

PRODUCED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD

MARYLAND MUSKET



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IN THIS ISSUE

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The Maryland National Guard's Guardsman for a Day Program provides civilians a glimpse into a Guard member's average training day at least one day per month at Camp Fretterd Oct. 27, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Edwin Gray)



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ROBOT TRAINING FOR ENGINEERS

VIDEO BY PFC. PATRICK ROONEY

SOLDIERS FROM THE MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 253RD ENGINEER COMPANY 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 BREECHING DOORS, MODERN ARMY COMBATIVES AND WEAPONS FAMILIARITY.

GUARD FOR A DAY

VIDEO BY SPC. GWENDOLYN EDWARDS

MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD REACH OUT INTO THEIR COMMUNITY TO SHARE THEIR TRAINING AND EDUCATION WITH POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE FORCE AT CAMP FRETTERD, Md., Oct. 26, 2012.

THE GUARD FOR A DAY PROGRAM ALLOWS FOR PARTICIPANTS TO EXPERIENCE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN



FREE STATE CHALLENGE ACCEPTS NEW CLASS

VIDEO BY SPC. GWENDOLYN EDWARDS

THE MARYLAND FREESTATE CHALLENGE ACADEMY BEGAN IN-PROCESSING INCOMING STUDENTS AT THEIR NEW HOME IN ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND-EDGEWOOD AREA ON JAN. 13, 2013. THE 22-WEEK PROGRAM OFFERS AT-RISK HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THEIR FUTURE FOR THE BETTER.



BALTIMORE SALUTES VETERANS

PAST AND PRESENT

WITH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN CELEBRATION

Story by Sgt. Crystal Hudson



An annual celebration to honor veterans from the past and present, current military service members, and their families featured a ceremony in downtown Baltimore and a parade down Charles Street, November 12.

During the procession, Baltimore's Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake led veterans and military service members in a march from the Washington Monument (intersection of Charles and Centre Streets) to the War Memorial Plaza.

"Whether here or abroad," he continued, "that's what our veterans have fought for, a fair way of life for each of us as Americans and our neighbors around the world."

Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, also a U.S. Army Reserve veteran, spoke at the ceremony.

"Veterans Day is a special day for all Americans," said Brown, "but I am particularly proud of the 30,000 active duty [service members] and 460,000 veterans who call Maryland home."

Brown is the nation's highest ranking elected official to have served a tour of duty in Iraq. He addressed the crowd on keeping the "sacred obligation" to veterans returning home from combat and stressed the importance of helping service members integrate back into their lives, families, and the community.

Alongside the many veterans in attendance, hundreds of high school cadets from around the city, and from various Army and Air Force Junior ROTC programs, participated in the parade.

Darrius Johnson, a sophomore at Northwestern High School and Air Force Junior ROTC cadet, expressed his pride for veterans' sacrifices.

"It means a lot to me. The people that died, what they did [in service to their country] was a great thing," said Johnson.

Johnson said he does not personally know any veterans and will be the first in his family to serve when he goes on to join the Air Force after high school.

Although many who gathered at the event were unknown to one another, the presence of insignia and patches evoked memories and provided a common bond.

"It is not a black or white issue," said James Biss, a veteran of the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Division in Germany during the 1980s. "It is [about] the people that you served with who you can trust in life."



(Above) Baltimore's Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake addresses a crowd of service members and their families, veterans, and members of the community during the annual Veterans Day celebration, Nov. 12, 2012.



During the parade, Biss reminisced with other veterans who shared similar memories of being stationed in the town of Kirch Goens, Germany.

The parade-goers had been strangers until some of them recognized the unit crest and began to recall their military experiences.

Sometimes these conversations mentioned the present value gained from those past contributions.

“If it wasn’t for the things that we did – whether it was peacetime or war – we wouldn’t have the things [that] we have,” said Biss.

A similar sentiment of gratitude echoed within the crowd and throughout the words of the speeches.

“No matter where people live – Baghdad or Baltimore – mothers and fathers want the same things for their families,” said Brown. “...safe neighborhoods, decent schools, access to health care, and the opportunity to earn a living, and raise a family.”

