Heliograph

123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Winter 2003

WAATS Welcomes Medicine Man

Employment Assistance at Soldier Support Center

Vol. XXV Issue 1

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Front Cover:
Dancer from the SanCarlos Apache Indian Tribe dances at the AH-64A Apache Hanger at Marana, AZ. (photo by Sgt. Alex Gago)

Back Cover:
Soldiers from the 258th RAOC say good bye before departing for active duty. (photos by Sgt. Thomas Quigg and Spc. Crystal Reidy)

Reflection and Anticipation

by Brig. Gen Richard Maxon, Asst. AG,, Army

Brig. Gen. Richard Maxon

As 2002 comes to an end and 2003 begins, we should take a few moments to reflect on the events of the past year. We should also take this occasion to look forward to the opportunities the new year brings.

Without a doubt, 2002 was a year that will remain in our memories for years to come. The new year saw nearly 250 of our soldiers and airmen deployed in ten airports around the State. Approximately, 45 soldiers from the 2222nd Transportation Company were also on state active duty at several border stations along the Mexican border through the holidays.

In March, 200 soldiers, many from the 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artillery, plus many volunteers from other units, were federalized to perform duties at the border crossings in support of different federal law enforcement agencies. While some soldiers were released from active duty after several weeks, many stayed on for nearly six months.

We experienced one of the driest summers we have seen in many years. In June the State experienced a tragic fire that destroyed nearly a half-million acres. Over five hundred Guardsmen and women were activated to support the efforts to combat the Rodeo-Chediski fire. The town of Show Low just managed to avoid the fire. Other communities were not so

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The Heliograph is an authorized publication under the provisions of AR 360-81 and is published for the Arizona Army National Guard by the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 5425 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Arizona, 85008-3425.

The Heliograph is published quarterly, using Adobe Desktop publishing. The circulation is approximately 4,000. The publication is printed within government guidelines and is distributed free via U.S. Mail to all members of the Arizona Army National Guard.

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Arizona Army National Guard. Any unsolicited submissions will be subject to revision due to space limitations, security, accuracy and propriety.

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.

WAATS and the Medicine Man

Story and Photos by Sgt. Alex Gago

Dancers from the San Carlos Apache Indian Tribe during a ceremony at the WAATS, Marana, AZ.

In a ceremony held at the Western Army Aviation Training Site (WAATS), Marana, Arizona, dancers from the San Carlos Apache tribe helped usher in the receipt of the newest 'A' model Apache helicopters.

"The ceremonies are two-fold," said Colonel Pam J. Rodriguez, WAATS commander. "The ceremonies mark the receipt of the new 'A' model Apache helicopter and also recognize the change of mission for the WAATS," said Rodriques.

The WAATS is the premiere army training site for the Black hawk, Kiowa scout helicopter and now the Apache 'A' model. The WAATS serves active duty, reserve component and foreign national personnel.

The ceremony begins with the jangling of bells echoing through the Apache helicopter hanger, growing louder as the smallest of the five Apache dancers, crosses the open door of the hanger, his face covered by a white hood with black markings, topped with a wooden headpiece. He stops at the entrance to the hanger and swings his bullroarer, a piece of wood on the end of a string, the sound representative of wind in an approaching storm or the rotorblades of an Apache helicopter.

"The dancers bring good spirits and take away bad ones," said Harold Keaton, an Apache medicine man and former Vietnam veteran in charge of the Crown Apache Dancers ceremony.

The Apache Dancers have bells around their waists and at their knees. They also wear buckskin kilts trimmed with fringe and tin cones that make a clicking sound with their movements. The main dancers have headpieces, larger and more elaborate than the rest.

" We were very fortunate to have the medicine man of the Apache San Carlos Indian tribe conduct the ceremonies," said Rodriquez.

Arizona Aviation Honored with Lindbergh Award

by CW2 Evelyn Higgs

During a recent National Aviation Safety Conference, Arizona Army Aviation was awarded the Charles A. Lindbergh Award for achieving 31 years without a Class A or B aviation accident attributable to human error. The National Guard Western Army Aviation Training Site (WAATS) received a safety award for achieving 15 years without a Class A or B aviation accident.

