

# Helio graph

123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Fall 2003



## 259th Engineers making most of assignment at Ft. Huachuca

story by Staff Sgt. Tim Watts

Anyone who has worked with Army engineers knows these soldiers can build just about anything. The 259<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company of the Arizona National Guard is building a solid reputation at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

The 259<sup>th</sup> was ordered to federal active duty May 20<sup>th</sup> for a period up to one year in support of Operation Noble Eagle, which involves U.S. military operations in homeland defense and civil support to federal, state and local agencies nationwide. The 259<sup>th</sup> is headquartered in Phoenix, with a detachment located at Camp Navajo in Northern Arizona.

The main mission of the 259<sup>th</sup> is to provide force protection and installation security at Fort Huachuca,

(see "259<sup>th</sup>" on page 5)

## Joint Staff to centralize Army/Air combined abilities

story by Staff Sgt. Tim Watts

The Arizona National Guard conducted a major reorganization on February 1, 2003 creating a new Joint Headquarters based on the National Guard Bureau Future State Command Plan model.

"The purpose of this reorganization is to more effectively accomplish Joint Army and Air National Guard functions within Arizona," said Brig. Gen. Bruce R. Bodin, Assistant Adjutant General, Arizona National Guard Joint Headquarters. "Additionally, the joint headquarters will centralize the joint efforts of Homeland Security, Military Support to Civil Authorities, and the Command and Control of Homeland Security Forces under a single headquarters and a Joint Task Force Commander.

"We got a really good jump on the joint concept here in Arizona," said Bodin. "Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak, the Adjutant General, had observed

the joint efficiencies at the Guard Bureau and Department of Defense level." As a result, Arizona became a test state for early implementation of the Joint Headquarters element.

The Adjutant General's Command Plan 04 establishes the Joint Headquarters along with separate Army and Air Headquarters, along with guidance for the effective transition to the Joint State Headquarters.

"Army and Air will eventually become force providers under one Joint Headquarters," Bodin said.

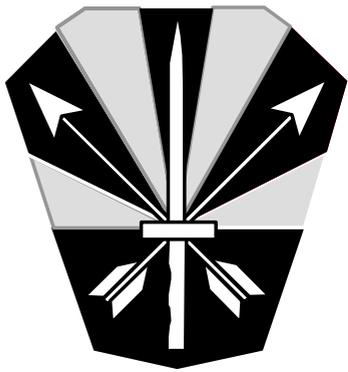
The plan currently has interim operational capability with full operational capability expected to be achieved by October 2006.

"By combining the joint Army and Air brainpower and experience at the war planning level," Bodin said, "we will gain the efficiencies of both components to maximize our effectiveness. We'll be better able to support Arizona and improve homeland security."

A Joint Forces Headquarters Exercise (JFHEX) is scheduled in October 2003 to assess the readiness level of the Joint Headquarters.

The Adjutant General has directed that the Joint Headquarters develop a plan for the Continuity of State Government in the event of an emergency resulting from disaster caused by enemy attack, such as a Weapons of Mass Destruction event in Arizona. This comprehensive plan will ensure the protection of public officials of the branches of state government, the property essential to the administration of government, and the ability to continue essential services for the duration of the emergency.

"The JFHEX will test what we've done so far, to see if our staff has done its homework well," Bodin said. "I fully expect that they have."



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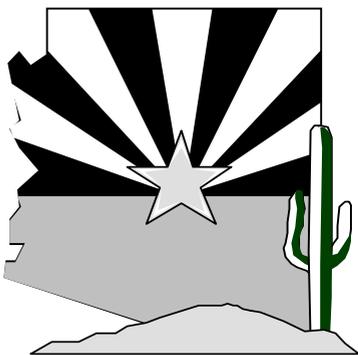
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# Cartoonist Career Started with Arizona Guard

story by Sgt. Thomas Quigg

Bill Mauldin, famed WW II cartoonist, first enlisted in the United States Army in Arizona as a private in Company D, 120<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Regiment, Inactive National Guard, according to official records.