“Whether here or abroad,” he continued, “that’s what our veterans have fought for, a fair way of life for each of us as Americans and our neighbors around the world.”



(Left) Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, who is also a U.S. Army Reserve veteran, spoke to the crowd during a Veterans Day ceremony in downtown Baltimore, Nov. 12, 2012.



(Left) Mothers of fallen Soldiers hold pictures of their children during a Veterans Day ceremony in downtown Baltimore, Nov. 12, 2012.



Retired Lt. Col. Cecil Philips, the incoming honorary colonel of the regiment for the 175th Infantry Regiment, accepts the unit colors, which symbolize the duties of his new role, during the battalion's annual Pass in Review in Baltimore Dec. 1.

BALTIMORE'S 'DANDY FIFTH' REGIMENT CELEBRATES 238TH ANNIVERSARY

Story by Sgt. Breeanna Pierce

The 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment held the battalion's annual Pass in Review and concurrently celebrated the regiment's 238th anniversary at Baltimore's Fifth Regiment Armory, December 1.

The pass in review is a long-standing military tradition that began as a way for a newly assigned commander to inspect his troops. Through a display of drill and ceremony, a unit illustrates its professionalism before an audience of its leadership and peers.

"The pass in review is designed to present the command to the reviewing officers," said retired Lt. Col. Delbert R. Parks III, outgoing honorary colonel of the regiment (HCOR). "It has always been a way to 'strut your stuff.'"

Current and former members of the 175th Inf. Regiment, also known as "The Dandy Fifth of Maryland," attended and paid their respects to the unit's historic legacy.

"We do the Pass in Review on the first Saturday in December every year, because that is the anniversary of when the regiment was formed back in 1774 by a merchant named Mordecai Gist," said Parks. "In 1776, [the regiment] marched up to Brooklyn to participate in the Battle of Long Island. The Maryland regiment was the only regiment in the Revolutionary War that fought in both the Northern battles and the Southern theater."

Parks, a former 175th commander, has participated in the annual Pass in Review since 1983. Nearly two decades later, he still takes pride in sharing the regimental heritage with aspiring junior members of the unit.

Special appointees holding the position of HCOR are charged with a

mission to carry on the legacy of a regiment or corps to strengthen unit morale.

"As the honorary colonel, it is my job to make sure that the traditions and the history of the regiment get passed down to the younger Soldiers," said Parks.

"Going back to Mordecai Gist [and] the Battle of Brooklyn, up through present-day deployments into Iraq, it's a very significant and noteworthy organization."

The ceremony was Park's last as the regiment's honorary colonel, as he participated in an exchange of unit colors, transferring his role and responsibilities to retired Lt. Col. Cecil Philips, the incoming honorary colonel.

"The Dandy Fifth of Maryland" not only honored past accomplishments but highlighted several current Soldiers for their hard work and dedication to the Maryland Army National Guard.

During the event, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Magnum, command sergeant major of 1st Bn., 175th Inf. Regiment, publicly recognized Spc. Travis H. Smith, a javelin gunner with the battalion's B Company for his selection as 2012 Battalion Best Warrior.

As a Guardsman with active-duty Army roots, Smith, who has been with the battalion for two years, takes pride in being a part of its heritage.

"It felt good coming to a unit that [places] such a value on tradition and upholding the names of those who came before us," he said. "Because we have such a history, it gives us a responsibility to perform."

As another year comes to a close, Maryland's "Dandy Fifth" continues to protect and serve the Maryland National Guard, as an example of a regiment that never forgets to pay tribute to the forefathers who shaped its historic legacy.



Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Magnum, command sergeant major of 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, recognizes Spc. Travis H. Smith, a javelin gunner with B Company, 1st Bn., 175th Inf. Regiment, as the 2012 Battalion Best Warrior during the battalion's annual Pass in Review at Baltimore's Fifth Regiment Armory, Dec. 1.



CIVILIANS EXPERIENCE ‘GUARDSMAN FOR A DAY’

Story by Sgt. Edwin Gray

On an average day in the Maryland National Guard, it isn't odd to see Soldiers training to become more proficient with their rifles at a simulated range or firing paintballs inside the woods of Camp Fretterd.

