



A 438th Air Expeditionary Group weapons loading team prepares to mount a Joint Direct Attack Munition to an A-10C Thunderbolt II using an M1-J "jammer" vehicle at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The Airmen made history in Iraq when their upgraded A-10s successfully employed JDAMs in combat. Because the weapon is guided to targets by pinpoint GPS coordinates, experts here say it is 100 percent more accurate than munitions previously employed on the A-10C Thunderbolt II, dramatically improving precision and reducing fratricide. The Airmen are deployed from the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, located in Baltimore, Md. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. D. Clare)

Air Guard Pilots and Maintainers Make History in Iraq

Story and Photo by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq (11/07/2007) - Capt. Brian "Snap" Curland, a deployed member of the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, made history here when he dropped the first Joint Direct Attack Munition from the newly upgraded A-10C Thunderbolt II in combat Sept. 19.

Continued on page 4

In This Issue...

- ★ Maryland Defense Force Marks 90 Years of Servicepage 5
- ★ Commentary: Taking the Freestate Challengepage 8
- ★ 58th IBCT, MWRpage 10
- ★ Maryland Leads the Way in PHApage 12
- ★ State Employees Capture Top Awardspage 13



Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill
Adjutant General

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT:

This remains a very busy time for the Department both here at home and abroad as we continue to perform our dual high tempo federal and state missions unabated.

Congratulations are in order to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency for attaining a national accreditation for the State's emergency management program. Because of MEMA's effort, Maryland is one of 15 states that have attained national recognition in its efforts to protect the people and property of its citizens. I would also like to recognize the local jurisdiction emergency managers for their efforts in this challenging process.

Congratulations also are in order to Ms. Linda Strack of the MD MILDEP Legislative Liaison Office and Mr. J. Carver Struve, with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. These two State employees captured top honors at the 2007 State Employee Recognition and Award Ceremony on Dec. 7. Linda, who serves as an Administrative Assistant in her office, received the Adjutant General's Award for Excellence and was cited for her tireless devotion to her duties which include maintaining the Department's Congressional Inquiry Program. She received a glass trophy and a monetary prize of \$3,000. Carver, who serves as the State Mitigation Officer, received the State's Innovative Idea Award and was credited by State Treasurer Nancy Kopp for developing the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. His hazard mitigation work was instrumental in convincing insurance company representatives who were in the process of setting premiums for the state's catastrophic loss policy, to reduce the premium by almost \$1 million. He also received a glass trophy and a monetary prize of \$1,000.

The Maryland Army National Guard has been recognized by National Guard Bureau for receiving the Distinguished Motor Vehicle Safety Award for 10 years without a Class A or Class B Army motor vehicle accident. A Class "A" accident involves property damage in excess of \$1 million and or fatality or permanent disability. A Class "B" accident involves property damage in excess of \$200,000 but less than \$1 million and or permanent partial disability and or three or more people hospitalized. I am pleased that our efforts to reduce accidents have been successful. Let's stretch the winning streak to 15 years.

The Maryland Defense Force marked more than 90 years of service with a ribbon-cutting for its new headquarters at the Pikesville Military Reservation in November. The new headquarters is located in the Merson Building, and the ceremony marked the culmination of a three-month long renovation involving more than 1,600 volunteer man-hours by members of the MD DF. Congratulations on a job well done.

Congratulations to Col. Brian Neal, commander of the Maryland Air National Guard's 135th Airlift Group for receiving the Bronze Star Medal, for meritorious achievement while serving on active duty in Iraq. During the first six months of 2007, Col. Neal served on active duty as commander of the U.S. Air Force's 447th Air Expeditionary Group, 332d Air Expeditionary Wing at Sather Air Base, Baghdad International Airport. Under Col. Neal's leadership, aircraft operations continued unabated despite constant exposure to regular enemy rocket and mortar attacks. Additionally, more than 130,000 passengers were processed through the largest air passenger hub in Iraq and approximately 32,000 short-tons of critical war fighter cargo was flown on more than 5,000 fixed and rotary wing sorties. He oversaw explosive ordnance operations in Iraq's deadliest sector resulting in approximately 325 safe explosive devices and collection of more than 100 pieces of post-blast forensic evidence. His foreign object damage abatement program removed more than 10,200 pounds of hazards from the runway and ramp and initiated a \$500,000 emergency runway repair plan.

We have welcomed home the Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers of the KFOR 8 from their peacekeeping assignment in Kosovo, the Soldiers of the Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit from their assignment in Kuwait and the Airmen of the Maryland Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Squadron from their assignment in Iraq. We hope to welcome home the Soldiers of the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Iraq this spring. I ask that you keep these men and women in your thoughts and prayers as they wrap up a difficult assignment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We still have a lot of work to be done and we will continue to move forward. Take care of yourselves and your families. Godspeed.


Bruce F. Tuxill
Major General, MDANG
The Adjutant General

Army Logistics Earn “Green” in CLRT-X

By Staff Sgt. Kristofer Baumgartner, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs
Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Jones, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs

In December, the Maryland Army National Guard received the highest assessment level of “Green” for the first time ever in a major federal inspection which gauged the state’s logistical posture.

The Command Logistic Review Team - Expanded inspection is conducted by the National Guard Bureau and evaluates Army logistical readiness throughout the state at selected unit locations and installations including the Fifth Regiment Armory and the United States Property and Fiscal Office.

“This achievement is the direct result of hard work and forward thinking,” said Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock, assistant adjutant general for Army. “The positive assessment is especially significant because it comes at a time when the Maryland National Guard has more Soldiers deployed than at any time since World War II and is in the midst of a major transformation.”

The reviews are conducted 18 months to three years apart depending on the results of the previous inspection—the better the assessment, the longer the interval between inspections.

“I am very proud of the team. Until this year, our best rating was yellow,” said Col. Wayne Johnson, Maryland National Guard director of logistics. His team’s strategy for success started with understanding and



The logistics community and supply sergeants celebrate the “Green” assessment earned during the Command Logistic Review Team – Expanded.

focusing on deficient areas identified in the previous inspection. To that end, the Logistics Quality Improvement Board established the monthly Supply Sergeants’ Logistics Training to keep unit supply sergeants regularly updated and properly trained. As a

result of this training, the web-based Supply Room Desktop was conceived and developed. The Web portal is updated daily and provides a quick reference source for information and documents designed to enhance unit level supply operations. Johnson noted that it was especially important to the overall effort that everyone involved in the process agreed on the goals and strategy and gave a 100 percent effort from the beginning.

