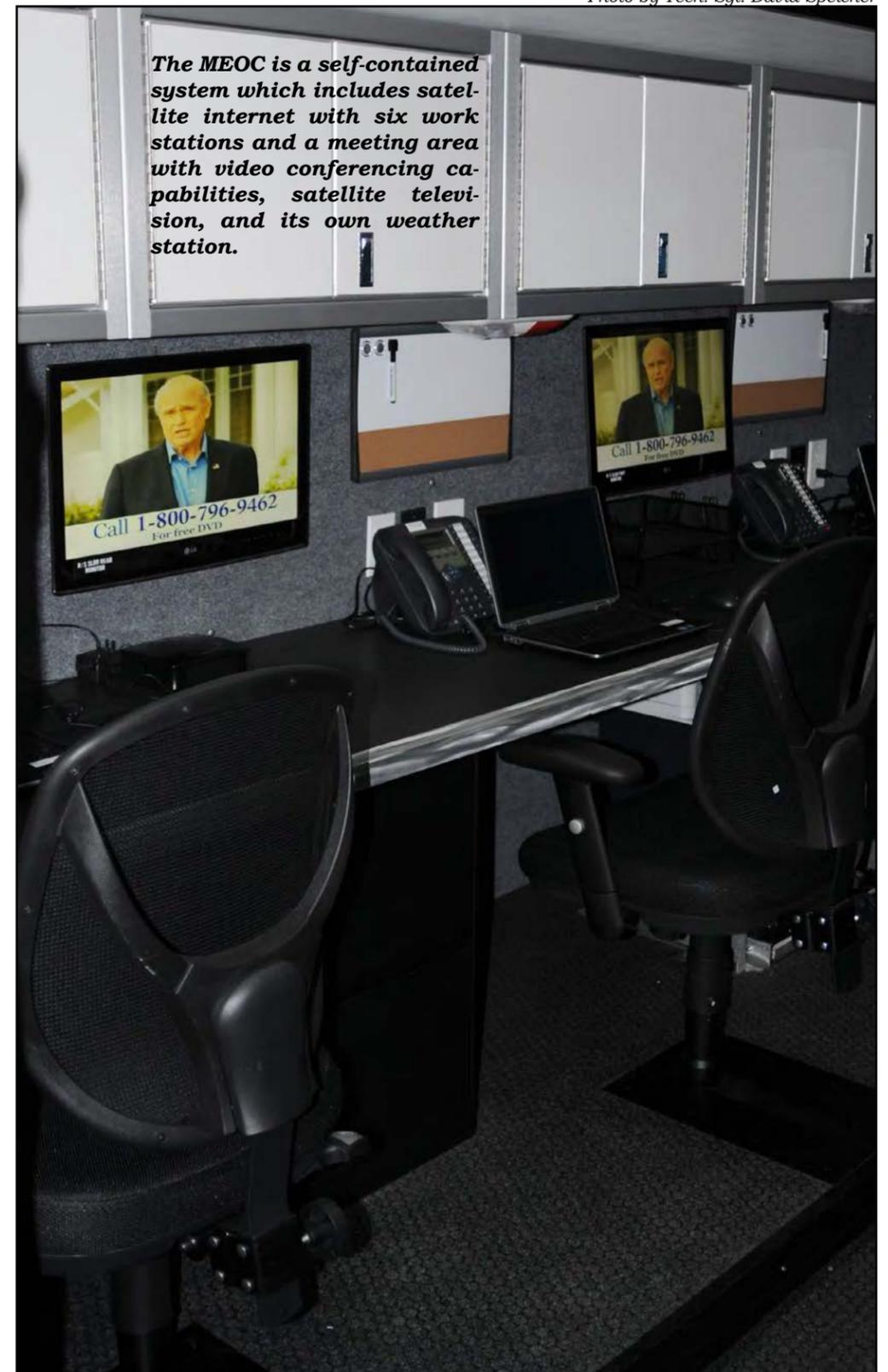
The trailer is 36 feet long and must be towed to location. It is able to connect to an external power source or operate off its own generator for three to five days, depending on the amount of assets being used.

"[We are] awaiting new communication equipment and a tow vehicle to become fully operational and a self-sustaining asset," added Crabill.

