

Heliograph

123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Fall 2002

**A Busy Year for the
Arizona National Guard**





State Command Sergeant Major, Thomas E. Matthew, Retiring in September

Talking with Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Thomas E. Matthew, you begin to understand that the National Guard becomes a second family the longer you stay in. Coming to the end of his tenure as State Command Sergeant Major and preparing to retire after 35 years of service, CSM Matthew shares some final thoughts with the soldiers of the Arizona Army National Guard:



I have really appreciated the command's confidence. Being the State Command Sergeant Major has been an outstanding experience. It has had its frustrations, but it has been very rewarding. Talking with soldiers and showing them the way is really rewarding.

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Thomas E. Matthew

The most notable change I've seen over the years is the professionalism of the organization and the soldiers. In the 60s, 70s and 80s everyone looked down on us (the National Guard) as a necessary evil. In light of our involvement in world affairs, we have proven that we can match our skills, abilities and professionalism with anyone. Our training requirements have increased immensely.

answer why and then move on to the next task. Train as hard as you can and as intelligently as you can. Don't be afraid to step up and take charge when the leaders aren't around. Take the bull by the horns. If you do something wrong, it's a learning experience. Those who never do anything wrong are those who aren't doing anything.

I'm really proud of our soldiers and all they have accomplished and will accomplish.

I have enjoyed working with the soldiers and I'm very proud to be associated with the soldiers of the Arizona Army National Guard and to have been a part of their team.

My philosophy is there are going to be good days and bad days. Do what you can to make improvements. Don't stand in the corner of the armory with your buddy; go to your supervisors, let them work the problem and get an answer back. If it can't be fixed, you get an

We all wish Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Matthew good luck in his future endeavours and thank him for his dedicated service.

Heliograph

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Front Cover:

An 855th MP Co. HMMWV patrols a fire decimated area during the Rodeo-Chediski fire. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernie Paquette)

Back Cover:

Navajo County Sheriff Gary Butler and members of the 855th Military Police Company in Show Low, Ariz. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marty Hammonds)

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If you would like to submit stories, photographs, cartoon artwork or to make inquiries, e-mail us at Heliograph@az.ngb.army.mil Inquirers may also call 602.267.2879.

Rememberance, Action and Readiness: Arizona met the challenge

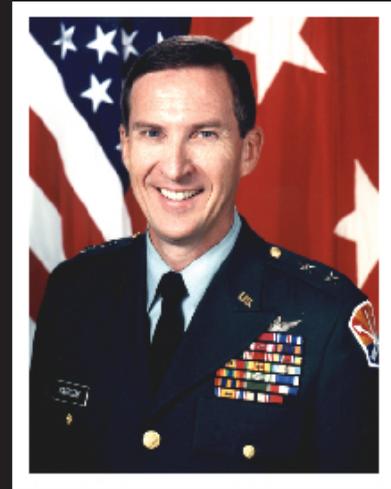
Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak, Adjutant General

September 11, 2001, is indelibly etched in every American's mind. Now and forever. This is the effect one of the most tragic events in our nations history has on humans. All of us who are old enough can still remember with clarity what we were doing the day President Kennedy was assassinated. This ability of the mind is both positive and negative. The negative reminds of the pain and suffering we felt at the loss of so many people, and how we reached out to the survivors and families of those killed in this attack. The positive is a feeling of coming together as a nation to re-build lives, re-look our priorities, and vow to do all we can as a nation to prevent these attacks from happening again.

As I look back on the last year, it is heartwarming to see how we have rallied as a country to bolster our security, look more favorably at our fellow citizen's, and see the resurgence of patriotism. My first few minutes after escaping the Pentagon that morning were a time of disbelief at what just happened, and the feeling of grief for the individuals who just lost their lives. I wondered who could perpetrate

such an unforgiving act on innocent citizens. This was so different, I thought, than what I experienced flying combat missions in Viet Nam. There, it was expected to be in harms way. Now, it was an act of war on unarmed Americans.

The response from all of you in the Arizona National Guard was overwhelming. Even before I could get a line to call home, all of you were preparing to volunteer and provide support wherever it was needed. Civilians were looking for support from their military, both physically and morally. They wanted to know that things would be O.K. and life would get back to normal. You were there to provide that support. We had unit members respond immediately. The 162nd FW and the 161st ARW went on alert, Bases and Armories went to the highest threatcon levels, Crisis Action teams went to work, our Guard and State Emergency Operations Centers were activated. It was a phenomenal performance from all members of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs. All of this was happening while I was in Washington D.C. To say that I am proud of every member of this Department would be an understatement.