In preparation for future inspections, Johnson expects to generally keep the current successful strategy in place. Adjustments and updates will be applied as needed.

Johnson stressed that the excellent inspection results were due to the diligence and innovation of his staff, the USPFO staff and others.

“Thank you to the entire logistics community, and a special thanks to the unit supply sergeants,” said Johnson.

175th Infantry

Members of the 29th Division Association, many of them former Maryland Guardsmen participate in a plaque dedication ceremony at the National D-day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia on December 1. The plaque was dedicated in honor of the 1st Battalion 175th Regiment with a long history in the Maryland Army National Guard and is currently deployed to Iraq.



Photo by Pvt. Stephen Scott, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Air Guard Pilots and Maintainers Make History in Iraq

Continued from page 1

The captain's strike, and the Air Guard's participation and support of precision engagement for the A-10, mark a historic new range of capabilities and accuracy the aircraft is bringing to the battlefield.

Curland was on his second sortie here when he came upon a former safe house that insurgents had established as a house-borne improvised explosive device. The building had been rigged to detonate when Soldiers swept through the town.

"When I put that out and dropped it, it was basically two buildings away from a mosque. And we obviously don't want to be doing any damage to significant religious centers and people who aren't in the conflict at all," Curland said.

Despite the proximity of residential buildings and the mosque, structures immediately adjacent to the target suffered little more than a dusting from the attack. No coalition forces or noncombatants were harmed.

"With this munition, we're able to pinpoint a building," said Curland with the 438th Air Expeditionary Group. "Collateral damage is about zero. When the bomb impacts, it buries itself into the building and then detonates so you're looking at basically just taking the building out from the inside out instead of the outside in like before."

Thanks to the comprehensive digital upgrade completed by the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Air Force, newly modified A-10s are bringing a new level of accuracy and versatility to close air support in Iraq.

This evolution to precision engagement allows A-10 pilots to strike targets with pinpoint accuracy, eliminating the threat to American forces and non-combatants on the ground.

A new 'SADL'

The upgrades to the aircraft have taken an analog system and brought it into a digital era, said Lt. Col. Eric Mann, 438th AEG pilot, and Operational Requirements division chief for the National Guard Bureau.

A new hands-on throttle and stick system improves the pilot's situational awareness, allowing the flyer to keep his or her "head on a swivel." The aircraft has fully integrated electronics and new avionics systems.

Through the Situational Awareness Data Link, or SADL, pilots are able to liter-

ally show their fellow pilots and ground forces what they see from their cockpit in real time.

"Essentially, it shortens the kill chain," said Mann, who is also a member of the Maryland Air National Guard. By instantly sharing data and camera feeds, a process that took up to 30 minutes over the radio before now happens in seconds.

"I can transmit my image from the advanced targeting pod to the ground forces who can confirm it," he said. "I can transmit what I'm looking at to my wingman digitally without having to 'talk his eyes' onto the 'red roof building' when there's hundreds down there. He can actually see it the same time I am."

At the center of the A-10s close air support mission is the elimination of improvised explosive devices. In some cases, they escort troops or convoys on missions and foot patrols, said Capt. Richard Hunt, a weapons and tactics officer deployed from the Maryland Air National Guard.

The new capabilities of the aircraft reflect the complex nature of that mission. The A-10C has 11 weapons stations from wingtip to wingtip, in addition to its famous primary weapon, the seven-barrel, 30 mm Gatling gun.

"I have no idea what situation I'll find myself in when I arrive in a target area," said Hunt. "It's constantly changing on the ground, and the insurgency and the enemy is constantly changing. I need to have a huge variety of different weapons on the airplane so I can deal with a specific situation."

New life

More than a decade ago, the Air Force began discussions on upgrading the A-10. With so many critical projects for the Department of Defense to address, it seemed the "legacy" aircraft's upgrades would stall. Before October, 2006, it appeared that only a portion of the Air Force's inventory would be upgraded.

The Air National Guard, and its six A-10 fighter wings stepped up to aid the developmental program. They worked closely with the Air Combat Command and the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

In addition to funding from the National Guard, the Air Reserve Component brought the resources and experience the community needed to make the upgrade a reality. Its current incarnation is

expected to be viable through 2028.

A Total Force reality

"We went out to Nellis and lived the Total Force dream," said Chief Master Sgt. Terry Allen, 438th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent and member of the Maryland Air National Guard. The chief served as the enlisted leader for developmental testing.

"We interacted with the active duty, the Air Force Reserve and Guard personnel. We brought some experience to the table. We had a good handle on the legacy system on the aircraft and expanded on those in terms of integration and engagement."

As new modifications were implemented, maintainers worked directly with contractors to develop technical orders, data and drawings. As they went, they wrote the training programs associated with the changes. Aircrews and maintainers were integrated and brought up to speed simultaneously.

The upgrades started in earnest in November 2005. Air Guard specialists from six different states rotated in and out of Nevada to facilitate the process. The team finished in June 2007, and just weeks later, members from every component of the upgrade team found themselves in Iraq in combat in the new A-10s.

Weeks after that, the first Joint Direct Attack Munition launched from an A-10C struck its target dead center.

To date, the new system has performed in a "close to flawless" manner, according to Allen. The squadron has not dropped a single Central Command Air Forces tasking - a feat he credits to the successful implementation of upgrades and the hard work of maintainers before and throughout the deployment.

"We feel very, very proud," said Staff Sgt. Nick Draxler, 438th Air Expeditionary Group weapons loader deployed from the Maryland Air National Guard. "It took thousands of man hours and lots of work to bring this aircraft to battle in a fully functional way. These aircraft performed as well in combat as we did in preparing them for combat."

G-6 Keeps Bondsteel Communicating

By Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Constant communication is one of the most important parts of military operations. Internet, telephones, radios and the variety of other lines of communication available on Camp Bondsteel are often taken for granted, thanks to a small but dedicated staff of 14 signal Soldiers that comprise the G-6 staff.

"Every minute someone is communicating, and it's our responsibility to make sure they can. That's what G-6 does," says Capt. Dan Dulin, Deputy G-6 also a Maryland National Guard Soldier.

Dulin went on to further explain G-6's mission.

"[We] provide support for the command staff, and as a whole we provide [retransmission] communications, radio automation and telephone support for the task force. We also provide guidance to the battalion level."

According to Sgt. Crystal Minor-Sylla, G-6 help desk noncommissioned officer in charge, that guidance and support is one that many Soldiers and civilians on Camp Bondsteel forget about — at least until something stops working.