The MEOC trailer is stored on base in the new fire department, which was introduced to the public in a ribbon cutting ceremony conducted Jan. 19. The MEOC was manufactured by North American Catastrophe Services at a cost of approximately \$850,000. The plan is to eventually have at least one MEOC in each FEMA region across the country, with approximately 20 trailers distributed throughout.

The capabilities of the MEOC allows the Maryland Air National Guard members to be there for their community in the event of an emergency. Whether the disaster is natural or man-made, the Air National Guard Emergency Management force remains ready and relevant with the addition of the MEOC.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher



The MEOC is a self-contained system which includes satellite internet with six work stations and a meeting area with video conferencing capabilities, satellite television, and its own weather station.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Maj. Gen. James Adkins stands with members of the Emergency Management force. The Maryland Air National Guard recently acquired a Mobile Emergency Operations Center, which is designed to support civilian entities in a disaster in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware.



MIDNG members jump in honor of fallen Soldier

Story and photos by
2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Soldiers from the Maryland National Guard conducted a non-tactical jump from a C-27J aircraft Feb. 4, in Little Orleans, Md., to honor a fallen Maryland National Guard member.

Approximately 30 members of Charlie Troop, 1-158th Cavalry Regiment and the Rigger Detachment participated in the jump. The event served two purposes – familiarization of the new aircraft, which many of the Soldiers had never jumped out of before, as well as being the first jump conducted on the newly named drop zone.

“The drop zone in western Maryland that we use was recently renamed from Shipley DZ to Bitner DZ in honor of a Special Forces master sergeant killed in Afghanistan,” explained Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pitz, Charlie Troop training non-commissioned officer. “Master Sgt. Bitner was a member of our unit prior to his career in Special Forces. ... and this will be the first jump on the officially renamed DZ.”

The DZ was previously named Shipley DZ in recognition of the Family who owns the field, but with the recent site survey that was conducted the DZ was renamed to honor the fallen Soldier. Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kunis, Rigger Det. parachute pack supervisor, explained that Master Sgt. Benjamin Bitner was a former member of the 1-158th Cavalry long-range surveillance unit before transferring to the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) on



Soldiers prepare for the jump by practicing their landing techniques while still on the ground.

The Soldiers conducted the jump out of the Maryland Air National Guard’s C-27J ‘Spartan’ aircraft.



Soldiers practice jumping out of the aircraft before the flight. Most of the Soldiers were unfamiliar with the C-27J and had never conducted a jump from the aircraft so the event also served as a familiarization opportunity.



active duty. He was killed in action April 23, 2011 while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“He had served in our unit and when we had the chance to rename the DZ, we decided to name it after [Master Sgt.] Bitner,” said Kunis.

The members of the 1-158th Cavalry are planning to mark the DZ with a plaque dedicating the field to Master Sgt. Benjamin Bitner during

the next jump slated for May, added Kunis.

Bitner’s Family was also in attendance at the DZ for the jump.

Kunis explained that the unit conducts jumps at least quarterly throughout the year to maintain their parachute proficiency. The jump slated to take place in May will also give the unit members the opportunity to earn Canadian jump wings.

MDDF chaplain awarded *The Order of Chaplain O'Grady Award*

Story and photos by Spc. Aimee Fujikawa

A Maryland Defense Force chaplain was presented with The Order of Chaplain (Capt.) Eugene P. O'Grady Award during a ceremony at the Chaplain Eugene P. O'Grady Chapel on Camp Fretterd Military Reservation near Reisterstown, Md., Feb. 29.

MDDF Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Anthony Hollis is the first recipient of this annual award, which hangs in the chapel.

Maryland Army National Guard Chaplain (Col.) William S. Lee and senior chaplains from the MDDF and Air Guard came up with the award idea. The award is named in honor of Chaplain Eugene Patrick O'Grady, a Baltimore native, and the only National Guard chaplain who died while serving in World War II.