A lot has transpired since that awful day. At one point, we had over 800 Guard men and women on duty performing Homeland security missions. Today, we still have personnel on duty, both at home and around the world, doing great work for their State and Nation.

Today, this country is busy establishing a "New normal" for our citizens. You are part of that process. We are headed in the right direction. The units of the Arizona National Guard are more ready now than they have been in recent history.

Thank you for what you do for our State and our Nation. Thanks to you and your families, our Country is stronger now than before September 11, 2001. You should be proud of what you have done. I know we will expect the same of you in the future.

God bless all of you.

For the latest information about the Arizona Army

Soldier Support Center

It's more than just IDs

Story by Sgts. Marc Martinez and Thomas Quigg

The Arizona Soldier Support Center is located on the northeast corner of McDowell and 52nd St., Phoenix, Ariz. The Support Center is known for making ID's and dogtags, but it is more than just that. The support center is a great resource for information regarding all benefits and entitlements to Guard members and their families.

Family Readiness Groups (FRG)

You've just been deployed and when you call home your spouse tells you, the car won't start, your child broke her arm, and the dog ran away. What are you going to do?

Luckily, you have the Family Readiness Group (FRG).

"The FRG is a family support

network through which families can mutually support the unit and each other, in times of crisis," said CW4 Jan Finney, State Family Readiness Coordinator. "The soldier's family member should be contacting their local Family Readiness Group, (FRG)".

A directive making unit commanders responsible for maintaining an FRG in their command established the FRG. "These groups are comprised of volunteers that have a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer along with membership and information coordinators," said Finney. They are tasked with developing family support networks through which families can support the unit and each other. Groups also provide information to families pertaining to benefits and entitlements both in inactive status and upon state or federal mobilization.

As addressed in the Family Readiness Handbook, the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak and his wife Cheryll write, "Be sure that your families and loved ones have the information that they need to actively support your involvement in the Arizona National Guard. With the increase in our missions, you will be called into service more often. That service will make a larger demand on your family and its quality of life. Encourage your family to become part of your units family activities including its Family Readiness Group".

The success of a Family Readiness Group is dependent on volunteers. If you or your family would like to be involved, please contact your unit liaison or Commander. For more information call the Family Readiness Office at 602-267-2593.

We are family

Story by Staff Sgt. Marty Hammonds

Anyone who has been in the National Guard for any amount of time knows the Guard is a family. During the June 19-July 11, 2002, activation of the Arizona National Guard to the Rodeo-Chediski fire, Spc. Brian L. Brown and his wife Suzanne J. Brown exemplified the phrase 'The Guard is Family.'

"This is our home and we are glad that we have the opportunity to be a part of this mission," said Brown. A truck driver with the 222nd Transportation Company, Show Low, AZ, Brown was one of 500 Guardsmen activated in support of the Rodeo-Chediski fire. While Brown worked in the Operations office in the Show Low armory, Suzanne, the operations manager for a local ice company,

scheduled and made deliveries to the various agencies and camps around the area.

"We are the only ice company distributing ice to all the fire fighters, the hot shots, the armory, the sheriff's department and cooking crews," says Suzanne. Other sites included Holbrook and the evacuee shelter in Eager. "We contracted with another company to bring up ice from Phoenix to help us out," said Suzanne. "Going to bed around midnight and up between 3 and 4 in the morning makes for some long days."

No matter how long the days, both Brown and his wife were upbeat and proud to serve their community. "It's a

lot better to be out here working than just sitting at a shelter doing nothing," said Suzanne.

"It's double duty in a way," said Brown. "Though I'm in uniform, this is my home and that makes it more urgent." As a former Navy seaman, separation is not unfamiliar to these two high school sweethearts, who celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary in August.

"With all the activity caused by the fire, we didn't get to see much of each other," said Suzanne. "I was lucky to see him five minutes in a day."

Brown says his previous military experience taught both of them trust. "We communicate a lot," said Brown. "She knows how to take care of herself and I trust her. We are just happy to be able to do something for the community."

It's all in the balance:

Firemen serving twice

Story by Spc. Crystal Reidy

Staff Sgt. Justin Bradovich, 3666th Maintenance Company and Sgt. Mike Godleski, Company C, 1/189th Aviation, balance two very heroic and stressful careers. They are full-time firemen and part-time Arizona Army National Guardsmen. Both men are firefighters for Sun City.

After September 11th, the brave actions of firemen came to the front of American minds. Bradovich said 9/11 reinforced how dangerous his job as a fireman and a National Guardsman can be. He also was reminded about how important his training is because you never know when you will be called upon to use it.

