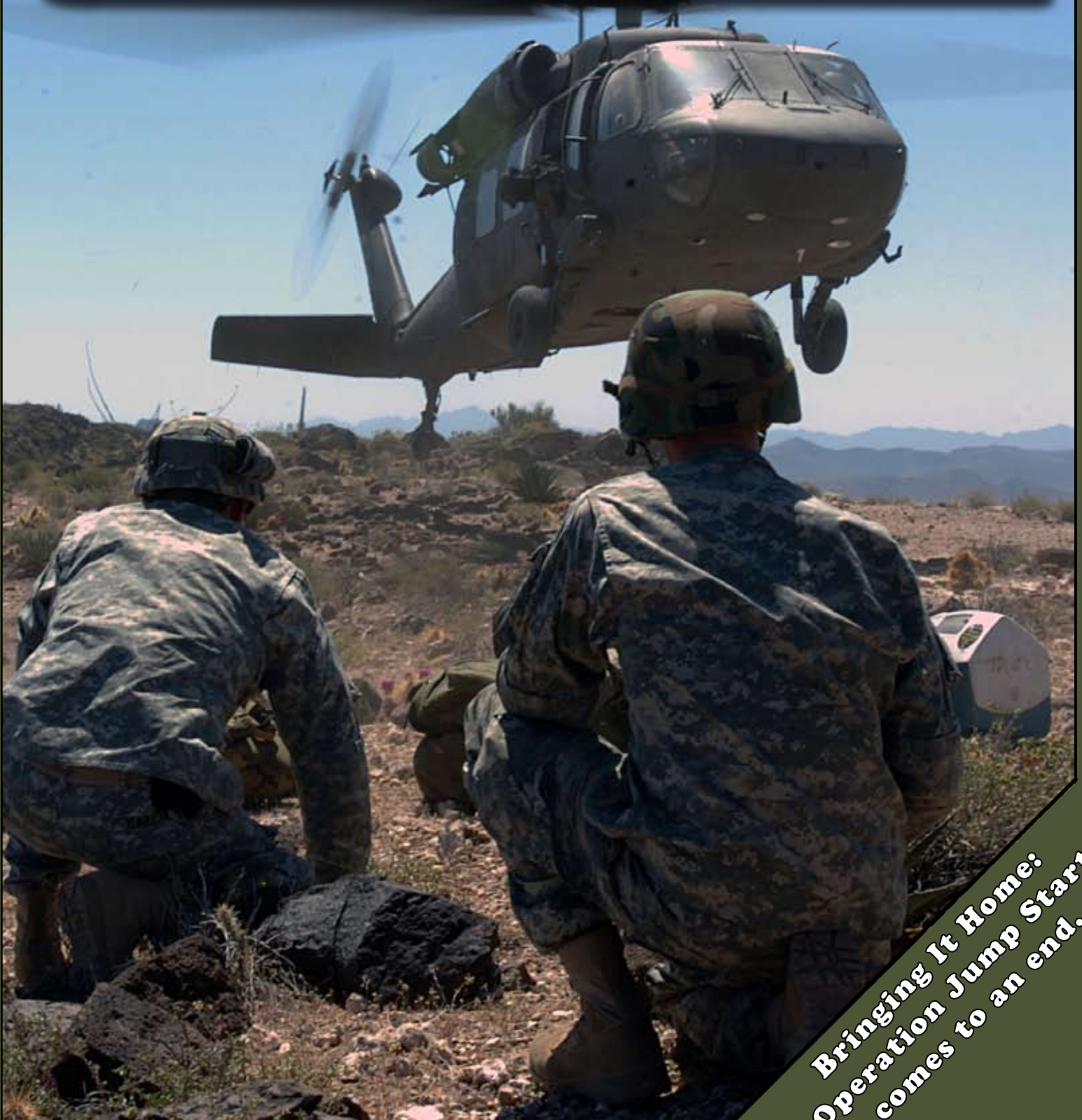


The Magazine of Operation Jump Start ~ Arizona Volume 2: Issue 03, May/June 2008

Desert SENTINEL



**Bringing It Home:
Operation Jump Start
comes to an end.**



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A desert sentinel is a "guardian of the desert." This magazine tells the story of our Desert Sentinels, standing watch over the border and those who support Operation Jump Start - Arizona

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In this issue...

It's one of the hallmarks of Operation Jump Start - jointness. Different components working together to accomplish one mission. Such was the case with the aviators of Task Force Raven and the engineers of Task Force Diamondback on several occasions when they came together for sling load operations. Whether lifting battery packs to mountain tops for repeater stations or moving temporary vehicle barriers into areas unreachable by vehicle, the two task force's have proven a dynamic duo.



The View From The Top



Col. Robert Centner
Commander, JTF - Arizona

As Operation Jump Start comes to an end, I want to thank the nearly 18,000 National Guardsmen who came from 51 of our 54 states and territories to voluntarily support this mission as a total Guard effort in Arizona.

I am exceedingly proud of our Soldiers and Airmen for the professionalism demonstrated while participating in this joint, multi-agency campaign, and the freely-given dedication displayed in the challenging physical environment of the Arizona desert. Your work here produced a lasting legacy that that will benefit U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the overall security of our nation for countless years to come.

To the men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, I offer my highest regards. Your responsibility is great and your burden heavy, yet you carry out your mission with zeal. An organization can be measured by the values, principles, and traits it embodies – CBP epitomizes excellence.

A shared esteem for duty, honor, integrity, and service lead to a natural and dynamic relationship between CBP and the National Guard. The success of OJS can be credited to

the cooperation between all involved – local, state and federal agencies. While many connections existed before OJS, and surely many will continue, the partnerships cultivated during this mission were exceptional and will be missed.

Personally, this has been one of the most rewarding opportunities of my 34-year military career and a great way to close this chapter of my life as I prepare for retirement. The journey hasn't always been easy but it has always been worth the effort. Ralph Waldo Emerson said it well when he said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

To those of you who contributed your time, your talents, and your tenacity to OJS, please accept my most sincere appreciation and gratitude for a job well done! Godspeed to you all.



Joint Task Force – Arizona commander, Col. Robert Centner greets Soldiers of Task Force Tucson during a command visit to the Case Grande, Ariz., U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol station.



Operation Jump Start - Arizona

on the web at

<http://www.azguard.gov/PublicAffairs/PAO%20Pages/ojs/ojs.htm>





Sling Load Symphony

Story
by

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

ALONG THE U.S.–MEXICO BORDER, Ariz.— Within the Army’s library of field manuals and regulations, there’s plenty of information detailing many different types of sling load operations; from the more than 4,000-pound M119 Howitzer to vehicles of all sorts. What you won’t find in any of those manuals are the proper procedures for moving three, repeater tower batteries totaling 6,000 pounds, just ask Army Sgt. Louis Garcia of Operation Jump Start

Arizona’s Task Force Raven, he knows, he looked.

For the uninitiated, sling load operations are a thing of wonder; a finely tuned orchestration of brute force. On the ground, the load is prepared in one of several prescribed methods, usually cargo nets or straps. Lines are checked and double checked; ground personal are briefed and re-briefed on correct methodology and safety.

(cont. on next page)

Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



Air Force Staff Sgt. James Reek with the Illinois Air National Guard and attached to Operation Jump Start's engineering element, Task Force Diamondback, goes over final plans with Arizona Guardsman, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Charles Selph of Task Force Raven. Task Force Raven, the aviation element of OJS-Arizona has provided logistical support to Task Force Diamondback, via sling load operations, moving pieces from predetermined staging points to the remotest of locations inaccessible by any other means.

