

THE TNGG SAYS FAREWELL TO THE OH-58D KIOWA WARRIOR

THE VOLUNTEER STATE
GUARD

M A G A Z I N E

LAST

A silhouette of an OH-58D Kiowa helicopter is shown in flight, positioned centrally over the word "LAST". The helicopter is angled upwards and to the right, with its main rotor blades blurred to indicate motion. The background is a dramatic sky with warm, orange and red tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

FLIGHT

OF THE OH-58 DELTA

VOL. 16, ISSUE 1



THE COVER

Nov. 10, 2015 -
A TNGG OH-58-D on its last flight, en route to the boneyard in Arizona.
(Photo by CW2 Caleb Bucy)

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TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Members of the 278th ACR work with Wreaths Across America on Dec 12, 2015. The annual effort is intended to raise funds to place live wreaths on the graves of veterans buried at the three veterans cemeteries in Knox County.

PHOTO BY: SGT ART GUZMAN



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

LAST FLOOR

MCGHEE-TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. - The final exterior wall studs went up Dec. 8, 2015, on the third floor of the second dormitory building at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center's new classroom and lodging facility.

PHOTO BY: MASTER SGT. JERRY HARLAN



TENNESSEE
SNAPSHOT

PRESIDENT JACKSON WREATH LAYING

Members of the Tenn. National Guard present the colors at the Hermitage, the home of former President Andrew Jackson, in a wreath laying ceremony to honor the 201st Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, Jan. 8, 2016.

PHOTO BY: SSG WILLIAM JONES



TENNESSEE SNAPSHOT

AIRMEN HELP OUT SANTA

Members of the 134th Air Refueling Wing's Security Forces Squadron join Santa to spread joy around the East Tennessee Children's hospital. Members of the Unit donate money throughout the year to make this event possible.

PHOTO BY: TECH. SGT. JONATHAN YOUNG

THE END OF AN ERA

LAST FLIGHT

OF THE OH-58 DELTA

The rotor blades spun on the last nine of Tennessee's 30 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters as they departed their units in Louisville, Tenn. and Jackson, Tenn., for the last time November 30, 2015.

A TNG OH-58-D on its last flight, en route to Arizona. (Photo by CW2 Caleb Bucy)

The Tennessee Army National Guard was the last National Guard unit to have the Kiowas, which were sent to a scrap yard in Arizona as part of the Army's divestment of the airframe.

"It's kind of bittersweet," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Peter Neveu, maintenance test pilot with the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1/230th Armored Cavalry Regiment. "Our main mission has been to keep the bad guys from shooting the good guys and I think the Army is going to miss it."

It took three separate trips during November 2015 to get all of the state's remaining aircraft to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG), known as the "bone yard," which adjoins Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz. AMARG is a joint service aerospace storage and maintenance facility managed by the Air Force. Neveu took part in all three trips.

"We don't have to do anything when we drop them off. It's their helicopter. They shake our hand, say thank you, and we walk away from it," said Neveu. "It's a different feeling, kind of painful, knowing we have flown all of these aircraft in different countries and now see them being torn down for storage. It hurts a little bit." The aircraft is partially disassembled for long term storage.

Tennessee's Kiowa Warriors joined more than 140 OH-58 helicopters already turned in just this year alone, as well as some C-5 Galaxy and C-130 Hercules aircraft from the Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing based in Memphis, Tenn., and the 118th Wing in Nashville, Tenn. In 2013, there were more than 330 Kiowas in the Army's inventory, with 30 of those in the National Guard.

"The Army made the decision that the OH-58 airframe was going to be taken out of the inventory," said Maj. Gen. Max Haston, Adjutant General, Tennessee



National Guard. "It has been in service since Vietnam. It's a great airframe."

Ultimately, the Army wanted to reduce the overall number of airframes in its inventory. "It was a mathematical decision," explained Haston.

The OH-58 Kiowa helicopter has been used continuously by the Army since its inception in 1969. In May of that year, Maj. Gen. John Norton, commanding general of the Army Aviation Material Command, received the first OH-58A Kiowa at an official ceremony at Bell Helicopter's plant in Fort Worth, Texas. After only two months, the first batch of helicopters were arriving in Vietnam for use in the war. Ultimately, 2,200 would be built between 1966 and 1989.

Development and Operational History

"The 58-D has been very reliable the entire time I've flown in it," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew Farrell, a master gunner for the OH-58D with the 1/230th

ACR. "It tends to always be available when nothing else is," he added.

The OH-58 is a single-engine, single-rotor military helicopter used primarily for observation, utility, and direct fire support. The OH-58D model, also known as the Kiowa Warrior, is mostly used as an armed reconnaissance helicopter to support troops fighting on the ground. The Kiowa Warrior is the armed version of the OH-58D.

In October 1960, the Navy began accepting proposals, as part of an Army-Navy design competition board, from several helicopter manufacturers. In May 1961, Bell was announced as one of the winners. The original model Bell presented was later rejected by the Army because it lacked cargo space and provided cramped quarters for the aircrew. The Army then chose a design by the Hughes Tool Co. Aircraft Division, but, in 1967, the Army reopened the competition for bids because the company couldn't meet the contractual production demands. Bell resubmitted a redesigned aircraft with more cargo space and a more aesthetic appearance. In the end, Bell underbid Hughes and the Bell 206A was



Kiowa schematics
courtesy flightglobal

SPECS

OH-58D KIOWA WARRIOR

**CRUISE SPEED
WITH WEAPONS**
95 kts 176 kph

RANGE
140 nm 260 km

SEATING
2 Crew Seats In Cockpit

**MAXIMUM GROSS
WEIGHT**
5,500 lbs 2,495 kg

POWERPLANT
One (1) Rolls-Royce 250-C30R3
650 shp 485 kW

www.bellhelicopter.com

designated the OH-58A “Kiowa” helicopter, following the Army’s naming convention honoring Native American tribes.

By the 1970s, the Army wanted to improve the capabilities of their scout aircraft, but found that the OH-58A lacked power for operations in higher altitudes and hot temperatures.

Looking for a new scout helicopter, in March 1974, the Army created a special task force at Fort Knox, known as the Advanced Scout Helicopter (ASH) Program. The requirements the Army wanted met were an aircraft capable of performing during the day and night, in adverse weather conditions, and compatible with advanced weapons systems planned for development and fielding in the 1980s. Unfortunately, the ASH program didn’t get off the ground because Congress declined to provide funding for it in the fiscal year 1977 budget and the program was closed in September 1976.

In 1979, the decision was made to defer development of a new aircraft in favor of modifying existing airframes. The development of the Mass-Mounted Sight (MMS) was the primary focus to improve aircraft capabilities. The MMS gave aircraft additional mission capability through target acquisition and laser designation in both day and night, as well as better visibility during adverse weather. Prior to the Kiowa, heli-

copters couldn’t fight very well at night. At the time, there were only flares to light up the sky.

“The MMS was really good for the time period when it was initially put on the aircraft; but as far as today’s technology goes, it lacked reliability,” explained Farrell. “So divestiture of it is really a good thing. There were other choices for sights that could have been mated to this aircraft, but they chose not to move forward with those.”

Initially, two aircraft were evaluated to use this system, the OH-58 and the UH-1 Huey, but the UH-1 was dropped from consideration due to its larger size and ease of detection. But, the OH-58 demonstrated a dramatic reduction in detectability with MMS.

Another distinctive feature of the OH-58 is the wire strike protection system. These are the knife-like extensions above and below the cockpit. This system protects 90 percent of the frontal area of the helicopter from striking telephone and power lines at low altitudes. The system directs the wires to the upper or lower blades, cutting them before they can entangle the rotor blades or landing skids.

“It was first used on the Kiowa and now it’s widespread throughout the Army fleet,” said Farrell. The Kiowa was the first helicopter to test this system, which was later adopted by the Army for most of their helicopters.

“They work just as advertised.”

The modification of existing airframes became known as the Army Helicopter Improvement Program (AHIP). Bell and Hughes once again redesigned aircraft to compete for the contract. In September 1981, Bell Helicopter Textron was awarded the development contract and the first prototype flew in 1983. The aircraft, known as the OH-58D, entered service in 1985, fulfilling its role as the Army’s multipurpose helicopter utilized for troop transport, medical evacuation, and external lift missions using cargo hook. This model would eventually

become what is in use today and known as the Kiowa Warrior.

“It started out just kind of attaching different systems on it, like velcro,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brad Hutsell, an instructor pilot with the 1/230th ACR. “It started out with stinger missiles, then hellfire missiles were added later on. An upgraded version of the .50 caliber machine gun was tested before we went to Afghanistan, but it did not come to fruition.”

Hutsell also said that the MMS had been improved over the years, as well as internal computer systems within the aircraft and the engines.

