A look back at 2010

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FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

A great year

As in the past, 2010 presented some heavy challenges in our effort to balance our missions at home and abroad. Fortunately, the Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees within our organization worked together to achieve success, just as they have always done.

Throughout the year these men and women have made our state proud through hard work, readiness and overseas service. The Arkansas National Guard has responded to state emergencies, including late-night calls for support due to tornadoes and the search for survivors of severe flooding. Our counterdrug personnel helped civil authorities recover more than $200 million worth of stolen material, and we helped the state “take-back” approximately two and a half tons of unused prescription drugs.

We continued our efforts to ensure a positive future for our nation by operating two youth programs, and supporting a third on Camp Robinson. And we continued our mission to help ensure a strong military force through our two training sites, and training at the Little Rock Air Force Base.

We also put our own readiness to the test in support of operations overseas. Our Soldiers cleared the Afghan roadways of explosives, and Soldiers and Airmen worked with Afghan farmers to improve their commerce. The year witnessed our Airmen in the skies over Afghanistan while others here at home supported overseas missions through data interpretation and intelligence support. And, when an earthquake devastated Haiti, our Airmen stepped up to help. Many of our Army aviators are making a difference in Kosovo.

The men and women of the Arkansas National Guard are only able to take on these challenges due to the tremendous support from Families, friends, employers, legislators and entire communities throughout the state. Without this support we would not be able to respond to these calls to serve with such strength and determination.

2011 looks to be another historic year for the Arkansas National Guard and we pledge to continue to be always ready, always there.

Maj. Gen. William Wofford
The Adjutant General of Arkansas

CENTURIES-OLD ITALIAN HONOR BESTOWED ON ADJUTANT GENERAL

According to the web site, the order is bestowed on military leaders throughout Italy, and named for St. George, a Christian martyr born around the year 270, and who became a military officer in the Roman Imperial Army. Many legends have been told about St. George over the centuries, and he is depicted in Orthodox art as slaying a dragon. In the Middle Ages, he came to be known as the Patron of the Knights.

The Italian team brought the order’s medal and certification with them, along with a traditional dress uniform from the Corps of Carabiniers, a paramilitary organization that is an Italian equivalent to the National Guard.

“On behalf of all the members of the Arkansas National Guard, I am truly honored to be included in the prestigious Constantinian Order of St. George,” said Wofford.

“...a privilege for all of us to serve and train with our brothers-in-arms from Italy.”

According to Wofford, “the uniform of the Corps of Carabiniers will be proudly displayed at the headquarters of the Marksmanship Training Center, symbolizing the great team spirit of our partnership” with the Italians.
ARKANSAS MINUTEMAN

Waves of Soldiers and Airmen depart state

170 mobilize, 25 given send-off ceremony

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – Early on the morning of Dec. 2, 2010, two Arkansas National Guard units comprising approximately 170 troops departed the state for mobilization training in anticipation of overseas deployments. Another 25 were given a send-off ceremony in anticipation of an early 2011 departure.

On December 2, approximately 60 Soldiers and Airmen of the Arkansas National Guard’s second Agricultural Development Team departed Camp Robinson for Camp Atterbury, Ind., to begin mobilization training for an early 2011 deployment to Afghanistan. The second ADT will replace the state’s first ADT, which is due back to the U.S. in late January or early February.

Also on December 2, approximately 110 Soldiers with the Arkansas Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment (Air Assault) of the 77th Theater Aviation Brigade, departed Camp Robinson for Fort Hood, Texas to prepare for an early 2011 deployment in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

The aviation unit departed in four waves, with the first group departing by bus. Three groups of five UH-60 Blackhaws, each carrying approximately five crewmembers, departed the Army Aviation Support Facility at Camp Robinson between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. The unit will have a direct support mission under the U.S. Army’s 4th Infantry Division for the northern portion of Iraq.

Then on Dec. 4, 2010, approximately 25 Soldiers with the Camp Robinson based 449th Aviation Support Battalion of the 77th, were honored with a sendoff ceremony. The unit is slated to depart for Camp Atterbury in early 2011 to prepare for a helicopter maintenance mission in Kosovo.

THE COLORS GO TOO. Members of the Arkansas National Guard’s second Agricultural Development Team show off their guidon before boarding a bus to Camp Atterbury, Ind., to prepare for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan.

A GOOD HUG. A member of the Arkansas National Guard’s second ADT hugs his son before boarding a bus to Camp Atterbury, Ind., December 4.

HOLDING ON. A member of the 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, 77th Theater Aviation Brigade, gets a last hug from his wife prior to boarding a UH-60 Blackhawk for the trip to Fort Hood, Texas, where the unit will prepare for deployment to Iraq.