(cont. from previous page)

The pilots assume command of the aircraft and the crew, now absent their familiar perch in the crew chief seat, lay flat on the ground in the rear. They will serve as the eyes and ears of the pilots in this movement. A final thumbs-up is given and the symphony begins.

The aircraft lumbers to life and quickly takes to the air. As the helicopter ascends, a wave of dirt, rock, and debris flies to life, animated by the aircraft's rotor wash, forming a 360 degree, moving wave of shrapnel. Some fifty feet ahead of the aircraft sits the load to be moved, on top of the load stands a solitary figure, a hook in his hand.

For now, the Soldier is free of the tsunami; he still stands with little effort, but as the aircraft moves closer to him, the profile shifts from a straight line to a near 45 degree angle as he braces against the storm. Within seconds, the figure standing atop the load disappears, engulfed in the maelstrom. The aircraft hovers over the site for a few minutes and then just like that, a figure explodes from the cloud. Breathing heavy, he watches as the helicopter hovers just a few seconds longer and then, in an amazing display of power, lifts the load and begins the journey to the drop-off point.

But this is only the intermission. If picking the load up was executed with allegro, then the off-load is an exercise in vivace and meticulousness.

Situated atop one of the few plateaus in the Growler Mountains, whose highest peaks towers into the sky at 3,294 feet, a group of

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen prepare for the incoming aircraft. One of the 6,000-pound loads has already been placed and the most difficult drop is about to begin. Today's mission is all about repeater towers, one of the many projects undertaken by OJS's engineering component, Task Force Diamondback.

When OJS, the National Guard's two-year, presidentially-mandated mission supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection, began, one of the critical infrastructure deficiencies noted by CBP was the communications towers used by the agency. The majority of the network still used an analog signal making communications between agents in the field unsecure; anyone, anywhere with the right equipment could tap into Border Patrol's conversation. The system needed upgraded to be able to broadcast in digital and the Air National Guard had just the right folks for the job.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jim Reek is a cable and antenna specialist with the Illinois Air National Guard's 217th Engineering Installation Squadron and assigned to Task Force Diamondback. For the nearly 18 months he's been apart of OJS, he's worked on the repeater tower project having recently been promoted to project supervisor.

"Every single tower in Arizona belonging to CBP had to be replaced," said Reek.

"The new towers, along with providing a secure communication, will provide Border Patrol with a stronger signal output with the use of the high-gain antennas we've installed," he said.

But with the upgraded system comes a cost – powering the system requires the use of solar panels and an array of twelve Absolyte

batteries.

Reek explained that the solar panels work to keep the batteries in a state of constant charge and that constant charge is able to run the repeater tower for up to eight days without any sun.

“This pretty much guarantees that the system will not go down due to lack of power. When was the last time there was eight days of no sun in Arizona?” Reek asked rhetorically.

With a single battery weighing 2,000 pounds, and the repeater station being nearly 3,000 feet up atop a mountain with no road access, there really was only one way to move the batteries – Task Force Raven.

Back on top of the mountain, Garcia is staring intently at the underside of a UH-60a Black Hawk and the two helmeted heads protruding from the open hatch of the aircraft. Garcia and his crew developed the plan to get these batteries where they needed to be with little to no help from Army field manuals.

“There’s just nothing in the manuals about how to do this specific task,” Garcia said.

After conducting the proper risk assessments, plenty of before-hand site recon and preparation the pilots and crew began their task. Half-way through with one load, Garcia is guiding the second battery array into position. It’s a precision movement as the sled containing the batteries must be no more than a few inches away from the other sled already on the ground.

Using hand and arm signals, Garcia communicates with his fellow crew chiefs in the bird who in turn guide the pilots. If you know nothing about sling loads, it’s one of those “ah-ha” moments explained by Task Force Raven standardization officer

and pilot, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Charles Selph.

“The pilots can’t see where we need to take the aircraft to put the load down correctly,” said Selph.

“The load is underneath the aircraft and we have to rely on the communication from our crew in the back and on the ground to place the load correctly,” he said.

Selph went on to explain that the success of a sling load mission relies heavily on standard procedures and a tight-knit team.

“Obviously when a crew has worked together on several of these mission you

the sled into position, there is no room for mistakes. When we do one of these missions, everyone comes with their A-game,” said Reek.

After a couple of attempts, it appears that Garcia and the rest of the ground crew is satisfied with the placement of the battery array. Garcia gives the signal to drop the line and the ropes connecting the sled to the aircraft come tumbling out of the sky. The Black Hawk circles around and heads back to the staging area for another load.

While perhaps the most complicated of their sling load missions, the battery array is just one of the many items Task Force Raven

has assisted via air-delivery. Just recently, a combined crew of Soldiers from the Maryland and Virginia National Guard helped Task Force Diamondback, lift more than 500 feet of temporary vehicle barriers to an area of the border near Douglas, Ariz.

“With the road conditions back up in that area, there was just absolutely no way anyone was getting a flatbed truck loaded with those barriers to the job site,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lloyd Gaskins, a Black Hawk pilot with the Virginia National Guard.

“There’s a lot of work behind the scenes; developing standards, reviewing locations and a host of other tasks that go into the proper execution of these missions,” said Selph.

“We’ve got an excellent group of Soldiers and Airmen that have done an incredible job with the task they’ve been given and their combined efforts have really made a difference to Border Patrol in their operations. It’s a legacy that will last even after we’ve (the National Guard) gone on to other missions.”



Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn



Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn



Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn

Top row, left to right: A UH-60A Black Hawk with Task Force Raven carries a sled of three Absolyte batteries to the top of a mountain in the Growler Mountain range in southern Arizona. Soldiers and Airmen of Task Force Raven and Task Force Diamondback prepare a load of cargo for transport via sling load. The two task forces worked in conjunction on several different projects supporting Operation Jump Start.

Second Row, left to right: Crew chief Sgt. Felicia Espinosa with Task Force Raven sends her passengers a light-hearted message with the words on the back of her flight helmet. Located throughout Arizona, Task Force Diamondback upgraded repeater tower stations migrating the systems from analog to digital providing U.S. Customs and Border Protection with secure communications.

develop a level of understanding; when they say ‘two-degrees north’ you know exactly what they mean,” said Selph.

Reek echoed Selph’s sentiments.

“Everyone on the crew has to know exactly what they’re doing out here. From the guys preparing the load to those up top guiding



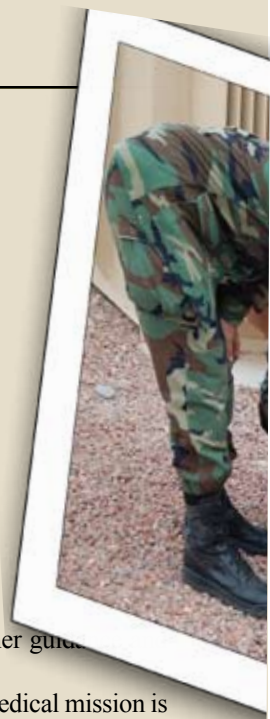
The Eye of Raven

From their seats in an aircraft, the pilots and crew of Task Force Raven are afforded a view of Arizona not seen by most people as in the case of “The Window” shown here. Located in the Ventana Canyon, near Tucson, Ariz., the window is one of the state’s least visited natural wonders. Many blame the labyrinth like directions to the trail or the fact that the trail is marked throughout by a series of steep switchbacks.

Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn

Twenty-first Century Medicine Women

Story and photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban



When she became a registered nurse in 1979, Jan Carter had no idea that her passion for helping others would lead her on a journey around the world. That journey eventually placed her in the Arizona southwest desert with the responsibility of maintaining the health and well being of the almost 18,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have served on Operation Jump Start in Arizona. Air Force Lt. Col. Jan Carter is the senior medical officer assigned to Joint Task Force Arizona.

Operation Jump Start is the National Guard mission ordered by President Bush in early 2006, that has provided much needed support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, specifically the Border Patrol, along the border with Mexico, while that agency has sought to grow its ranks in order to secure the southern frontier.

The mission, already in its planned reduction to meet a summer 2008 end, has seen thousands of National Guard volunteers from 51 states and territories make a significant impact assisting Border Patrol in their efforts to reduce the flow of illegal immigration and illegal drugs into the U.S.

While pursuing her nursing career in Knoxville, Tenn., Carter became involved with administration. Elements of this involvement included quality improvement, risk management and staffing. Working closely with insurance companies to resolve patient claims became another facet of her work.

An opportunity presented itself in 1989, and Carter joined the Tennessee Air National Guard's 134th Medical Clinic, known today as the 134th Medical Group. She expanded her medical skills in 1995, when she earned her certification as an emergency medical

technician (EMT).

When terrorists attacked in September 2001, Carter was in Bulgaria supporting a 23-nation NATO mission, providing medical training to other countries' military services.

In a purely humanitarian gesture, Carter ventured to the far east in early 2005, first to aide the residents of Banda Ache, Indonesia, and then to the coast of Thailand to help the survivors of the devastating tsunami that struck that region in late 2004.

In 2005, she found herself on orders, supporting the relief efforts along the Gulf Coast in response to Hurricane Katrina's unprecedented destruction of that area. She was called by the 159th Fighter Wing base commander in New Orleans to act as team chief of critical incident stress management, debriefing 900 Louisiana service members.

Meanwhile, back home in Tennessee, Carter was developing a growing awareness of the presence of illegal aliens in her home state. When the President mobilized the National Guard less than a year later to support Border Patrol in an effort to secure the southwest border, Carter unhesitatingly volunteered. She reported for duty in early September 2006 as a nurse in Yuma, Ariz., on Operation Jump Start orders.

Within weeks, her vast experience and broad knowledge became evident to her commanders and she was made medical officer in charge of the OJS effort in Yuma. By mid-October she was reassigned to Joint Task Force Arizona and made senior medical officer for the mission. It was then that her real work began.

Carter explained, "there was a myriad of diverse aspects that had to be dealt with." At the height of the mission, more than 200 Army and Air National Guard medics, physician assistants, nurses, and patient

administrators were under her guidance spread out across the state.

"The true success of this medical mission is not attributed to me," Carter acknowledged, "but to all the MEDCOM (medical command) members who brought their mature talents and diligent 'can do' attitudes to serve others 24/7."

"The situation demanded that I summon all of my civilian expertise, military training, and first-hand disaster experience to operationally assess what had to be accomplished in order to keep our Guardsmen safe and healthy, especially those who were downrange and in some of the most forward and remote areas," said Carter.

In doing so, she devised the acronym MEDS, which referred to medical operations, education, documentation and supply.

Medical operations encompassed the establishment and maintenance of ongoing relationships with four military treatment facilities (Davis-Monthan and Luke Air Force Bases, Fort Huachuca, and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma) as well as numerous civilian urgent care facilities so that ready access to medical care could be provided in a timely manner.

Many of the medical personnel serving on OJS held both military and civilian credentials which needed to be routinely renewed and recertified.

"It was imperative that our people maintained their professional standing while on mission," Carter stated, and she made arrangements with local civilian medical institutions, National Guard Bureau, and a variety of Air Force base medical specialty shops that ensured the continuous availability of professional education and training for her staff. This allowed those serving to keep their respective Army military occupational

From left to right: Air Force Lt. Col. Jan Carter, standing top left, offers a critique of the actions taken during a simulated medical drill. Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, far left, is greeted by Carter, a fellow Tennessean, upon the governor's arrival in Arizona in early 2007. Carter offers her own arm as a pincushion during combat life saver training where students must successfully start an IV.



specialty (MOS) and Air Force specialty code (AFSC) as well as their civilian EMT certifications. Additionally, Carter established a training opportunity that resulted in more than 612 Soldiers and Airmen becoming qualified Combat Life Savers, further enhancing her team's ability to provide a medical response in outlying areas.

"During the course of this mission, several of our Combat Life Savers have been called upon to render aid, both in the field and in their civilian jobs," Carter proudly stated.

Carter's background gave her an appreciation of the need for detailed and accurate documentation of any and all medical treatments.

"Despite the best efforts of all, there were those who became injured or ill," reflected Carter. "To date, we have initiated over 600 line of duty cases, in accordance with National Guard, Army, and Air Force regulations," Carter said, "and this documentation will provide legal and credible evidence should any claims be made in the future". As Operation Jump Start nears its end, Carter stated, "We've also completed nearly 1200 end of mission individual medical briefings to service members,"

"Meeting the downrange needs with an

adequate supply of combat lifesaver kits, fluids, personal protection items and other necessities was another unique challenge that this mission presented," commented

Carter. She explained that dealing with five distinct entities, Joint Task Force Arizona, Task Force Diamondback, Task Force Raven, Task Force Tucson, and Task Force Yuma, required a solid understanding of the supply process and familiarization with the respective individuals who would be responsible to procure and acquire the needed medical supplies.

In the course of this assignment, Carter has hosted and briefed the assistant surgeon general of the Army National Guard, and escorted the governor of Tennessee. She has regularly briefed the Operation Jump Start leadership and the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

With the construction of miles of fences and vehicle barriers along the border, personal protective equipment for welders and heavy equipment operators also was

an issue that Carter satisfactorily addressed in collaboration with safety officers, noncommissioned officers, and task force commanders.

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to be in such a leadership position and to be able to give back," Carter reflected.

She says that she sees herself as having been called by a higher source to do what is right. Those whom she has come upon in auto accidents and in-flight emergencies will agree with this Good Samaritan's description.

Having been on mission for almost two years, Carter is grateful that her husband and military confidant, a retired Air National Guard Lt. Col. and pilot, "has offered invaluable operational insight and continues to be very supportive" of her work.

"My three daughters have visited me here and told me how proud they were of their mom's service," Carter beamed. Her fellow Guardsmen are thankful and proud of her also. ¶



Southwestern Comfort

Story by Sgt. 1st Class David L. Dodds
116th Public Affairs Detachment
North Dakota Army National Guard

NOGALES, Ariz. – Pfc. Joseph Kallenbach had never been this far south in his life.

Taking brief respite under a velvet mesquite, one of the few shrubs that provide good shade in this part of the Sonoran Desert, Kallenbach sat only a few feet from a conspicuous 12-foot high carbon-steel fence. The massive black barrier snakes for miles over the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains likening iconic images of the Great Wall in China.

This marks the end of line for the United States, but for many on the other side the fence symbolizes a hurdle to a fresh, albeit illegal, start in a new land. Smugglers, too, see it as a major impediment to the lucrative clandestine drug markets of America.

All Kallenbach knew was that it was his mission to help the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) guard that line so no undocumented entrants would get their wish.