The Warrior was developed through the AHIP program due to hostile gunboats patrolling and placing explosives in the Persian Gulf at night in 1987. A small armed helicopter was needed for interdiction. Bell completed the Warrior model in less than 100 days. Known as Operation Prime Chance, 15 OH-58D helicopters were shipped to the Persian Gulf aboard Navy vessels to protect vital sea lanes for the world’s oil supply. During Operation Prime Chance, Kiowas escorted oil tankers during the Iran-Iraq war. OH-58D operations primarily entailed reconnaissance flights at night, rotating from the Navy’s Mobile Sea Base Hercules and other combatant ships to a land base every one to two weeks, with no loss of personnel.

After just two incidents, the gunboats would no longer venture out at night. When Hercules was deactivated in September 1989, all but five helicopters returned to the United States. The modified armament to support Operation Prime Chance became the basis

“It started out just kind of attaching different systems on it, like velcro.”

for the weapons and fire control systems for the Kiowa Warrior.

In 1989, the Kiowa had a small role in Operation Just Cause, a US-led action in Panama that eventually ousted Manuel Noriega from power. It was during Just Cause that a team consisting of an OH-58 and an AH-1 Apache were part of the Aviation Task Force during the securing of Fort Amador in Panama. The Kiowa was fired upon by Panama Defense Force soldiers and crashed 100 yards away, in the Bay of Panama. The pilot was rescued, but the co-pilot died.

During Operation Desert Storm, 115 deployed OH-58D helicopters participated in a

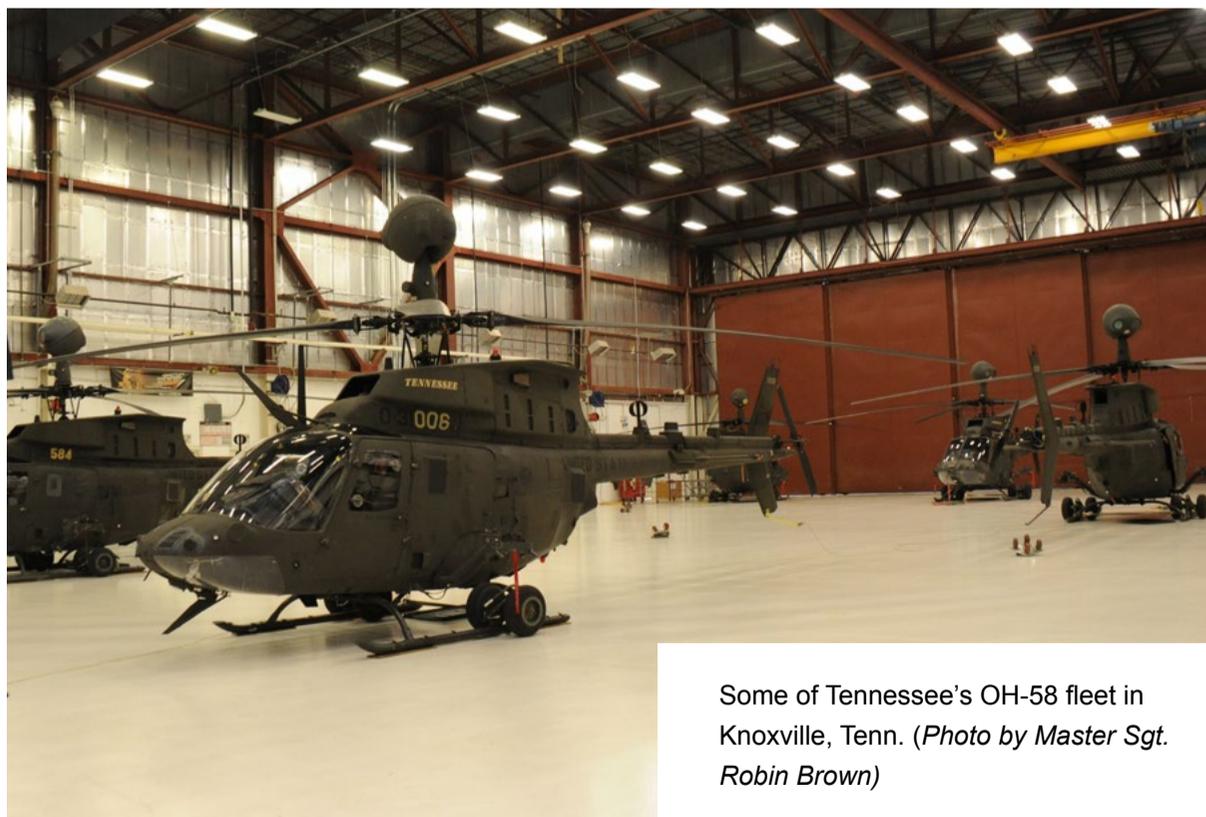
wide variety of critical combat missions and were vital to the success of the ground forces mission. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Kiowas flew nearly 9,000 hours with a 92 percent fully mission capable rate. The Kiowa Warrior had the lowest ratio of maintenance hours to flight hours of any combat helicopter in the Army. In the 1990s, it was utilized around the world in support of US forces, including Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia. All OH-58D aircraft have now been converted to the armed Kiowa Warrior configuration.

Kiowa Warrior Comes To Tennessee

In 1991, Congress appropriated money to procure 36 OH-58Ds for the National Guard, allowing the active Army to use the assets in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm if required. The active component absorbed all 36 aircraft, eventually issuing 15 to the Mississippi National Guard in 1994. It would be decided in 1996 and fiscal year 1997 that the Tennessee National Guard’s 4th Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, would receive 24 of the aircraft. They were the last National Guard unit equipped with the Warrior model. At the time, Tennessee had 20 OH-58D qualified aviators and no aircraft with which to train.

Bell helicopter started producing Warrior models for the 278th in 1996. Brig. Gen. Gus Hargett, Tennessee’s Assistant Adjutant General for the Army at the time, went to the assembly plant and saw them on the line. The 278th ACR was already written on the helicopters and on the production orders for 16 aircraft. However, by 1998, the Tennessee National Guard still didn’t have any of the aircraft. Tennessee leadership adamantly pressed congressmen and senators to get their helicopters back in the state.

“We are talking about millions of dollars worth of equipment that will be coming into East Tennessee and will have far reaching impacts on the local economy for that area, as well as enhance the rest of the state,” said Tennessee Army National Guard Lt. Col. Bob Mitchell in 1998, who is now retired.



Some of Tennessee’s OH-58 fleet in Knoxville, Tenn. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robin Brown)

“This is bigger than the 278th ACR, this is about the Tennessee Army National Guard.”

Counterdrug Operations

In 1989, Congress began to expand the military’s support role to conduct military training exercises in drug interdiction areas. The Department of Defense became the lead federal agency for the detection and monitoring of aerial and maritime transit of illegal drugs into the United States. In response to this mandate, the Army National Guard Bureau created the Reconnaissance and Aerial Interdiction Detachments (RAID) in 1992.

Several OH-58As were modified for counterdrug operations. Modifications included the addition of thermal imaging systems, enhanced navigational equipment and high skid gear. RAID initially consisted of aviation units in 31 states that utilized 76 specially modified OH-58As to assume the reconnaissance/interdiction role in the fight against illegal drugs. In 1994, 24 states conducted more than 1,200 of these missions. Utilizing the capabilities of the OH-58A, several of these missions took place at night. Eventually, the program was expanded to cover 32 states utilizing 116 aircraft.

The RAID program’s mission was later expanded to include the war against terrorism and supporting Border Patrol activities in support of homeland defense. The National Guard RAID units’ area of operation is the only one in the Department of Defense that is wholly contained within the borders of the United States.

As equipment continued to be modernized, the Army National Guard gained nine OH-58C helicopters and 15 Kiowa Warriors in FY 1994.

The 1/230th ACR was tasked for border protection operations during Kosovo in 1998 and 1999.

“We were in operations throughout the country as a multinational force for peace-keeping operations,” said Hutsell. “We maintained the peace as they dealt with the situation.”

June through October of 2007, the Tennessee National Guard took part in Operation Jump Start.

“Jump Start was National Guard Bureau’s

“We had a mission set every day, mostly at night, and mostly utilizing the night vision and thermal capabilities of the aircraft.”



involvement with border operations, particularly utilizing aviation assets,” explained Hutsell. “They were outfitting other aircraft for a longer term solution. We were interim to fill the gap until they got those aircraft done.”

“We had a mission set every day, mostly

at night, and mostly utilizing the night vision and thermal capabilities of the aircraft,” he added. “It was one of the first instances where we had to figure out how to work communication capabilities with civilian agencies.”

In 2012, the Tennessee National Guard flew 185 counterdrug related missions, resulting in 1,785 arrests, 268 weapons seized and 1,811 meth labs found and destroyed. The Tennessee National Guard’s Counterdrug Task Force has worked with communities across the state since the 1980s. They do more than just eradicate drugs by spotting them from helicopters. The Task Force is also responsible for anti-drug education programs, operating summer camps across the state for juvenile offenders as an alternative to state custody, and providing intelligence analysis for federal drug-trafficking cases.

Prior to losing several Soldiers due to budget cuts, the Task Force conducted roughly 450 classes each year at more than 70 schools and other groups across the state.