Lauded as one of the top editorial cartoonists in this century, Mauldin's poignant pen and inks of soldiers "Willie and Joe" was his most enduring legacy. The Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist died in January 2003 in California at the age of 81.

His drawings communicated to soldiers engaged in war and to the families back home, the irony of life in the Army.

Mauldin was born on October 29, 1921, in Mountain Park, New Mexico. His family moved to the Phoenix area while he was a boy. He attended Phoenix Union High School, enrolled in ROTC and graduated as a Cadet Corporal on June 2, 1939, with the Infantry branch. He had already begun his civilian career as an artist but his Army occupation was a truck driver.

He first started drawing cartoons for the 45<sup>th</sup> Division News while training in the U.S. and became a full time cartoonist a year later for *Stars and Stripes* while taking part in the Sicily and Italy invasions.

On September 12, 1940, Mauldin enlisted in the Arizona National Guard and was placed on active duty on September 16, 1940, as a private in the 45<sup>th</sup>



Bill Mauldin

©Stars and Stripes

*"I need a couple guys what don't owe me no money for a little routine patrol."*

Division. Upon return to the United States, he actively served in the Arizona National Guard from June 25, 1945, to January 30, 1946.

Many of Mauldin's WWII original cartoons are owned by, and on display at, the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City, OK.

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# High Tech Recruiting with *Guard Force*

story by Spc. Crystal Reidy

*Guard Force*, the Army National Guard computer game is the latest marketing tool used to recruit new soldiers into the National Guard and is only available from your local recruiter. *Guard Force* made its debut December 18, 2002 and has been gaining popularity ever since.

The National Guard website describes their new game as “a real-time strategy game utilizing today’s modern military units including M1A1 Tanks and M2 Bradleys.” “*Guard Force*’ lets each player choose one of six unique National Guard

missions. “*Guard Force* simulates basic natural disasters and things pertaining to the Guard,” says Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class James L. Denton of the marketing office.

The purpose of the game is to target younger, computer-oriented recruits. The game is rated “T” which means it is intended for children thirteen and above. *Guard Force* is different from the highly successful Army game, *America’s Army*, which is available online. *Guard Force* requires a CD. Staff Sgt. Daniel Pero, a recruiter, explains, “Eighty

percent of households have computers. By offering the game on a CD-ROM, we will actually impact more recruits”.

The hope of the National Guard is that a potential recruit will see the game, want it for themselves and, by not being able to download it, they will have to spend face-to-face time with a recruiter. This improves the chances for them to enlist.

“The cost is \$4.50 a piece due to licensing so we have to make each one count,” says Denton.



“*Guard Force*” challenges players in scenarios ranging from (left to right) natural disaster operations, protecting a village and constructing a snowy, alpine base.

## It’s All About Teamwork

story and photos by Sgt. Thomas Quigg

The mainstay of the Army is teamwork and this concept is constantly stressed during initial artillery training at the Arizona Regional Training Institute (RTI), Phoenix, Ariz.

“There is no better opportunity to learn teamwork than in the RTI Cannon Crewmember course,” said Staff Sgt. Scott M. Flint, an instructor in the course.

“There is no second opportunity to ‘get it right,’” said Scott. Whether you are firing in a conflict, or on the firing range at Florence, Ariz., you have to pay attention and know your job.

“The M198 Howitzer requires nine soldiers to operate,” says Flint. “Each man has a specific duty that must be done with speed and extreme detail if the round is to be useful in the battle.”

Teamwork and training are the keys to preparing the correct amount of powder, pulling the correct rounds, loading the barrel, fixing the longitude and latitude, then firing, all within seconds. According to Flint, a crew ready for battle can fire three rounds per minute.

“The ‘number 1’ man is usually the



Soldiers check readings on their M198 towed howitzer during training at the 158th RTI. (inset) Staff Sgt. Scott M. Flint, instructor at the 158th RTI, explains the importance of teamwork as it relates to a howitzer crew.

youngest on the team and has to do the most amount of physical labor,” says Flint.