A native of Dickinson, N.D., Kallenbach is a member of the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), which is headquartered in Williston,

N.D., and has detachments in Dickinson and Hazen. About 50 Soldiers from the unit spent 20 days in June on the U.S.-Mexico border, in and around Nogales, building roads and making existing roadways safer for CBP agents.

“It’s been a great experience; you can’t ask for a better annual training,” Kallenbach said. “I mean, living in North Dakota my whole life, it’s been a bit of a culture difference down here.”

Among the last

The 818th took on the mission as part of its active duty annual-training obligation. It was one of the last National Guard units in the nation to muster on the border in support of Operation Jump Start (OJS), a mission directed by President Bush in May 2006, to bolster the ranks of CBP as the agency transitioned to meet new homeland security demands.

That federal operation is officially slated to end July 15. More than 17,600 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen,



representing nearly all U.S. states and territories have contributed to OJS in Arizona. The North Dakota Guard has supplied 177 Soldiers and 20 Airmen since the beginning of the operation.

“Pretty much whatever they need down here – we’ll support it,” said Capt. William Nels, commander of the 818th. “We’ve been asked to provide the personnel, knowledge, and skills to be able to accomplish the mission.”

Kallenbach and Pfc. David Walsh, also of Dickinson, were on a team of Soldiers that “grubbed and cleared” desert vegetation near the path of a new road about two miles west of Nogales. While bulldozers and dirt haulers massaged the road into shape, the

grubbers used loaders and their bare hands to remove and haul trees and shrubs to a central location, where chainsaw crews turned it into tidy piles of 6-to 8-foot pieces.

Not Like Home

Walsh says he’s been to Arizona before, but never close enough to physically touch the nation’s southern border.

The North Dakota Soldiers, all familiar with living near an international boundary, couldn’t help but notice the significant differences between the U.S.’s northern and southern borders. Only in Arizona 10 days and already some of the 818th Soldiers told stories of how they spotted illegal crossings into the United States and alerted CBP agents of the incursions.

The Nogales port-of-entry, about 60 miles south of Tucson, Ariz., is a favored passage into the United States by illegal aliens and drug traffickers from Mexico.

“We don’t have as many problems up there where we’re from, but down here, you have fences all over the place – barbed wire with concertina wire on top,” Walsh said. “It’s a little more intimidating, it seems, down here.”

Heat Wave

And then there’s the heat.

Spc. Jared Floodman, of Williston, spent his days in the beating desert sun, installing guard rails along stretches of meandering border roads where steep inclines and drop-offs posed hazards.

“It’s a lot hotter down here; it gets up into the hundreds every day, but it’s a dry heat and not as humid, Floodman said.

Like all good military leaders, the 818th noncommissioned officers preached the importance of water consumption to their Soldiers. Despite daily temperatures hovering between 95 and 105 degrees and having no time to get properly acclimated to the extreme heat and low humidity, the 818th encountered only one minor heat-related injury while in Arizona.

Walsh said most Soldiers didn’t need much prompting from the NCOs to drink water.

“You want to stay hydrated,” he said. “It’s just the common-sense thing to do.”

Hands-on learning

Aside from putting up guard rails, grubbing and pushing dirt, the 818th Soldiers placed special matting and “silt fences” along the roadsides for erosion control and installed

new cattle guards and light covers on border trails.

Spc. Alex Evanson, of Williston, appreciated getting to use several different types of heavy equipment during his time on the border.

“Back at the unit, a lot of times, you only have two days to do everything,” Evanson said. “That doesn’t give us enough time. So, if you really want to get some hands-on training this is the best time to do it.”

1st Sgt. Ken Miller, of Golden Valley, N.D., the top enlisted member of the 818th, said he liked the professionalism and enthusiasm with which his Soldiers handled the variety of work sent their way.

“We are combat engineers, not horizontal (road construction) engineers, so to see these guys out on those dozers and moving dirt was a pretty good deal,” Miller said.

Change of Pace

Staff Sgt. Jared Sherven, of Hazen, said being away from North Dakota and doing important work for CBP was a welcome change for the unit after spending several years in a row at Camp Grafton, N.D., for annual training.

“This may get us away a little bit from our primary mission (as combat engineers), but it gives the guys a chance to learn something different and break up the monotony,” Sherven said.

Another western North Dakota Guard unit, the 816th Engineer Company, headquartered in Dickinson, with detachments in Mott and Hettinger, arrived in Yuma, Ariz., on June 21, for a similar 20-day stint in support of OJS.

Nels said the experiences of all 818th Soldiers in Arizona should help them in the future.

“It was an excellent opportunity for our unit and our Soldiers to work with various agencies, such as the Border Patrol, civilian personnel, and Guardsmen from other states,” Nels said. “And it gave us an opportunity to work in a new environment with the temperatures and a challenging terrain.”

AROUND ARIZONA

Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban



Army Maj. David Church, commander, Task Force Tucson, sits on the "danger" chair, March 21, during a morale, welfare and safety day in Case Grande, Ariz.

Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn



An international boundary marker indicating the U.S.-Mexico border based on the 1848 Treaty of Hildago sits nestled in the Growler Mountain Range. This photo is featured as the background image for this month's picture page.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



Soldiers with the Arizona National Guard's 855 Military Police Company conduct building search operations during their annual training, June 7, in Florence, Ariz.

Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn



Soldiers of Task Force Diamondback work shoring up the security of a canal in Yuma, Ariz., that runs between the U.S. and Mexico.



Task Force Raven commander, A Col. Mark Weiss, are hosed down ritual marking the twos' final flight

AROUND OJS

Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn



Task Force Raven attempt to connect hoses at one of the few "self-service" munition and refueling points (FARP)

Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



A Soldier with Task Force Diamondback works attaching covers to a high-density lighting pole in Yuma, Ariz.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



Louis Jordan and executive officer Army Lt. [unclear] by a search and rescue fire truck in a military [unclear] OJS task force.

Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn



Soldiers and Airmen of Task Forces Raven and Diamondback exit an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter at a repeater station location in the Growler Mountain range.

Oregon National Guardsmen Saves A Life

Story by Kim Lippert
Oregon Military Department, Public Affairs



It was a dark, hot night in Yuma, Ariz., and Sergeant 1st Class Edwin Richardson was on his way to work as a night shift supervisor with Operation Jump Start, protecting the border.

“I came across a cloud of dust and I slowed down, then I saw a dark colored vehicle that had rolled over,” said Richardson, from Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, Grants Pass, Ore.

Richardson pulled over immediately and ran to the car.

“I started searching and finally spotted him in the median,” said Richardson. “When I came upon him he was unconscious, lying in the middle of the road in bad shape with ragged breathing. I assumed there were internal injuries, so I didn’t move him,” he said.

The victim was a 24-year-old Yuma man named Justin Nordell. They were on a dark stretch of highway on Interstate 8. Emergency vehicles had yet to arrive on scene. Just seconds after getting to the victim, Richardson said the unthinkable happened. A passing car slammed into the victim’s vehicle still sitting in the middle of the roadway.

“It probably missed myself and Justin by only a few feet, followed by a second and a third vehicle” said Richardson.

“I was on the phone with 9-1-1 when a third vehicle came through traveling 55-65 miles per hour and missed us by no more than a foot,” said Richardson.

“That’s when I thought, I almost got killed!”

Richardson stayed with the victim, risking his own safety to save a total stranger. While tending to Nordell, he directed the other victims in what had become a multiple-car accident.