A Class "A" accident is defined as an Army accident in which the resulting total cost of property damage is $1,000,000 or more, an Army aircraft is destroyed or there is a fatality. A Class "B" accident is an Army accident in which the resulting total cost of property damage is $200,000 or more, but less than $1,000,000. Though Arizona has, in the past 31 years, experienced several aviation accidents, none were attributed to human error. The last human error fatality was a wire strike by an OH-13 helicopter in January, 1971, near Desert Center, California,

The Charles A. Lindbergh Award is presented to States or Territories who have flown for 25 years without a Class A or B accident attributable to human error. It serves to commemorate the service of one of our nation's finest airmen, who himself served as a member of the Army National Guard from 1924 to 1927. After an annual record review for eligibility, the award is initiated and processed by the National Guard Bureau Aviation Safety Office (NGB-AV) with no specific nomination required by the State or Territory. The award is presented to the highest-ranking Aviation representative available for the State or Territory – by a representative of the NGB-AVS – in a public forum (such as a State Safety Standown or a national-level Safety Conference).

The plaque features a likeness of Charles A. Lindbergh standing before a deHavilland DH-4, and is embossed with a statement of award for the State or Territory. A copy of this award is maintained by the NGB-AV Safety Office and may only be awarded once each 25 years to each respective State or Territory.

In the 1970's, Arizona fielded the UH-1 Iroquois (the 'Huey'), AH-1 Cobra and night vision goggles. In the 1980's, Arizona transitioned to the UH-60 Blackhawk and developed the WAATS schoolhouse. The 1990's saw replacement of the Cobra by the AH-64 Apache. Currently, the transformation continues with the Longbow and Singapore training mission. Over the years, Arizona Aviation has supported numerous state active duty missions, in extreme weather conditions and altitudes ranging from sea level to nearly 12,000 feet, in addition to having flown over 300,000 flight hours.

The Charles A. Lindbergh Award is an enormous accomplishment for the Arizona Army National Guard, and the Army Aviation Program.

Soldier Support Center:

Education Answers Start Here

story by Spc. Crystal Reidy

Soldier Support Center at the northeast corner of 52nd Street and McDowell. (photo by Staff Sgt. Ernie Paquette)

The Arizona National Guard Education Center offers financial assistance to soldiers wanting to pursue an education. Sgt. Kathleen J. Temple, 3666th Maintenance Company, has seen first hand how the Army National Guard education assistance can benefit soldiers. She has earned an associates degree by utilizing the assistance.

"The two most important things a soldier can remember are, to apply for education benefits before starting school and to take responsibility for turning in the correct paperwork on time," says Maj. Michael K. Jennings, Education Services Officer. Jennings stresses the importance of soldiers coming in to the education office to meet one-on-one with a staff member in order to find out what education benefits he or she may qualify for.

The three primary programs are the GI Bill, the State Reimbursement plan, and the Federal Tuition Assistance plan (generally referred to as the seventy-five percent program).

The GI Bill is a program offered at enlistment. It is important to bring your enlistment packet with you when you visit the education center. This allows the staff to review your file and implement the proper paperwork to get your GI Bill started. It takes 90-120 days to process this paperwork and it must be started before you start classes.

Another great education resource is the State Reimbursement Program. This program is intended for soldiers in the first ten years of their enlistment to assist them with earning their first bachelors degree. Other soldiers not fitting these criteria are still eligible to apply, but priority is given to first-degree seeking students. To utilize the reimbursement program, you should:

1. Apply for reimbursement at the education center.
2. Register and pay for school (you can contact your school administrator for information on financing your education until you are reimbursed).
3. Provide the education center with your final grade and proof that the class was paid for.

Remember, deadlines are strict and you must comply with them to receive your reimbursement check.

For students that have already obtained their first degree and have been in the military for more then ten years, they can utilize the Federal Tuition Assistance (or 75%) program. This program is a 'first come, first served' program. It is extremely important to apply early and before starting class. This program pays for seventy-five percent of your first bachelor's degree and one professional degree.