Teamwork is a “buzz word” in the military, but when it comes to firing, moving and maintaining the howitzer, it is

the only way to accomplish the mission.

“Without every man on this team, the mission would be degraded; but with every soldier doing their job, there is no match to the Army’s Artillery,” declared Flint.



COL (ret) Earl Hopper pushed by CPL Clayton Waddell during the Bushmaster Field Dedication Ceremony.



SFC (ret) James R. Webb and CSM (ret) Tony G. Zapata accept the flags on behalf of the Bushmasters. The flags will be displayed in the Arizona National Guard headquarters rotunda. Pictured from left to right: CW2 Reaid Leonard, SFC (ret) James R. Webb, SGT Cliff Hill (behind Japanese flag), SGT Richard Gusman, CSM (ret) Tony G. Zapata, COL Larry Triphahn.

## Arizona National Guard honors Bushmasters in dedication ceremony

story by Judy Kioski, State Public Affairs Office

photos by Staff Sgt. Tim Watts

The Arizona National Guard honored the Bushmasters of World War II in a ceremony dedicating the multi-use athletic and parade field at the Papago Park Military Reservation, Phoenix, Ariz., on September 16, 2003, the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of their mobilization in preparation for combat in World War II.

On September 16, 1940, in response to the declaration of a National Emergency, the 158<sup>th</sup> National Guard Regiment was called to active duty. They trained for 15 months prior to being sent to the Panama Canal. The 158<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regimental Combat Team (RCT) became famous for jungle fighting skills they acquired in Panama and the Regiment took their name from the deadly bushmaster snake found there. The name "Bushmasters" became well known and General Douglas MacArthur personally selected them for his command.

"No greater fighting combat team than the 158<sup>th</sup>

RCT has ever deployed for battle," said MacArthur.

The 158<sup>th</sup> RCT were continuously in a combat zone longer than any National Guard unit. They were on active duty almost 5 ½ years and deactivated on 17 January 1946.

Colonel Larry Triphahn, Chief of Staff of the Arizona Army National Guard, was the presiding officer for the ceremony. He spoke about the history of the unit and presented two flags to the Bushmasters, a unit guidon and a Japanese flag. The flags will be displayed in the Rotunda at the Arizona National Guard headquarters.

"Today's National Guard is combat ready," said Brig. Gen. (ret.) James R. Stallings, guest speaker, and one of the Bushmasters mobilized 63 years ago. "The time spent preparing in the mobilization station is significantly less than the 15 months we trained for battle," said Stallings.

Bushmaster Field was recently constructed for the Arizona Army and Air National Guard units. The future plans for the site include ramadas named after several of the significant battles fought by the Bushmasters.

Following the ceremony, the Bushmasters enjoyed refreshments at the dining facility at the Regimental Training Institute (RTI). The events concluded at the Arizona Military Museum with the Bushmasters viewing museum displays and the Bushmaster room.

The Bushmaster Field Dedication was one of the activities during the Bushmaster Association Convention recently held at the Mesa Hilton. The Arizona National Guard 108<sup>th</sup> Army Band and the Arizona Army National Guard Honor Platoon participated in the memorial service for the Bushmasters at the Hilton.



The new electronic score board at PPMR overlooking Bushmaster Field.



Members of the 158th Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 'The Bushmasters', attend the dedication ceremony of the athletic field at Papago Park Military Reservation.

## 259th-continued from cover

a mission they took over from a departing Arkansas National Guard unit on June 10, 2003.

“From June 10 through Aug. 31, the 259<sup>th</sup> has searched 18,594 vehicles, detained 216 undocumented immigrants (UDI’s), assisted in 12 arrests, and found illegal drugs in five vehicles, said Capt. Tom Wells, 259<sup>th</sup> commander.

In August, alone 259<sup>th</sup> soldiers searched 6,710 vehicles, detained 58 UDI’s, assisted in three arrests, and found drugs once and weapons four times. They also denied access to the installation 36 times for lack of insurance, 25 times for expired registration, and 12 times for lack of proper identification. The unit screens approximately 10,000 vehicles and 15,000 people daily at the three gates.