“That’s when my training as a Soldier took over, there was no conscious thought, I just took over and got done what needed to be done,” said Richardson.

Despite the inherent danger of staying with the victim in the middle of the interstate, Richardson waited by his side until emergency vehicles arrived. Within about 15 minutes authorities raced in and began working on Nordell, but Richardson said they weren’t optimistic.

“He was in bad shape, and the police officer on scene told

me that he didn’t think Justin (Nordell) would survive,” said Richardson.

It was in utter disbelief, three weeks later, that Richardson picked up the phone and heard the words from Nordell’s father, Dan Nordell, that he never expected to hear – Justin Nordell was alive!

“I was shocked,” said Richardson.

Dan Nordell tracked Richardson down to say thank you.

Miraculously his son was alive, despite multiple broken bones, lacerations to his liver and kidneys, and scalping to the right side of his head. Dan Nordell went on to say there was only one reason his son survived . . . Sgt. 1st Class Richardson.

“It is very possible that had Sgt. 1st Class Richardson not stayed on the scene at least one, if not two, of the other vehicles would have run my son over and killed him,” said Dan Nordell.

Despite the gravity of situation, Richardson remains humble.

“I don’t feel I did anything any other Soldier wouldn’t have done,” said Richardson.

Justin Nordell continues to recover at a rapid pace, and is now home doing out-patient rehab. He’s doing so well he even managed to make a phone call to the person many say saved his life.

“He said I was his guardian angel,” said Richardson.

While Richardson maintains he did “what any Soldier would do” Nordell’s father sees it otherwise.

“I have been a police officer for 30 years now and have seen many, many people who would have decided not to get involved had they driven up on this scene,” said Dan Nordell. “Every time my son and I share a special moment from now until the day I die, I will know that there is at least one person I have to thank for making that moment possible,” he said. “It has to be an incredible feeling to know you saved a life.” †

From left to right: A wanted poster of Francisco “Pancho” Villa. While not 100 percent verified, it’s claimed that the poster is an original from the 1916 call-up of Guardsmen to the Southwest border. Illinois National Guard Army Sgt. John Centner in a family photo. The patch, also submitted by the Centner family, was awarded to those Servicemembers who took part in the Mexican Border Campaign.

PROCLAMATION
\$5,000⁰⁰ **REWARD**

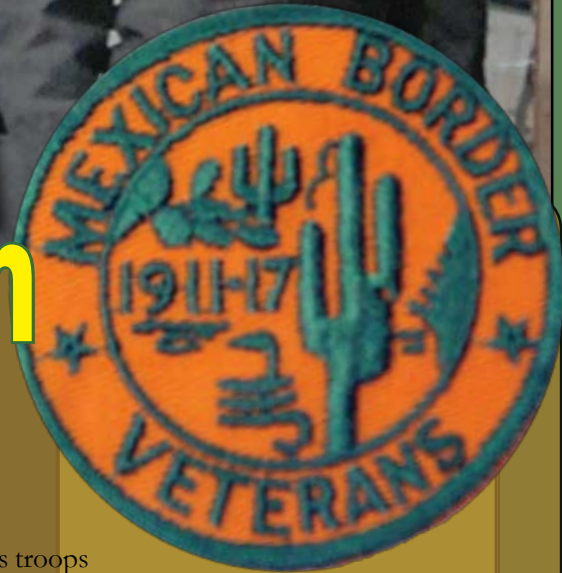


FRANCISCO (PANCHO) VILLA

ALSO \$1,000. REWARD FOR ARREST OF
CANDELARIO CERVANTES, PABLO LOPEZ,
FRANCISCO BELTRAN, MARTIN LOPEZ

ANY INFORMATION LEADING TO HIS APPREHENSION WILL
BE REWARDED.

CHIEF OF POLICE
Columbus
New Mexico



Family Tradition

Ask Joint Task Force-Arizona commander Col. Robert Centner about his grandfather, Illinois National Guard Sgt. John Centner and his face lights up with a broad grin.

“My grandfather was quite the character,” said Centner. “He was promoted to sergeant a couple times.”

In 1916, when Mexican revolutionary general Francisco “Pancho” Villa ordered his troops across the border into New Mexico, it sparked an American response that saw the mobilization of nearly the entire National Guard. Among those who responded was Sgt. John Centner.

“He didn’t talk too much about his time fighting the border war,” said Centner, “but he did mention that he became very proficient at riding horses, and that the experience prepared he and the other Soldiers there, for service in World War I.”

Centner’s father also joined the Illinois National Guard, and three of his brothers joined the U.S. Marine Corps serving in the Vietnam war.

“When it was my turn, I pretty much had no choice, I was going to join,” Centner said.

Carrying on the family tradition, Centner followed in the footsteps of his brothers and joined the Marine Corps. After an initial enlistment, he left the Marines to pursue college.

Coming back into the service with the Arizona National Guard, Centner has now brought his family line full circle. From the sergeant serving in the field, on the front lines of the Mexican border conflict to colonel in charge of the United States’ latest foray to the Southwestern border - Operation Jump Start, the two-year presidentially mandated mission placing National Guardsmen along side agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Indeed, he’s carrying on a family tradition.



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Air Force 1st Lt. Tisha Thompson, Operation Jump Start – Arizona, Task Force Tucson, trains in preparation for her participation in the San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon held June 1.

Service for the Greater Good

OJS Troops Support Worthy Causes

Story and photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban

When President Bush announced in mid-2006 the implementation of Operation Jump Start, the National Guard mission bolstering U.S. Customs and Border Protection as that agency expanded, no one anticipated that by mission's end nearly 18,000 Soldiers and Airmen from 51 states and territories would have volunteered to serve in the Grand Canyon State.

An unheralded fact is that many of these service members went above and beyond by donating thousands of dollars in support of fellow Guardsmen who contributed their own time and energy to a variety of charitable events.

Recent examples of such generosity include the more than \$500 of holiday gifts provided a needy Tucson family of five by Task Force Tucson's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund, an effort coordinated by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Dan Williams; Army Sgt. Ed Balaban raised about \$300 in sponsor support when he completed the 30K American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure bike event in March; and the latest contributors are Air Force 1st Lt. Tisha Thompson and Army Spc. Dion Garvey who ran in the San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon as members of the 21-member Tucson chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training. The two raised \$7,200 - \$4089 in contributions and \$3,111 from their personal finances.

According to their website, "The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training is the world's largest endurance sports training program. The program provides training to run or walk marathons and half marathons or participate in triathlons and century (100-mile) bike rides. Since 1988, more than 360,000 volunteer participants have helped raise more than \$850 million."

Although in good physical condition, Thompson readily admits that she "never ran more than three to four miles" at a time. She and Garvey have been training for the marathon since February.

Thompson said, "running a marathon is a milestone on my personal list of accomplishments, and when I received an unsolicited mailing that described Team In Training it provided all the motivation I needed to commit to this undertaking."

Additional inspiration came from her grandmother and a neighbor,

both of whom are breast cancer survivors.

Each Team In Training member is obligated to generate a minimum of \$3600 in donations. Garvey and Thompson have established personal websites for online fundraising, hosted dinner events with the help of local restaurants, and have sent personal letters to family and friends in their efforts to reach their contribution goals.

"It is very challenging to raise such a sum, but it is all for a good cause," said Thompson.