HEADING OUT. A UH-60 Blackhawk of the 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, 77th Theater Aviation Brigade, prepares to head out to Fort Hood, Texas as the first wave of five Blackhawks departs.
SEND-OFF CEREMONY.
Approximately 25 members of the 449th Aviation Support Battalion, 77th Theater Aviation Brigade, stand in formation during a send-off ceremony Dec. 4, 2010 at the Army Aviation Support Facility on Camp Robinson. The Soldiers are slated to depart for Camp Atterbury, Ind., to prepare for a deployment to Kosovo.

LOADING UP. Members of the Arkansas National Guard’s second ADT get ready to board buses December 2 for the trip to Camp Atterbury, Ind.

SHOWING SUPPORT. A Soldier enjoys time with his Family prior to boarding a bus to Camp Atterbury, Ind., where the second Arkansas National Guard ADT will prepare for a deployment to Afghanistan in early 2011.

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Arrivals and departures

2010 goes into the history books as a busy year for the Arkansas National Guard, marked by a series of departures, arrivals and state active duty missions. The year saw major construction plans come to fruition, the development of Arkansas’ first agricultural development team, five major overseas deployments, the death of a Medal of Honor recipient, Guard response to the devastation in Haiti, 39 state active duty missions, and an earthquake response workshop at Camp Robinson.

The following is a quick glance back at the top stories of 2010. For a more detailed listing, take a look at the 2010 Annual Report at www.arguard.org/public_affairs/index.asp, or on our Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Arkansas-National-Guard/147727854767.

Jan. 10, 2010

For heroic actions in an attempt to save a life during an incident at Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs, Maj. Steven Hall and Chief Warrant Officer Ricky Bullinger are awarded the Soldier’s Medal. Maj. Michael Henderson, along with Hall and Bullinger, received the National Guard Association of Arkansas’ Valley Forge Certificate for actions during the attempt.

Jan. 21, 2010

After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastates the island nation of Haiti, seven members of the Air National Guard’s 123rd Intelligence Squadron depart the state in response to Arkansas’ first call for Guard support there.

Jan. 25, 2010

The Arkansas Army National Guard’s 1037th Route Clearance Company, which departed the state in November 2009, prepares to depart Fort McCoy, Wis., for a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Jan. 31, 2010

Thirty-eight members of the 188th Fighter Wing’s Civil Engineering Squadron return from a six-month deployment to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Cuba.

Feb. 6, 2010

Family and friends said their goodbyes to the Soldiers and Airmen of the Arkansas National Guard’s first Agricultural Development Team, which departed the state for their mobilization station to prepare for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. The team is charged with helping to increase agriculture production, generate jobs and reinvigorate the agriculture economic system in Zabul province.

Feb. 8, 2010

The Arkansas National Guard answers the call to provide four-wheel drive ambulance support to Pulaski and Faulkner Counties due to severe weather. A total of four military ambulances and eight personnel are tasked to support Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) during the icy conditions.

Feb. 25, 2010

Over 40 organizations from across the state meet at Camp Joseph T. Robinson as part of the first ever meeting of the Arkansas Suicide Prevention Network.

More than 200 members of the 188th Fighter Wing depart Fort Smith for Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan as part of an Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation, joining 50 Airmen from the 188th who departed the state in January. The wing’s A-10 Thunderbolt II “Warthogs” fly close air support while in country and return to a hero’s welcome May 17, 2010.

March 8, 2010

Approximately 20 troops join the Arkansas State Police, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Newton County Sheriff and the 14th Drug Task Force in the search for the body of a man suspected to have been murdered in relation to a drug operation. The Arkansas National Guard Counter Drug Program provides ground surveillance personnel, aerial surveillance, ground penetrating radar, bulldozers and excavating equipment in the effort.

April 14, 2010

Approximately 60 Soldiers with two units of the Arkansas Army National Guard’s 77th Theater Aviation Brigade depart for mobilization training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in anticipation of a deployment to Kosovo. Members of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, and Detachment 1, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 114th Aviation Regiment kiss friends and Family goodbye at Camp Robinson.

May 8, 2010

More than 2 states, and seven to plan for 11 Madison Seismic rying were the sional Guard Pr

June 12, 2010

The latest at Fort Chaffee Training officially opened its business with a bon cutting cer at the post’s new consolidated Maintenance Facility. The $270 million, 181,007 foot, facility is designed to handle and store more than 5,000 equipment.

Military Museum.

Medal of Hon” Nick Bacon, passes away in North Little Rock.