The Tennessee National Guard does have a few LUH-72 Lakota helicopters to continue working the counterdrug mission in lieu of the Kiowas. These were the first brand new, never before used aircraft the state has ever received. Initially, there were only four in the state, making it difficult to keep up with the counterdrug requirements.

“I asked, just for standardization training, if we could fly our OH-58Ds and it worked out superbly well,” said Haston. “Counterdrug is reconnaissance and that’s what the OH-58 is designed for. So now that we’ve lost those, our complete counterdrug program will depend on the supply and support company of the four LUH-72s. It will tax the flying hours for those aircraft.”

Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom

The Kiowa was never the Army’s first choice, but it has proven itself time and again in modern air cavalry operations. The Army utilized the OH-58D during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Unfortunately, the higher-density altitude

in Afghanistan caused complications for the underpowered, single-engine helicopter. Due to combat and accidents, more than 35 airframes were lost, and 35 pilots were killed. The Kiowa has also been credited with saving lives, having been used to rescue wounded Soldiers despite its small size.

According to Bell, as of 2013, the OH-58 has more than 820,000 combat hours. From 2001 to 2010, the OH-58D accounted for nearly 50 percent of all Army reconnaissance and attack missions flown in Iraq and Afghanistan, the highest usage rate of any other Army aircraft.

“It was a very fulfilling experience knowing the Soldiers on the ground knew we were in the air to protect them,” explained Neveu, who deployed as a pilot in both Operations. “The fact that just our rotor noise keeps bad guys at bay is what makes our job worthwhile and that’s why we all love to do this job.”

Misfortune Befalls Tennessee Aviators

With all the skill and positive mission accomplishment stories that come along with the OH-58, Tennessee has also experienced tragedy; not once, but twice.

“When we went to flight school, they talked about it’s not if you’re going to lose a friend in aviation, it’s when,” said Neveu. “What we do is inherently risky. We are all a huge family-it has such a great impact to all of us and we all suffer.”

In 2010, two Tennessee Army National Guard pilots were killed in a helicopter accident in Iraq. Capt. Marcus Alford and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Jean Grinder were killed when their OH-58D suffered a hard landing near Qayyarah Airfield. The Soldiers were assigned to Troop C, 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron based in Louisville, Tenn.

Later, in 2011, two more of Tennessee’s National Guard aviators were killed while conducting a routine training mission in an established training area in Campbell County, Tenn. The Kiowa struck power lines, resulting in a catastrophic accident that claimed the lives of 1st Lt. Thomas Williams, Jr., and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel Cole.

“We all know what loss is and it hits pretty hard. We have to take it in stride and keep moving on. That’s what we’ve done to do our mission,” Neveu said.

Divestment

“What we flew was modernized,” said Haston. “Our oldest OH-58D was newer than our newest UH-60 (Blackhawk).” Now, the time has come to retire the OH-58 fleet. The Army has been trying to find alternatives for years.

The first attempt to replace the OH-58 came in 2004 with the RAH-66 Comanche. This was cancelled the same year. The ARH-70 was the second choice for replacement, but the airframe was scrapped in 2008. Fiscal restraints and cost overruns at that time kept delaying the inevitable.

“When I came to the Tennessee National Guard from the active duty Army in 1983, we had 83 aircraft. Over my career, we have gone through 32 different airframe modernizations,” said Haston. “We will end up with less than 40 rotary wing aircraft in the Tennessee National Guard. That’s a significant capabilities loss.”

The original OH-58 was designed to fly about 14 hours each month; however, it averaged 85 to 90 hours a month. As a result of its heavy use in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Kiowa Warrior underwent major upgrades and modifications, including the Cockpit and Sensor Upgrade Program (CASUP) and weight reduction program. The CASUP featured a nose-mounted targeting and surveillance system in addition to the MMS. This resulted in the OH-58F.

The first OH-58F was finished in October 2012. The Army designed and built the new variant itself to lower costs.

“It’s the first time that the Army has been the system integrator for a new mission design series or new aircraft,” said Lt. Col. Mat Hannah, the Army product manager for the OH-58F in 2012.

The F model weighs about 200 pounds less than the D model. The weight savings are attributed to more efficient wiring and a lighter sensor. The first production F models were built in 2013 with its first flight in April of that year. The Army had planned to

remanufacture all A, C, and D models to the F model, and the first operational squadron was to be equipped by 2016. An estimated 321 aircraft were scheduled to be upgraded to the F model. Each helicopter conversion was estimated to cost between \$4 million and \$5 million, according to Hannah.

In the first quarter of 2014, Bell received a stop work order for the F model program, shortly after the Army ended the Armed Aerial Scout (AAS) Program in late 2013 due to sequestration budget cuts. AAS was the third replacement option for the OH-58. Now, the Army has ended the F model CASUP upgrades and is retiring the entire Kiowa fleet. Upgrades were estimated to cost about \$10 billion.

“We did not find a single aircraft out there that could meet Army requirements,” said Lt. Gen. William Phillips, the principal military deputy for acquisition, during testimony before Congress on May 8, 2013. This came after evaluating five aircraft candidates under the AAS program. Other aircraft considered included the AH-6I, AAS-72X, MD 540F and AW169.

The reduction from the fleet is all in the interest of saving money and reducing the number of different helicopter types in the Army.

“I can’t afford all the fleets of aircraft I have right now. We can’t afford them. It is impossible under the budget that we’ve been given,” said former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno at an Association of the US Army breakfast in January 2014.

The Army also planned to pull all of the Apaches from the Guard and Reserve into the active duty Army fleet to fill the scout role voided by the Kiowas.

Divesting the OH-58 fleet is supposed to save the Army money; however, a Bell-contracted Logistics Management Institute study found that the Apache would cost \$1 million more than the Kiowa per year for maintenance and fuel costs, according to Jim Schultz, Bell program director. This study also said that if the Army used an Apache in the Kiowa scout role in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, it would have cost an additional \$4 billion in fuel, maintenance and operating costs.

Additionally, the smaller size of the Kiowa is more beneficial when it comes to trans-



porting the aircraft overseas. Apaches must be partially dismantled to be loaded onto strategic airlift and then rebuilt in theater. This can take about three hours or more. Whereas, two Kiowas can roll directly into a C-130, and then roll back out in theater and be in the air within 15 minutes.

The downside to Kiowas is that they are more vulnerable in deployed environments, having lighter armament and armor.

"I know in reality the Army is trying to juggle tough budget decisions, but I feel as if what I've done has been designated no longer necessary," said Farrell. "I feel the biggest loss is the effectiveness of the reconnaissance and attack mission itself, more so than the loss of the helicopter."

"Having been in the aircraft for several years and the missions we have performed, I hate to see the aircraft and the missions go," added Hutsell. "No other aircraft fills that roll. It's an aircraft I hoped would stay around."

The OH-58D currently reaches 20 percent of armed aerial scout mission requirements. Upgrading to the F model standard would

"There is no other aircraft that can do both the reconnaissance and light attack mission for close air support."

have raised that to 50 percent. However, replacing the Kiowas with Apaches and unmanned systems in scout roles is expected to meet 80 percent of the requirements. It is unknown if the already upgraded F models will also be retired. The AAS mission will be performed by the MQ-1C Gray Eagle, AH-64 Apache, and RQ-7 Shadow aircraft until a permanent replacement is found. It is estimated the Army will be able to meet 80 percent of its AAS requirements using these Apaches and unmanned aerial vehicles.

"As much as possible, we want the Guard and Reserve to look the same as the active

component," said Odierno. "Will there be exceptions? Yes." So far, these include eliminating Apaches from the Guard fleet, in addition to the total divestment of the OH-58s.

"We can't afford our current fleet, so we have to make adjustments," he added. "The majority of those adjustments are going to happen in our active-component aviation units."

Maj. Gen. Haston actively spoke out against eliminating the Kiowa Warriors from the Army inventory.

"I think it was a very bad decision because there is no aircraft that is designed to do what the OH-58D does in our inventory," said Haston. "There is no other aircraft that can do both the reconnaissance and light attack mission for close air support."

The mission the Kiowas performed will now be shifted to Apache helicopters instead. "In my opinion, Apaches are too large and cumbersome, and not stealthy enough to do that mission," Haston added.

With the loss of the aircraft comes the loss of jobs for Tennessee National Guard pilots, maintainers, and others who worked with



Maj. Gen. Haston waves goodbye as he pilots Tennessee's last Kiowa out of the state. (Photo by Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby)

the helicopters.

"Tennessee was assigned an aviation interim maintenance company and we will lose that company," said Haston. That's approximately 300 people. "A lot of people have secondary skills that are still applicable to aviation, so we will be able to transition them over to the new aviation structure."

"Tennessee leadership is working to ensure that Soldiers are re-classed to a required MOS," said Lt. Col. Melvin Clawson, currently J3 DOMS, Future OPS, and former Commander of the Aviation Unit. "The 1/230th will reduce in size from about 700 to around 400, so some will re-class to non-aviation units." The Regiment will be reorganized as an assault helicopter battalion, primarily flying UH-60 Blackhawks.