Other challenges that faced the runners included carving out training time from job and family commitments, as well as the physical concerns (Garvey is over 40, Thompson will be 30 later this year).

Fortunately, Team In Training provided personalized fitness training. Over a period of months leading up to the event the training regiment offered a "gradual ramping up" according to Thompson. Team members received assessments of their running styles and were coached respectively, starting with a three-mile run and building up stamina to where the team completed a 20 mile jaunt about three weeks prior to the big event. The plan after that was to maintain fitness and be prepared for the June 1 marathon.

While the training has gradually intensified, it has been far from easy. Thompson remarked that both she and Garvey "have endured pain while training, but I'm sure it is nothing like what patients go through with chemotherapy and radiation treatments."

Garvey and Thompson anticipate "a very action packed day" when the marathon starts at five a.m. June 1, and both stated they are "very excited" at the magnitude of the day's event.

Having previously participated in the Susan G. Komen breast cancer fundraiser, Thompson commented that her involvement with Team In Training has "broadened my horizons with respect to other life threatening diseases." Their goal is to completely finish the full marathon in the maximum seven hours allowed and not be re-routed, a protocol the race organizers use to ensure the personal safety of the runners.

In the eyes of those stricken and those who aspire to serve for the greater good, Garvey and Thompson are already winners regardless of when they cross the finish line. ¶

Ohio RED HORSE Kicks Up Some Dust

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

As winter gives release to spring's awakening in Ohio, Airmen of the Camp Perry and Mansfield, Ohio-based 200th Rapid Engineer Deployment, Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineering (RED HORSE) are already getting their first taste of summer on this hot, May 7th afternoon at a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, Ariz.

Along with National Guard units

from around the country, the Ohio element is participating in Operation Jump Start (OJS), a two-year, presidentially-mandated mission placing National Guard Soldiers and Airmen alongside agents of the Texas, California, New Mexico and Arizona U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol.

“A RED HORSE unit is uniquely



qualified for this type of mission,” said Air Force Col. Michael Skomrock of Beavercreek, Ohio, and commander of the 200th. “Our primary focus is construction with some consideration toward maintenance.”

In line with their capabilities, the squadron is assigned to Task Force Diamondback, the engineering component of OJS-Arizona, responsible for building roads, permanent and temporary vehicle barriers, and stretches of primary and secondary fence in Arizona.

“We’re covering six rotations of two weeks each with approximately 40 Airmen on each rotation,” Skomrock said.

Operation Jump Start began in mid-2006, when President George W. Bush announced the operation from a podium in Yuma, Ariz. Since that time, the 200th has been a staunch supporter of the mission, sending Airmen to Arizona for their annual training on three separate occasions. As Skomrock explained, OJS provides his Airmen with mission-essential training.

“The work we’re doing out here is the same sort of stuff we did in the desert (Iraq) in ’02 and ’05,” Skomrock said. “But we’ve got a lot of younger Airmen now that haven’t



Airmen of the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th RED HORSE work building a road near Nogales, Ariz.



had the opportunity to do this sort of work yet. So this has been a great training opportunity that will help prepare us for future deployments.”

While in Arizona, the squadron will focus their efforts on road construction along the border. In many areas, roads tracing the border are nothing more than rough-cut dirt patches exposed to the ravages of monsoon rains and floods as well as the unrelenting desert sun.

“When we were out here last year, there were patches of roads that were particularly bad; [U.S. Border Patrol] agents couldn’t go more than 10-15 miles per hour down them. With the work that’s been done by units like

ours, agents can hit 35-40 miles per hour, increasing their response time,” Skomrock said.

For Sandusky, Ohio-resident, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bressler, the unit’s senior enlisted Airman and operations manager, this deployment to the Southwest border is his second. In the time between his stints in Arizona, he’s seen a world of change.

“Supporting the Border Patrol out here as we have for the last two years, we’ve enhanced the security of our nation’s border,” Bressler said. “It’s just incredible the amount of work we’ve invested in our border and the impact that work has had.”

Bressler said what’s impressed him the most during his time working on OJS – a sentiment his Airmen have repeated time and again – is the relationship between the National Guard and the U.S. Border Patrol.

“One of the most significant things I’ll take away from this mission is the appreciation of the Guard from the Border Patrol,” he said. “And trust me, it’s a feeling that’s mutual; working with them has been great. Between us all, we’ve increased the security of our nation and it’s something I’m definitely proud to be a part of.”

STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

Misc. Education Websites

- <http://www.gibill.va.gov> (Education)
- <http://aarts.army.mil> (Education & Transcripts)
- <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/> (Education "PME"& Transcripts)
- <http://www.dantes.doded.mil> (Education)
- <http://www.amu.apus.edu> (Education)

Misc. Job Websites

- <http://www.azguard.gov/hro/> (Jobs)
- <http://www.mpri.com> (Jobs)
- <http://hotjobs.yahoo.com> (Jobs)
- <http://www.monster.com> (Jobs)
- <http://www.azcentral.com> (Jobs)
- <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/vmet/index.jsp> (Military Resume)
- <http://www.ang.af.mil/careers/> (Jobs)
- <http://www.vetjobs.com/> (Jobs)
- <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/careers/> (Jobs)
- <http://www.azstatejobs.gov> (Jobs)
- <http://www.militaryconnection.com/> (Jobs)



National Guard Jobs/Tours

Full Time positions in the ARNG/ANG

<http://www.fulltimeguard.com/>
(Links to all states AGR/Technician vacancies)

USA Jobs

http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/agency_search.asp
(Link to job listing for ARNG/ANG Technician vacancies as well as Federal Government/ DOD civilian employment)

Volunteer for Deployment

(GKO Access is required)
<https://gkoportal.ngb.army.mil/default.aspx>

Personnel Force Innovation (PFI) Website

Partners Reservists with Defense Agency positions - http://pfi.dod.mil/PFI_Online.html

ANG Title 10 Tours

<http://www.ang.af.mil/careers/mva/index.asp> (Links for ADSW and MPA Tours as well)

AF Reserve AGR & Technician Vacancies

<http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/jobs/> (Links to all AF Reserve AGR/Technician vacancies)

Air AGR job opportunities:

Go to the following within the USAF Portal. Then go to AGR Vacancy list:
<https://www.dmy.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=RC-DP-00-11>

AF Reserve Recruit the Recruiter

<https://www.dmy.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=RC-OT-00-09>
(Link for ANG members interested in becoming a recruiter in the AF Reserve)

Arizona Service Ribbon Not Authorized for OJS

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL OPERATION JUMP START PERSONNEL TASK FORCE ARIZONA BORDER

FROM: TF ARIZONA/ J-1

SUBJECT: Arizona Community Service Ribbon Authorization Memorandum dated 15 December 2006

1. The above noted and all previous letters regarding this subject are hereby rescinded. The Arizona Community Service Ribbon is not authorized for Operation Jump Start, Task Force Arizona Border.
2. If you have any questions, feel free to contact MSgt Carl Henderson at commercial 602-267-2317, or DSN 853-2317.

DON R. HOFFMEISTER
COL, EN, TNARNG
J1, TF-AZ Border



Stand Up Against Sexual Assault, Make A Difference

by Sgt. Maj. Pamela Higgins

Sgt. Maj. Higgins is the Joint Forces Headquarters Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (JFHQ SARC) for the Arizona National Guard. As a part of her SARC duties, she manages the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention (SAPR) Program.