More than 4 12 days, and seven to plan for 11 Madrid Seismic rying were the sional Guard Pr
July 17, 2010

nor recipient and long-time advocate for veterans, ses away after a battle with cancer. A special me- held July 24 at the Arkansas State Veterans Ceme- tite Rock, featuring a 29-person Arkansas National Funeral Honors team.

Oct. 5, 11, 14, 2010

A series of range fires affected the Robinson Maneuver Training Center, sending clouds of smoke and ash over the post and surrounding communities. The initial blaze began October 5 when a round fired from M203 Grenade Launcher started a grass fire on Range 16. While this fire smoldered, a second blaze flared up October 11 on the east side of the post near Kellogg Valley. In each case, Camp Robinson Fire and Public Safety personnel, and post engineers were joined by aviators from the 77th Theater Aviation Bri- gade flying UH-60 Blackhawks equipped with “bambi” buckets to douse the flames. Then, on October 14, the initial fire re-ignited in the RMTC impact area. The post fought the blaze with a controlled “back burn” from the firebreak which helped the fire burn itself out. Nearly 3,000 acres of the post were left charred.

Oct. 16, 2010

Arkansas Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program Warriors and cadre participated in the nationwide “Guard the En- vironment” program by picking up trash and debris throughout ar- eas of Hope and Russellville, Ark.

Nov. 1, 2010

Having found and cleared more than 120 impro- vised explosive de- vices over a nine month deployment in Afghanistan, the 1037th Route Clear- ance Company re- turned to a hero’s welcome. On No- vember 13, the Soldiers were honored in Jonesboro with a belated Veterans Day celebration and parade.

Nov. 23, 2010

Sgt. Russell “Doc” Collier, an Arkansas National Guard combat medic killed in action while serving in Iraq six years ago, was mem- orialized at Fort Hood, Texas, with the naming of one of the post’s four health clinics in his honor.

Dec. 2, 2010

Approximately 170 Soldiers and Airmen in two different units departed the state for final mobil- ization training in an- ticipation of deploy- ments to Afghanistan and Iraq. Approx- imately 60 Soldiers and Airmen with the Arkansas National Guard’s second Ag- ricultural Develop- ment Team boarded buses at Camp Robin- son for Camp Atter- bury, Ind., to prepare for a year-long de- ployment to Afghani- stan, where they will relieve the first ADT. Across Camp Robin- son, 110 Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, 77th Theater Avia- tion Brigade, departed the state in four waves for Fort Hood, Texas to prepare for a nine-month deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.

Dec. 4, 2010

Approximately 25 Soldiers with the 77th TAB’s 449th Aviation Support Battalion departed Camp Robinson for Camp Atterbury, Ind., to prepare for an early 2011 deployment to Kosovo.
Lt. Col. Sean Gavan takes reins


Lt. Col. Andreas De Kunffy handed over the reins after commanding the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team unit for two years. The battalion-sized cavalry squadron is headquartered in Warren, Ark., and has units in El Dorado, Crossett, Magnolia, Camden, Fordyce and Monticello.

Col. Kirk VanPelt, the commander of the 39th IBCT, officiated over the ceremony and accepted the squadron guidon from De Kunffy before handing it to Gavan.

COMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
Capt. Bridgette Scott hands President Barack Obama a Purple Heart medal during the president’s recent visit to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Scott is the medical readiness officer for the 188th Fighter Wing Medical Group of the Arkansas Air National Guard based in Fort Smith, Ark. She is currently deployed to Bagram, where she functions as the executive officer for the 455th Expeditionary Medical Group.

Cavalry unit receives new commander

(BELOW) SALUTING THE COLORS. Lt. Col. Andreas De Kunffy, the outgoing commander of the 1st Squadron, 151st Cavalry Regiment of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, salutes the colors during a change of command ceremony Dec. 5 in which Lt. Col. Sean Gavan accepted command of the Warren-based unit.

A SHARP FORMATION. Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Pettit salutes the colors during a change of command ceremony in which Lt. Col. Sean Gavan accepted command of the 1st Squadron, 151st Cavalry Regiment of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.
Unit's new designation reflects Field Artillery past

By Spc. Stephanie Hernandez
119th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BERRYVILLE, Ark. – The 1142nd Forward Support Company was redesignated as the 936th Forward Support Company during a ceremony Dec. 4, 2010 at the Berryville armory.

The new name pays homage to the 1st Battalion 142nd Field Artillery Battalion's lineage, as the Battalion was formerly known as the 936th FA Battalion.

The location of the event honored the fact that the 936th FA Battalion's HQ was located in Berryville, AR. The 936th FSC, which provides support to the 1-142nd Field Artillery Battalion, is based in Bentonville, AR.