When that occurs, G-6 Soldiers work to fix the problem affecting other Soldiers. "The main thing is reassuring Soldiers that it is going to be okay," says Minor-Sylla. "Then trying to find a solution to their

problem. If their computer shuts down or their phone stops working, it stops all work for them."

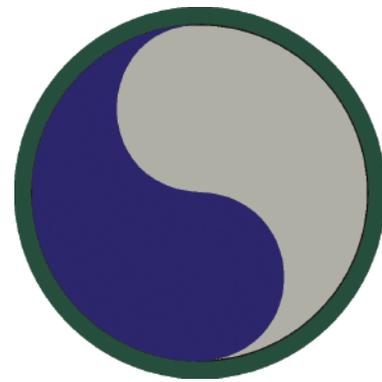
But G-6 Soldiers do more than just fix telephones and computers on Camp Bondsteel.

According to Dulin, G-6 Soldiers also work in teams to establish radio retransmission sites across Kosovo when needed, providing Soldiers on patrol constant communication with Soldiers on Camp Bondsteel. One mission the G-6 staff is most proud of is one that has nothing to do with communication at all.

"I think one of our favorite accomplishments is our adopted family. We've been able to give them clothes and tools and things like that. We also have been able to adopt a school, providing them with supplies they need," said Dulin.

Like many offices on Camp Bondsteel, G-6 is composed of National Guardsmen from different states and units, something they count as an asset. "The Soldiers have really been able to collaborate together as a team to support the efforts of KFOR 8," says Maj. Darryl A. Winston, the G-6.

"We just all came together," says Minor-Sylla. "The majority of the people in our section have been in the military for a while, so we know that the military works as a team. If there's a mission, you are going to get it



Shoulder Sleeve Insignia of the 29th Infantry Division.

done, and you are going to work together to get it done. Everyone has the basic understanding of leadership and camaraderie."

As their mission comes to a close, the Soldiers hope to take their positive experiences back to their home units.

"I want to make sure that we have that active duty ability and flair, and remember how we worked together to support the command staff," says Dulin.

"All we can do is our job to the best of our ability," said Minor-Sylla, "I believe we have done that. We have given our all to this section; we have gone beyond the call. We came here, away from our families, and did what we were called to do."

Maryland Defense Force Marks 90 Years of Service with Opening of New Headquarters

Story courtesy of the Maryland Defense Force Photo by Cpl. (MD) A. Hastings, MDDF

The Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) marked more than 90 years of service with a ribbon-cutting for its new headquarters at the Pikesville Military Reservation in Baltimore. The ceremony held November 8 was attended by a number of

Maryland National Guard (MDNG), state officials, and both current and retired Maryland Defense Force personnel.

"The Maryland National Guard, both Army and Air, couldn't do the job it does without the Maryland Defense Force," said

Maj. Gen. Bruce Tuxill, Adjutant General for the State of Maryland. "The MDDF is a real force multiplier and we thank you for the job you do."

The new headquarters is located in the Merson Building, and the ceremony marked the culmination of a three-month long renovation involving more than 1,600 volunteer man hours by members of the MDDF.

"The renovation of this building was a huge project, that was executed with the efficiency and professionalism that have become the hallmark of the MDDF" said

Brig. Gen. Courtney Wilson, MDDF Commanding General. "I'm tremendously proud of the engineer corps, the volunteers, and in particular, the Non-Commissioned Officers who led the project."

The move to the new headquarters comes as the MDDF marks the 90th anniversary of its formal activation as an element of the Maryland militia separate from the National Guard in August 1917. It was responsible for maintaining public order in the absence of the Maryland National Guard which had been mobilized

Continued on page 6

Maryland Defense Force Marks 90 Years of Service with Opening of New Headquarters

Continued from page 5

for service in France during World War I. The Maryland State Guard, as it was known at the time, was called to state duty twice to suppress civil disturbances in Annapolis and Easton during 1919. It was disbanded in March 1920 following the end of the war.

With the outbreak of war in Europe and the Far East, the Maryland State Guard was reactivated in February 1941. By 1942, the force had grown to a brigade of nine infantry battalions and medical, engineer and special military police battalions. Some 2,700 men served in the State Guard at the height of its WWII strength. When the Maryland National Guard returned from Europe, State Guard units were again deactivated.

In the decades following World War II, the United States Army became increasingly dependent upon the National Guard to supply essential combat ready units, creating a heightened interest in state defense forces across the nation.

The Maryland State Guard was reactivated under legislation which took effect on July 1, 1983. The Maryland code subsequently was amended to open the ranks of the State Guard to women, and in September 1988, the Maryland State Guard was redesignated the Maryland Defense Force to differentiate the force from the National Guard.

Following the events of 9/11, the cold-

war era MDDF was reorganized into a mission-oriented command which supports the Maryland Military Department by providing personnel with competent professional and technical skills that augment the MDNG in its state mission and support its mobilization to and redeployment from federal missions. Additionally, the MDDF prepares for and responds to homeland security and civil emergencies by maintaining trained and ready personnel that can supplement the state's emergency management and first-responder resources. And it strengthens Maryland's communities through community service programs such as the Freestate Challenge.

Commenting on the history of the Maryland Defense Force, Maj. Gen. Tuxill said, "We've evolved and we've reorganized many times since 1917 and we will continue to do so because we will meet the needs of the citizens of Maryland."



Col. Brian R. Kelm of the Maryland Defense Force speaks at the reopening of the Merson Building on November 8, 2007.



Members of the MDDF Engineer Corps and renovation project volunteers pose at the ceremony marking the reopening of the Merson Building.

Maryland Attains Emergency Management Accreditation

Story by Quentin W. Banks, MDMILDEP Public Affairs

Congratulations to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, which recently passed a rigorous examination in 58 emergency management areas by professional emergency managers and received National Accreditation under the Emergency Management Accreditation Program or EMAP. EMAP is a standard-based voluntary assessment and accreditation process for state/territorial, regional, tribal, and local government emergency management programs. EMAP combines self-assessment against nationally recognized standards; documentation of compliance; independent evaluation by trained professional emergency management assessors; and, for accreditation, committee and commission review, to provide:

- An evaluation of a jurisdiction's emergency preparedness and response system against established national standards
- A structure for identifying areas in need of improvement and benchmarking progress
- A methodology for organizing strategic planning, corrective actions and accountability in prioritizing resources
- A catalyst for improved interoperability and continuity
- Strengthened state/tribal, regional, territorial, and local preparedness.

EMAP standards and compliance encompass comprehensive standards that can be applied to an emergency manage-



ment program of almost any size. EMAP standards are scalable and rigorous. Key components of preparedness and response are addressed, including multidisciplinary coordination, continuity of operations and government planning, alternate operating facilities, and interoperability. Programs must provide written documentation for each standard for compliance to be validated.