As part of the Defense Authorization Act of 2005, Congress ordered the DoD to direct all the armed services to develop programs dealing with the problem of sexual assault in the military. The mission for all the programs across all military branches is the same:

- To establish a climate that discourages sexual assaults,
- To create a support program for victims, and
- To increase reporting and accountability.

In order to ensure service-wide consistency in the way sexual assault issues are handled, all programs are expected to share certain key elements, such as the use of victim advocates (VA) and sexual assault response coordinators (SARCs).

The sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) Program you are part of is NOT an Air Guard program or an Army Guard program: it is a NATIONAL GUARD program, where both Soldiers and Airmen in Arizona are supported jointly. While some of the services had been making some headway on their own in addressing this issue, this is the first time the DoD itself has addressed it as a military-wide effort.

Prior to this new DoD policy, in the Army and Air Force, when a sexual assault was reported to the military police (MP), the emphasis was mainly on investigating and punishing the perpetrator, not on ensuring victim care. That meant that until criminal proceedings were taken, the MPs were the only people on base who

knew of the incident. As a result, the victim could sometimes end up having to live and work with the perpetrator for months, until the case came to an end.

There was little to no specific support services for victims of sexual assault; the Soldier or Airman was left all alone to deal with the physical and emotional trauma. Along with that, there were no mandated directives about sexual assault education and response programs.

In the new program, our focus is providing support to the victim—the Guard member who has been attacked. Of course, criminal proceedings will still be taken against the perpetrator, but our new policies allow a range of support services to help victims cope with and address sexual assault incidents. We've instituted new prevention education, awareness, and outreach initiatives specifically about sexual assault; so that all Guard members know how seriously the Guard takes the issue, and where Soldiers and Airmen can go for help. Finally, we're establishing policy for these new support and education programs, as well as developing reporting and tracking mechanisms that will help us monitor the program's progress and effectiveness.

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is defined as “intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority when the victim does not or cannot consent.” This means sexual assault includes any sexual behavior of any kind perpetrated on the victim that the victim did not consent to—not just rape.

Sexual assault can include: rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal penetration), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts. The key to all these acts is that they are physical contacts of a sexual nature, they

are intentional, and they are unwanted.

“Nonconsent” does not mean you have to physically resist or say “no” out loud for it to count. It's also important to understand that even if the victim did not physically resist an attack or did not actually say the word “no,” it does not mean she or he consented to it.

Often victims are too afraid or confused to physically resist an assault physically or verbally. And a victim who is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious cannot consent, so such situations can never be considered consensual.

When we discuss the definition of sexual assault, one question frequently asked is how sexual assault is different from sexual harassment. Both sexual harassment and sexual assault are serious issues that go against the Army Values and Air Force Core Values and have no place in the Guard. They are sometimes related to each other, but there are two key differences.

Harassment vs. Assault

First, sexual harassment is a legal term that is used to define unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the workplace. Sexual assault is not just related to the workplace. Sexual assault can happen in the workplace, but it can also happen anywhere else.

Second, sexual harassment may or may not include physical contact. Sexual harassment can also be words, gestures, mental intimidation and coercion, which doesn't involve any physical contact, but which creates a hostile work environment. Sexual assault always involves physical contact, or an attempt to force physical contact against the victim's wishes.

Sometimes sexual harassment and assault overlap. For instance, if an unwanted physical act of a sexual nature occurred within the workplace, it would be both sexual harassment and sexual assault. If

(cont. on page 27)

To Build A Fence For Horses

Story and photos
by
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

SOUTH EAST OF WILCOX, Ariz. – For the Soldiers and Airmen of Operation Jump Start – Arizona’s Task Force Diamondback, building a fence to keep things out (e.g. undocumented aliens, drug traffickers) is business as usual. Imagine their surprise when they were tasked to build a fence to keep things in.

Horses. Specifically, horses used to train the growing number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U. S. Border Patrol agents who will go on to become members of the Border Patrol’s horse detachment.

It’s a mark of the success of Operation Jump Start, the two-year, presidentially-mandated mission placing National Guardsmen in non-law enforcement positions

assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection, that work on the horse corral and fencing project even began.

“When we started OJS, there was a list of projects that needed to be completed that we never thought the National Guard would get to,” said Wilcox based Border Patrol agent Renee Rascone, project supervisor.

“But the Guard has steadily completed each of the projects we had, most of them ahead of schedule, allowing us to get to some, like this horse corral, that we truly didn’t think would happen,” Rascone said.

In addition to the assistance from the National Guard, CBP has undergone an aggressive recruiting

campaign in an effort to ramp up to the 6,000 new agents mandated by President Bush by the end of 2008.

“With the influx of new agents, the old training facilities we used near Fort Huachuca and Ajo were just too small to meet our needs,” said Rascone.

In October 2007, initial plans for the project were drawn up and submitted for review to Task Force Diamondback, the engineering component of OJS – Arizona. With an initial staff of approximately 18 Soldiers and Airmen, Army Staff Sgt. Paul Cross from Hingham, Mass. with the Massachusetts National Guard’s 1058th Transportation Company, was designated project manager and work began in January.

“I really had no idea how to construct a this type of enclosure,” said Cross, a mechanic by trade.

The job in front of Cross and his team was daunting; enclose a 16,000 square-foot perimeter, construct a slew of stables, build a circular ring and arena.

“Where do I need to put in my supports, how do I put in doors, what kind of cap for the bolts can I create so the horses don’t rub against the bolts and hurt themselves – these were all things that as we got into this project, we realized we had to come up with some creative solutions,” said Cross as he ticked off the laundry list of items in rapid fire succession.

“One of the biggest concerns for us,” said Rascone, “was making



sure the fence was created in such a manner that wouldn’t cause injury to the animals.”

To that end, Cross and his team fabricated custom covers for bolts with rounded caps, pegs to hold fencing wire were designed from halved chain links, and extra care was given to filing down any nicks or burs in the metal.

To the relief of the team, much of the work was similar to that done on fencing projects throughout the state; digging post holes, pouring concrete, welding metal. But several aspects of the project were unique.

“With the budget and material we had, we determined it would be best to use heavy-gauge wire to form the majority of the fence,” said Cross.

This, of course, led to another challenge for the team; how to



Staff Sgt. Paul Cross, Massachusetts Army National Guard attached to Task Force Diamondback, ensures a piece of fencing is level during the construction of a horse pen in Wilcox, Ariz.



stretch and properly tension, literally tons, of wire across hundreds of feet of fencing.

“We weren’t sure it was going to work at first,” explained Cross as he detailed how his team threaded the wire through the holes and tightened it.

“You can tell from looking where we first attempted this,” he said indicating a section of fence, “and where we are now with the marked improvements.”

With construction expected to be completed by early June, Rascone and the Tucson Sector hope to host their first class of 12 agents in mid-July.

The 285-acre, \$700,000 compound will serve as the background for a three-week program that will give agents the very basics of horsemanship and an introduction to some of the difficulties they’ll face when they get to the field.

“It’s our hope that this area will eventually become a national training center for the horse patrol,” said Rascone.

“Until then, all agents assigned to the Tucson

Sector will get their training here.”

Asked about the work of the National Guard, Rascone couldn’t speak highly enough of the the Soldiers and Airmen of OJS.