The first 26 Kiowas in the Army fleet to be divested came from the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Wainwright, Alaska in May 2014. As part of the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative, the unit was later deactivated in 2015 after a nine-month deployment to South Korea.

Later the same year, the Florida National Guard said good-bye to their OH-58 fleet. Three of the Florida helicopters went to different Florida sheriff's offices. One was kept and placed as a permanent static display

outside the Army Aviation Facility in the state. Florida utilized the A and C models. Tennessee and Mississippi were the only National Guard units to utilize the D model.

"D models have never gone to a civilian agency," said Clawson. "They are not practical for civilian use because of the cost to transition them. A/C models are good for this." He added that three of Tennessee's Kiowa Warriors are being retained for static display across the state in Louisville, Jackson, and either Smyrna or Nashville. A fourth went to Tupelo, Miss. for static display there.

"I think we have resigned to the fact that the Army is committed to the divestment, reluctantly giving up the aircraft," said Hutsell. "It has provided a lot of support over the years."

In the end, Maj. Gen. Haston reclaimed the pilot seat to say goodbye, as the last aircraft left the state.

"It was very nostalgic to know that its capabilities and the lives the aircraft has saved on the battlefield, that that service is no longer going to be there," said Haston about his final flight November 10. "And to know it's being flown to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to an uncertain future." It is possible for the helicopters to be sold to foreign militaries, but that has yet to be determined.

"It felt very good to fly the aircraft," Haston added. "It showed me it can operate in an environment like the Smoky Mountains or Afghanistan. I had the privilege to be part of its final journey; it was a sad flight."

Over the years, Tennessee has utilized the Kiowas for missions in Kosovo, support of Hurricane Katrina, Operation Jump Start, various counterdrug operations, as well as approximately 29,000 combat hours during Operation Iraqi Freedom and another 8,635 during Operation Enduring Freedom. The aircraft finally came to rest at AMARG in Arizona on November 30.

Early December 2015, the unit was redesignated as the 1/230th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

"I personally want to thank the pilots, the crews, the maintainers, schedulers and the refuelers. All of the people who have put their hands on that aircraft and made it the workhorse of our inventory over the past 25 years," said Haston. "It is really tough to see an old friend—a reliable piece of equipment—being divested for all the wrong reasons. There is always something new on the horizon." - **MASTER SGT. ROBIN BROWN**

NORANDA CORP. SHOWS SUPPORT

ESGR Presents a Plaque to Noranda Aluminum Holding Corporation for its Continued Support of the Guard.

FRANKLIN, Tenn. - The Tennessee chapter of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) presented a plaque to Noranda Aluminum Holding Corporation.

Carl Lambert, ESGR Tennessee State Chairman, presented the plaque of appreciation to Mr. Kip Smith, president and CEO of Noranda, at a signing ceremony at the company's headquarters in Franklin, Tenn. The Nov. 17 event highlighted the company's ongoing support of the National Guard. Several Noranda and military leaders were present at the event, but most of the attention was on two junior enlisted Soldiers employed at the Noranda factory in Missouri.

Spc. Garrett McIntyre and Pvt. 1st Class Christian McCombs, both Soldiers serving in the Missouri National Guard work in the aluminum smelter plant near New Madrid, Mo., where temperatures inside the plant can reach over 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Smith noted that despite the extremely high temperatures inside the plant, there have been no accidents during the last reporting period. He credited McIntyre and McCombs's safety record to the training they received in the military. Maj. Gen. Max Haston, the Tennessee National Guard's Adjutant General, agreed.

"You see these two young men over there? They are the very best our country has to offer", said Haston. He then said Noranda recognizes the skills the military instills in its people, skills they bring to work with them every day. This is something he said the company values and is willing to make



Mr. Kip Smith (center), President and CEO of Noranda, signs a letter of support of the Army National Guard presented to him by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. (Photo by SSG William Jones)

sacrifices for.

"When I worked in the civilian sector, I would let them know when I had to go off to training and they would let me go, but I could always tell there was resistance to me leaving," Haston added. "We don't see that with Noranda."

In October 2013, the company began an initiative to employ more Veterans and their spouses with a goal to increase its Veteran hiring to at least ten percent by

2014. Noranda specifically sought Veterans because it values leadership, accountability, change management, and a focus on mission accomplishment, qualities they believe can be found in "the men and women who serve our country," according to Noranda's website.

The corporation met its goal and was named a Most Valuable Employer by civilianjobs.com.

- SSG WILLIAM JONES

CYBERSECURITY THREATS

Do you know the Top Five Cybersecurity Threats?



- 1. RANSOMWARE** - Malware that infects your system and locks you out of important files. The adversary then wants 'ransom' money to release the files back to you.
- 2. SCRIPT INJECTION** - The adversary can use script injection to ultimately gain unauthorized remote access to your system, private data, and invite other malicious code as well.
- 3. MOBILE BANKING** - Attackers can use non-encrypted unsecure wireless connections to intercept banking data while you are using your mobile device.
- 4. INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT)** - Evolution of technology where major consumer products are connected to the grid. Examples would be: Smart TVs, vehicles with built-in WIFI, Vehicle data accessible through web or mobile applications, Home Alarms controlled through web apps or mobile applications. Most IoT devices are not secure.
- 5. SOCIAL ENGINEERING** - It's easiest (least path of resistance) for the Adversary to utilize social engineering to obtain sensitive information. Untrained and non-vigilant audiences make the best targets to gain sensitive information.

These five threats can be mitigated with:

- Arming yourself with knowledge (cyber awareness training, cyber bulletins and googling)
- Keeping all applicable devices protected with latest anti-virus software
- Conducting official business, personal business, and commerce on secure connections and trusted web sites
- Being cautious about the information you put out on the internet and to individuals that you encounter.

THE NEXT SWITCH

Tech. Sgt. Chalanda Roberts Conquers the Broadcast Room.

It's her last switch as well as her next switch: after videography missions with Army infantry in Iraq, then conquering a broadcast control room comparable to a major television studio's, one Airman said that she hopes for something challenging.

Tech Sgt. Chalanda Roberts just began her last technical direction here of the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center's satellite Airman leadership school before her reassignment to the Defense Media Activity.

"We're the ones controlling everything the audience actually sees," said Roberts.

The broadcast studio airs the Air Force's enlisted professionally military education instructors and their lessons for the next month to students at 15 Air National Guard bases. Roberts and a studio engineer both make sure it airs without a hitch.

"There's a lot to it," she said.

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Roberts is one of four Airmen qualified as a technical director, or a switcher. They take turns managing satellite broadcasts, including ALS and NCO academy. The term comes from switching between cameras, slides and microphones as well as queuing up video segments, photos and screen graphics so that they appear seamless on live television. They also guide two instructors through earpieces and teleprompters from a control room that overlooks the broadcast desk.

"I want to make sure they look good at all times," said Roberts.



Tech Sgt. Chalanda Roberts poses for a photo Nov. 2, 2015, inside the broadcast control room at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center. Roberts served for five years as a regular Air Force technical director for the Air National Guard's satellite enlisted professional military education. *(Photo by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith)*

She explained that switchers manage on their own what it takes three or more workers at a civilian television studio. "We do it all," she said.

"You see all of these keys and buttons flashing," Roberts said about the control room's panels. "There are at least 100 of them. The most challenging part is trying

to do it all; everything needs done now, because we are live. You want these students to get the information."

FROM CHICAGO TO THE WORLD

Roberts's original plan was no plan at all: she joined the regular Air Force without a

designated career field, but her first assignment in videography at Langley Air Force Base garnered her application and acceptance into the military's one-year television, radio and film program at Syracuse University.

It was after that when she joined combat camera in South Carolina.

"I fell in love with the Air Force all over again," said Roberts.

She deployed and embedded with the Army in northern Iraq, donning their uniforms, jumping off helicopters and capturing their combat patrols. She said that their village visits often put her in a room full of Iraqi women, while the Soldiers met customarily with the men. "The women would gravitate to me; try to put lipstick on me," said Roberts. "That was always cool."

She said that she slept in the dirt, out there, the only woman among them. "I was able to hold my own, and the guys said that."

Then, after some aerial qualifications, she flew, and she documented missions from Al Udeid and Haiti, among other places. She said that it all never crossed her mind when she grew up in Chicago.

"I don't know how I got the job, but I loved it," said Roberts. "Never in million years would I have thought I'd get that experience."

There is a mannequin at the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute on Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base whose name is Chalanda Roberts too, she said. She donated its uniform to help embody a minority of combat camerawomen and their service. Their exhibit displays photographs of her in the field.

GETTING TO TENNESSEE

Roberts arrived five years ago with little experience in a broadcast studio, outside of technical school.

"I was pretty nervous when I saw the studio, but now I feel like I'm pretty good with most of the equipment in there," she said.

