



high|ground

Today's Guard, Ready, Reliable, Relevant

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Photo by Pvt. 2nd Class Michael Cost, 128th MPAD, Det. 1
After the passing of the flag, and hence command, Brig. Gen. Thomas Mills addressed the COARNG Soldiers, in formation, about his confidence in the mission and the capable leaders and Soldiers who will carry it out.

COARNG honors a Change of Command

Story by Pvt. 1st Class Jessi Stone, MPAD, Det. 1

Against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, the units of the Colorado Army National Guard assembled Aug. 6, to honor two accomplished general officers who have made a significant impact on the Soldiers whom they have led.

Brig. Gen. Patrick M. O'Hara passed command of the COARNG to Brig. General Thomas D. Mills as he moved on to become the Assistant Adjutant General for Space.

Remarking on the successes of Brig. Gen. O'Hara, Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, Adjutant General of Colorado said, "For a commander there is no higher calling than to send your Soldiers to war, have them fully prepared for battle and to bring them home safely again."

Maj. Gen. Whitney expressed his confidence that Brig. Gen. Mills would be able to pick up where Brig. Gen. O'Hara had left off. "He has earned our trust with this command."



Photos provided by Capt. Wade Bennett
Capt. Bennett performing patient care in the Balad hospital with body armor and kevlar helmet.

Healing hands in Iraq

Story 2nd Lt. Darin Overstreet, Public Affairs Specialist, JFHQ-CO

With all wars comes a need to care for the wounded. This requires skilled medical professionals with a strong stomach and a big heart. Capt. Wade Bennett, Physician Assistant, 140th Medical Group, Colorado Air National Guard, eagerly accept a 60-day tour (May - July) to Balad, Iraq, allowing him to practice his trade.

During his deployment, he worked in the emergency room, where he prepped and stabilized patients, performed intubations, resuscitations, and much more.

"The experience was by far the greatest thing a PA could ever expect; in fact, it far exceeded my expectations," said Capt. Bennett.



Photos provided by Capt. Wade Bennett
Capt. Bennett inserts a chest tube in a patient while preparing him for an operation at the Balad hospital.



Community outreach for our children

By Capt. Robert Bell, State Public Affairs Officer, JFHQ-CO

Lt. Col. Thomas Shetter and Chief Master Sgt. Tom Rochford delighted the children at Children's World Learning Center pre-school, Aurora, Colo., Aug. 4 with combat gear and information about how the military utilizes and contributes to transportation.

The children's ages ranged from six to 10 years old. The kids were so excited and attentive, hanging on every word from the Airmen, because of the enthusiastic way in which the information was being presented.

Lt. Col. Shetter and Chief Master Sgt. Rochford, both energetic presenters, enjoyed their brief interaction with the children. "Kids are so excited when the military men come," said Jamie Ford, teacher. "This has been a great time for the kids."



Family Programs Conference

By 2nd Lt. Darin Overstreet, Public Affairs Specialist, JFHQ-CO

With troops deploying on a daily basis to the far reaches of the globe, it's essential to have programs for support of the family members left at home. To further reinforce this notion for its volunteers and leadership, the State Family Programs office held a conference the weekend of Aug. 19 in the mountain resort city of Breckenridge.

Maj. Ann Dirks, Colorado Family Programs Officer, said, "The goal is to inspire, train, provide networking and to raise awareness of issues facing our military members."

The conferences explored topics such as staying close despite the miles separating loved ones, laughing for your health and wellbeing, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Media Awareness, and more. There were also youth activities such as horseback riding and white water rafting.

Families say "Goodbye" to A Co. 2/135th Av. Bn.

Story & Photos by Sgt. Scott Griffin, Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Det. 1

The Colorado Army National Guard's Co. A, 2/135th Aviation Battalion. held a departure ceremony Aug. 23 for the unit's upcoming deployment to central Iraq. They will provide general aviation support for the theater.

Family and supporters packed the bleachers in the hangar of the Army Aviation Support Facility, with the flight line outside lined with UH-60 Blackhawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

"To the families," said Capt. Robert Steward, Commander, Co. A, 2/135th Bn., "You're the reason we're going out there, and you're the ones that we're fighting for. We haven't even left yet, and yet we miss you already." In closing Steward said. "Soldiers of Alpha Company, prepare for the challenge."





Deploying communications for Hurricane Katrina relief

By Capt. Bill Worrell, Commander, National Guard Communications Element, photos by State Public Affairs Office

By a request of Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, the Colorado National Guard Communications Element deployed an eight-person team on Aug. 31 to provide much needed communications technologies and services for the incident command center in Gulfport. The team has demonstrated stellar performance in numerous large-scale exercises, but this is their first real-world deployment.