"I never thought about giving up being a fireman after 9/11," said Godleski. "Being a fireman is a lot like being in the Guard; I know it is dangerous but I am willing to make that sacrifice for public safety."

Bradovich is a Track Repairman who also performs other duties as a Technical Inspector. He inspects vehicles needing repairs as well as repairs already completed to insure quality work. Godleski is a Black Hawk helicopter crew chief. His job requires a lot of non-weekend guard time to keep up with flight requirements.

How do these men balance the two demanding careers? Godleski said he accomplishes this by, "dividing

his time equally with the Guard, fire fighting and family commitments." Bradovich says he could not do it without the support of the fire department.

"They're great about giving us time off for drill and annual training," said Bradovich. "Even though they have to pay other firemen time-and-a-half to cover our shifts, the department supports our commitment to the Guard."



Sgt. Mike Godleski repairs a UH-60 Black Hawk. (Photo by Sgt. Alex Gago)

Sun City's support of the Guard is why Bradovich is nominating his city for the National Guard Employment Award.

Bradovich and Godleski both said the best part of being a fire fighter and being in the Guard is the people you work with. "At the fire house you have a brotherhood among the firemen," says Godleski. "The same is true in the Guard."



Staff Sgt. Justin Bradovich inspects vehicle maintenance. (Photo by Sgt. Marc Martinez)



Staff Sgt. Justin Bradovich (left) and Sgt. Mike Godleski are firemen with the Sun City Fire Department. (Photo by Sgt. Marc Martinez)

Arizona Guardsmen answer to the call of the wildfire

Story by Staff Sgt. Marty W. Hammonds

In the most recent activation of the Arizona National Guard, June 19–July 11, 2002, soldiers and airmen deployed to Northeast Arizona to assist local, state and federal agencies in support of the Rodeo-Chediski fire mission.

“When I realized on June 19th I didn’t have enough manpower, I called the Governor’s office,” said Navajo County Sheriff, Gary H. Butler. “She asked what I needed and I told her I needed the National Guard.” Butler says within 6 hours, he had one hundred Guardsmen on the ground. “Everything went great,” said Butler. “I wish everyone was this military.”

Soldiers and airmen from across the state were activated and sent north to assist Arizona Department of Public Safety officers and Navajo County Sheriff’s deputies with road blocks and driving patrols through the evacuated neighborhoods of Show Low, Arizona, watching for vandals and trespassers. They also assisted law enforcement at the Eager evacuee shelter, performing walking patrols to ensure the safety of evacuees and their families.

The armory in Show Low doubled as the task force headquarters for the national guard and housed the Law Enforcement Activity (LEA). The LEA was the coordination point for the various agencies involved in maintaining the security of the area around the fires.

As the Rodeo and Chediski fires merged on June 23, Butler realized

he was going to need even more manpower. Once again, he called the Governor, this time asking for military policemen (MPs). Within 24 hours, 50 MPs from the 855th Military Police Company rolled into the Show Low armory.

At 8:14am on June 24, 2002, 50 military policemen of the Arizona Army National Guard were deputized by Sheriff Butler.

“I think this is the first time that Guardsmen have been deputized in this state,” said Butler.

The MPs were tasked with assisting the Navajo County Sheriff’s Department in safeguarding private and county property by conducting 24-hour patrols throughout the city and neighborhoods. The primary concerns were watching for vandals, trespassers and any signs of fire.

“This is different from other deployments. This is home,” said Spc. Henry G. Helman, Flagstaff, Ariz. “Looking into the sky and seeing a red sun was almost scary. It’s just not something you see.” Helman said as an MP, he is used to security duties. But an evacuated city, under a sun tainted red by smoke, is something he never imagined.

On June 30, 2002, residents of Show Low were allowed back into their homes. MP operations were then sent west to the Heber-

Overgaard area where fires had done the most damage. Four days later, the area was opened and residents were allowed to return, hoping their property had been spared.

As of July 6, over 31,000 people had been evacuated. Over 7000 fire fighters battled raging flames. Approximately 550 National Guardsmen and an untold number of volunteers worked to support evacuees and law enforcement officials in any way possible. Approximately 426 structures and in excess of 468,000 acres of forest was burned or destroyed.

“We got a lot of support from the community,” said Sgt. Debra A. Boyer, Supply Sgt. for the 1404th Transportation Company (TC), Show Low, Ariz. “All we pretty much had to do was let people know what we needed and it showed up.” Boyer said there was no shortage of volunteers to deliver items to Guardsmen and other agencies.