"My education has helped me in my personal development," says Temple. Now working on her Bachelors degree in English, Temple attributes her education for obtaining her full time job as a technician for the Army Aviation Support Facility One.

"There are lots of benefits out there and I encourage all National Guard members to use them," said Temple.

The Education Office is open Monday through Friday 7:00am to 3:30pm to assist soldiers. For more information contact the Education Center at 602-267-2885 or log on at www.az.ngb.army.mil and click on the soldier support button.

Army National Guard

Recognition Day 2002

Aging Veterans Tell Their War Stories For Posterity

Library of Congress is soliciting oral histories

By Gregg Zoroya, USA Today

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Under the gentle prodding of an adult son, Bill Pendergast's wartime memories spilled out like faded snapshots a half-century old.

"For the record, this is an interview of William Pendergast," his son Patrick, 36, said at the start, an audiotape spinning on the table. "First, Dad, can you give me your branch of service and where you served?"

Settled into a dining room chair, comforted by the eagerness of his listener, Pendergast, 71, began sharing Korean War recollections: the ice-cold Coca-Cola someone handed him when the Army first lobbied him to join its Counterintelligence Corps; the battle-scarred South Korea cityscape with not "two panes of glass still in one piece" in the city of Seoul; and the prisoners he was required to interrogate.

"Most of the interrogations were of young Chinese or North Korean men just as scared as I was," Pendergast said. Hostilities ended the year he was there, 1953.

His recorded words have been shipped to the Library of Congress, making the Pendergasts participants in one of the broadest national efforts to preserve eyewitness accounts of Americans serving in war. It seeks the stories of those who served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

And unlike many academic efforts, in which historians or trained researchers conduct the interviews, the Library of Congress enlists sons, daughters, friends and students to do the work.

The material being assembled, preserved and catalogued will serve scholars and writers, visitors to the library and the institution's Web site. And the material will serve as a reservoir for future library exhibits.

The Library of Congress project is one of many efforts underway across the country to capture and save first-hand accounts from war veterans — whether diaries, memoirs or recorded interviews — before the material is lost or the veterans pass away.

Jerome Duff, 76, a retired lawyer from St. Louis and a former Marine who fought on the islands of Saipan and Okinawa in World War II and also served in occupied Japan, was reticent for years about sharing his experiences with his two children.

"They knew that their dad just didn't want to talk about it, and they were curious," he says.

That changed last summer, when his daughter, Christine Duff Muldoon, 51, of Phoenix used the Library of Congress interviewing kit to persuade him to tell his story.

He found it cathartic. She found it mesmerizing.

"I don't think anybody ever sees their dad in situations where they have to make decisions about life and death," she says. "But here he was telling me about how his best friend was killed beside him, how he actually had to kill people in battle and how he was among the first Marines in Nagasaki after the (atomic) bombing of the city.

"It was an unbelievable experience."

The above are excerpts from Page 1, USA Today, December 17, 2002. For more information, please visit www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/. If you know anyone with an Arizona story, please contact the 123rd MPAD at 602-267-2879.

Enlisted Association Working for Guardsmen

For over 20 years, the Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) along with the Arizona Enlisted Association (EANGA), has been the only association that specifically supports the men and women of the Air and Army National Guard. Some of you have never heard of the EANGUS/EANGA, but the associations work for you anyway. Whether or not you pay dues, the associations continue to fight to keep and improve your benefits. Some of you belong, believe, and are active in the association.

And what does EANGUS do? The EANGUS, along with about 30 other military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations, form the Military Coalition. When working together, this coalition can collectively harness the grassroots support of more than

(see Enlisted Association, pg. 9)

RAPID FIRE

employment promotion activities general

New Civilian Employment Program

January will see the start of a new soldier support program in the Arizona National Guard. A civilian employment office will open in the Soldier Support Center located on the Northeast corner of 52nd Street and McDowell Road. The employment office will initially be open two days a week to assist members of the Arizona National Guard and their families to find suitable civilian employment. A representative from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Veterans Affairs Division will staff this employment office with the full capabilities of the Employment Security Administration. This office will be able to identify employment opportunities from their vast list of position openings across the State. This is a new partnership that will result in many Guardsmen and their families finding new or different employment opportunities through the resources of this new office.