Her biggest challenge: adjusting to a



Staff Sgt. Chalanda Roberts, broadcast journalist, manages a switchboard and Master Sgt. John A. Anderson, right, broadcast operations manager, handles camera placements during a live broadcast March 7, 2013, at the I. G. Brown Training and Education Center's television control room. (Photo by Master Sgt. Kurt Skoglund)

smaller base and not constantly deploying, she said. She found mentorship in her first supervisor, also a former combat camera operator.

"Chalanda can learn things really easy," said David Barlow, retired master sergeant and TEC's graphics manager. "She can watch you do something once and really, truly learn it. She is creative, she likes to challenge herself, and she will think of something different."

According to Barlow, Roberts's professional development in the studio could serve her well at the Defense Media Activity, which holds another satellite broadcast studio similar in capability and reach. "It is definitely going to be a plus for her."

This is good place to learn and shadow, said Barlow. As you cannot just learn the studio and then you know it, you have to stay current on it. Buttons get routed different, and there is a lot of multi-tasking. Everyone has his or her own way in managing it all.

"He's a really good teacher," said Roberts.

THE NEXT SWITCH

Roberts will travel to her new assignment with her husband and son after the holidays.

She became a mom during this assignment. Her son is in daycare and her husband works nights, so they can support each other, especially during football season. Putting on a Paw Patrol video helps keep her son occupied as well as helps her husband watch the game until she gets home from evening broadcasts, she said.

Roberts's family attended her promotion ceremony last year, as well as supported recent deployments to Dover Air Force Base and her own studies at NCO academy.

She said that she hopes they can drive up together to the Fort Meade area, south of Baltimore, before the move, to help limit their hotel stay. "Try to pick out a couple of spots that we want to live."

"I'm leaving here better than I came, for sure," she said.

- MASTER SGT. MIKE R. SMITH

COMBINED RESOLVE V

Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment
Collaborate in Overseas Deployment Training.



Combined Resolve V in Hohenfels, Germany - Oct. and Nov. 2015.

COMBINED RESOLVE V

HOHENFELS, Germany - When the Soldiers of Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard got the word back in July that they were slated for an overseas deployment training mission to Germany later that year, the words “Octoberfest”, “beer”, and “thank God it’s not Camp Shelby in summer again” were thrown around. Little did they know what the scope of the mission would be, or how the experience would shape their outlook of their chosen profession of arms.

The exercise, Combined Resolve V, was the last iteration for the 2015 calendar year, held at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC), Hohenfels, Germany, during October and November. Fox Troop joined with 13 NATO and European Partner for Peace nations and their active duty counter-parts, in a rare training opportunity that instructed participants in how to function together in a joint, multinational, and integrated environment at all echelons.

First call took place at the armory in McMinnville, Tenn. at 12:30am on the day their flight was departing. They then spent the next few hours going over the packing list and loading all their sensitive items onto the buses. From there, they hand-carried this equipment through the Atlanta-Hartsfield International Airport and loaded it directly onto their flight. Twelve hours and 7 time zones later, they arrived in Frankfurt, Germany, ready to head south to JMRC.

Once on the ground at JMRC, the Soldiers couldn’t waste any time. They had a full couple of days of drivers training, HEAT (roll-over) training, and their welcoming in-brief by 1/4 Infantry Regiment, the host unit, to accomplish Opposing Forces Academy. OPFOR Academy is a slate of events which normally takes our active duty brethren two weeks to accomplish; the Soldiers of Fox Troop accomplished it in three days. Fox Troop had been tasked with augmenting the dismounted infantry OPFOR with the host unit 1/4 Infantry Regiment, so black BDUs were issued



Oct. 26, 2015 - Soldiers from 2nd Platoon conduct patrolling and hand and arm signals training before deploying “to the box.” (1LT Jeremiah Giles)

to all Soldiers. Being OPFOR, the fight is somewhat different than the normal mission, but through a new trend in the Army Training model, many OPFOR tactics are being run as business as usual.

The first days of STX lanes, Fox Troop Soldiers had their first taste of working with, or “against,” many European NATO countries. They were excited to see the difference in tactics, techniques, and procedures used, and to try to learn from each other on how to make all partner nations fighting forces more effective. Fox troop was tasked with an array of missions, from a complex urban defense to squad ambushes on BLUFOR convoys as well as a joint multinational company defense of an urban area. 1/4 Infantry Regiment personnel and Fox Troop leadership coordinated

daily on the next day’s requirements, and performed above expectations every day.

The Force-on-Force days lined up like a football field, the home team, 1/4 IN and Fox Troop positioned on the far west of the training area (aka “the box”), and 3rd Infantry Division and NATO forces to the east, positioned to defend their main battalion objective from the coming attack. Normally during Force-on-Force days, the National Guard units remain divided between the 1/4 Infantry Regiment companies, but, for the first time, they relied on Fox Troop as their own Task Force, with our own area of operation on the southern side of the box, commanded by Task Force Commander Capt. Deric Runge, Fox Troop commander. Some of the operations from the nine days of training were

COMBINED RESOLVE V

a joint multi-national battalion attack, retrograding into a hasty defense, engagement area development, reconnaissance and surveillance operations with a Norwegian Recon element, and psychological operations against friendly forces.

All the time the infantry Soldiers were in the field, Fox Troop also brought a

“Soldiers worked tirelessly on vehicles not their own and showed our active duty counterparts what the National Guard could do in a short time”

small contingency of mechanics to work on 1/4 Infantry Regiment vehicles in the rear. These Soldiers worked tirelessly on vehicles not their own and showed our active duty counterparts what the National Guard could do in a short time. During the two and a half weeks they were tasked, Tennessee National Guard soldiers fixed 65 tracked and wheeled vehicles, more than double their normal annual training workload, earning the maintenance section the highest of praises from the permanent party host, 1/4 Infantry Regiment.

Our Tennessee troops were also visited while they were in the field by Col. Jimmy Cole and Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Gentry, TN National Guard G-3, along with Maj. Hebel and Master Sgt. David Malone, on an official visit with JMRC staff and 1/4 Infantry Regiment representatives, who



First Lieutenant Tommie Lane, Fire Support Officer for Task Force Fox, calls in indirect fire spotted by the forward observers during the force on force battle during Operation Combined Resolve V. . (1ST LT Jeremiah Giles)

have already requested the Tennessee National Guard Soldiers to return for another rotation.

After the field exercises were done and vehicles cleaned and turned in, the Soldiers from Fox Troop were authorized to take a day off to visit Nuremburg, Germany. With 10 hours to sight-see, eat some good German bratwurst, and have a beer or two, one of the main take-aways from

the visit with the locals was how cordial and hospitable the German people are to U.S. Servicemembers.

Hopefully, Fox Troop will be tasked again for overseas deployment training. Fox Troop thoroughly enjoyed our time in Germany and we look forward to more time in the future to work hand in hand with our comrades from Europe.

- 1ST LT JEREMIAH GILES

FIRST AIR GUARD SOCIAL AIDE

Tenn. Airman Appointed First White House Social Aide.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Since President Theodore Roosevelt established the White House Social aide program nearly 114 years ago, the White House has never had an Air National Guard officer until now.

Capt. John D. Fesler, a native of Lebanon, Tenn., recently began his duties as a White House social aide, an honor and privilege only reserved for military officers who represent the best that the service has to offer. His road to the Executive Mansion began more than a year ago after a mentor suggested he would be a good candidate for the program.

After his nomination, Fesler progressed through a series of intense interviews by panels of military officers. The longest part of the process, however, was patiently waiting almost nine months for an extensive background investigation to be completed for his security clearance. After the investigation closed, Fesler was granted a "Yankee White," category one, top-secret security clearance allowing him to serve in direct support of the President and First Family. The screening is identical to what Secret Service agents undergo who are detailed to the White House.

Fesler said he felt honored just to be asked to interview and was humbled to be selected.

"If you asked me two years ago, serving as a White House social aide would have been a wild-eyed, pipe dream," said Fesler. "It's exciting, exhilarating and an incredible opportunity to meet and interact with extraordinary people who are making history. These are stories I'll be telling my grandchildren someday."

The highly selective program is made up of military officers from all branches of the military who are currently stationed in the



Air Force Capt. John D. Fesler stands in front of doorway to the Blue Room in Cross Hall of the White House. Fesler is the first Airman from the Air National Guard to serve as a White House social aide. (Photo courtesy of National Guard Bureau)

Washington area on active duty orders. Approximately 45 military officers serve in this elite and prestigious additional duty through the White House Military Office. Aides work an average of four events each month with the holidays being the busiest period of the year. In December alone, Fesler was scheduled for nine functions at the White House.

Fesler said he and his fellow social aides work quietly in the background to assist guests during dinners, luncheons, teas, state arrivals, and seasonal celebrations.

"As we move up in seniority, White House Social aides may start by lining the hallways at events to greeting, escorting and even announcing guests as well," Fesler said. "Once we get our sea-legs, we are also picked for more esteemed events bestowing the nation's highest honors such as Medal of Honor cer-

emonies or arrivals for heads of state."