“Everybody really pulled together as a team,” said Sgt. Franco Savini, Detachment 1, 2220th TC, Prescott, Ariz. “Guardsmen came in wondering what was going on. They went and got their missions and did what needed to be done.”

The Rodeo-Chediski fire is the largest wildfire to ever burn in the state of Arizona.

Prescott unit gets the ultimate driving machine

Story and photos by Sgt. D. Ann Crossland

Detachment 1 of the 2220th Transportation Company (TC) in Prescott was pleasantly surprised this summer when they received 57 new trucks. The M1088 (FMTV) arrivals created the immediate need for a revised Annual Training (AT) schedule, as the unit was set to go to Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Instead, they spent their July AT at Camp Navajo learning the subtle differences of operating the new vehicles. "This truck has many improvements over the old ones," said Sgt. Duane Ludwig, motor vehicle operator. "Like this 'exhaust brake' we use when we're pulling a trailer downhill."

By hitting the exhaust brake switch, the truck's computer shuts the exhaust off and downshifts the engine into third gear automatically.

The unit maintenance crew has much to learn about the new vehicles also.

"These run on electronics, computerized. On the old ones, we would get a manual and troubleshoot, but on these, we plug in a computer, it goes through the whole system and tells us what's wrong," said Spc. Shone Smith, heavy wheel vehicle mechanic, 2220th TC Maintenance Platoon. The Caterpillar engines are a little bigger and have much more power, although they are still governed at 55 m.p.h. Until the new trailers come in, the maintenance section will also be building "add-ons" near the landing gears of the current trailers to raise the hitching level.

The truck cab roofs have punch-outs for installation of .50 caliber machine guns.

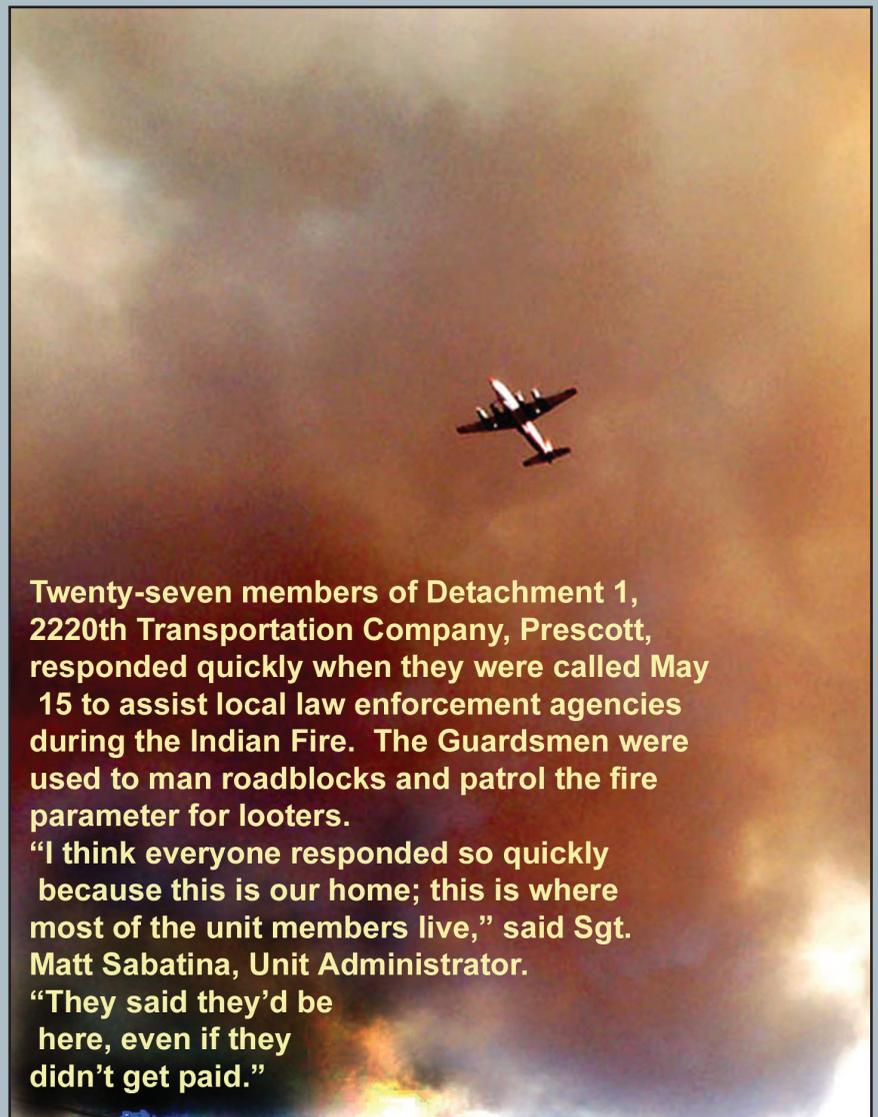
"We have two machine guns and people qualified to fire them," said Sgt. Matt Sabatina, unit administrator. "We weren't allowed to fire blanks or use smoke grenades during our combat training due to the extreme fire danger this summer."