As of January 7, 2003, the office is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 0900-1600. It is recommended you contact Ray Shaefer at 602-689-0095 or 480-962-7678 ext. 7715 to schedule an appointment, however appointments are not required.

RAOC Departs

The 258th Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC), Tucson, prepared for mobilization and deployment during the month of December 2002. They conducted mobilization training, took immunizations, and went through physicals to determine their preparedness for activation.

The unit has not received notification where their deployment will send them, or how long they could be away. This made the departure harder for the unit and their families.

Each soldier prepared themselves and their family for the separation in different ways:

Spc. Ronald W. Gillpatrick, of Gilbert, moved up his May 2003 wedding to December 13, 2002. His new wife, Katie says, "We had to plan a wedding in four days".

Spc. Melissa S. Burdick, a single mother, says she is, "proud to be doing something patriotic but can't wait to come home to my three year old daughter, Jaden".

Soldiers from the RAOC deployed Sunday, January 5, 2003, to Fort Bliss, TX, where they will undergo mobilization training and briefings for the next six weeks. They will then be transferred to their duty station.

If any family has questions or concerns during this deployment, they can contact Jose Gutierrez at Jose.Gutierrez@AZ.NGB.ARMY.MIL.

Navy Diver Pins New Sergeant Major

story by Spc. Crystal Reidy

In a ceremony conducted on January 5, 2003, 1st Sgt. Virgil Macklin, 158th Finance Battalion, was promoted to Command Sergeant Major. Macklin's wife, Dora, was honored with a coin by the Deputy Adjutant General, Army, Brig. Gen. Maxon, for the years of support to her husband.

Making the event more special was attendance by, Macklin's father, Wardell Stephens.

"I'm very proud of him (Macklin)," says Stephens. "I know what he has gone through with training and the commitment it takes to reach this point."

Stephens knows about commitment. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1948, joining Submarine Rescue. In 1954, Stephens qualified in Salvage Diving and ultimately became a deep-sea diver, qualifying in 416-ft. of water.

Macklin will become the new CSM for Navajo Army Depot, Bellemont, Arizona.

MWR PLANNING 'HOEDOWN IN THE HANGER'

by Spec. Crystal Reidy

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activity held a car wash at the Soldier Support Center to raise money for the February 22, 2003, Army/Air National Guard Hoedown. A group of soldiers from Headquarters, State and Area Command (STARC), have been conducting various fundraisers like breakfast sandwich sales to raise money for the up coming dance.

"The hoe-down was the idea of Brig. Gen. Maxon, " says Staff Sgt. Lisa Angelo. "He wanted a way to thank soldiers for the hard work they do."

Soldiers from Headquarters STARC at a car wash in November 2002. (photo by Spc. Crystal Reidy)

The goal of the car wash was to earn at least $100.00 which will be used to lower the cost of the event for the soldiers.

The Army/Air hoedown is a combined family event. Any Arizona army or air national guardsman, retired military and their families are encouraged to attend. The event will be on February 22,2003, from 5:30 - 9:00pm at the 161st Air Refueling Wing Hanger at Sky Harbor Airport, 3200 East Old Tower Road. Dress is country casual and there will be a Best Western outfit contest.

It pays to register early. The cost is $3.50 for children 3-11 years of age and $7.50 for ages 12-adult if you purchase tickets in advance. At the door, tickets are $5 for kids and $10 for adults.

For more information, details and volunteer opportunities, you can log onto *http://www.az.ngb.army.mil* **and click on the 'Guard Family Event' button.**

---Enlisted Association

5.5 million members and their families. Whether working alone or with the coalition, EANGUS fully supports increases and improvements in: full-time manning, pay and allowances, health, medical, family, and death entitlements for National Guard members; incentive benefits, entitlements for retired members, and up-to-date military equipment, weapons systems and military facilities.

