Heliograph
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Governor Jane Hull names new Adjutant General

By Capt. Eileen Bienz, State PA Officer

On April 7, Governor Jane Dee Hull named Major General David P. Rataczak as the Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard. Rataczak replaces Maj. Gen. Glen Van Dyke, whose term expired May 30.

"General Rataczak has a long and distinguished record of service in a variety of military assignments," said the Governor. "His experience makes him the ideal candidate to lead the Arizona National Guard."

Governor Hull and Mrs. Cheryll Rataczak pinned on his second star in a ceremony at the state capital on June 1.

Rataczak previously served as the Assistant Adjutant General of the Arizona Army National Guard. In this capacity, Rataczak managed the day-to-day activities of the Arizona Army National Guard and worked with state and federal elected officials on issues of importance to the Guard. The Arizona Army National Guard developed a Total Quality Management effort under his leadership that has received national recognition.

Rataczak has had command assignments at all levels in the Army, including serving as an Army aviator and combat leader in Vietnam. He also has considerable experience coordinating and managing responses to state emergencies.

Major General David P. Rataczak

The Governor thanked Maj. Gen. Van Dyke for his years of dedicated service both to the country and to the state.

Arizona units help worldwide

ARMY

Operation Joint Guard - Germany (for Bosnia)
123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Operation Joint Forge - Bosnia
Det 1, 416th Air Traffic Services Company

Operation New Horizon 99 - Honduras
855th Military Police Company
258th Engineer Company
123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Operation Build Hope - El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala
123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

New Horizon 99 - Dominican Republic
C Company, 111th Area Medical Support Battalion

EOD Operation - SOUTHCOM
363rd Ordnance Detachment

AIR

Operation Northern Watch - Turkey /Operation Allied Force - Kosovo
161st Air Refueling Wing

Maj. Gen. Glen W. Van Dyke
The Adjutant General

From the Adjutant General: A farewell message

After 38 years in the Arizona National Guard, it's time to say farewell to my fellow soldiers. I'm tempted to write of the great future of our Airzona Guard and use words like mission, readiness and destiny. I think it better to tell you how honored I have been to have served with you. In looking back I can reflect on how special the sense of camaraderie is between people who wear the uniform. I wish you all the best and thank you for your support.

Glen W. Van Dyke, Maj. Gen., AZ ANG
The Adjutant General

Arizona Guard supports New Horizon 99

By 1st Lt. Kevin Trammell

Hurricane Mitch slammed into the Central American country of Honduras last October causing widespread devastation. Bridges and roads were washed away in swollen rivers. Homes, schools, and clinics were flooded.

Arizona Army National Guard engineer units construct schools, clinics, bridges and roads as well as drill wells for sources of fresh water. New Horizons 99 also conducts medical missions for dental care, immunizations and general health maintenance.

The rotating units receive support from two base camps in San Pedro Sula and the Aguan Valley. These base camps will support units on their two weeks of annual training until the completion of New Horizons in June 1999.

Spc. Jack Gallegos, C Company, 111th Area Medical Support Battlion, a mechanic, passes out candy to local children while acting as the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment translator.

Photos by Sgt. Mark Martinez, Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artillery

Col. Charles McCarty, 98th Troop Command brigade commander, visits the 3 de Abril site in Honduras while 1st Lt. Kevin Trammell, public affairs officer for the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, explains the mission.

HELIOGRAPH

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To submit stories, photographs, cartoon artwork or to make inquires, e-mail us at ***Heliograph@azng-mail.army.mil***. Inquirers may also call (602) 267-2652 or DSN 853-2652.

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Arizonans join the Guard for all the right reaons

Courtesy of Detachment 4, Recruiting Command

There are many reasons to join the Arizona Army National Guard. Among these is money for college and retirement. Then there is the allure of adventure and travel. For most, the highest reason is service to community and country. The benefits abound with the Montgomery GI Bill being the most familiar to everyone.

The Montgomery GI Bill is an educational program funded by the Veteran's Administration that is available to eligible National Guardsmen and members of the Selected Reserve. Program funds can be used for degree programs (including graduate level courses), certificate or correspondence courses, cooperative training, independent study programs, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and vocational flight training programs. Remedial and refresher and deficiency training are available under certain circumstances.

To qualify, you must meet the following:

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the National Guard (signed after June 30, 1985). If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your obligation. For some types of training, it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after September 30, 1990.
- Have completed your initial active duty for training (IADT).
- Have received a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement.
- Remain in good standing while serving in the National Guard.