Fesler said it has been a long and interesting road leading to this milestone of his military career. His previous assignments were challenging, giving him greater perspective and appreciation for representing the Air National Guard at the White House. But for all of the glitz and glamour of his current assignment, Fesler said he would not be able to fully appreciate the significance behind the highest office in the land prior to his tour with the Air Force Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

"No other duty had as much impact as working the Dignified Transfer mission at the Air Force Mortuary," Fesler said. "Providing comfort to families of the fallen, while ensuring they are given the dignity, honor and respect they earned while paying the ultimate sacrifice, is the most honorable duty I have had or ever will be a part of."

During his tour in 2010 as Deputy Chief, Public Affairs for the Air Force Mortuary, Fesler oversaw 162 dignified transfers of fallen Warriors. He said each one had a significant emotional impact and continues to be the most meaningful and poignant point of his career.

In addition to serving as a White House Social aide, Fesler serves full-time as the Traveling Executive Officer, Aide de Camp for the Director of Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III at the Pentagon. He is currently a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard's 118th Wing based in Nashville and was recently elected to the board of directors for the National Guard Association of the United States.

- MAJ KYLE KEY

MAJCOM CHALLENGE

The Airmen on the Air National Guard's Marathon Team Earn Second Place at this Year's Competition.

MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. - Chief Master Sgt. Edward Walden had been waiting, reassuring the Air National Guard marathon team, their units, friends and family that they ran very well, when the race officials made an anticipated announcement.

He sat in his office here Dec. 10 overlooking the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center. He smiled. He handed over a recent article on the Air Force Marathon. And then, after some questions about the coming year, he began to talk about something near and dear to him.

"I really want to focus and emphasize that three years ago, we were last in the Air Force Marathon's MAJCOM [major command] Challenge, last year we were eighth, this year, we came in second," he said about the teams' official standings behind the winners: Air Combat Command.

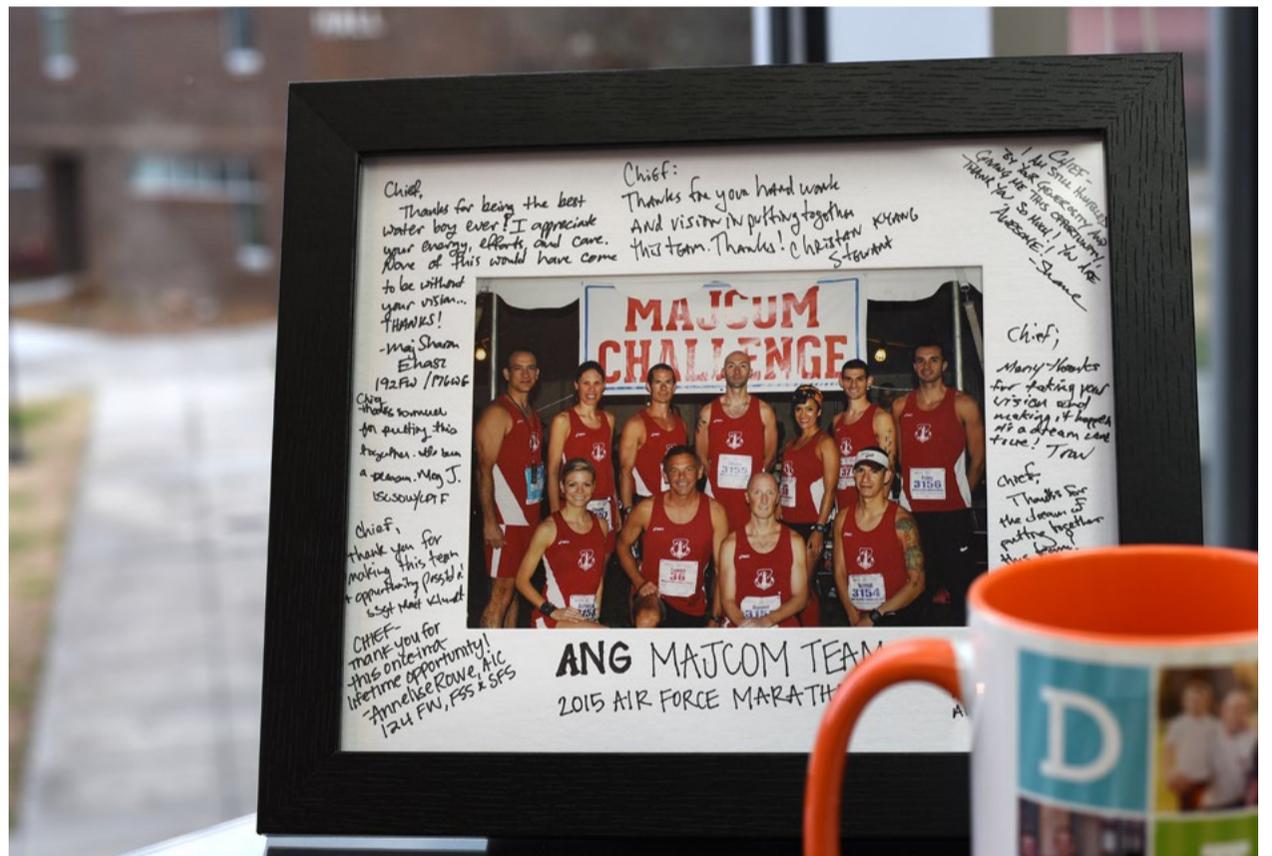
"First place was a little more than five and a half minutes away ... an achievable goal for next year." He paused.

"The accomplishments of the Guardsmen that did this, is phenomenal."

More than two months before, Walden, TEC's commandant, ran the Air Force Half Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

But he knew that his finish time would not count for the Air National Guard's team time because he did all he could last year to find and manage the nation's fastest citizen-Airmen to do just that.

"This team was made up of the best the



A photo, autographed by Airmen on the Air National Guard's 2015 U.S. Air Force Marathon team, overlooks the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center campus at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee, Dec. 11, 2015, atop Chief Master Sgt. Edward Walden's desk. Walden, TEC's commandant, managed the runners. They earned second place among other major commands that competed on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

Air National Guard could offer, full-time and part-time Guardsmen that were officers and enlisted," he said.

"I also think that it's important to report all of their names."

The team: Col. Christan Stewart, Kentucky; Maj. Sharon Ehasz, Virginia; Maj.

Laura Johnson, New Mexico; 2nd Lt. Adam Bernal, Texas; Tech. Sgt. Shane Hurd, New Hampshire (TEC); Tech. Sgt. Travis Kallay, Wisconsin; Staff Sgt. James Munnis, West Virginia; Staff Sgt. Mathew Klundt, California; Airman 1st Class Franz Konczak, Texas; and Airman 1st Class Annelise Rowe, Idaho.

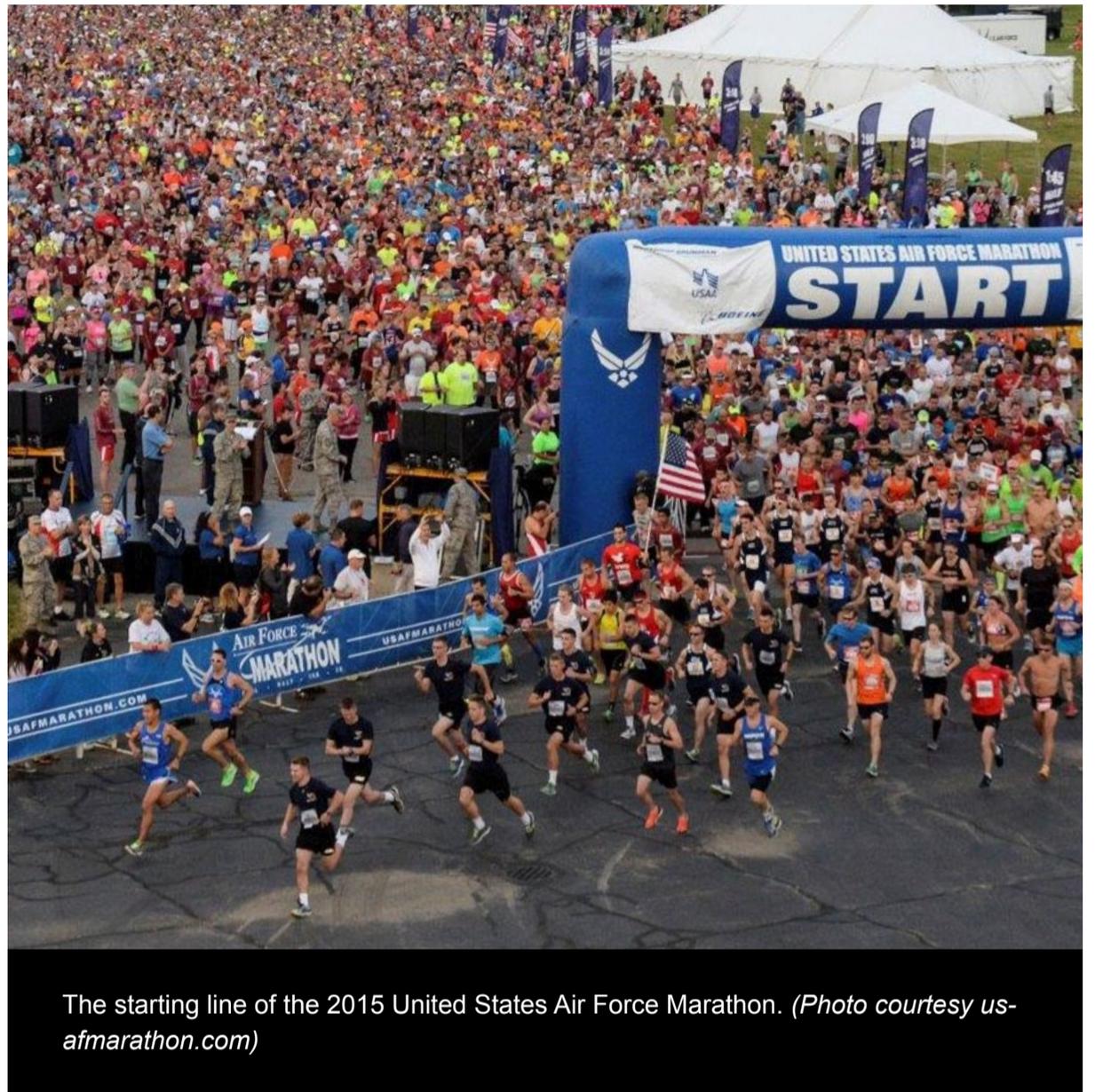
Now the hard work, he said: putting together another competitive team to make a run for the MAJCOM trophy in next year's 20th Air Force Marathon.