“We’ve got a good group of people here,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Quinn, 35, the Sergeant of the Guard (SOG) for one of the three shifts of gate guards. He lives in Phoenix, but lived much of his youth on post at Fort Huachuca. “We’ve got a lot of different people from different backgrounds and we’ve blended well on this deployment.”

Quinn says one of the most rewarding things about access control at the gates is making people happy.

“Just smiling at the people in their vehicles helps a lot,” he said. “Most of them will smile right back at you. It’s not unusual for people coming on post to give cookies and doughnuts to the gate guards and tell us they appreciate what we’re doing.”

He says the 259<sup>th</sup> soldiers got even more from the Fort Huachuca community on September 11. “We got a lot of comments and compliments that day,” said Quinn. “A lot of people said ‘Thank You’ and ‘God Bless You.’”

“This deployment has been a great opportunity for us to accomplish tasks and goals we wouldn’t have been able to do on drill weekends,” said Wells. In addition to force protection and installation security, the soldiers of the 259<sup>th</sup> have stayed busy in other areas. “We’ll be 100% MOS-qualified by the time we leave here.”

Other training accomplished by the 259<sup>th</sup> has included enlisted and officer professional development courses, the Equal Opportunity Representative Course, DA Law Enforcement course, Combat Lifesaver, Riot Control, Pressure Point training, National Guard Bureau Defensive Driving training, Suicide Prevention, and Consideration of Others.

Unit members have completed 225 hours of Army correspondence subcourses, Wells said. An additional 19 members of the 259<sup>th</sup> are currently enrolled in local colleges, taking a total of 114 credit hours.

These Guardsmen are currently on a six-

days-on, three-days-off schedule. Physical training is conducted daily during that six-day on period.

“Our pass rate on the APFT is 85 per cent now, and climbing,” Wells said. “We have a 100% qualification rate on the M-16, too.”

The normal mission of the 259<sup>th</sup> involves quarry and asphalt work in the Construction Service Support area, and the unit has gotten involved in several work projects. One such project involved removing 1,800 linear feet of asphalt roads at the old entrance to the post golf course so the desert can reclaim that area.

Another desert reclamation project the 259<sup>th</sup> recently started involves 3.2 miles of roads in the old Splinter Village area, removing the old asphalt roads, building foundations, and sports courts.

Another project of the 259<sup>th</sup> involves removing 3,800 linear feet of asphalt roads in the Chapel Village section of the post, an area

*During the Labor Day Weekend, over a dozen families of the 259<sup>th</sup> traveled to Fort Huachuca and camped out in Lower Garden Canyon, where they were able to spend some time with their loved ones.*

that may be developed in the future.

Off post, the 259<sup>th</sup> is planning to pave the motor pool area of the Douglas detachment of the 2222<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, Ariz. National Guard.

“By the end of our deployment, we’ll have saved Fort Huachuca almost a million dollars in construction work,” Wells said.

In March of 2004, the 259<sup>th</sup> will field a Crushing, Screening, Washing Plant in Florence, Ariz., working with the 257<sup>th</sup> and 258<sup>th</sup> Engineer companies.

“It’s a huge rock crusher,” Wells said. “It can process 150 tons of rock per hour. The fielding will take three weeks, and will be a big undertaking. Only six National Guard units in the country have this piece of equipment.”

The 259<sup>th</sup> soldiers have also worked during their off time, building an activity room in an existing day room in their barracks. They named it the “DMZ,” for Demilitarized Zone. “It’s for the enlisted soldiers, built by them, and you can’t talk business in there,” Wells said. “A few of them started talking about football season, so they bought some lumber and built a U-shaped counter. From Post MWR and Post

Property they managed to get tables and chairs, a TV, pool table, you name it. They’ve donated their time and labor and made this activity room a great place for use during their off hours.”