If you are not currently attending school, mail your completed Veterans' Administration form 22-1990 and your original Notice of Basic Eligibility to the VA Western Regional Office, PO Box 8888, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74402-8888. If you are found to be eligible, you will receive a "Certificate of Eligibility."

After you have submitted your VA 22-1990 and your NOBE directly to the VA Regional Office, or to a school official, you should receive a written reply within 45 days. If you do not receive a written reply, call the Veterans Services Division at your VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000.

If the VA representative informs you that there is a problem with your eligibility, notify your Unit Administrator immediately. If the VA representative informs you that the school hasn't verified your enrollment, contact the school official responsible for processing VA paperwork and advise them to submit your "Enrollment Certification," VA Form 22-1999.

An excellent source for detailed information about MGIB-SR http://www.va.gov/education/c1606pam.htm.

What does it mean to be a member of the Arizona Army National Guard?

Sgt Sylvia Wessel, Dispatcher
3666th Maintenance Company
Hometown: Peoria

"I like working with people. This job gives me a lot to do.

When we went to Germany we learned a lot, and active duty people learned a lot from us. They're always surprised when they see how much we know."

Corp. Kristin M. Larson,
NBC NCO
258th Engineer Company
Hometown: Mesa

"The best thing about the National Guard is the educational benefits. You can get just about anything you want from the educational office."

Sgt. Lorenzo B. Medina,
Supply Specialist
3666th Maintenance Company
Hometown: Phoenix

"The quality of the people you meet in the Guard is fantastic. They all have different civilian jobs and give a lot of insight. This is like a home to me. I'd rather be doing this than anything else.

I'd like to see cross training with other states so we can see how they do their missions."

Spc. Maria A. Castillo,
Fuel Handler
258th Engineer Company
Hometown: Phoenix

"It's different from being active. The National Guard is very unique and very challenging."

Thinks unit should do – Food drives and volunteer Friday night drills for sports activities with kids.

A soldier's view of the Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artillery

1st. Sgt. Fernando Careaga chews a cigar, his trade mark, during down time in the field.

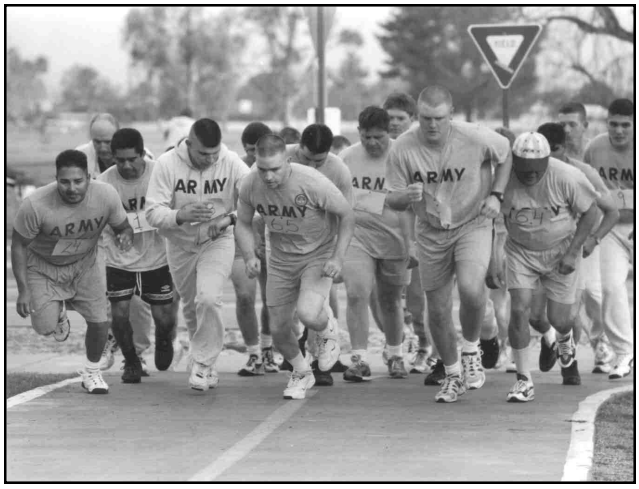
Photos by Sgt. Marc Martinez

Over the space of a year, Martinez captured images of his unit, Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artillery. The photos range from the First Sergeant's characteristic unlit cigar to physical fitness training to relaxed poses against the backdrop of an Arizona lightening storm.

Sgt. Marc Martinez took the time to take a self-portrait.

Physical training is an important part of the Service Battery's training philosophy.

Catching a Service Battery soldier's reflection during Annual Training provides a study in contrasts.



This is a M548 ammunition carrier for the 155SP Howitzers.

Spc. Joe Garcia, forward observer, converses with the rest of his team during a field drill while Spc. Eduardo Robles works through the Leader Reaction Course at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. The artillery is all about team work.

Against a startling evening backdrop, Service Battery soldiers stop to pose for the camera.

Photo courtesy of Maj. Brian Niday.

Soldiers from several Arizona Army and Air National Guard units take part in the Machine Gun and Sniper Rifle competition held January 30 and 31 at Florence Military Reservation.

Arizonans hit the bullseye

Match Results submitted by Maj. Brian Niday, Headquarters STARC

The official match results for the Machine Gun (M60) and Sniper Rifle (M-21/24), held on January 30-31, at the Florence Military Reservation.