It is a bigger challenge than just having the team run faster. Walden is keenly aware that the Air National Guard's runners are the only MAJCOM Challenge participants who pay for their own travel, entrance fees and uniforms out of pocket.

Some of their fastest runners last year qualified for the team, but they could not afford the trip to Ohio, including one Airman from Puerto Rico, and Walden said that they would never know if his speed might have pushed their team's time to the top.

"In talking about One Air Force ... we need to make sure that we are looking at it in all ways - when it comes to deployment, when it comes to our missions back home and even when it comes to our MAJCOM Challenge," he said.

When Rowe won her military division as top female in the half marathon, she learned that the Guard and Reserve were not counted as part of the other military runners or winners in the awards ceremony - Walden



The starting line of the 2015 United States Air Force Marathon. (Photo courtesy us-afmarathon.com)



2015 Marathon Finisher Medals. (Photo courtesy usafmarathon.com)

stepped in, spoke with the race officials and things were rectified. Race officials mailed her trophy to Walden with an assurance that next year's race would be different.

"Chief was defiantly my biggest support-

er and backer to see that the award was given to the fastest military member," said Rowe, noting that sometimes Guard members are not seen as a part of the Air Force. "We definitely consider ourselves every bit ..."

While Walden pointed out those potholes, he is equally confident that there's support out there with all involved to patch them up before the next race.

Runners will get online for the marathon's open registration, beginning on New Year's Day. The race sells out. Walden said he would also be lacing up again to try to solicit the Air National Guard's top runners to join the team.

More than 100 Airmen submitted their official race times for consideration in last year's team. Three men and one woman make up the full marathon team. Four men and two women, make up the half marathon team. Their combined times count toward the trophy.

Walden's call for runners goes out in February, through Air National Guard base Force Support Squadrons. He announces the team's qualifying runners in May. From there, the team will train and get to know each other through email and social networking up until the third weekend in September.

He's redoubled his training to try and make the team too. If nothing else, Walden said that he wants to highlight the talent and the pride of National Guard Airmen alongside the other major commands.

Walden tapped his desk. "I want to shout from the rooftops how great we did," he said. "It's important for all to know how well our Guardsmen did in this competition and how we are looking forward to a great competition next year, hopefully with additional support and funding."

- MASTER SGT. MIKE R. SMITH

PURPLE HEARTS TO BE AWARDED

Servicemembers Killed in Chattanooga will be Awarded Purple Hearts by Department of Navy.



An August memorial for the Chattanooga shooting victims included a moving unit roll call. (Photo courtesy of Daniel Woolfolk / Navy Times)

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - The Department of the Navy will posthumously award Purple Heart medals to four Marines and a sailor killed by a lone terrorist at the Navy Operational Support Center Chattanooga in July, according to a statement from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus.

Another Marine wounded in the shooting will also be awarded the Purple Heart.

“Following an extensive investigation, the FBI and NCIS have determined that this attack was inspired by a foreign terrorist group, the final criteria required for the awarding of the Purple Heart to this sailor and these Marines,” Mabus said in a statement. “This determination allows the Department of the Navy to move forward immediately with the award of the Purple Heart to the families of the five heroes who were victims of this terrorist attack, as well as to the surviving hero.”

The announcement comes hours after a news conference where the FBI director labeled the shootings an act of terror.

“We’ve investigated Chattanooga as a terror

attack from the beginning,” Director James Comey said, according to a report from Fox News. “The Chattanooga killer was inspired by a foreign terror organization. It’s hard to entangle which particular source ... there are lots of competing poisons out there.”

The language Comey used was important because the law that governs the Purple Heart specifies that service secretaries can award the decoration in stateside incidents when the attacker was in contact with and inspired by foreign terror organizations.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, Lance Cpl. Squire K. Wells, Staff Sgt. David Wyatt and Sgt. Carson Holmquist were killed at Navy Operational Support Center Chattanooga on July 16, and Navy Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Randall Smith died July 18 from wounds sustained during the shooting. Marine Sgt. DeMonte Cheeley was shot in the leg and later recovered. All were nominated for Purple Hearts.

Comey said in November that the mo-

tivations of the Chattanooga shooter might never be made public, raising questions about whether the Navy would ever be in a position to award the Purple Heart to the families, which will now qualify for survivor’s benefits associated with recipients of the decoration.

Benefits include burial in a National Cemetery free of cost and a monthly payment from the Veterans Administration to the families of service members killed in action.

Mabus said he hoped the award would comfort the families in some way.

“Although the Purple Heart can never possibly replace this brave sailor and these brave Marines, it is my hope that as their families and the entire Department of the Navy team continue to mourn their loss, these awards provide some small measure of solace,” he said. “Their heroism and service to our nation will be remembered always.”

- DAVID LARTER | NAVY TIMES

TEC AIRMEN SWEEP AWARDS

Airmen Sweep Readiness Center Awards in Maryland.



MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. - The Air National Guard Readiness Center praised six I.G. Brown Training and Education Center Airmen as its top performers in the second and third calendar quarters during a Dec. 15 awards ceremony on Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.

ANGRC SECOND QUARTER OUTSTANDING AIRMEN

- The ANGRC Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Second Quarter is Senior Master Sgt. Christine Shawhan, director

of education.

- The ANGRC Civilian of the Second Quarter is Mr. David Barlow, graphics manager.
- The ANGRC NCO of the Second Quarter is Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Kelley, EPME instructor.

ANGRC THIRD QUARTER OUTSTANDING AIRMEN

- The ANGRC Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Third Quarter is Senior Master Sgt. Shaun Withers, superintendent of professional and continuing ed-

ucation.

- The ANGRC Civilian of the Third Quarter is Tammie Smeltzer, PCE director.
- The ANGRC NCO of the Third Quarter is Tech. Sgt. Jacob Sutton, enlisted professional military education instructor.

The TEC swept the Air National Guard Readiness Center's awards, which employs more than 700 military and civilian personnel. It is also responsible for four detachments, to include the TEC, and other operating locations.

- MASTER SGT. MIKE R. SMITH

ICE CREAM FOR LIFE

The 164th Wing Supports a Fellow Airman in Need.



MEMPHIS, Tenn. - The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines family as “a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation.” The members of the 164th Airlift Wing exemplify this plus more. When Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Dresten Gaboya was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, the 164th rallied to support their family member.

Staff Sgt. Dresten Gaboya and daughter (left) pose for a picture with Master Sgt. Danny Stone (right) and the makeshift ice cream truck. *(Photo by 164th Airlift Wing)*

“Gaboya is a really good guy,” Senior Master Sgt. Jim Lehmen said, the 164th Maintenance Group Aid Shop supervisor. “I could immediately tell that he was going to be a great asset to the shop.”

“He is just one of those people, on your team, that you want to bat for and help out,” he added.

When Lehmen found out about what Gaboya and his family were going through,

he told his leadership the situation, and it ended up making its way to the 164th Wing Commander Col. Mark Devine.

“I was in a staff meeting with Col. Devine, and he had been talking to Chief Master Sgt. Kenny McFeggan over in operations squadron, trying to brainstorm some type of way to raise money for Gaboya,” said Lt. Col. Keith Stiles, the 164th Maintenance Squadron commander “They kicked out the idea ‘let’s sell ice cream sandwiches,’ and I said ‘OK’. He said ‘sell ice cream sandwiches for an exuberant amount of money,’” Stiles said as he laughed. “I took that as a ‘go do,’” Stiles said.