A few of the Enlisted Association's past accomplishments include: establishment and extension of the VA Home Loan for Guard/Reserve members (now good through Sep 2009), and improvements and increases in the Montgomery GI Bill benefits. National legislation to lower the age that retirement pay is drawn is currently being worked on, in addition to other major issues.

The Arizona Enlisted Association also works for the guardsman. It was largely through grassroots efforts of the local association that Arizona HB 2043 was passed in 1998. This bill increased the amount of tuition reimbursement allowed by the State of Arizona from a max of $500 per year to the current $2700 per year. Other state initiatives and benefits options are being considered for future legislative sessions.

For more information, visit the EANGUS web site at www.eangus.org . For more details on membership, please contact the Membership Chairman, Carl Childs, at carl.childs@az.ngb.army.mil or EANGA President, Karen Craig, at karen.craig@az.ngb.army.mil.

fortunate. Happily, no one died in this terrible fire and there were very few injuries. Our soldiers and airmen performed their duties magnificently and the residents of the area were extremely grateful.

The dry conditions impacted many of our other operations. A shortage of water led to the reduction of activities at Camp Navajo. Because of the severe fire danger, training was cancelled and our National Guard youth camp was postponed until October. The water shortage became so severe we had to haul 50,000 gallons of water a day from Munds Park to meet the demands of the installation. We have invested 1.5 million dollars in drilling a deep well to ensure this problem is avoided in the future. The bulk of the money for the well came from our industrial operations accounts which support our Camp Navajo Operations.

The youth camp was moved to the Columbus Day weekend. I attended the entire event and can tell you it was a huge success. About one hundred kids attended and had a terrific time. Thanks to the many volunteers and members of the Joint Counter – Narcotics Demand Reduction Program for their work in making this program one these National Guard family members will remember for a long time to come.

We stood up four new units in October. The 222nd Transportation Company has been reactivated. As many of you may recall, this unit was mobilized for Desert Storm and then inactivated during the drawdown of the Army in the mid-1990's. We also activated two water units, the 177th Water Purification Detachment and the 150th Water Pipeline Detachment. These two units will work out of Prescott. Finally, we were asked by National Guard Bureau to field another Explosive Ordnance Company. The 362nd EOD is stationed at Camp Navajo.

In Aviation, the Western Army National Guard Training Site began Apache A-model training. The 1/285th began receiving AH-64D (Longbow) aircraft and will begin its transition. The Singapore Air Force began training Apache Longbow pilots under the oversight of the Arizona Army National Guard.

We said good-bye to State Command Sergeant Major Thomas Matthew who retired in November. CSM Karen Craig assumed the duties of State Command Sergeant Major. Congratulations to CSM Craig on her selection. It is well deserved.

In September, 20 aviation maintenance personnel of Detachment 2, CompanyD, 245th Aviation Battalion were activated. They currently are serving at Fort Campbell and Fort Stewart. On December 1, the 363rd Explosive Ordnance Detachment was activated and is scheduled to be assigned to Fort Irwin for up to one year.

A lot of other events took place during the busy year. Space limitations prevent me from mentioning everything that is noteworthy. It will have to be sufficient to say 2002 was unlike any year we have witnessed before. Over 92,000 soldier workdays were expended for the various in-state mobilizations. Many challenges were thrown at us and we met each one with enthusiasm, determination and professionalism. Be proud of what you have done. It has truly been amazing.

2003 promises to be another busy year. We can't predict what we will be asked to do. We do know, however, that we will be up to any task which comes our way. It is your dedication and hard work which makes it possible. I thank every soldier and their family for making the Arizona Army National Guard the great organization that it is.

In February we are planning a joint Army and Air social event at the 161st Air Refueling Wing. The 108th Army Band and the 161st Band will provide the entertainment for this Hoedown theme party. Look for flyers announcing this event.

Have a great New Year.

To all those deploying, come home safely

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