“Like I said earlier, this is one of those projects that back when OJS began, we didn’t think

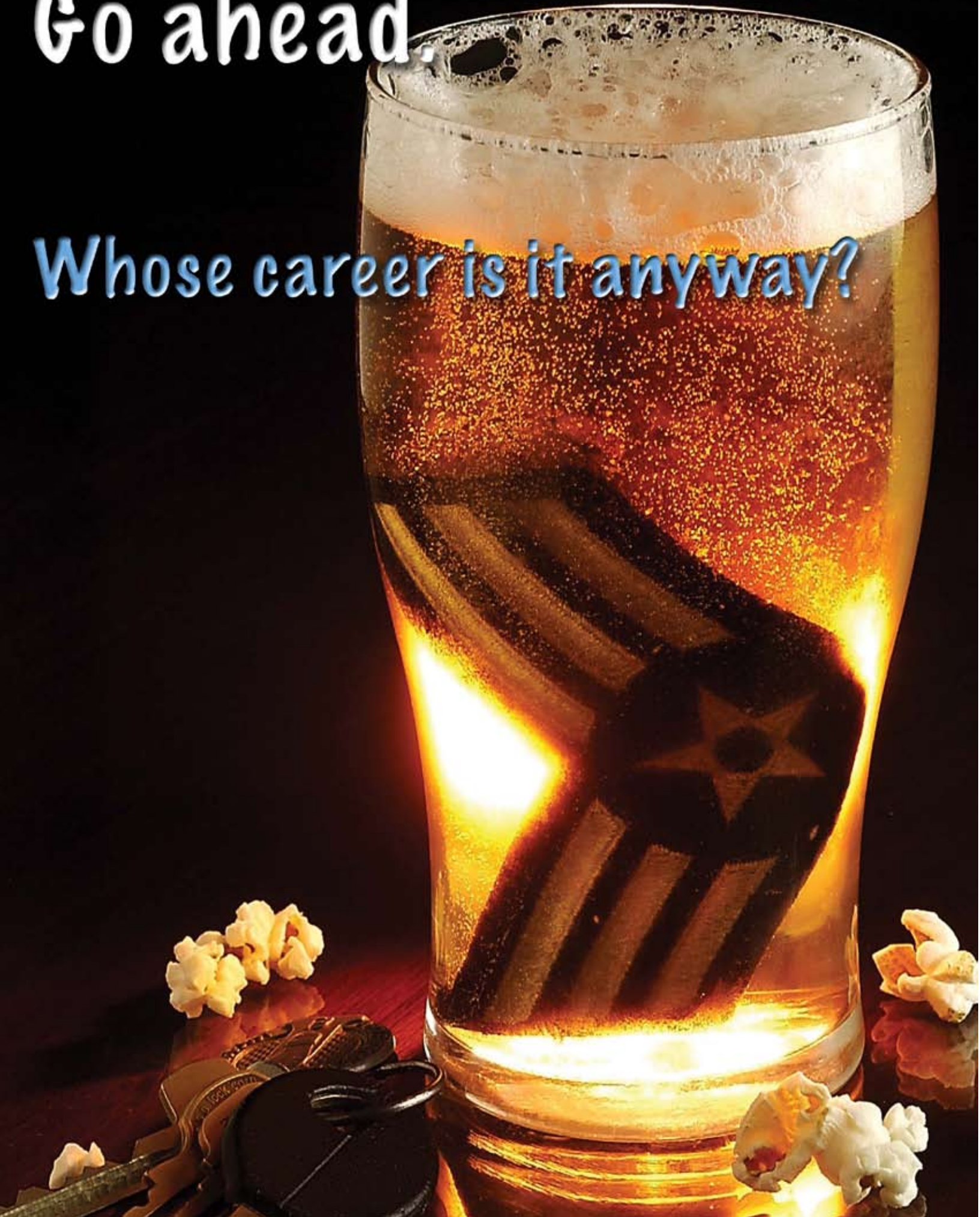
would ever get completed,” Rascone said. “It was a wish list thing. But it’s a testament to the professionalism and dedication of the National Guard in how far they’ve brought us and what they’ve been able to accomplish in two years.”

Soldiers from the Guam National Guard attached to Operation Jump Start-Arizona’s Task Force Diamondback pour concrete for fence posts during construction of a horse training academy enclosure.



Go ahead.

Whose career is it anyway?



(cont. from page 23)

the same act occurred outside the workplace, and not between co-workers, usually it would be considered assault, not harassment. But remember, though there are differences, whether it's sexual harassment or sexual assault, neither is tolerated in the Guard.

In the most recent government study on crime, the Department of Justice found that in 2002-2003, there were an average of 223,280 victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault. That means every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted.

In the 15 minutes it takes you to eat your bowl of cereal every morning; six Americans have been sexually assaulted. In the hour it takes you to commute to work, 24 people have been victimized. And by the time you get through your eight-hour work day, another 192 Americans have been sexually assaulted.

Assault in the Military

In the spring of 2005, Sgt. Eric Vetesy, a recruiter with the Indiana Army National Guard was indicted on 31 counts of sexual assault, including rape, criminal deviant conduct, sexual battery, and official misconduct. These attacks occurred over an 18-month period and involved high school students.

It happens on traditional drilling status, on Annual Training, on the Border Mission, and it happens while mobilized. DoD numbers show that from August 2002 through October 2004, 118 cases of sexual assault on military personnel were reported in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. But the Miles Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the military, reports that it was contacted by 258 military assault victims in the combat theater during that same time span. That number rose to 307 through mid-February, according to the foundation.

The reality is sexual assault can happen to anyone, of any age, race, or economic status, at any time, and under any circumstances. However, based on statistics, there are certain areas where there is an increased likelihood of an attack. The first is age. Statistics show, for instance, that 80 percent of all rapes

happen to people under 30. What does this mean for us? That means that our young, future leaders are at the highest risk. These young Soldiers and Airmen are well trained and an incredible asset to us; losing them, or any of our fighting force, would be harmful to the unit, the Guard, and the country. In short, any incident that frightens our young and future leaders away from reenlisting, or that makes their friends reluctant to enlist, affects our current readiness and threatens our long-term future as a force.

A second risk factor is time of day. "Prime time" for assaults is between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., especially between Thursdays and Sundays. Sixty-seven percent—more than two-thirds of all assaults—occur during that time period.

Finally, any situation in which people are drinking has explosive potential for violence. In the Army, 86 percent of all Soldiers convicted of sexual assault in 2004 were using alcohol. All the risk factors are there: young people getting together after training or after duty hours on OJS, going out in groups to bars in the evenings. For that reason, I bring up the dangers of these situations whenever I am educating commanders or other Soldiers or Airmen on the topic.

The Arizona Guard has had sexual assaults happen on our watch, and all but one of the incidents involved the use of alcohol. Please use the Battle Buddy or Wingman system while socializing after duty hours. If you know of an incident or have been involved in an assault, report it. Call me toll free, Sgt. Maj. Pam Higgins, at 1-800-295-1926 ext 4920, or local phone 602-629-4920. Don't be a bystander – make a difference and stand up against sexual assault. ♪

The Numbers

223,280 - the average number of rapes, attempted rapes or sexual assaults in a Department of Justice study between 2002-2003

1,170 - cases of reported sexual assault in the U.S. Military of which 1,275 servicemembers were victims and 1,305 were named as perpetrator.

118 - cases of sexual assault in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan from August 2002 through February 2004 as reported by the Department of Defense.

75 - percent of military women who did not report an assault to their commanding officer according to a study by the Department of Veterans Affairs

307 - cases of sexual assault in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan from August 2002 through February 2004 as reported by the Miles Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.



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