MEMA, and by extension the State of Maryland, becomes the 15th state to attain the recognition. The achievement is significant because MEMA is the only agency to achieve the designation in one visit by the inspection team. The achievement reflects the professionalism of the State's emergency management team. Well Done MEMA!!!

MDANG Welcomes New Chaplain

Story by Staff Sgt. Kristofer Baumgartner

In November, the Maryland Air National Guard welcomed a new chaplain into its ranks at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River.

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Ja'nice Tubman-Pettigrew recently reported to her post with the 175th Wing. She is one of only a few female chaplains ever to have served in the state.

"We are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to work with Chaplain Tubman-Pettigrew in our efforts to spiritually support the members of the Maryland National Guard and their families," said Chaplain (Col.) William Sean Lee, state chaplain for the Maryland National Guard. "Her faith and conviction combined with her work as a Crisis Intervention Resource teacher with the Prince George's County Public Schools shows tremendous character and will be a great benefit to our ministry," he said.

Tubman-Pettigrew is most concerned about the issue of suicide and sees her role as a National Guard chaplain to assist Airmen to develop spiritual strategies which lead to positive productivity in their jobs. "I would like each member to know that they are important and that they contribute to the big picture; the overall goals and mission of the unit," she said.

Tubman-Pettigrew grew up in Africa and became an ordained non-denominational minister in the United States in 2005. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Howard University School of Divinity and a Master of Education degree from Cambridge College in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Before becoming a chaplain, Tubman-Pettigrew served as a Chaplain Assistant with the 113th Wing of the District of Columbia Air National Guard. She is currently in the process of establishing a church with her husband, Forrest Pettigrew.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Barker, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Deployed Soldiers from the 58th IBCT send well-wishes to family and friends over the Raven's Jumbo-tron during the 2007 Veterans Day game at the Baltimore Raven's Stadium.

COMMENTARY:

Taking the Freestate Challenge

By Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Ricky C. Godbolt
Special Contributor

I would like to share my thoughts about the Freestate Challenge Academy, which is located on Aberdeen Proving Ground and run by the Maryland National Guard.

As the director of the Construction and Development Institute at Prince George's Community College, I was invited, with my wife Barbara, to attend the cadet awards banquet and the cadets' graduation ceremony. I have never been as touched by a graduation ceremony as I was by this one.

The academy is a tuition-free program which offers at-risk adolescents 16 to 18 years old an opportunity to change their futures in many ways, culminating with the opportunity to obtain a Maryland high school diploma.

The initial program consists of a five-month residential phase during which cadets will learn self-discipline, leadership and responsibility. Participants live and work in a controlled military environment, which encourages teamwork and personal growth.

A 12-month post-residential phase consists of helping to enroll students in continued education, a technical school program, or an entry-level job. During the post-residential phase, students are assisted by a trained and matched mentor from the community for post-graduate development.

One female cadet, from Montgomery County, told the audience how her single

parent mother raised her. The cadet told the audience how she rebelled against her mother, skipped school and went to parties. Finally she was expelled from school and moved out of her mother's home to an apartment. She started working for a local insurance company as a receptionist.

"This was not how I want to live my life," she said.

She applied for admission in the

leader. The cadet stated the neighborhood in which he lived contained drugs, gangs and murders. To escape that environment he moved in with his aunt. His aunt died and he started hanging around with the wrong crowd. He finally realized that he could end up in jail or dead. He applied for the Challenge Academy and was accepted. He cried his first night at the academy, but he did not quit.

While on a field trip with the Chal-

lenge Academy he saw the Amish community and a different lifestyle. The cadet stated for the first time in his life he saw horses, cows and chickens. The cadet heard some cadets say the Freestate Challenge did not mean anything to them, but he said, "It means something to me!"

He wanted to quit but thanks to some of his classmates, he made it through because they would not let him quit. The cadet said, "I love you mom."

Again, not a dry eye in the house. Need I say more?

I also ask (challenge) those of you reading this message to please consider supporting the Challenge Academy in any manner possible.

For more information, visit www.ngycp.org/state/md.

(Editor's note: Author is the president of the Fort Meade Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.)



Freestate Challenge Academy Students participate in physical training at their facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Freestate Challenge Academy and was accepted. The cadet asked her mother to stand up. She apologized to her mother and said, "The person you see standing here is not the same person you saw five months ago."

After this cadet finished telling her story, there were tears flowing from everyone on stage and in the audience.

The second cadet was a young man from Prince George's County. He told of the good family values instilled in him by his mother. He was a good student and

Game Day

By Spc. Jennifer E. Sardam, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

As tens of thousands of fans gathered for the Army-Navy football game inside Baltimore's M&T Stadium, Maryland National Guard members provided security and awareness to the community.

On Dec. 1, about 50 Soldiers and Airmen from the Maryland National Guard formed a joint task force assigned to augment stadium security alongside the Baltimore City Police Department. Soldiers from the Catonsville-based 200th Military Police Company and Airmen from 175th Security Forces Squadron, at Martin State Airport, made up the team.

The game day security mission enhanced safety during a major national sporting event, but it also gave greater visibility to the role of the National Guard in Maryland.

"The community got to see their Soldiers at work," said Capt. Trisha A. Weitzel, 200th M.P. Co. commander. "It gave the public a chance to see how the National Guard can help defend them or do a security mission for them here in the United States, not just when they are deployed."

Weitzel added that it was a "great training opportunity" to work together with civilian and other military agencies.

As the presence of security highlighted the Maryland Guard, so did an event just a few miles away where the state's Army Guard Soldiers manned static displays at the Baltimore Inner Harbor. A number of Army vehicles, aircraft and weapons were exhibited, giving the public an opportunity to view and learn about the types of Army equipment used in state and federal missions.

There, Maryland Guard Soldiers of the 2nd Regiment, 110th Field Artillery Battalion, based in Pikesville, showcased two towed 105mm howitzers. The 729th Brigade Support Battalion, from Camp Fretterd in Reisterstown and Hagerstown,

brought a Palletized-Loading System Truck, a truck commonly used for maintenance and hauling. Crewmembers and pilots from the Edgewood-based 29th Combat Aviation Brigade were also on hand to answer questions about a Black Hawk UH-60 helicopter on display. Later, some of the brigade's Soldiers performed a fly-over of the stadium in four other Black Hawks, before kick-off.