The team provides satellite communications and internet access, video conferencing capabilities, and the technology to allow various responding agencies a single communications method.



New recruit training program

By Lt. Col. Dana Capozzella, Commander, Centennial Training Site

The RSP is the Recruit Sustainment Program that has replaced the BTOPS (Basic Training Orientation Program).

The Colorado Army National Guard has operated this program for 2 years. It is the new system for preparing Soldiers for Basic Combat Training.

The goal is to prepare recruits for Basic and to curtail the pre-training losses, which are seen when recruits get lost in the system and feel unappreciated.

It is an exciting, fast paced, busy program. Next month Squad 4 will hike Pikes Peak. Other month's activities are Driver's Training, Combat Lifesaver, Nuclear Biological and Chemical training, Weapons Training and using the EST (Engagement Skills Trainer).

A desire for the future is to incorporate NCO's, from the brigades, as instructors, allowing everyone to participate in training the Soldiers before the attend BCT.

On a bragging note: Out of the 378 recruits who have attended RSP this year 18 of them have returned as Honor Graduates from BCT and/or technical training.

Inspiration from the community

By Catherine Galasso-Vigorito, nationally syndicated columnist

In the seventeenth Century, poet Thomas Stanley wrote his definition of success, "To leave the world a bit better ... by a redeemed social condition; To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded."

How many millions breath easier because evil doers are stopped?

~ ~ ~

Our dreams ... are our possibilities.

Our aspirations ... are our opportunities.

Our unwavering passion and ardent belief ... are our accomplisners.

Champions are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. This is seen daily in the National Guard!

They serve mankind, filling the needs of others, and miss no opportunity to help, making a positive difference with their efforts.

They place their faith above their doubts, because true faith makes a supreme difference.



in|history September

1850 – California becomes the 31st state in record time, without even having been a territory. What would later become known as the “Sunshine State” had only been a part of the United States for less than two years.

1942 – A Japanese float plane drops incendiary bombs on an Oregon state forest. This was the first and only attack on the U.S. mainland during the war.

1971 – Former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev died. He was one of the most significant figures of the Cold War.

1972 – Terrorists take Israeli hostages at the Olympics on September 5 in Munich, Germany. Although guards spotted them, they paid little attention because they were wearing the same sweat suits as the athletes.

2001 – On a clear Tuesday morning, terrorists hi-jack American owned and operated commercial jets and launch attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing thousands of civilians.

COARNG OCS Program



The goal of the Colorado Regional Training Institute’s Officer Candidate School is to produce officers for the Colorado Army National Guard who have the professional knowledge, character and capabilities for the practical leadership required to lead troops during both war and peace.

The Colorado Army National Guard OCS Program is structured in four stages: a pre-phase is an intensive program that will prepare the candidates for the first phase. Phase I is a two-week in-resident course in June of each year at Ft. Meade, South Dakota. Phase II is associated with the traditional drills (11 drill weekends) and is taught at the RTI facility on Ft. Carson. Lastly, Phase III involves another two-week in-resident phase the following June at Fort Lewis, Washington. Upon completion of Phase III, candidates are commissioned as Second Lieutenants!

For more information contact:
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in|brief

All times are local
Special Forces Reunion
September 9 - 11

Holiday Inn DIA
Reserve rooms by August 10
\$89.95 per night, Event code ‘SFG’
Web Site: www.holidayinndia.com
(303) 371-9494, 1-800-465-4329
Early Registration (by Aug. 9) \$60
Late Registration (after Aug. 9) \$70
Guest are always \$50
MAIL CHECKS TO:
(payable to Co. H/5 Bn. Reunion)
Co. H/5 Bn. Reunion
P.O BOX 31664
Aurora, CO 80041

For more information, contact Jay Lowery, coh519@juno.com or 719-471-8611.

Community Engagement
Contact Sgt. 1st Class Pam Ames, pam.ames@co.ngb.army.mil, for more details.

Sept. 11
Nebraska Football Game, Nebraska, Flyover

Healing Fields, Broomfield, Flyover
Sept. 15

National Championship Air Races, Reno, Nevada, Flyover & Static Display

Sept. 19
Embracing our past, shaking hands with our future, Rifle, Colo., 101 Band

Submit articles and photos with captions to pao@co.ngb.army.mil.
For more information, visit the PA office located in the Joint Force Headquarters building, or call the PAO at 720-250-1050/1051.
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