The unit training also included night vision driving, simulated chemical attacks and missions to pick up and drop off trailers. The soldiers spent a day on recruiting missions, driving to their hometowns, where they showed the civilian communities of Cottonwood, Winslow, Prescott and Flagstaff the new trucks.

"I can't say for sure it's due to us, but we were under strength before AT, and now we're over strength," said Sabatina.



Sgt. Duane Ludwig, motor vehicle operator, trains on the M1088 inside and out.



Twenty-seven members of Detachment 1, 2220th Transportation Company, Prescott, responded quickly when they were called May 15 to assist local law enforcement agencies during the Indian Fire. The Guardsmen were used to man roadblocks and patrol the fire parameter for looters.

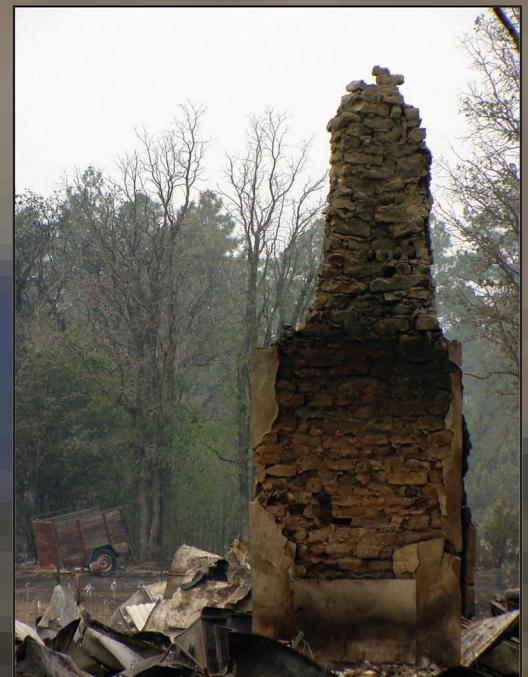
"I think everyone responded so quickly because this is our home; this is where most of the unit members live," said Sgt. Matt Sabatina, Unit Administrator.

"They said they'd be here, even if they didn't get paid."

Arizona Guards



men in Action



MEDIC!..or Combat Lifesaver

Story and photos by Spc. Crystal G. Reidy

Because medical personnel are not always available, the Arizona Army National Guard requires each unit to have one certified Combat Lifesaver per squad.

“Medics can’t be everywhere so units must have someone that can fill in,” said Staff Sgt. Rossonio Lawrence, Arizona Medical Command. “The soldiers participating in the training volunteered to represent their units.” Most of them have no formal medical training.

The Combat Lifesaver Course teaches soldiers advanced first aid skills. Combat Lifesavers administer first aid until a medic can take over the care of a wounded soldier. At the completion of the course, each soldier gets a medical bag containing IV solution, needles and bandages.

The Combat Lifesaver ‘s still perform their normal unit responsibilities. For example, Sgt Christopher Ghormley, 855 Military Police, is still an MP, but is now able to care for a fellow soldier who needs immediate medical attention until a medic is available.

Ghormly says he volunteered to attend the Combat Lifesaver Course because he, “never passes up an opportunity for military training.”

The two-day course is required to become certified as a Combat Lifesaver.

For information on Combat Lifesaver courses, contact the Arizona Medical Command.



Soldiers nervously await the start of the Combat Lifesaver Course at the Arizona Medical Command.



Students learn the proper procedure to administer an IV.

Engineers Constructing Multipurpose Track at PPMR

Story and photos by Sgt. Marc Martinez

The Papago Park Military Reservation at 52nd St. and McDowell will have a new and useful addition to the property. Thanks to the efforts of the 258th Engineer Company, an official quarter-mile running track with a rubberized running surface is under construction. The track, located just east of the helicopter pad, will be used for multiple activities and purposes. The area will include a softball field with bleachers. The interior of the track is completely covered with grass, which will make it a great marching ground for pass and review

or change of command ceremonies.

“The hardest part about constructing the track is working in the hot sun,” said Sgt. Dan Wolters, 258th Engineer Company.

In the past year, the company’s projects included a running track for the ROTC at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott and raising a half-mile stretch of road three feet near Safford, Ariz. for the Border Patrol.