However, now Soldiers aren't the only ones who are able to benefit from this type of training experience.

Through the Guardsman for a Day Program, the Maryland

National Guard provides civilians a glimpse into a Guard member's average training day at least one day per month at Camp Fretterd.

The purpose of the program is to allow enlistment-eligible individuals, from high school-age through adult, to experience some of the same training as National Guard members, without having to enlist.

“The Guardsman for a Day Program is not just for the Retention and Sustainment Program, but it's for any Maryland Army National [Guard] unit,” said Sgt. Maj. Scott May, sergeant major of the Recruit Sustainment Program. “The program is effective in bringing in new people, so they can see what we do, and at that point, we can discuss with them the options of them [becoming] members of the National Guard.”



Many participants who attended the program were initially unfamiliar with the types of training troops participate in during drill weekends, and some participants expressed surprise that the Guard does more than pushups and long runs.

“I figured I'd come out here and try it out, but I was afraid that I would be doing pushups all day,” said program participant

Matt Rossi. Instead, Rossi said he and other attendees learned more about the Guard and got the opportunity to check out paintball and the EST 2000.

Being a GFAD provides potential future enlistees with a feel for the Guard experience.

“The program gives them an opportunity to do something different and become a member of a team,” said May.



Maryland Army Guard Members bring career options to North Carroll Students

Story by Sgt. Isolda McClelland

Soldiers attached to the Army Aviation Support Facility, out of Edgewood, Md., recently demonstrated a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to students at North Carroll High School to showcase the career options in the MDARNG.

The Soldiers represented the MDANG alongside 34 other guest presenters in the school's first Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) career day, where students learned the detailed requirements and technologies used to perform vari-

ous jobs.

“This is a great opportunity for us,” said Sgt. Alain Hawly, a crew chief with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 29th Infantry Division. “We get to show off the different [types of] technology, training, and knowledge it takes to operate this type of aircraft.”

More than 70 students came to see the Black Hawk. Over the course of three 30-minute sessions, they sat in the pilot's chair, explored the interior of the passenger area, and spoke with the Soldiers about what it takes to operate the aircraft.

After interacting with an audience of about 75 students, Sgt. 1st Class Jason E. Haines, a recruiter with Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Task Force 1, out of Camp Fretterd, Md., said that this kind of time with students is the most effective type of recruitment.

“I really like this type of interaction with the students,” said Haines, “because it gives me a chance to personalize their goals with the opportunities we have to offer in the Maryland Guard.”

Many students at North Carroll were encouraged by the presentations and selected the Maryland Army National Guard as one of



their top three choices for a career after high school.

“I didn't know that the military had all of these different types of jobs...,” said one student. “I thought that it was more like the war movies.”

The educators in attendance expressed their appreciation for the support and information provided during the course of the career day.

“I was so happy that you guys were able to bring the Black Hawk to support our STEM career day,” said Richard Weaver, a technology teacher and career coordinator at North Carroll. “It's important that our kids learn about as many opportunities available to them.”



MARYLAND GUARDSMEN RESPOND TO 'SUPERSTORM SANDY'

Story by Sgt. Edwin Gray

As Hurricane Sandy brought rising flood waters to Maryland communities last year, the state's Emergency responders attempted to keep drivers off the roads. With waters elevated enough to

cause vehicles to hydroplane, and float away, even the emergency vehicles had a hard time driving through the water.

Fortunately, the Maryland Guard deployed four Soldiers from Headquarters Co. 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment

with a Humvee and a high-profile truck to support local responders. For 16 hours, during what the media dubbed "Frankenstorm", Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hinkley, a signal support non commissioned officer, Cpl. Thomas Smith, an infantryman, Spc. Dylar Salefski, a signal support specialist, and Pfc. Aaron Lebo, a cavalry scout, assisted the local response intermittently throughout the neighborhoods.

The Maryland National Guard activated more than 500 troops to help support Marylanders through local and state authorities during Hurricane Sandy.

Maryland, 12 other states, and the District of Columbia declared states of emergency.

The Maryland Guard has more than 600 Humvees and high-profile vehicles as well as various aircraft available to utilize if needed. One-hundred-sixteen of those vehicles were dispatched in efforts to augment first responders with transporting of personnel, medical litters, supplies, and equipment.