The Maryland Army National Guard Recruiting Battalion, based in Baltimore, caught the attention of passersby with its one-of-a-kind Minuteman Humvee. The vehicle sports a standard humvee body repainted in the colors and design of the Army Combat Uniform and outfitted with high-fidelity audio equipment and a large video screen at the vehicle's rear. The battalion also entertained families and other



Members of the Army Guard's 290th Military Police Company and the Air Guard's 175th Security Forces Squadron teamed up together to train with the Baltimore City Police providing security in and around the stadium the day of the game.

visitors with a gaming trailer, rock-climbing wall, hoop and shoot, and other hands-on activities.

The Maryland National Guard 32nd Civil Support Team, from Fort George G. Meade, stood by to help local authorities, while other Maryland Guard Soldiers transported meals to military veterans attending the game from Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

At the close of the game, fans dispersed from the packed stadium in a steady stream. But Maryland Guard Soldiers remained in place to see their mission to its end, as security duties continued and equipment was put away until the next event.

Distance Learning Technology

By Mr. Dave Glenn
Education Manager

Under an unusual collaboration, the Maryland Military Department presented its first Maryland Performance Management Program (PEP) using distance learning technology, which can be found at all National Guard armories in Maryland. The collaborators included David Glen, MDMILDEP education manager, Lauren Holley-Allen of MEMA's Exercise and Training Directorate, Tressa Lester, manager of the Information Technology Center and Allen Dulley, MDMILDEP site facilitator. The collaboration between the three directorates was a success.

The training was held in two locations simultaneously. The ITC's at the Camp Fretterd Military Reservation and the Maryland Military Department site at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. The training was targeted for management and supervisory staff responsible for meeting the requirements of employee competency goals and the Performance Planning and Evaluation Program (PEP). The performance evaluation process is designed to identify training needs and employee skill building. The management teams are committed to improving military and civilian personnel work performance.

Plans for training the line employee using the distance learning technology are in the works and will be finalized by spring 2008.

For more information, contact Dave Glenn of the MDMILDEP Education Office at 410-576-6189 or Lauren Holley-Allen of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency at 410-517-5114.

(Editor's note: Ms. Virginia Nelson, CEO and instructor of Empowerment Plus, instructed the class.)

58th IBCT, MWR

Story and Photo by Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum,
58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

The buses were ready. The baggage detail was standing by. Everyone was waiting on the guest of honor. But as lead-colored clouds—an oddity for this time of year in Iraq—passed overhead, the pavement was darkened with tiny blots of rain. He might not show because of the weather. Even the sound equipment might not make it. Periodically an update was given. The plane had been delayed and would be arriving soon. Then that time got pushed back. But finally, four hours after his scheduled arrival, Bret Michaels, of the '80s hair-metal band Poison, landed at Victory Base Complex. There to greet him was 2nd Lt. Dave Causey of the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. While many were glad to see Michaels had made it, Causey still had something else to worry about. The "Hereos of the Diamond", tour featuring past major league baseball stars was set to arrive later that day, but nobody knew when because of the weather.

As the Morale, Welfare and Recreation officer for the 58th IBCT, Causey coordinates the MWR shows that happen on VBC. This includes meet-and-greets with celebrities as well as shows that can range from stand-up comedy to musical acts. While many around him envy the fact that his job puts him in close proximity to many celebrities, Causey maintains the job isn't as glamorous as advertised. It is, rather, a lot of exhaustive planning and execution to make sure Soldiers receive the best show possible.

"Really it's just coordinating between a lot of bodies and then just kind of driving the operation, keeping to a timeline," said Causey.

After getting the rocker settled, the next stop for Causey was the stage at Camp Stryker. A raindrop hit the windshield of the vehicle on the way. The sound equipment had been offloaded and wooden sawhorse barriers had been erected by the time he reached the venue. Technicians were busily setting up the amplifiers, electricity, and drum kits. Causey supervised, intervening only when necessary, such as when one of the band's crew asked that the sawhorses be moved forward. Michaels, Causey was told, hated standoffishness.

Little changes like this pile up over the course of the set-up, which puts a lot

of stress on the organizers. To alleviate this Causey frequently talks and jokes with the various Soldiers who are on the work details that help him set up these events. Most of the Soldiers tasked with the detail, Causey said, are people that spend their days in an up-armored humvee. Causey believes that being a "roadie" for someone such as Michaels or any other performer that comes to VBC should be as cool as it sounds.

"I recognize the fact that for the average Soldier who's going outside the wire every day to conduct a dangerous mission it's just a little bit of a relaxing break to help out with one of these MWR jobs. So I try to make it that way, make it fun work to come in and actually enjoy the process."

Darkness fell. The clouds broke without dropping the rain that had threatened to fall all day. As more than 1,500 Soldiers descended on the Stryker stage before the show, a member of Michaels' entourage threw DVDs and other gifts from the stage. Heavy-metal music blared from the speakers. With the baseball players delayed until tomorrow, Causey could concentrate on the show at hand, checking the sound and wondering if he missed anything. All of the last-minute details were handled. His job, for better or worse, was done for the moment.

"Once it kind of kicks off and everything's there I do sort of get a moment of relaxation where I can kind of start to enjoy what's happening," he said. Those are moments he really enjoys because of his love of music. He has played drums since the fifth grade, and guitar since college. But to put on the show gives him another perspective on playing music.

"Sometimes that's the biggest reward is to step back and take in the full picture and say 'Wow, this was your concept brought to life,'" Causey said.

In addition to that prize, Causey also has helped create many happy memories for the servicemembers at the show.

"When people ask them about their experience over here they're going to talk about the things they did," Causey said. "Some of it may be stuff that might not be so great or not so happy. And then there's going to be that one memory, like 'Hey I got a chance to stand on stage with Bret



2nd Lt. Dave Causey, the morale, welfare, and recreation officer for the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, hands a guitar case to a baggage detail before '80s hair-metal band Poison, on Camp Stryker Sunday shows on Victory Base Complex by escorting the entertainer on site.

Michaels.' Or 'Hey I got a chance to see this comedian and get their autograph. This person, who I've always thought was a fantastic entertainer, I got a chance to say hello to.'"

To that end, the lieutenant is constantly aware of the impact his performance will have on future acts. Celebrities have celebrity friends, and any positive or negative buzz could reach the ears of any number of other performers.

"It causes a bit of a buzz when someone comes over here and does a show and goes back," Causey said. "They get together with their other entertainment friends, celebrity friends, and they say 'Hey I just came back. I was over in Iraq for a week doing a tour,' and obviously that's very different from saying 'We went to Seattle and did a show this weekend.'"