Construction of the track began early this year and is set to be completed sometime in mid-2003.



Sgt. Beltran, 258th Eng., takes a soil reading.



Trucks from the 258th Engineers haul dirt for filling at PPMR track.

RAPID FIRE!

Other happenings around the National Guard

The Army National Guard is committed to achieving its primary missions of military readiness, rapid response to federal and state needs, and support to peacekeeping operations by leveraging the best instructional methodologies, information systems, and communications technologies to deliver education, training, and performance enhancing tools via Distance Learning (DL).

The Arizona Army National Guard has five (5) state-of-the-art Distributive Training Technology (DTT) classrooms located throughout the state (Camp Navajo, Glendale Armory, Phoenix (Bldg 315), Valencia Armory, and WAATS).

Each classroom is equipped to provide the following:

- Computer Based Training
- Web-based Training
- Electronic Mail (e-mail)
- Internet Access
- Video Programming
- Audio and Video Teleconferencing (2-way audio and 2-way video)
- Satellite Down-link
- Meeting Room

For more information, contact the Distance Learning Manager, CW3 Hopkins at: (602) 267-2672, or e-mail maryan.hopkins@az.ngb.army.mil

Kudos to Spc. Benjamin Lobato, 855th Military Police Company, who won the category "Short or Student Film" for his film "Mariposa Canyon" at the Annual Imagen Awards. The Imagen Awards recognize positive portrayals of Hispanics in the media. Previous recipients of this award include actors Andy Garcia and Penelope Cruz. Lobato is a full-time employee of the Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force.

Second Battalion, 180th Field Artillery conducted Annual Training at Camp Roberts, California 13-27 July 2002. The battalion deployed via military convoy to Camp Roberts located 200 miles north of Los Angeles. The battalion conducted Modified Equipment Table Listing training including artillery live fire exercises. The battalion was short-handed due to over 100 soldiers deployed on Title 10 for border support. Despite the shortage, the battalion conducted indirect fire, maneuver and direct fire safely and effectively to give the soldiers a challenging training scenario.



Congratulations to the Graduates of Officer Candidate Class 42. They graduated August 17, 2002 at a ceremony held at the Luke Air Force Base Officer Club. Special Awards were presented to the following soldiers:

Distinguished Honor Graduate and Leadership Award – 2Lt. William Karlage
Distinguished Military Graduate – 2Lt. Vincent Best
Distinguished Academic Graduate – 2L. Nicholas Degi
Spiritual Leadership Award – 2Lt. Travis Allen
The Physical Fitness Award – 2Lt. Kara Larson

Be looking for these new officers coming to a unit near you!

On the afternoon of May 5, 2002., Brig. Gen. Maxon and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Matthew visited A Battery, 2/180th FA, at the Roosevelt Armory for a very special ceremony. During this ceremony, Maxon presented Cpl. Joseph Grant, gunner for Howitzer #1 in A Battery, with the Herrera Trophy as the NCO of the Year for the State of Arizona in 2001. Grant competed against NCOs from all over the state and represented the state in the 5th Army NCO competition. During the competition for the NCO of the Year, Grant was able to prevail despite being outranked by all his opponents, who were at least E-5. In addition to the Herrera Trophy, Grant also received the Arizona Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding efforts. The Sylvestre Herrera Trophy is named for a member of the Arizona Army National Guard who received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

At the same ceremony, Maxon presented Pfc. Arturo Mendoza with the Fuze Wrench Award. This award is presented to a soldier after field drills within A Battery (Spc. or below) who has not received the award within the previous three months, for an outstanding drill, an outstanding single accomplishment, or steady outstanding performance over a period of time. Along with the award, which entails the soldier having his name engraved on a plaque displayed at the unit, the soldier receives a gift from the unit's Family Support Group. Past gifts have included gift certificates to local restaurants, coupons for free lube and oil changes, and tickets to professional sporting events. Mendoza received two tickets to a Diamondbacks game.

How has Sept. 11 affected your service in the National Guard?

Sgt. Matthew Gunter
State Flight Surgeons
Office, Arizona
National Guard
Medical Command



“With regards to my feeling on post September 11. I have mixed feelings; I feel the war on terrorism is a good thing; we need to prosecute the perpetrators to the fullest extent. I’m also saddened by the events. I’ve lost four friends in combat. In respect, I wish I was there. “

Spc. Jason M.
Marsch Detachment
Seven, STARC



“Back in March of this year, I volunteered for Operation Noble Eagle. I feel that the soldiers serving with the Arizona Army National Guard on the border helped in securing the border and helped our nation in a time of need. We definitely contributed and played our role after September 11. I’m most definitely proud of my efforts.”