"Their [Maryland Guard's] primary mission is to back-up



(Above) Members from several Maryland Guard units deployed to Crisfield Md., to assist local authorities with house-to-house evacuations after Hurricane Sandy passed Oct. 30.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington



the local county emergency response,” said Gov. Martin O’Malley.” In the event of flooding and water that the normal vehicles can’t get through, hopefully, the Humvees or the larger utility vehicles can.”

The Guard also has training on power generation, water purification, engineering, military police, communications, first aid, and licensing drivers on a wide array of military vehicles. No other organization has the National Guard’s combination of size, skills, training and experience, dispersion across the nation, command and communications infrastructure, and the legal flexibility to support civil authorities at a moment’s notice.

“We’ve got the capability in terms of equipment and special training that our forces have to utilize, as much as possible, to help out the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and first responders,” said Brig. Gen. Tim Gowen, director of the Joint Staff for the Maryland Guard. “We have a lot of capabilities and a lot of the things that we have done to train for war can actually apply for this type of mission.”

The Maryland Guard can provide essential life-saving services and equipment in times of need when local and state response capabilities are overwhelmed.

Personnel and equipment were prepositioned, allowing emergency responders and the Guard to effectively respond when needed.

“We help provide any type of ground evacuations for patients by escorting emergency responders in and out of situations that the Humvees are required for,” said Staff Sgt. Bradley Hewitt, supply sergeant with the 104th Area Support Medical Company (ASMC).

The Guard has an operational presence of 32 readiness centers across the state. Soldiers worked aside several organizations, in-

cluding the Maryland State Police Department, Fire Department, Federal Emergency Response units, and several more partners of MEMA.

Many Soldiers said they were confident and prepared to help in the worst possible outcome.

“We always have to be ready and that is exactly what we have been with all of the vehicles being mission capable and functioning properly,” Pfc. Chae McFadden, a mental health specialist with the 104th ASMC. “I (have) never seen or worked aside this many

organizations and people for something like this, so that goes to show how prepared we were as a whole state.”

Just as the four Soldiers from the 175th were committed to their mission, troops were all throughout Maryland with equipment, vehicles, and training needed to support local and state responders as needed.

“We prepare quite a bit for these events, and it’s a chance to actually execute some of those things that we’ve prepared for,” said Gowen.



AFTER MORE THAN 31 YEARS IN THE ARMY, RETIRED COLONEL PASSES ON HIS LEGACY

Story by Sgt. Breeanna Pierce

Wayne Johnson initially joined the ROTC program at Virginia State University just to play collegiate football; however, he ended up devoting more than 31 years of service to his country as a commissioned officer in the U.S. military.

While serving in locations at home and abroad, the now retired Army colonel continually strived to leave a positive impression on his subordinates and peers, motivating them to always aim for excellence and seek improvement.

“We have to prepare the people who will replace us in the future so that our organization can continue to exist,” said Johnson, reflecting on the legacy he wanted to leave behind. “My hope is that [Soldiers] completely understand what their role is when they decide to continue with the careers and get to this level.”

Johnson began his military service after completing ROTC and was commissioned into the position of platoon leader for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Johnson worked hard to ensure his team succeeded. However, no matter how much time and effort the young lieutenant and his team put into fulfilling their duties, he still had to face the demands and politics of being a commissioned

officer.

Johnson described his first military assignment as challenging; however, it was through those negative experiences with his first commission that Johnson learned the importance of depending on and trusting his team.

“It taught me how to treat people in the military; like it or not, you have to be fair and firm,” said Johnson. “The most valued thing you can do as a commissioned officer is take care of your team. If you take care of them, they’ll take care of you.”

Johnson’s experience in Texas led him to his next commission as a communications electronics signal officer in Germany. Because of Johnson’s education and wisdom, he was able to positively influence his team and peers.

When officers do things their Soldiers don’t expect them to do and challenge their Soldiers, Johnson said it gives them confidence in their leadership. “It’s that level of respect that becomes so much bigger than the normal officer-to-noncommissioned officer relationship.”