"The Order of the Chaplain O'Grady Award recognizes exceptional commitment to the spiritual and religious welfare of Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families," said Lee. "Most of the branches have some way to recognize people and we felt like that would be the thing to do for us, as chaplains in the Maryland Military Department,"

Hollis was chosen for his service extending over 44 years. His service with the Army started in 1968, when he was deployed to Vietnam where he provided chaplain support to 78 units fighting in Vietnam and assisted in helping orphaned children escape from Burma. Following his tour, he was stationed at Ft. Bliss Texas, where he counseled Soldiers and their Families with issues of child abuse, neglect, and addictions. Today, he is the coordinator of the MDDF's participation, and is the admissions counselor for the state funded Maryland Freestate Challenge Program, which sponsors at-risk adolescents.

"He's spent almost a lifetime in support of Soldiers, military members, and their Families, from his service as a Chaplain in Vietnam to the present, he continues to serve and support," said Lee.

To become a recipient, an individual must first be nominated, and then the chaplain committee decides.

"In WWII, the Chief of Staff, General George G. Marshall, said that it's the Soldiers' spirit that sustains them in battle, and this award affirms that it's the spiritual and religious support of the Soldier and Family that continues to sustain them throughout the deployment cycle," Lee added.



Chaplain (Col.) William S. Lee presented *The Order of Chaplain (Capt.) Eugene P. O'Grady Award* to MDDF Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Anthony Hollis.



Maryland National Guard trains Estonian Air Force pilots for deployment

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Pilots with the Estonian Air Force have been training with the Maryland Army National Guard, learning to fly rotary wing aircraft and preparing for deployment with the unit.

Capt. Rene Kallis and Lt. Martin Noorsalu have been attached to C Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, training on UH-60 'Blackhawk' helicopters in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit mobilized during a ceremony held Feb. 3, and departed for training at Ft. Hood, Texas, before continuing on to Afghanistan. Kallis and Noorsalu will join the unit overseas and are scheduled to participate in six months of the year-long deployment.

"We'll be working together with the Maryland National Guard ... and we hope to act as co-pilots," added Kallis about the deployment.

After they return from deployment, Kallis and Noorsalu will remain with the Maryland Army National Guard, rotating through various staff positions to get more first-hand experience and training on how a rotary wing unit is



Maj. Gen. James Adkins, adjutant general of Maryland, with Capt. Rene Kallis and Lt. Martin Noorsalu, pilots with the Estonian Air Force training with the Maryland Army National Guard.

managed.

During their time in the U.S., Kallis and Noorsalu have completed the UH-60 qualification course at Fort Rucker, Ala., as well as conducted high altitude training with the OH-58 'Kiowa' helicopters in Colo. They also participated in pre-mob training, such as chemical warfare training and squad lanes, with the 169th to prepare for the deployment.

"We've gotten a lot of experience and good training," said Kallis of his time with the

MDNG.

The Maryland National Guard has a relationship with Estonia through the National Guard's State Partnership Program, which brings together U.S. states and territories with partner nations to enhance international security and promote understanding, trust and stability.

"Maryland has a long history of partnership with Estonia," said Maj. Gen. James Adkins, adjutant general of Maryland. "We've been partnering with Estonia for

nearly 19 years, we've grown up together. ... Long-term, enduring relationships have developed through this partnership."

Adkins added, "There is no program with a greater value because of the relationships it creates."

C Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment is a medical evacuation aviation unit. The unit, which is known by their nickname... "the Misfits," is commanded by Capt. Teresa Parrotta and is based out of Weide Army Airfield.

Maryland Air National Guard introduces new fire station with ribbon cutting ceremony

Story by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher

The Maryland Air National Guard celebrated the opening of the new Martin State Airport/Maryland Air National Guard Crash Fire Rescue Station with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Warfield Air National Guard Base Jan. 19th.

The new state-of-the-art facility will house top-notch training, office and storage facilities to allow Guardsmen to prepare for future missions.

Firefighters stationed at Warfield Air National Guard Base respond to emergencies at the base, as well as Martin State Airport. They also work together with the Baltimore County Fire Department to assist in emergencies in the surrounding area and communities.

"This is a great facility that we have waited for, for many years," said Maj. Gen. James Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland.

He added that the new \$7.1 million building will provide the firefighters with a better place to train and work than the previous facil-

ity. The old fire station was more than 40 years old and severely outdated with cracks in the walls, a leaky roof and a lack of adequate training or office space. The building was also too small to house the fire trucks and additional equipment. There was no ventilation system and training was held in the sleeping quarters. The new facility, however, is capable of housing eight pieces of firefighting equipment.