Spc. David Murrieta, a K-5 art teacher in Phoenix in civilian life, painted National Football League helmets throughout the DMZ, adding atmosphere to an already well-appointed activity room. The DMZ was officially opened Sep. 16.

On the home front, Wells praised Kimberly Couch, the 259<sup>th</sup>’s Family Readiness Group (FRG) coordinator. “She’s done one heck of a job. Our soldiers have gotten great support from their families, and Kimberly has been a big part of that,” he said. During the Labor Day Weekend, over a dozen of the 259<sup>th</sup>’s families traveled to Fort Huachuca and camped out in Lower Garden Canyon, where they were able to spend some time with their loved ones. “Kimberly and the FRG are planning another camping outing the last weekend of September,” said Wells.

Five members of the 259<sup>th</sup> have managed to squeeze an “additional duty” into their deployment at Fort Huachuca. They support Troop B, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry (Memorial) on the post, which represents the history of the U.S. Army’s participation in the Indian Wars of the Southwest. Troop B participates in military ceremonies, parades, and mounted cavalry tactics demonstrations across Arizona and the nation. Members of Troop B are volunteers and wear authentic uniforms and tack representative of the U.S. Army in the 1880’s.

Troop B members from the 259<sup>th</sup> include Chief Warrant Officer James Basore, Sgt. Margarito Bejarano, Sgt. David Roush, Sgt. Steven Barnard, and Wells. They form K/L Battery, the gun crew for a 12-inch mountain howitzer, and have already appeared with Troop B at old Fort Bowie and other events.

“We ride bareback, in saddles without stirrups, that kind of thing,” said Wells, currently in riding school one evening per week with other volunteers who are working to become cavalry troopers. Wells says he had little horse riding experience before this deployment. “I’m doing my best to make it to a trooper.”

“We have good NCO’s, good leaders, and good training opportunities,” Wells said in answer to how has the 259<sup>th</sup> managed to accomplish so much already during its deployment. “Engineer units are some of the most versatile units in the Army anyway. But most National Guard units are versatile. We bring all kinds of professions and backgrounds together in a unit where the average age is probably ten years older than in an active component unit. That experience and maturity adds to our diversity and abilities.”

The 259<sup>th</sup> was last on active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm from December 1990 to May 1991.

# Character Counts! You Bet It Does

Story by Major Eileen Bienz, State PAO

On Sunday, August 24, *The Arizona Republic* Columnist E.J. Montini wrote another column in the Sunday paper and the headline reads *Time to re-deploy our appreciation.*

Montini said, "We asked them for a year of their lives. We asked them to leave their families and go to a country where the temperature is even hotter than here, where there are no swimming pools, shopping malls or air-conditioned offices. . . We asked them to do their jobs month after month, knowing that among the people they had gone to help are some who would like to kill them. . .

"We asked them to go, and they went," Montini said. "The Arizona National Guard's Family Assistance Center puts together packages to mail to service people in remote locations. Among the things soldiers ask for are batteries, phone cards, foot powder and drink mixes. The packages themselves cost \$20 to mail, which can be tough on families already struggling to get by on an income that doesn't match as a civilian what the soldier was making as a civilian."

One person who read his article is Renae Snyder, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at Carol Rae Elementary School in Gilbert, Arizona. She is also responsible for the student council.

Snyder called late one afternoon to say that she and her students really wanted to help and that they were inspired by Montini's article.

Snyder and her students discussed the article and made a decision to help. During the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>, they decided to do something positive to make a difference in the community by reaching out to the deployed members of the Arizona Army and Air National Guard.

The motto of their project was, "Character Counts! Trait of Citizenship."