Following his tour in Germany, Johnson left active duty, and shortly after, he took the opportunity to become a member of the Maryland Army National Guard.

“When I decided to join the [National] Guard, I opened my eyes to see what I was up

against,” Johnson said. “Right away, my mindset was to do things right – there’s no other way to do it; so coming into drill one weekend a month with that mindset caught some people’s attention.”

After a few years, Johnson took command of the 70th Supply Company, 1729th Quartermaster Company, in Baltimore, Md.

“The best advice I was ever given was that being a commander would be the most rewarding and most challenge experience of my military career,” said Johnson, reflecting on his first experience as a company commander.

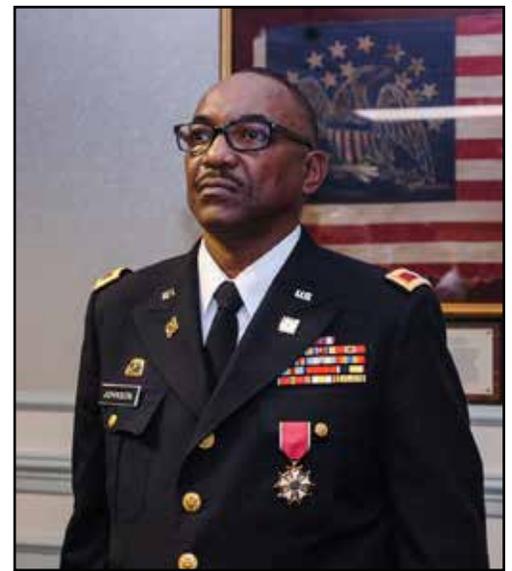
Johnson brought his work ethic and devotion to excellence to every aspect of his time in command. As he progressed through the ranks, he continued to influence those around him, not content with letting things be mediocre.

Many of Johnson’s colleagues, as well as his troops, called this effect being “Johnson-ized.”

“That term did not come from me; that came from the people who had been ‘Johnson-ized,’” he said, chuckling about the term that had circulated among his peers and subordinates. “I tried to mold [my Soldiers] to think and act like I would, based on some of the things that I taught them. You think positively, think of the Soldier and do everything in your power to take care of the Soldier – that is your job as an officer.”

When Johnson was provided the opportunity to be a part of the Executive Advisory Group to Logistics Excellence (EAGLE) team, he was excited and honored to be able to influence the National Guard on an even larger scale.

“Being on the committee gave me national visibility on logistics, and having that national exposure,



I became logistically intelligent. I was able to network and learn from [others on the EAGLE team] to improve on [the] things that we needed to do here in Maryland.”

Along with his dedication to the logistics team for the Maryland Army National Guard, the information Johnson obtained from his experiences with the EAGLE committee led to the Maryland Army National Guard being nationally recognized for having overall logistic accountability.

“Only 10 out of 54 states and territories [with a National Guard] were green in overall logistics,” he said. “I am excited to leave the organization at this level, because for the first time in Maryland National Guard history, we are overall green in logistics.”

Throughout his more than 31 years in the U.S. military, the retired colonel experienced both the difficulties and the pleasures of being a commissioned officer. But, no matter how difficult things became or the challenges he and his troops faced, Johnson aimed for excellence, infecting those around him with the same mindset, leaving behind successors who are ready and motivated to take on the needs of the Maryland National Guard.



Maj. Gen. James Adkins, Adjutant General for the state of Maryland, presents Col. Wayne Johnson with a replica statue of the Maryland Monument at Gettysburg as a gift during his retirement ceremony, Dec. 18, 2012.



MARYLAND FREESTATE CHALLENGE CANDIDATES CROSS OVER



First Sgt. Job Stringfellow introduces the administrative staff of the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy on the stage as they prepare to take part in the crossover ceremony.

Story by Sgt. Isolda McClelland

They entered wearing black coats over gray sweats, each participant marked with a badge signifying they were part of a team. Lined up alphabetically and by platoon, they heeded the motion to move quickly yet quietly, and then were instructed to sit at the modified position of attention, head and eyes forward, hands over knees, and straight up in the chairs. They complied with no backtalk and no tears, and sat listening, ready to “cross over” one of the many milestones they would experience over the next 20 weeks at the Freestate Challenge Academy.