Sometimes that can pay dividends. "Bret Michaels said Toby Keith was the one that said 'Hey I play Iraq, it's great, the troops really appreciate it,' and that sort of inspired him to come bring his show here," said Causey.

The show lasted an hour and a half. Michaels played all of Poison's hits, such as "Fallen Angel," "Unskinny Bop," and of course "Every Rose has its Thorn," in which many lighters swayed with the music. Afterward, the crowd gathered to get an autograph and a picture with the rock star.



Creation officer for the 58th Brigade Combat
an MWR show with Bret Michaels, formerly of
y, October 8, 2007. Causey coordinates MWR
rtainers and facilitating the needs of the show

“How many times are you going to get a picture with Bret Michaels? Ever in your life?” asked 2nd Lt. Mary Kim, the intelligence officer for the 58th BCT, who attended the show at the urging of Causey. Kim admitted that she would not have gone out of her way to see Bret Michaels if she were in the U.S., but under the circumstances, she was glad it happened.

“When you talk about morale and uplifting spirits it was just an exciting night. You completely forgot where you were,” said Kim.

Finally, at 1:30 a.m., it was almost over. Michaels had signed everything the crowd had offered. He had taken a picture with everyone who wanted one. Causey made sure that Michaels got back to the Joint Visitors Bureau that night, and arrangements were in place to fly him out at 10:00 a.m. the next day. It was over. At least until the “Heroes of the Diamond” arrived.

2-110th Field Artillery’s 92nd Anniversary Pass-In-Review

By Staff Sgt. Kristofer Baumgartner, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs
Photo provided by 2-110th Field Artillery

On December 2, 2007, The Pikesville Armory hosted a pass-in-review of the Maryland Army National Guard field artillery battalion as part of a military tradition originally designed to allow a new commander to inspect his Soldiers.

The 2nd Battalion 110th Field Artillery Regiments 92nd anniversary pass-in-review ceremony gave visiting officers and other dignitaries the opportunity to review the troops and to pay tribute to members who have recently returned and are currently deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. Unit awards and individual accolades followed the drill and ceremony demonstration.

This year’s ceremony was held the day after the unit’s formal “dining in”—a tribute to St. Barbara, the patron saint of artillerymen.

“Morale and esprit de corps are greatly enhanced through the public awarding of Soldier of the Year, NCO of the Year, and Best Battery honors,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Packard, battalion commander. He emphasized that the pass-in-review is a

chance for the units to “show their stuff” through drill and ceremony.

Spectators and Soldiers listened as Brig. Gen. Edward A. Leacock, assistant adjutant general for Army and keynote speaker, spoke about the importance of individual commitment to duty and the role of the Maryland National Guard in the Global War on Terror. He noted that his message was especially timely as approximately a third of the battalion is currently deployed, and more than 40 soldiers in the formation had recently returned from Guantanamo Bay.

“Your state and your nation are proud of you and proud of the service that you render” Leacock.

More than 1,400 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Maryland National Guard are currently serving on active duty in the Global War on Terror. Since 9/11 nearly 7,400 Soldiers and Airmen have been called to support Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Jump Start and in the relief effort for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Maryland leads the way in PHA

Story by Maj. Kristine Henry, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carmen Lee, Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Soldiers from the 1729th Maintenance Company of the Maryland Army National Guard fill out paperwork at Camp Freterd Military Reservation during the Periodic Health Assessment for the 1729th Maintenance Company of the Maryland Army National Guard during an August 2007 drill weekend. Capt. Robert Emmons and First Sgt. Steve Marshall from the unit both agree that the process was pretty refined and relatively painless as they put about 100 of their Soldiers through the PHA process.

“Maryland is leading the way for the nation,” said Master Sgt. Mitch Uzwack from the Connecticut Army National Guard as he explains how Maryland “should be proud” of how they set the standard for all other states regarding the process for Periodic Health Assessments. Uzwack and Capt. Edward Kelley from the Connecticut State Surgeon’s Office paid a visit to Maryland in August to watch the procedures of the Maryland medical detachment led by Col. John Gladden. “It validates what we want to do in Connecticut,” explains Kelley.

Not just in Maryland or Connecticut, but the entire Army recently came out with a change to the policy regarding physicals. In the past, according to Gladden, personnel were required to have an official military physical exam every five years. Under the new policy, all Soldiers are required to conduct a PHA every year, replacing the old five-year physical program. This new policy creates quite a quandary for the National Guard because of the part-time nature of the force and this new time-consuming process.

According to Gladden, Maryland did not wait until the fielding date a few months away. Preparation was the key to success, said Gladden. Maryland began training their doctors and support staff immediately and started procuring the necessary equipment. Implementation began in November 2006 and all expected goals have been met.

“We are meeting projections of two

hundred per drill day and four hundred per weekend,” Gladden said describing the number of Soldiers that are put through this PHA process, including stations such as patient administration, labs, dental and vision.

The medical detachment even put about 1,300 Soldiers from the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team through the PHA process on short notice during a 12-day train up period prior to mobilizing for Iraq.

One of the other keys to success lies in the staff support of the program and the unit coordination. “Without the support of Lt. Col. Flasch and the [Directorate of Information Management] as well as Lt. Col. McCabe and the facilities folks, we would not be able to do what we do,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth McGill the operations Non-Commissioned Officer for the Maryland Medical Detachment. In addition to coordination with various staff sections, an important part of the process is getting the word out to the units and unit commanders, even making it mandatory for unit yearly training calendars and promotion packets, according to McGill.

The overall intent of this new program is being met. “It allows us to track chronic conditions. Prevention. We can identify problems early. Five years can be drastic. This way we are able to counsel,” said Gladden as he sums up the positive results of all the hard work done by all.

Prepare for Severe Weather Season



Photo courtesy of the National Weather Service

Many of the employees of the Maryland Military Department are classified as “Mission Essential,” which means that during an emergency, they could be summoned to duty to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Maryland. As we are approaching the Severe Weather season, it is important for all employees regardless of classification to prepare for the threats posed by severe storms. The MD MILDEP Digest offers the following information to assist in the preparation for such storms.

Spring is the beginning of Severe Weather Season for the Mid-Atlantic States with the threat of weather events such as thunderstorms, floods and tornadoes.

Now is the time to make plans and prepare for these events, which can occur at any time.

THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

About 2,000 thunderstorms are in progress around the world at any given moment with lightning striking about 100 times every second. And yes, lightning can, and does, strike twice! Each year lightning kills 80 - 100 people and injures hundreds more in the United States.