First, from Sept 8-19, they had an "item drive" collecting items for the care packages to ship over to deployed Guardsmen and women. By the end of the drive, more than 20 large boxes were packed with powdered drinks, beef jerky, trail mix, canned fruit, hard candy, gum, assorted batteries, lip balm, eye drops, sunscreen, foot powder, bug spray, cotton tube socks, writing paper, laundry soap and disposable cameras. The items were picked up by 2nd Lieutenant Mario Mercado and 2nd Lieutenant Damon Juarez on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and taken to the Family Assistance Center in Glendale for packaging and shipping to the troops by the Family Readiness Groups.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Arizona National Guard Lieu-



**SHOW YOUR COLORS!** Carol Rae Elementary students don their red, white and blue as they get ready to raise the flag with the Arizona National Guard on September 11, 2003 (photo by Brylee Frazier, 6th Grader)



**WHERE'S YOUR HALLPASS?** Guardsmen (left to right) 2nd Lt. John Droule, 2nd Lt. Edwin Longwell, 2nd Lt. Damon Juarez and 2nd Lt. Mario Mercado flank Ms. Renae Snyder after posting the colors on September 11, 2003, at Carol Rai Elementary School. (photo by Brylee Frazier, 6th Grade)

tenants Damon Juarez, Mario Mercado, Edwin Longwell and John DeRoule went out to Carol Rae Elementary to present the colors as the student orchestra played the National Anthem. They walked to every classroom in the school talking with students from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Student Council used \$200 from their fund to purchase patriotic items, including erasers, key chains, magnets, beads, bracelets, flags and red, white and blue ribbons. Items were sold at lunchtime to students for 50 cents. They also sold firecracker Popsicles, and baked, decorated and sold patriotic cookies.

Altogether, the students raised \$1,456.47 which they donated to the National Guard to help defray the costs to ship care packages of Guardsmen deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations overseas.

In addition to the donations of collected items and

the \$1,456.47, students also wrote colorfully decorated letters to be included in the care packages with the hopes of establishing pen pals, new friendships and through their actions, showing excellent citizenship.

By unanimous consent, everyone in the Arizona National Guard who has heard this story truly believes these outstanding young men and women met and exceeded their objective — Character Counts! Trait of Citizenship.

We think it would be a great idea to drop these students a thank you note for their kindness. This publication goes out to more than 4,000 families of our Arizona Army National Guard soldiers. So, if you would like to say thank you, please drop a thank you note to: Ms. Renae Snyder's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class, Carol Rae Ranch Elementary School, 3777 E. Houston Ave, Gilbert AZ 85234.

# 158th Regiment Brings Past to Present

story by Brig. Gen. Richard G. Maxon

In the latter half of 1940, while much of the rest of the world was at war, the United States began mobilizing its National Guard units from across the country. Officially, neutral, the United States began to prepare itself for the possibility of war. One of the units that was called to duty was the Arizona Army National Guard 158<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, the “Bushmasters”. This unit served with distinction in the Pacific Theater and earned the highest praises of the senior military leadership.

Many of the Arizona Guardsmen called to duty served for the duration of the war and spent several years away from their home, families and jobs. Needless to say, some of them never returned. For these great soldiers we are forever indebted. Their sacrifices are legend and we are honored to serve in the same organization that produced such a fine combat unit so many years ago. On September 16, the Arizona National Guard paid tribute to these men. In a morning ceremony our new parade field/softball field was officially dedicated as “Bushmaster Field”. In many ways, naming our field for this unit is a small token of our gratitude. It is, however, one way in which we can perpetuate the memory of those soldiers who came before us, setting aside their personal lives for their country. They truly are great Americans.

Once again we are a nation at war. It is a different kind of war, however. In past wars the enemy was more clearly identified. The battlefield was a little more clearly defined. The objective, however, is the same today as it always has been in the past; to defeat the enemy decisively. This we will do. It won't be quick and it won't be easy, but it will be done. Our National Guard has a crucial role in this Global War on Terrorism. Our units are aggressively engaged around the world. We have been given new duties in defending our own country here at home. We have been called on time and again and we have always completed our assigned mission in the most professional manner. This is the grand tradition of the National Guard.