Spc. Danilo Cancange,
III. Detachment Seven,
STARC



“Serving eight months on airport duty, I really came away with a sense of pride and purpose. I believe the Arizona Army National Guard made the traveling public feel safer. We worked five days a week and every minute was important.”

CW4 Larry E. Steck,
Operational Support Airlift
Command, Arizona Army
National Guard C-12
pilot.



“This is my 31st year of military service and the major change I’ve seen post September 11 is in the physical security of civilian and military aircraft. Access to hangars is much more strict than in the past. I feel September 11 was a wake up call for all of us.”

Soundoff

Sonoran

Maybe a question you think other soldiers need the ans

Recruits get a jump-start

Story and photos by Sgt. Thomas Quigg

In order to introduce new recruits to the environment they will find in basic training, the 158th Regimental Training Institute (RTI) operates a weekend Basic Training Orientation Course (BTOC). Staff Sgt. Todd Carver is an instructor for the newest members of the Arizona Army National Guard.

“This is the recruit’s introduction to basic training and without it they would be in for a real surprise,” said Carver. “Enlistees go through a weekend of ‘reality’ training that will give them a small taste of what eight weeks of Army life will be like.”

“We put them through marching drill, physical training and some mental activities that simulate basic training,” said Carver.

“I really enjoyed the training and I feel that it was very worthwhile,” said Pvt. Amanda Douglas from Tucson, Ariz. “It gave me a better understanding of what is going to happen while I’m at basic.”

Douglas’ mother, Ruth Douglas, was in the active Army for four years and in the reserves for six years as a supply sergeant. She thinks the weekend introduction is a great tool and will assist her daughter in



Staff Sgt. Todd Carver gives instructions to new soldiers during BTOC at the 158th RTI.

preparing her for her new career.

“I wish I would have had this kind of introduction when I first joined,” said Ruth. “It certainly would have helped with packing.” Douglas is looking forward to her duties with HHC, 1/285th Aviation after she returns from basic training.

Pfc. Michael Sorensen, HHB, 1/180th Field Artillery, thinks the film shown at the end of the weekend is one of the highlights of BTOC.

“I really liked the movie because it gave me a good overview of what I am

going to go through,” said Sorensen. Sorensen was joined by his family to view the film and attend the graduation ceremony. Maria Spires, Sorensen’s mother, and Audrey, his girlfriend, attended and were interested in knowing what Sorensen had to look forward to.

“We have seen a decrease in the drop out rate during basic training and an increase in the overall retention,” said Carver. Though the exact reason for the improvement cannot be directly attributed to BTOC, Carver believes BTOC has made a significant impact in improving the dropout rate.



BTOC Class 02-10



Pvt. Amanda R. Douglas and her mother Ruth after BTOC graduation at 158th RTI.

Karen M. Craig to be new state Cmd. Sgt. Maj.

Within the next several weeks, I will step into the position of State Command Sergeant Major. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to serve as the senior representative for the enlisted soldiers of the Arizona Army National Guard. We have many challenges ahead of us and I look forward to working with our soldiers and NCOs to make this great organization even better. My personal philosophy centers around “taking care of soldiers.” Although it sounds simple, it’s an all-encompassing task. It can involve everything from sponsorship, to solving pay, bonus, and benefits problems. It includes counseling, mentoring, and rewarding soldiers, as well as ensuring their promotion records and evaluation reports are accurate and done in a timely manner. It means giving soldiers the training