“We had the opportunity to re-designate the unit to reflect the history of our battalion,” said Lt. Col. Johnny Teegardin, former battalion commander. “It’s an honor for us to have the opportunity to do this.”

A lot of people do not know, without looking at the lineage, that the 936th was a huge component of our heritage, continued Teegardin.

The Arkansas National Guard's 936th was activated during WWII and the Korean War. In 1959 the 936th was re-designated as the 1-142nd.

“I think it’s a good thing,” said Ret. Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel R. Brazell and Korean War veteran. “I see the unit climbing, and they are getting better and better all the time.”

“This ceremony was our opportunity to honor our heritage,” explained Teegardin. “This allows our Korean War veterans to see their history is being carried on.”
Civilian Student Training Program graduates 5,000th young man

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – More than 5,000 young men have earned a second chance through the Arkansas National Guard’s Civilian Student Training Program since it was established by the state legislature in 1993. On Dec. 17, 2010 63 marched across the stage as graduates of the program.

According to Mr. Richard N. Wilson, program director of the Camp Robinson-based CSTP, the Friday afternoon graduation brought the total up to 5,026 young men who have turned their lives around through the nine-week residential behavior management program.

CSTP is designed to provide a structured, discipline-based, military-modeled environment for nonviolent offenders, ranging in age from 13 to 17 who are enrolled under court order or are seen as potential high school dropouts.

“Our graduation rate is 90 percent,” said Wilson. “It’s a long, hard, road – a long nine weeks. This is a good day for these young men, and a good day for the families of the graduates. “I want you to know that these young men have found out that they can do some things they didn’t know they could do, and that they can do some things you didn’t know they could do.”

Although CSTP is not a GED program, more than 580 graduates have earned their General Equivalency Degree. After completion of the residential phase, a 12 month mentorship phase provides additional guidance for following the right path and finding success.

CONGRATULATIONS. Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas, congratulates one of 63 graduates of the Civilian Student Training Program during a December 17 ceremony at Camp Robinson. More than 5,000 young men have successfully navigated the program for adjudicated young men.

Three focus areas key to Youth Challenge Program

By Donna L. Shelton
Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. - According to the new director of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program, Douglas Walker, enhancing recruiting and community awareness, teaching leadership training that encourages self discipline and accountability, and increasing the medical personnel will strengthen the program.

Douglas took over the position as YCP director in October and seeks to use his broad experience in education and professional development to advance YCP, a preventive program for at risk youth who have dropped out of school or are seen as potential high school dropouts.

“For nine years, I designed curriculum and taught development courses for employees of the state of Arkansas. The lower, mid and high level management courses that have been presented to state employees are now being put into practice here, for students and staff,” said Douglas.

The free 22-week residential program for students ages 16-19 focuses on developing skills such as responsible citizenship, academic excellence, life-coping and service to community according to the YCP website.

“Our students are given options here; academic classes are held every day,” said Douglas.

According to Douglas, earning a GED diploma is just one of the educational opportunities available at YCP. Students can also take the college entrance exams such as the ACT and the Compass test and other optional career exams like the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude

See Key, page 12
E2
39th IBCT

Berry, Charles E.
Bryant, Kenneth L.
Cobb, Barry L., Jr.
Cobbs, Adrian T.
Coleman, Willie, Jr.
Davis, Blake A.
Dove, Richard A., Jr.
Duckworth, Rassermere J.
Edwards, Jerry W.J.
Emery, Ryan A.
Gillis, Bryson L.
Lappin, Joel C.
McGilton, Adam C.
Milner, David A.
McMickle, Mitchell W.
Odom, Aaron E.
O’Neal, Kristopher G.
Pippenger, Billy G., Jr.
Priddy, Mackenzie A.
Powell, Jonathan R.
Pruitt, Anthony D.
Priddy, Mackenzie A.
Rufe, Layne M.
Scott, Damien M.
Shirley, Anthony L.
Stafford, Zachary T.
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Battery and the Career Readiness exam. The Career Readiness exam is given in partnership with the Arkansas department of Workforce Services.

"The ultimate goal of the program is to set up the students for success later along the way. Because we have so many ways to help ensure the success of cadets, I think we are one of Arkansas's best kept secrets. Interested students can even apply to West Point, thanks to non-congressional slots set aside for reserve components," said Douglas.

The next YCP class graduates January 14, 2011 and the newest students will begin class on January 28. Douglas said a small number of slots are still available for that class.

"A student can come to YCP and really excel. They can do well mentally and physically and along with learning behavior modification, they can attain the tools they need to succeed," he said.

"We want the community to know that this program is a viable option that works for Arkansas youth," said Douglas.

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