Recently it was announced that the rotation policy for reserve component units currently deployed in Iraq would extend to up to one year in country. This is in addition to the time it took to mobilize and will take to demobilize the unit. No doubt this news led to a lot of disappointment for those who are looking for a speedy return of our units. Future deployments may follow a similar timeline. This prospect causes additional concerns for members of the Army reserve component family. We are all aware that President Bush declared the

*“In past wars the enemy was more clearly identified. The battlefield was a little more clearly defined. The objective, however, is the same today as it always has been in the past; to defeat the enemy decisively.”*

end of major combat operations last May. Some of us may be tempted to ask “why aren't our troops headed home yet?” The answer is simply this; the mission is not yet done. Unlike Desert Storm where the objective of removing the Iraqis from Kuwait was very limited, Operation Iraqi Freedom is much broader in scope.

The mission we now have before us is to rebuild Iraq into a modern democracy. This is much more involved than simply defeating the Iraqi military.



Brig. Gen. Richard G. Maxon

We are rebuilding a nation that was severely abused by the now defeated regime. At the same time, we are working to dismantle the terrorist networks that are threatening us here at home, on our own territory. This endeavor is a marathon, not a sprint. It will take time but we will win. There is no other option.

Our soldiers are not so different from the Bushmasters of sixty years ago. They all had dreams for their families and their futures. They were asked to set those plans aside and engage in the noble cause of defending our freedoms for future generations. For that we are grateful. Our soldiers today are equally dedicated in preserving our way of life. Called upon to perform some of the most heroic tasks ever asked of our citizens, they have performed magnificently. Those soldiers currently deployed, as well as those who are yet to be called, carry with them the honor and traditions of the finest military organization in the greatest nation in the world. Staying the course will not be easy but it will be necessary. Future hardships can be expected but the rewards of victory will be tremendous. Thank you for your service.

**ATTENTION:  
MPs WANT  
YOU!!**

story by Sgt. Thomas Quigg

The Arizona National Guard has a new unit, the 860th Military Police Company, which is being activated in Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz.

The 860<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, a former correctional custody unit, is being reactivated as a 182 soldier combat support unit. The company is recruiting soldiers for the 31B (formerly 95B) military occupation specialty

(MOS) career field. There will be slots for soldiers from new recruits to captain with reclass MOS schools available every month beginning Oct 03. In addition to 31Bs, there is a need for other MOSs such as medics, communications, maintenance, supply, etc. For more information, contact your unit training/readiness NCO or Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Terry L. Forbus at 602-267-2773.

# Who Packs Your Parachute?

by Chaplain (LTC) Daniel Butler

**CHALLENGE FOR TODAY:** We all need help from someone, for no person is able to make it through life without a good support system. Read this true story.

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison. He survived that ordeal and now lectures about lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!”

“I packed your parachute,” the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, “I guess it worked!” Plumb assured

him, “It sure did. If your ‘chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform, a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back and bell bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said good morning, how are you or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.”

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn’t know. Now, Plumb asks his audience, ‘Who’s packing your parachute?’ Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he

needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory. He needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute.

I wonder who is helping you today? It may be a person who passes you everyday, but you never acknowledge them. It may be an individual that is some distance from you, but with distance comes ingratitude. I believe it is time for each of us to look around us and give those who help make us successful and word of thanks, a hug out of gratitude or some recognition for work well done.

It is always comforting to know that there is One who is our ultimate “parachute packer.” God is always there to come to our aid. Maybe it is time we offer our thanks to Him for all His assistance in our life.

## Arizona Army National Guard Units

### Currently Deployed

363rd EOD Company, Casa Grande

258th RAOC, Glendale

1404th Trans Co., Show Low / Bellemont

Det 1, Co D, 140th AVIM, Phoenix

1/180th FA Battalion, Phoenix / Tucson

356th Signal Company, Phoenix

855th Military Police Company, Phoenix /  
Yuma

2222th Trans Co., Tucson / Nogales / Douglas

2220th Trans Co., Flagstaff / Prescott

Company G, 285th Aviation Reg., Phoenix

259th Engineers, Phoenix,

### Returned Unit

D Company, 245th Aviation, Phoenix  
Company C, 111th ASMB, Glendale

# Heliograph



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