"We as leaders need to provide them with the best facilities possible," said Adkins.

U.S. Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Maryland's 2nd District Representative, was instrumental in getting the funding for the new fire station.

"It was a needed project to protect the base and support the community," he said.

Master Sgt. Wayne Viands, 175th Civil Engineering

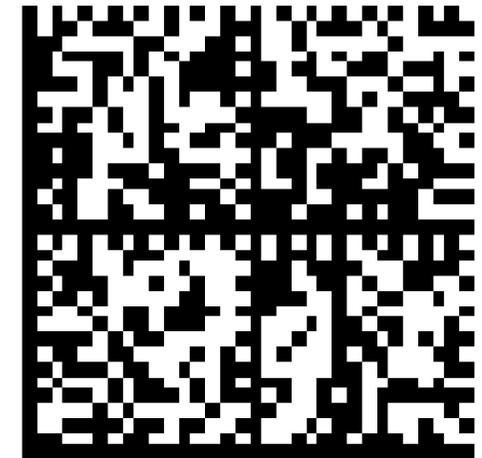
Fire and Emergency Services Flight fire chief, talked about the improvements over the old fire station including a classroom that sits 40 people, while the old building could only seat six comfortably. The new building also has a new dispatch center and offers 21,000 square feet of space.

"With the overall square footage, the guys can spread out and do their job effectively instead of tight quarters," said Viands.

The new fire station houses the 175th Civil Engineering Fire and Emergency Services Flight. The fire department responds to about 300 emergencies annually, while also remaining prepared to deploy in support of their federal mission.

"I am really pleased to be here to see this facility," said Ruppersberger. "It was a long time coming. ... but we got it, we're here."

Use your smart phone to access the video of the ceremony using the QR code below.



Video by Pvt. Patrick Rooney

Photos by Master Sgt. Ed Bard



U.S. Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger and Maj. Gen. James Adkins cut the ribbon, officially introducing the new fire station.



Peacekeepers Reopen Range

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Chris Balsam



The men of D company 1-175 Infantry on the 300 meter firing line at Peacekeeper Range.

For the first time since December 2010, the rattle of early morning gunfire signified that Soldiers from the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) were sharpening their skills at Peacekeeper Range. Thirty-five troops from D Company, 1-175 Infantry, Maryland Army National Guard conducted sustainment training on light and medium machine gun employment.

"We worked on crew drills," said Capt. Matthew Birmingham, commander of D Company, "mainly barrel changes and reloading." Not having had much of a chance to shoot their M240B machine guns since April 2011 at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind., the D Company Soldiers were happy to get the chance to train with their gun teams. One of the M240B gunners, Spc. Stefan Gibson gave his impressions. "Yeah it was really good, it was a really quick range, no problems, and it was well kept," said Gibson. "We did loading, reloading drills, malfunctions, and barrel changes after 100 rounds."

Located off of MFO South Camp and to the northwest of Sharm el Sheikh, Peacekeeper Range presented a few challenges not usually faced by troops training on South Camp, or back home in the U.S.

"You have to bring everything with you, target stands, everything," said Birmingham. The area is also widely utilized as an off-road vehicle terrain course for tourists on quad-bikes. The close proximity of local nationals and civilian tourists necessitated greater than normal preparation on the part of company leaders, including sentry points situated outside the danger areas of the range.

The Arab Republic of Egypt Liaison Agency With International Organizations (LAWIO) office and the South Camp Liaison branch worked hand in hand with USBATT leaders to make this exercise possible and to ensure a safe and productive training day along with a minimal impact on the local populace.

"It's not so easy," said Lt. Col.



An assistant gunner looks down-range as his gunner prepares to load his M240B machine gun.

Jean-Claude Lavergne, the South Camp senior liaison. "These quads come from all directions."

According to Lavergne, since planning began the idea from Liaison was to be there with LAWIO for the first use of the range to deal with the locals if needed and to be able to react immediately in case of a problem.