If you are interested in joining the **SARTB** team call Maj. Brian Niday, State Marksmanship Coordinator, at (602) 267-2977, or Wednesday Nights (7:00-9:00 PM MST) (602) 267-2297, or DSN: 853-2297.

AZNG SNIPER MATCH (M-21/24)

Place	Names	Unit
1st	SSG Darrell Tucker	855th MP Co
	PFC Jarris Varnrobinson	
2nd	OC Gene Katzorke	HQ STARC (-)
	SSG Joel Kent	
3rd	1LT Marc Richardson	1-180th FA Bn
	SSG William Stevens	
4th	SSG Chris Chelone	855th MP Co
	SSG Paul Ohland	
5th	SSG Ray Basurto	WAATS
	SGT Kirk Moench	
6th	SSG Steven Bowers	HHB 2/180th FA
	SPC Kenneth A. Follett	
7th	CPT Sven Olson	2/180th FA Bn
	SSG Seamus Clarkin	
8th	SGT Brian Quinn	3666th Maint Co
	SGT Terry Stallings	
9th	SGT Marc Martinez	2/180th FA Bn
	PFC Francisco Flores	

AZNG MACHINE GUN (M60)

Place	Names	Unit
1ST	SGT John Salaza	1404th Trans Co
	PFC John Crysler	
2nd	SGT Michael Lane	2222nd Trans Co
	SPC Michael Trevino	
3rd	CPT Sven Olsen	Svc Btry 2/180
	SPC Frank Perkins	FA Bn TM #1
4th	SGT Mark Martinez	Svc Btry 2/180
	SPC Dan Flores	FA Bn TM #2

"What's a heliograph?"

The heliograph had a Wild West role. So when Arizona Army National Guardsmen and women ask "What's a heliograph?", the first place to look is in the dictionary. A heliograph is "an apparatus for telegraphing with mirrors."

The British Army in India pioneered heliographs and the U.S. Army began using them in 1877.

Shortly after April 12, 1886, 2nd Lt. Alvarado Fuller was told to establish a heliograph network in Arizona for use against Geronimo. The Apaches and other tribes had been using mirrors for signaling long before Fuller established his chain of 14 stations.

The systems cost was low; the first four stations cost $1.10 each. Fuller had equipped them with ordinary hand mirrors until the heliographs and 11 trained operators could be brought into Arizona.

Eight persons including operators, guards and couriers manned each station. The stations closed at sundown (this was probably the first widespread use of solar energy in Arizona).

On June 5, 1886, the month Fuller's system was completed, the heliograph station at Antelope Springs reported a party of Indians moving south below Tucson. The information was relayed to cavalrymen on the Santa Cruz River who surprised the raiders in the Patagonia Mountains capturing their equipment and horses. The raiders fled on foot.

Though Fuller's records show that 2,264 heliograph messages originated in Arizona during the Geronimo campaign, this was the only time they placed any part in locating a war party and sending a strike force against it. Thereafter, the Apaches stayed south of the border until Geronimo surrendered in September 1886.

Gold fever lures the hopeful: 158th Regional Training Institute develops officers

Photo and story courtesy of the 158th Regional Training Institute

When a recruiter gave me directions to meet the selection board for Officer Candidate School, she nonchalantly said, "Look for the Spanish-style prison building over at McDowell Road and 52nd Street." What possible torture happens behind the impressive arched gate and wrought iron? What sort of ominous training is hidden behind the rough-hewn, medieval-style wooden door?

Centrally located near downtown Phoenix, the 158th Regiment Regional Training Institute is high-tech, high-speed and completely modern though it is located in a historic Arizona National Guard building. And that huge, medieval door--that's the entrance to the Arizona National Guard Military Museum. The rest of the building is comprised of classrooms, offices and barracks.

Each April, a new class of candidates passes through the stucco arch and starts the demanding OCS program that generally lasts 16 months. For 40 years, Arizona has commissioned new lieutenants and sent them all over the country. Like every year before them, the candidates of Class 40 will line up before the brass chin-up bar, march across the quad and do innumerable push-ups. They will study every imaginable Army topic from land navigation to infantry tactics, from morality and laws of war, to counseling and discipline of soldiers. They will eat, sleep and breathe the "OCS environment" every drill weekend.