On January 28, the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy, on Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Area, held its first crossover ceremony since moving from the Aberdeen Proving Ground main installation.

This crossover ceremony is used to mark the completion of the first two weeks of the 22-week course that Class #40 would experience at the academy. They had persevered through what is considered the greatest high-pressured portion of the program. Upon completion, crossing over, they are now ready to transition from the role of a potential candidate to cadet.

“This class started with 129 candidates, and over the acclimation phase, we’ve only lost eight, which is a big accomplishment,” said 1st Sgt. Job Stringfellow, the Maryland FSC commandant. “We usually lose 20 to 30 candidates after the first two weeks.”

The overall mission of the FSC is to intervene in the lives of at-risk high school dropouts by providing the skills, education and self-discipline needed to produce responsible, productive citizens.

In 1993, Congress approved the Defense

Authorization Bill, which introduced the National Guard Youth Challenge Program as a pilot program. 2012 marked the 19th anniversary of the program and was another successful year for the academy. More than 150 students graduated in 2012, and 3,218 cadets have graduated since the academy’s beginning in 1993.

Stringfellow, who has been with the academy since its inception, explained, “These kids come in with a lot of issues and need a lot of support and encouragement to let them know they can do it.”

Staff members reflected on how difficult the previous two weeks had been for the candidates.

“They [have] spent the last two weeks getting used to the way of life here,” said Marlene Heyman, a mentor coordinator for FSC, who has been with the program for more than eight years. “They have learned that they can do their own laundry, [and] they have learned that they can actually have a conversation with someone they only met a minute ago,” she added. “It is intense, but they made it through.”

For Class #40, the significance of making it through these past two weeks has been life-changing.

“Today as they [FSC candidates] cross the stage, they will be issued their first rank and service ribbon,” said Heyman. “Later, they will be issued their uniforms, and they will also get to make their first phone call home to mom and dad since arriving here.”

Ikea Green, a candidate and soon-to-be cadet at FSC, stated that her experience has offered her the ability to become an assistant platoon leader.

“It’s been good for me. I haven’t had any problems, no drama, or anything over these past two weeks,” said Green. “I now know that I will pass this program and get my high school diploma.”

Some have found it challenging to be in an environment where peer support is essential to their progression.

“It’s definitely a challenge, more so [be-

cause of] having to deal with our peers, because I’m not used to having to live with different types of people,” said Kinia Johnson. “I am learning how to deal with other people’s personal issues and attitudes, which I find more [of a] challenge than getting through the program.”

At the new facility, staff and students feel that the separation of living quarters from the schoolhouse and daytime activities are the best advantage to an already well-run system.

“We love the fact that we are actually in two buildings, now that our school building is actually separate from the day and living quarters and offices,” said Heyman. “It has been a refreshing change.”

Stringfellow added that the new building and environment would help to continue the structure of the program by having the living environment separate from the day and educational activities.

“Challenge [FSC] works,” said Heyman. “It’s hard, [and] it’s messy and dirty for 22 weeks. You can’t live with 121 16- to 19-year-olds without breaking some eggs and scrambling them, but, at the end, we all cry, we all stay in touch, and that is what the program is about; and they are better for it.”

Susan Wierzbicki, deputy director and acting director of the academy, addressed the students during the ceremony. “I have a firm belief that we can show you a path but we can’t walk it for you,” she said. “After today, you are going to be a cadet, and we expect you to understand the standards. We expect you to understand words like honor and integrity. That is the purpose of acclimation [through the] pre-challenge, for you to see if you like the path you’ve chosen to stay on.”

In closing, Wierzbicki added, “We believe in you, each and every one of you. The question is do you all believe in yourselves? I hope so, and I will see you at graduation. Congratulations for crossing over.”



Candidate Ikea Green, Class #40, shakes the hand of Mrs. Susan Wierzbicki, acting director of the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy, as she takes the stage in the crossover ceremony.

Final Frame



Maryland National Guard Soldiers navigate through high water near Edgemere, Md., Oct. 30, 2012, to assist in relief efforts after Hurricane Sandy.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SGT. EDWIN GRAY