"Indeed, according to MFO regulation, LAWIO and Liaison are not required to send anyone out to the range [but] since we didn't use it for over a year it was a decision to reinforce USBATT with those who are in charge of keeping good relationships between the MFO and Egypt," said Lavergne.

On the subject of working together with other contingents and Egyptian police, Lt. Cmdr. Arturo Paturzo, the Italian Contingent liaison officer who was present at the training event, was upbeat:

"We had some cease-fires because quads were in the area, but no dangerous situations," said Paturzo. "Communications were good, good cooperation with the sentries ... the situation was pretty clear."

Security Partnering Team welcomes Soldiers home from deployment

Story by Lt. Col. Charles Kohler

Approximately 30 Maryland National Guard Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division, Security Partnering Team conducted a Freedom Salute Feb. 25, in honor of their service in Afghanistan at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel.

The Soldiers, assigned to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's International Security Assistance Force Joint Command Security Partnering Team, served as advisors and mentors to senior Afghan leaders to accomplish the mission of assisting with the growth and development of the Afghan National Security Forces.

"I want to thank you and your Family for your shared sacrifice," said Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and the nation's highest-ranking elected official to have served a tour of duty in Iraq. "Your unwavering love, support, and understanding allow these courageous men and women to answer the call to duty and make unmatched contributions to the safety and security of our state and our nation."

The Freedom Salute Campaign is one of the largest Army National Guard welcome home endeavors in history. It is an event designed to publicly recognize the sacrifice of our Army National Guard Soldiers, as well as those who've supported them during their deployment.

The Maryland National Guard Soldiers who took part in the mission returned home to Family and friends in mid-October 2011, after serving in Afghanistan since early December 2010. The Soldiers were broken up into small sections across the ISAF Command Joint Staff and were



out advising and mentoring with the Afghans in multiple locations.

"Maryland should be very proud of her sons and daughters on this mission, these Citizen-Soldiers put their lives and Families on hold and their commitment and dedication was unquestionable," said Col. Marco Harris, the senior Maryland officer on the mission. "We can be proud of our part in Operation Enduring Freedom to help make Afghanistan a safer place for future generations."

During their time in Afghanistan, the Soldiers of the Security Partnering Team provided advice and assistance to help the Afghan National Police grow from 98,000 to 136,000 and the Afghan National Army from 119,000 to 171,000. As those forces grew, the Soldiers of the 29th helped manage every aspect from requisitioning weapons and equipment, developing training and evaluation plans, and constructing facilities to house and train the new personnel.

Photos by Spc. Aimee Fujikawa



MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADE TO BEGIN MISSION IN KUWAIT

Story by 1st Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, known as Task Force Normandy, has a new mission in Kuwait only days after the end of the war in Iraq.

The last remaining American Soldiers departed Iraq Dec. 18, bringing the almost nine-year conflict to a close. Col. David Carey, Task Force Normandy commander, led the last combat aviation brigade in Iraq and was aboard the final helicopter to cross the border into Kuwait.

"It was a surreal feeling," said Carey. "Some of my Soldiers were in elementary school when the war started in 2003, and now we're making history together as we end this mission and transition to our next one."

The brigade's new mission, working under U.S. Army Central Command, is to combine training and partnership-building activities with other countries in the region to develop and maintain security and stability.

Many of the brigade's Army National Guard Soldiers are accustomed to a variety of domestic and international missions, which take advantage of both their civilian skills and military specialties.

As part of the Maryland National Guard, members of the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Co. have conducted peacetime partnership-building missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Estonia under the auspices of the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

In addition, National Guard Soldiers are trained to respond to emergencies, such as natural disasters in

the U.S., while continually preparing for combat missions.

The Pentagon mobilized the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade in August 2011. The brigade is comprised of units from approximately 25 states and territories. It controls more than 200 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

The brigade is expected to complete its new mission in Kuwait this summer.



National Guard Soldiers from the 29th CAB prepare a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for a flight while an AH-64 Apache hovers overhead at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 1-151 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion Public Affairs)

A C-17 cargo plane of 29th CAB Soldiers from Camp Taji, Iraq, landed in Kuwait Dec. 16, 2011. These Soldiers were among the last U.S. service members to leave Iraq toward the end of Operation New Dawn. Many of these service members began a new mission in Kuwait. (Photo by Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs)

British Soldier trains with MD National Guard unit

Story by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Two hundred years ago, the British and American military forces were enemies fighting on separate sides of a war. Today, the services train side-by-side as allies, as a British Soldier, currently on duty in the U.S., partnered with the Maryland National Guard to train with the unit during his time in the states.