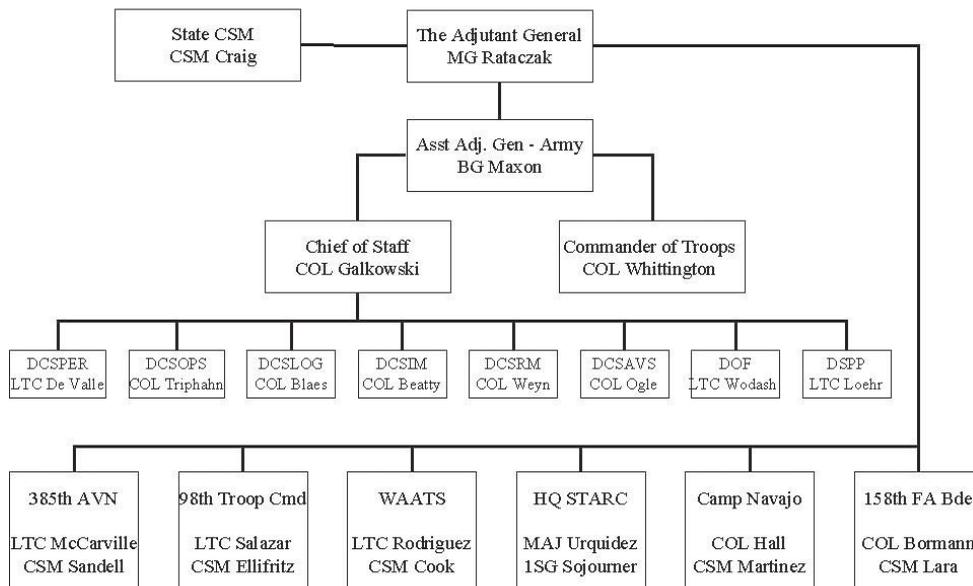
and equipment to do their jobs, keeping them safe, and ensuring they are involved and productive during all training periods. Taking care of soldiers includes being honest with them and holding them to the standards. It means having a positive attitude and the desire to find a solution or a way to make things better. Communication – up, down, and across all levels of command and support, is the key to taking care of soldiers. First Line Leaders play an integral part in the entire process. Whether you are a Private, Master Sergeant or Lieutenant, a traditional soldier or full-time employee, there is someone responsible for taking care of you, and..... unless you’re a Private, you ARE a First Line Leader; responsible for the development and care of someone else. Are you doing everything you should and everything you can?



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Karen M. Craig

As your State CSM, I will be looking at processes such as the Enlisted Promotion System and Career Management, as well as Individual Training, MOS Qualification, and Quality of Life issues. I plan to be out there – visiting soldiers, observing training, and seeing where you work and train. I look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and listening to your concerns. Thanks for your support and thanks for taking care of soldiers!

ARIZONA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD COMMAND STRUCTURE



Record of success improving Arizona Guard

By Brig. Gen. Richard G. Maxon

Needless to say, this past year has been a real roller coaster ride. The events of September 11 and all the missions we were tasked to perform came at us fast and furious. The Airport mission went very smoothly. The Border mission had some difficulty in its initial planning stages, but once it was handed off to us to execute, it went very well. Hoover Dam and the State border mission during the holidays also went on without a hitch.

The 855 MP Company was called on time and again to perform various missions: Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant security, the Olympics, and finally the Rodeo-Chedeski fire. During this time the MPs were notified that they had been selected for a Kosovo rotation starting next spring. They have been a busy unit indeed. Four other units participated in the Olympics and 500 Guardsmen and women were called to duty for the fire. All told, we performed over 92,000 homeland security/state active duty mandays so far in fiscal year 2002. This was all on top of our normal operations and training. It is truly remarkable that we have been able to maintain this Operations Tempo.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of this State and Nation. We are all deeply indebted to each of you. We can anticipate more missions coming our way. We will be ready for them

and we will do them well.

How is the Arizona Army National Guard doing these days? Very well thank you. To start with, the strength target National Guard Bureau gave us for this Fiscal Year was 4,004 drilling soldiers. We closed out August with 4,103 soldiers on the rolls.

National Guard Bureau has several rating systems which are used to measure how the various states are doing in a number of key areas. One such measure is called the Order of Readiness List. It measures three key items: overall strength; number of available soldiers; and, MOS qualification rates. About 18 months ago we were ranked 36th in the country. In the most recent rankings we have been in the 18 to 20th positions. This shows a remarkable improvement. In another set of measurements called the State Performance Indicator Reporting System (SPIRS) we are ranked eighth nationally. As you can see, we are increasing our strength and we are doing very well nationally. More importantly, as we continue to grow and improve, we are better able to serve the citizens of Arizona.

Our long term goal is to grow to 5,000 drilling soldiers by the end of Fiscal Year 2007. The progress we have been seeing puts us on the right path. We are going to be fielding new units in the coming year.



A new transportation company, a water purification unit, a water distribution unit and another Explosive Ordnance unit will come on line for recruiting in September. Growing to 5,000 soldiers will require additional force structure beyond what we currently have. We have been working with National Guard Bureau to identify new units that can be fielded in Arizona. With our track record of success, new units may become available to us in the near future but we can't let up in our efforts to improve. Strength must continue to grow, MOS qualification must improve, our participation rates must remain high. In other words, every soldier is important to us. The citizens of the state of Arizona deserve a larger Army National Guard and it is up to us to do our part to make it happen.

I just want to thank each and every one of you for what you have done for us this past year. It has been a truly remarkable year. We can anticipate more Homeland Security missions coming our way and we will be prepared to execute them in an exceptional manner.

It is my privilege to serve with you.



Heliograph

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