When the candidates leave the RTI after each drill, they begin planning time for the next few weeks. On top of full-time jobs, families and possibly college classes, they have numerous tasks and assignments to complete. The candidates have to work hard to meet the desired level of physical and mental competence within the first few months of the program. If not, they drop out.

Arizona has a high demand for field artillery officers, but there are many lieutenant positions available in other areas. When choosing a branch, the candidates have a good chance to get one of their choices. Based upon the high quality of training and the high expectations upheld by the RTI, all candidates who make it through the program are sure to be top-notch lieutenants.

As a member of Class 39, I know I am well-prepared for leadership responsibilities. I know too that those of

Graduates of Officer Candidate Class 39 pose for a group photo. Guidon bearer: OC Richard Turk, of 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artilery. Row 2 from left to right: OC Leanne Weldin, Mesa, Ariz., 944th Tactical Fighter Wing; OC Patrick Tortorili, New York, NY, 348th Transportation Company; OC Jerry Springall, Phoenix, Ariz., 855th Military Police Company. Row 3 from left to right: OC Jon Cookson, Bangor, Maine, 944th Tac. Fighter Wing; OC Jeff Keefner, Great Lakes, Ill., of B Battary, 1st Battalion, 180th Field Artillery; OC Keith Tagg, Deleware, Ohio, of C Battary, 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artillery. Not pictured OC Steve Dolan.

Class 40 joined this program expecting to be challenged and expecting to learn how to lead under stress. There are nerve-racking times of reciting "required knowledge," embarrassing mistakes while leading the class through drill and ceremony, backbreaking marches and difficult tests. There are times of delirious laughter at wisecracks, hours of rolling in the dirt with my M-16 pointed toward the "enemy" throwing down smoke, and tired but satisfied smiles exchanged at another weekend completed.

I hadn't bargained for the infantry tactics training, but now I enjoy almost every minute of tactics. The hard times seem to become hazy memories as the gold bars beckon me onward. When I am wheezing and sweating on those rucksack marches; when I am running my legs faster than I ever thought they would go; when I am trying to beat everyone in the sit-ups event, I know OCS is where I want to be. And this August, a Second Lieutenant is who I will be, along with seven classmates I now consider my Army soul-mates. We will continue to survive the grueling peer evaluations, forgive each other's shortcomings, strengthen each other by example and lead Arizona into the next century as the new generation of officers.

Guardians of the sky...

National Guard unit keeps tabs on air traffic

Story and photos by
Sgt. Michael T. Koentop
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det.
(Courtesy of the *Talon*)

Gone are the days that National Guard and Reserve soldiers simply considered themselves weekend warriors. With the U.S. military supporting missions around the world, part-time soldiers are rapidly becoming an integral part of the Army's seamless force.

The 416th Air Traffic Services Company, Det. 1, is one unit that exemplifies the meaning of the Army's total force.

"We control all of the air traffic coming into and going out of Camp McGovern," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Sampson, facility chief. "On a busy day we may see 50 to 100 aircraft use the airspace control."

To ensure the safety of pilots and passengers, the air traffic control section relies on a highly trained staff. They are qualified air traffic control operators and are confident in their ability to do the job right.

"We trained with another unit during our first month in country and that got us ued to the way things are done in Bosnia," said Spc. Kerry Hyson, an air traffic controller. "At home station we trained on the equipment during drill, so when we came here we were ready."

According to Sgt. Johnathan Meyer, an air traffic control operator's job is to provide tower, radar and non-radar ATC services for military and civilian air traffic.

"We are set up in a fixed based facility here, but all the equipment we use is designed to fit in the back of two, two-and-a-half-ton trucks in case we have to set up at a remote site," Sampson said.

The air traffic control section is a multifaceted operation that depends on detailed weather reports and aircraft flight data to ensure safe takeoff and landing of each aircraft.

"Everything we need to operate is located in one building," Meyer said.

"The weather guys report the sky conditions, temperature, wind speed, visibility and other information to the radar operators and the people in the tower. With this information, the controllers can decide the safest way to land the aircraft."

Meyer said communications is the key to running a successful operation. The tower and the radar room personnel are in contact with each other and each always knows what the other is doing.

"If the weather is good, the tower visually brings the aircraft to the landing pad; but if weather does not permit, radar operators use their equipment to guide the pilot to safety."

The soldiers work well together in all aspects, not just when working. "The group we have here is very close," Hyson said. "Even though we just met the unit from Massachusetts, we have built some strong personal relationships and that is important for us to do our job well."

The Heliograph
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