Maj. Michael Dalzell is a Soldier in the Royal Yeomanry, which is essentially the reserve cavalry in the U.K. and falls under the Royal Armoured Corps, which is similar to the armor branch in the U.S. Army, he explained. He came to the U.S. as part of his civilian job and looked into continuing his military training with the Maryland National Guard during his tour.

"I am in the U.S. on a 2-year overseas assignment as part of my civilian job working as an exchange scientist with the US Army Research Lab. ... As a reserve officer in the U.K., I decided to take the opportunity to train with the National Guard [while] living in Maryland," said Dalzell.

During his

time here, Dalzell has been assigned with the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, attending drill weekends, annual training and learning about procedures at the brigade level. He explained that in the U.K., he is a squadron leader, but a squadron in the U.K. is equivalent to a company in the U.S. Army. So, by working with the 58th BfSB, he has seen how training is accomplished on a larger scale. Dalzell also had the opportunity to learn how the cavalry trains in the Maryland National Guard by working with the 1-158th Cavalry Regiment.

"He is formally affiliated with the 58th BfSB staff more than the 1-158th Cav., but he is a cavalry officer by background so he has participated in training with the cav. frequently," said Lt. Col. Adam Ake, 58th BfSB.

Dalzell explained that while working with the members of the 1-158th cavalry, he has been helping the troops with their training by

acting as the executive officer during annual training and by learning from each other on how the cavalry mission is executed in each country. He said that while the basic fundamentals are the same, there are still some differences between techniques and procedures.

"Maj. Dalzell is an outstanding officer and was a pleasant surprise when I assumed command of the squadron," said Lt. Col. Bradley Martsching, 1-158th commander. "[Maj. Dalzell] is considered a full member of the unit and has developed an excellent professional development program that directly enhances the knowledge and skills of our officers and senior [non-commissioned officers.]"

Not only did Dalzell receive valuable training from his time with the Maryland National Guard, but the members of the 1-158th also took lessons away from the time spent together.

"I've been learning from

"I'VE REALLY ENJOYED MY TIME HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND PARTICULARLY THAT SPENT WITH THE MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD. ...IT'S GREAT TO SEE THAT AS ALLIES WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON..."

-Maj. Michael Dalzell

them and they've been learning a bit from me, as well," said Dalzell. "It's been really good for me to see how another country trains its reserve force. The U.K. is going through a big review, with what they call 'Future Reserves 2020', where they're looking at the future model of how we should train, equip and deploy our reserve force. So, the feedback that I can provide of how the National Guard works could be pretty useful for the people back home. So, I've taken a lot away from that."

Dalzell also mentioned that the biggest thing he learned is how the National Guard deploys entire units, brigades and even divisions overseas at one time. The UK reservists, on the other hand, deploy mainly as individual small cohorts in support of Regular Army units, and the concept of regularly deploying larger formed units of reservists would be a significant change. However, after learning of the capability from the National Guard, Dalzell understands how it can be done and can contribute the feedback when he returns to the U.K.

Dalzell will continue attending drills and training with the 58th BfSB and 1-158th Cavalry for the duration of his tour in the U.S., which is slated to end later this year.

"I've really enjoyed my

time here in the United States, and particularly that spent with the Maryland Army National Guard," said Dalzell. "It's great to see that as allies we have so much in common - especially the 'can do' attitude of the reserve officers and Soldiers who give

up their spare time to train in defense of their countries. I also think it's pretty fair to say that the military sense of humor spans international boundaries. I've had some great fun with my friends in the Guard and those experiences will last a lifetime."



(L to R) Command Sgt. Maj. James Nugent, Maj. Michael Dalzell and Maj. Brian Perez.



Photos provided by Maj. Michael Dalzell

Maj. Michael Dalzell during the 1-158th Cavalry Regiment's annual training.