Thunderstorms and lightning are very common for Maryland. Here's what you can do to protect yourself:

Continued on page 15

THE LECTERN

By Chaplain (Col.) Sean Lee

To paraphrase Charles Dickens, 'Life is a series of greetings and partings; that is the way of it.' While this is true, simply understanding the fact does not remove the pain associated with changing relationships. We are currently facing the largest single demobilization of Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers since World War II. A key element of this de-mobilization is the normal stress of adjustment that comes from any lengthy separation and reunion, now compounded by the effects of separation due to a military deployment to a combat area. The good news is that the Maryland National Guard has an excellent plan to support soldiers and their loved ones through the process of de-mobilization and reintegration. A variety of events, activities, and referral sources will be utilized in

the attempt to ensure that every Soldier and family successfully navigates the journey of returning home.

Unit Chaplains, a soldier's own clergy, the Maryland National Guard full-time Chaplain, and 'Partners in Care' Clergy and congregations are all part of the support network that will be available for returning soldiers and their families. The spiritual component of re-integration is a vital component of support. Supportive services include religious services, rituals and materials; spiritual care and counsel; referrals to other resources for help; and 'Strong Bonds' events such as Marriage Enrichment Retreats and other relationship support opportunities.

Communities across Maryland will step-up to offer support through participating 'Partner in Care' congrega-

tions; soldiers and their families will contact their own Clergy and congregations; Unit Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants will aide in the transition home for our returning warriors; and the full-time Chaplain will remain available for support and referrals.

During World War II, General George C. Marshall said, 'It is a soldier's spirit that sustains him in battle.' The same can be said of the Soldier returning from battle. Be assured that the Maryland National Guard, it's Chaplains, and 'Partners in Care' congregations across Maryland will be there as long as necessary to help Soldiers and families re-unite and successfully come home again.

State Employees Capture Top Awards

Story by Quentin W. Banks, Jr.,
MDMILDEP Public Affairs

Photos by Spc. Elizabeth Jones, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office



Mr. J. Carver Strube

Ms. Linda Strack of the MDMILDEP Legislative Liaison Office and Mr. J. Carver Strube, with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) captured top honors at the 2007 State Employee Recognition and Award

Ceremony on Dec. 7. The event was held at the Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md.

Strack, who serves as an Administrative Assistant in her office, received the Adjutant General's Award for Excellence and was cited for her tireless devotion to her duties which include maintaining the Department's Congressional Inquiry Program. Her duties involve the receipt of inquiries and coordination of solutions to issues pertaining to the military members of the Department. It also involves drafting of responses to Members of Congress and the Governor of Maryland. In addition, she was credited for her volunteer work with the MDMILDEP Morale Committee where she serves as the committee's secretary. She received a glass trophy and a monetary prize of \$3,000.

Strube, who serves as the State Mitigation Officer, received the State's Innovative Idea Award and was credited by State Treasurer Nancy Kopp for developing the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Strube's hazard mitigation work was instrumental in convincing insurance company representatives who were in the process of setting



Ms. Linda Strack of the Maryland Military Department Legislative Liaison Office captured top honors at the 2007 State Employee Recognition and Award Ceremony on Dec. 7.

premiums for the state's catastrophic loss policy, to reduce the premium by almost \$1 million. His work saved the taxpayers a substantial sum of money while helping MEMA to assess and mitigate the vulnerability of state-owned facilities. He also received a glass trophy and a monetary prize of \$1,000.

In addition to Strack and Strube, 54 other state employees received recognition for Incentive Performance Awards or State Service Awards.



Maryland National Guard to Dedicate Fallen Warrior Memorial

Story by the Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office
 Sketches provided by The Construction and Facilities Management Office

On January 2, The Maryland Board of Public Works authorized the use of state land to erect a Fallen Warrior Memorial at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md. The official dedication is tentatively scheduled for Memorial Day 2008.

The memorial will pay tribute to all Maryland National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have given their lives in the Global War on Terror since September 11, 2001. It will be constructed near the Camp Fretterd Armory, adjacent to a grove of pine trees previously planted to honor Maryland National Guard service members called to active duty for Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

"The Fallen Warriors Memorial will serve as a lasting tribute to those Maryland National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have made the ultimate sacrifice," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "The men and women of the Maryland National Guard continue to selflessly and courageously serve at home and abroad, each and every day, fulfilling their mission in defense of our nation and service to our state. For those who deployed but will never return, this memorial is one small way of saying thank you for your service on behalf of a grateful state and nation."

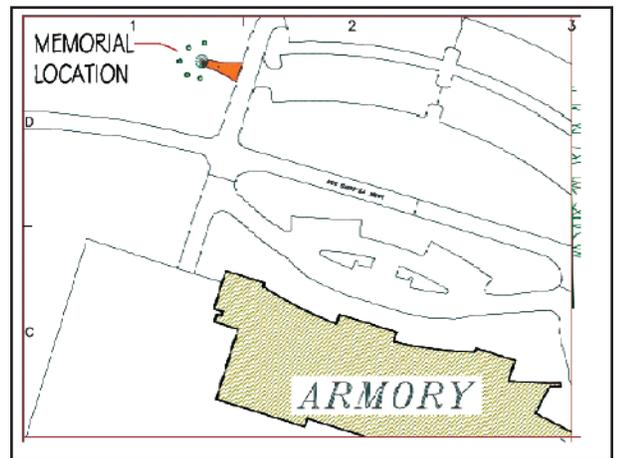
The proposed memorial will consist of a covered memorial structure; approximately 25 feet in diameter, with two vertical granite monuments in the center on which the names of the fallen service members will be placed. A bronze sculpture measuring 45 inches in height, representing the boots, helmet and weapon of

the Fallen Warrior, will be placed in front of the two granite monuments. The design of the memorial was completed by an in-house architect and draftsman with the Maryland National Guard.

"These most recent of Maryland's fallen heroes, like those who fell before them, served with great honor and distinction," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "The Fallen Warriors Memorial will forever pay homage to their sacrifice and serve as an ever-lasting reminder for all of us of their service in the name of freedom."

Seven members of the Maryland National Guard have fallen in the line of duty while serving in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The Memorial will serve as a sanctuary for families and loved ones to remember and honor these great heroes. Two weeks ago, the State of Maryland unveiled a special license plate honoring Maryland servicemen who have

made the ultimate sacrifice and the families who mourn them. Military Department operating funds



This sketch is a map of Camp Fretterd in Reisterstown where the memorial will be located.

will provide the lighting of the memorial, a sidewalk from the parking lot and a concrete slab on which the memorial will stand. All remaining elements of the memorial are being funded by private donations. It is estimated that the memorial will cost approximately \$40,000 to construct from donations and Military Department Special Funds. A trust has been established within the Maryland National Guard Foundation, Inc., a 501C(3) non-profit, for the long-term maintenance of the memorial



This sketch shows the tentative design of the memorial.