Members of the 164th Airlift Wing and the Gaboya family at the Memphis Air National Guard Base in Memphis, Tenn.. (Photo by 164th Airlift Wing)



Stiles

contacted Prairie Farms dairy to see if there was any possible way they could donate the ice cream sandwiches needed to accomplish the task he was given.

“I called and left a message; nothing,” Stiles said. “I called again and left a message; nothing. Then the Tuesday after Memorial Day, I received a call from Tommy Stevenson, an operations manager with Prairie Farms Dairy. He said that he had gotten a message from me saying that I was looking for a donation.”

Stiles explained to Stevenson about Gaboya’s situation, and about how the 164th wanted to sell ice cream sandwiches to help raise money for the Gaboya family. Stevenson was instantly on board with the plan, and asked Stiles how many sandwiches he would need to accomplish his task.

“I told him 1,000, and he said ‘done,’” said Stiles.

Gaining a commitment from Prairie Farms for the ice cream was only phase one of the

plan.

Stiles felt that in order for this plan to be successful, he needed the commitment and support of the rest of the 164th family.

“You can’t sell ice cream without an ice cream truck,” he said.

Stiles thought about the little carts used on base to transport items from one area to the next. He figured that would be the best means of distributing the ice cream to the different Air Guard members across the base. Then came phase two, who would he ask to be the ice cream man?

“I knew we needed a person, so I went through my mental rolodex of who would be the best ice cream salesman,” Stiles said. “And a name popped in my mind immediately, Senior Master Sgt. Jimmy Murphy, he’s talkative,” he said with a laugh.

Stiles went to Murphy, 164th Maintenance Group Aircraft Maintenance Element Supervisor, and explained his plan on how he wanted to execute the selling of the ice cream. Stiles wanted him to start thinking about how to turn one of the carts into a makeshift ice cream truck.

After the cart was designed and ready to go, Murphy, along with Master Sgt. Danny Stone, loaded up the ice cream and began driving around the base selling ice cream sandwiches for five dollars each. For those members that did not want ice cream but still wanted to help the cause, they could just donate money or an hour of paid time off for Gaboya to use.

“The fact that the base, for someone like myself, would put time and effort into it, I feel extremely blessed and humbled,” Gaboya said, as he held back tears.

Over a short four day time span, the 164th managed to rally together and raise over \$2,800 and 80 hours of leave in support of Gaboya.

- SENIOR AIRMAN LEON BUSSEY

RELAX: JUST A DRILL

Tenn. Guard Chemical Unit Trains at Calsonic Arena.



Sgt. Stephen Evans and Staff Sgt. David Owen take down a tent used in a Tennessee National Guard chemical detection unit's exercise at the Celebration grounds on Jan. 14, 2016. (Photo courtesy David Melson / Times-Gazette)

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. - A military training exercise on Jan. 14, at the Celebration grounds near Calsonic Arena attracted attention from passers-by.

Large trucks were surrounded by Tennessee National Guard Soldiers in military fatigues and a series of tents.

It was a chemical detection unit facing a scenario of a hazardous substance being found at a large stadium -- in this case, Calsonic Arena and the nearby Celebration stadium.

"The unit here is a chemical CBRN -- chemical, biological, radiology and nuclear detection unit," Maj. Matt Hayes of the Tennessee National Guard's 45th Civil Support Team said.

The specialized 22-person team made up

of Army National Guard and Air National Guard troops helps in disasters throughout the Southeast, as well as standing by at large events in case of emergencies, Hayes said. It's one of 55 similar teams throughout the nation.

"We assist local authorities in events where they need additional assistance," said Hayes.

National Guard Civil Support Teams were established to deploy rapidly to assist a local incident commander in determining the nature and extent of an attack or incident; provide expert technical advice on response operations; and help identify and support the arrival of follow-on state and federal military response assets.

The unit was at a large chemical spill following a train crash in Maryville last sum-

mer, for example. It monitored the air at more than 100 locations, including a hospital, for poisonous cyanide and helped evacuate one home.

"We've trained here before. Every 18 months the unit has to go through an evaluation to determine our state of readiness -- the evaluators pick our location for us," Hayes said. "We've always received good evaluations."

After initially arriving at the show grounds, a second simulated occurrence was presented to the unit.

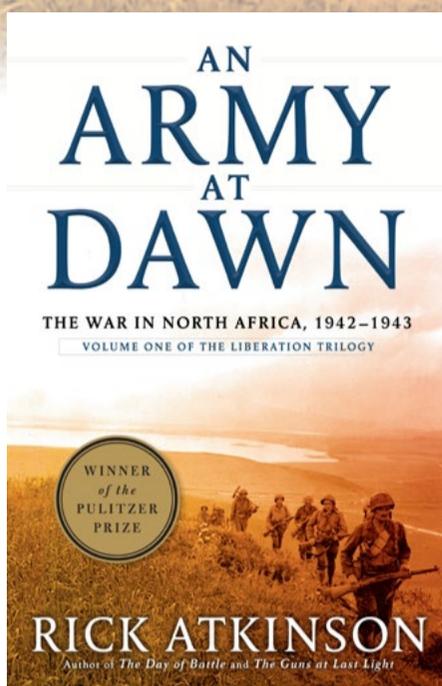
"The scenario is that we discovered a harmful product just inside the gate, so we're being forced to move to another location," explained Hayes.

Trucks and tents were quickly packed and moved across the street to the Celebration campgrounds.

Soldiers in the unit, established in 2002, took pride in their accomplishments, pointing out years' worth of continual certifications.

"We've been at events protecting people and no one even knew we were there," one member said.

- DAVID MELSON / TIMES-GAZETTE



An Army at Dawn:
The War in North Africa,
1942-1943.
By Rick Atkinson. New
York: Henry Holt and
Company, 2002.
List Price: \$22.00

MAJ Darrin Haas Gives his Review of:

AN ARMY AT DAWN

Even though World War II is one of the most written about American conflicts, Operation Torch and the campaign for North Africa is often overlooked by American historians and overshadowed by later operations in Italy and France. But thanks to Pulitzer Prize winning author Rick Atkinson's work, *An Army at Dawn*, this key operation in the European Theater is brought to vivid life and reminds us why the first campaign in Europe was so critical to defeating Germany.

Utilizing countless primary sources, Atkinson weaves together a story that examines the U.S. Army's experience during the lead-up and beach landings at Morocco and Algeria on November 8, 1942, and continues until May 13, 1943, when American troops captured Tunis and Bizerte. He vividly narrates key moments in-between, including the U.S. defeat at Kasserine Pass by Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps and the U.S. victory at Hill 609 in Tunisia. Atkinson presents a detailed account of every battle during the campaign, examining not only the perspective of leaders at the diplomatic and strategic level, but also what the individual combat Soldier was experiencing.

With a beautiful narrative style that is accessible to all readers, Atkinson argues that the North African campaign was crucial to developing the U.S. Army into an effective fighting force that was prepared for the crucible of the Normandy invasion. It is in North Africa that American forces learned to work with the British and other Allies, learned how to fight together, and mastered the art of war. The U.S.

Army quickly evolved from an untried and naive force in November 1942, to a battle-hardened veteran Army armed with countless battlefield lessons written in American blood. Atkinson wrote that the, "troops had learned the importance of terrain, of combined arms, of aggressive patrolling, of stealth, of massed armor. They now knew what it was like to be bombed, shelled, and machine-gunned and fight on." (537).

Another key component of warfare that Atkinson narrates and explains in detail is the difficulty U.S. Soldiers had in combined-arms combat, and how crucial it was for success on the modern battlefield. Coordinating the effects of infantry, armor, artillery, engineers, and aviation, all while under fire, proved incredibly difficult at the outset of Operation Torch for inexperienced Soldiers and leaders. Sustaining these forces logistically was also a major challenge. Over time, U.S. forces learned to master these skills and used them with great success.

Throughout his work, Atkinson touches on various aspects and levels of warfighting, writing that "we can see that North Africa was a pivot point in American history, the place where the United States began to act like a great power – militarily, diplomatically, strategically, tactically." (3) The historical importance of the campaigns in North Africa and Atkinson's treatment of it, makes this work a valuable addition to the library of any Soldier at all levels of leadership.

As the first installment of a three volume Liberation Trilogy, which covers the entire European theater ending with the fall of Berlin, I highly recommend this work to all Soldiers and anyone interested in the birth of the modern American Army.

- MAJ DARRIN HAAS



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Beginning in 2014, Tennessee Army and Air Guard Officer personnel requesting a license plate must order your plate(s) online NO LATER THAN 15 MAY 2016.

The request form can be found at tnmilitary.org/license-plate-request.html.

The information will be submitted to the State of Tennessee for production of plates. Those failing to meet the 15 May 2016 deadline will not get a specially numbered Officer plate in September.

All questions should be directed to the Joint Public Affairs Office, Tennessee Military Department at 615-313-0633.