MDNG information unit continues to deploy

Story by Maj. Kristine Henry

Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard 110th Information Operations Battalion are currently deployed to Afghanistan and Djibouti in support of the Global War on Terror.

Small teams are deployed to the two countries while other teams are in various stages of training to prepare for deployment. The battalion is unique to the Army National Guard in that it does not deploy as an entire entity. Small teams are sent to augment larger commands already in place. The first team deployed in December 2010 and rotations are scheduled to continue for the next few years.

Sgt. Maj. Kevin Dickey, 110th IO operations sergeant major, explained the on-going, relevant mission of the unit.

"Information operations is gaining traction throughout the military and is being used successfully on the battlefield," he said. "It is being deployed successfully. Combatant commanders are using IO as a force multiplier, to shape the battlefield."



Capt. Luis Gurri, from Columbia, Md., briefs the "commander" during the first ever internal training exercise run by the Maryland National Guard 110th Information Operations Battalion in Laurel, Md., Aug. 2011.

Photos provided by Maj. Kristine Henry

The battalion was officially stood-up in Maryland in 2009. When not deploying, personnel participate in federal exercises, such as Terminal Fury supporting Pacific Command, and state homeland security activities, such as Vigilant Guard in 2010.

The battalion ran its first internal staff exercises in Aug. 2011, followed by a smaller study on the importance of meeting with key leaders within a country. These exercises are scenario based and often involve authentic language and dress.

Led by Lt. Col. Richard Amott, 110th IO command-

er, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kimberly Mendez, 110th IO command sergeant major, the unit is federally organized under the 56th Theater Information Operations Group from Washington State. Within the state of Maryland, as of Nov. 1, 2011, the battalion has been reorganized from under the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade in Edgewood, Md. to the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade in Towson, Md.



Sgt. Maj. Kevin Dickey, Capt. Charles Gruver, Maj. Kristine Henry and Capt. Peter Cairns from the Maryland National Guard 110th Information Operations Battalion train for deployment at Fort Dix, New Jersey Dec. 2011.

Maryland National Guard Soldier killed in action



The Department of Defense announced Feb. 27, the death of a Maryland National Guard Soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Maj. Robert Marchanti II, 48, of Baltimore, Md., died Feb. 25 in Kabul Afghanistan, of wounds received during an attack on the Afghan Interior Ministry. He was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division Security Partnering Team of the Maryland Army National Guard.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Marchanti Family during this most difficult time," said Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland. "It is impossible for most of us to understand the emotional turmoil they must be going through. The loss of one of our own is always very difficult, and very little can be said to ease the pain, but we will always remember Maj. Marchanti's dedication to our nation as we honor his service and sacrifice."

Marchanti joined the active duty Army in 1984 before joining the Maryland National Guard in 1986. He worked full-time for the Maryland National Guard in the Construction and Facilities Management Office at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore. He is survived by his wife, four children, and a 3-year-old grandson.

Maj. Marchanti is the twelfth Maryland Army National Guardsman to lose his life in the Global War on Terror. Since 9/11, nearly 10,400 Maryland National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been called to support various mobilizations including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the relief efforts for multiple hurricanes and snow storms.

Staff Sgt. Joanna Marriot, a driver with a security element, recently deployed to Southwest Asia from the 175th Security Forces Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard. Photo by Staff Sgt. Sara Csurilla.



On The Line

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 200th Military Police Company conducted a Quick Response Force course Feb. 21-24, at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reistertown, Md. Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly.



The Maryland National Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion conducted a change-of-command ceremony Feb. 26, at the Maj. Gen. William J. Witte Armory in Catonsville, Md. Maj. Andrew Collins assumed command of the battalion from Lt. Col. Eric Brown. Photo by Spc. Aimee Fujikawa.



Maryland



The Maryland National Guard Child and Youth Program hosted its 2nd Winter Survival and Ski trip of 2012 Feb. 5, at the Wisp Ski Resort in McHenry, Md. The trip included survival and safety instruction from a Maryland Department of Natural Resources Park Ranger. Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly.

Line

The Maryland State Senate honored fallen Maryland service members during a ceremony held in the senate chambers at the state house in Annapolis, Md., March 5. Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, District 23 representative, recognized each fallen service member by name as honors were rendered by the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly)