Prepare for Severe Weather Season

Continued from page 12

BEFORE A STORM

- Be aware of weather forecasts at all times.
- Invest in a NOAA Weather radio to receive severe weather alerts.
- Watch for signs of approaching storms.
- Keep a commercial battery-operated radio handy*.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely.

** While having both NOAA Weather Radio and a commercial battery-operated radio may seem redundant, both have different functions. A NOAA Weather Radio is designed to sound alerts and provide an audio warning from the National Weather Service. Commercial radios tuned into commercial stations can receive Emergency Alert System messages as well as news, bulletins and reports from state and local emergency management officials. There are radios available on the market, which perform both functions. These hybrid radios can be found at reputable electronic stores, and stores that sell outdoor and camping equipment as well as on-line.*

DURING A STORM

- **REMEMBER: IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER, YOU ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE STORM TO GET STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.** Get to shelter immediately!
- Get into a building or hardtop car. NEVER take shelter in small sheds (especially metal ones) or under trees.
- Get out of boats and away from water.
- Unplug appliances, avoid using the telephone.
- Do not bathe or shower.
- Get to higher ground if flash flooding is likely to occur from the storm.
- **If outdoors and shelter is not nearby....**
 - Find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles.
 - If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, you are about to be struck by lightning! Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible, and minimize your contact with the ground.

FLOODS

Flooding is a very common weather event that has caused some of Maryland's

worst disasters. From 1995-1996, Maryland had a number of major floods that resulted in two Presidential disaster declarations. The rules are simple where flooding is concerned: make sure you're insured and head to higher ground.

There is no such thing as a "flood proof" area. ANY area can flood, even high ground. If you are faced with a flooding situation, here's what to do:

BEFORE A FLOOD

- Make sure your property insurance policy covers flooding. Even renters are eligible for flood insurance.
- Move furniture and valuables to higher floors as floodwater rise.
- Keep the car gas tank filled in case you need to evacuate.
- Prepare a disaster supply kit so that you can survive if you have to leave.
- Stay informed about weather conditions. Flash flooding can occur in only minutes!

AFTER A FLOOD

- Do not eat or drink anything that has come into contact with floodwater. Follow emergency officials' instructions on safe water consumption. You may have to boil your water.
- Clean and have electrical equipment checked before using.
- Report broken utilities to the proper authorities.
- NEVER play around high water, storm drains, downed utility lines, etc.
- Use flashlights, not an open flame like a candle. Candles are a fire hazard and could cause an explosion if it comes into contact with flammable gases if flammable gasses are present.
- Flooding often forces snakes and other wild animals out of their homes seeking higher ground. Avoid killing these animals, as rodents will be attracted to the carcasses.
- Do not drive through flooded roadways. The road may not be there.
- Follow the instructions given by emergency officials. If told to evacuate, do so!
- Remember, floodwaters sometimes take days to rise after the stormy weather has passed and the sun is shining. It can take days for floodwaters to make their way downstream. Don't underestimate



Photo courtesy of the National Weather Service

the power and speed of floodwaters.

TORNADOES

Tornadoes can happen any time, anywhere. In Maryland, the most common time of year for tornadoes is April through November, and most occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. Some tornadoes can have winds of 200 miles per hour or more and can destroy everything in their path.

It is very important to be familiar with the terms involved:

Σ A *Tornado Watch* means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to occur. Continue to watch television or listen to the radio to see if there's anything to worry about.

Σ A *Tornado Warning* means a tornado has been spotted or detected on weather radar and could be coming your way.

Here's what to do if you see a tornado or are under a tornado warning:

- Get indoors.
- Go to a basement or interior room or hallway with no windows (to protect you from flying glass).
- If you can't get inside, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.

Follow all instructions given by emergency officials when a tornado threatens or strikes.

For more information, visit www.mema.state.md.us.

Prepare a **disaster supply kit** for your home. Prepare a smaller version for your office or vehicle. The supplies should be kept in an airtight bag to prevent damage or spoilage. If you must evacuate, the supplies should be placed in an easy to carry container such as a duffel bag, a camping backpack, a cargo container that will fit on

Prepare for Severe Weather Season

the roof of your vehicle. It should at least contain the following items.

- A portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and first aid instruction manual
- Supply of prescription medicines
- Credit card and cash
- Personal identification
- An extra set of car keys
- Matches in a waterproof containers
- Signal flare
- Map of the area and phone numbers of the places you could go
- Special needs, for example, diapers or formula, copies of prescriptions, hearing aid batteries, spare wheelchair battery, spare eyeglasses and other special needs.
- Make plans to care for your pets and or livestock... unless the animal is a seeing-eye dog, shelter officials will not permit them to enter shelters.
- Depending upon the space available and the time to accumulate them, consider adding the following to the disaster supply kit;
 - Non-perishable food and water... enough for at least three days
 - Kitchen accessories such as a manual

- can opener, mess kits, paper plates, disposable utensils, a can of cooking fuel (if food must be cooked), aluminum foil, bleach to treat drinking water and plastic reseal able bags.
- Complete change of clothing and footwear for each member of the family, which may include raingear, sturdy shoes, thermal underwear, hat and gloves, and sunglasses.
- Blankets or sleeping bags for each member of the family
- Tools and other accessories such as a small shovel, paper and pencil, needle and thread, tape whistle, plastic sheeting,
- Sanitation and hygiene needs such as toilet paper, towelets, soap, hand sanitizers, liquid detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, comb and brush, heavy-duty garbage bags and ties and disinfectant.
- Entertainment materials such as books and games.



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Maryland National Guard Family Readiness Office
410-576-6019

Department of Information Management Help Desk
410-702-9600

Maryland National Guard Chaplain's Office
410-576-6124

Red Cross
Central Maryland Chapter, Baltimore
1-888-737-4306
Southern Maryland Chapter, La Plata
301-934-2066
Lower Shore Chapter, Salisbury
410-749-5331
Frederick County Chapter, Walkersville
301-662-5131

Maryland Poison Control
1-800-222-1222

Websites

Maryland Government Website
www.maryland.gov

Maryland Military Department Website
www.mdmildep.org

Maryland Emergency Management Agency
www.mema.state.md.us

Maryland State Employee Central Payroll Bureau
compnet.comp.state.md.us