



THE DEFENDER

The Journal of the Maryland Defense Force

Summer 2009

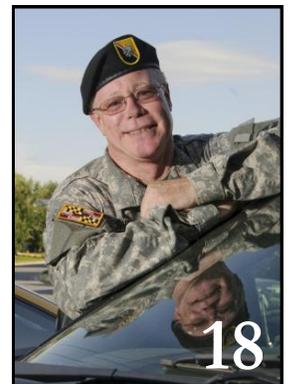
MDDF Celebrates Independence Day



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Cover: The MDDF Band marching in the Independence Day Parade at Catonsville, Md. with Maryland Governor O'Malley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date Set for 2010 Annual Muster

Mark your calendars. The MDDF command group has set the date for the 2010 Annual Muster. It will be held on Saturday, March 27 at the Pikesville Military Reservation. Activities will begin at 0700 and continue throughout the day. The command formation will be at 0800 on the main armory drill floor. Uniform will be ACU with black beret. The Annual Muster is the one mandatory annual training event for all members.

NCO Corps Summit Scheduled

The Secretary of the Army announced that 2009 is “The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer,” a time to enhance the education, fitness, leadership, and pride in service of our NCOs through programs that support the sustainment and continued growth of our NCO Corps, to recognize the leadership, commitment, and courage of our NCOs, and to inform key audiences about the responsibilities and quality of service of our NCOs.

We’re not in the Army, but this did provide MDDF an opportunity to think about our own NCO Corps. The Command Staff of the Maryland Defense Force decided it was time to re-energize the MDDF NCO Corps. It was determined that the best way to re-energize the NCO Corps was to instill an Army tradition of the NCO Induction Ceremony. Customs and traditions run deep in military service, starting a tradition of a NCO Induction ceremony is the first step towards making the MDDF NCO Corps the backbone of the of our State Military.

The MDDF NCO Induction Ceremony will be held Oct. 17, 2009 on the Navy side of the Naval Academy from 0830 – 1200 hours.

For more info contact 1SG Scott.

Are You Prepared?

National Preparedness Month, September 2009 will focus on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness and will help Americans understand what it truly means to be Ready.

Preparedness goes beyond fire alarms, smoke detectors, dead-bolt locks and extra food in the pantry. This campaign will help you communicate important preparedness messages to your family, your business and your community with a new series of customizable materials. Check out the website:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/npm09/getakit.html>

Military Department Goes Social

In a message to all members of the Maryland Military Department, Brig. Gen. James Adkins, Adjutant General, wrote “many of you already know that open communication is essential to the success of any organization. To that end, we have begun to increase our presence in certain areas of internet-based social media including Flickr, Facebook and Twitter. Please feel free to use these tools to enhance our ability to communicate.”

Maryland National Guard

Twitter: www.twitter.com/mdng

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mdguard

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/mdng

Maryland Defense Force

Facebook: www.facebook.dj/md-defense-force

BG Adkins, The Adjutant General also has a personal facebook page: www.facebook.com/jim.adkins2

JAG Schedules Annual Meeting

On September 12, 2009, the MDDF Legal Directorate will meet from 0800 hrs until noon for its annual update on legal issues facing Maryland National Guardsmen and their dependents. This year’s meeting will focus on Veterans Administration benefits to which guardsmen who served on active duty may be entitled under federal law. The meeting will also include a discussion on employment and reemployment rights, an ever-present issue in the current economy. A discussion on mission and organization of the Legal Directorate, and how the directorate is organized and manned to meet demand, and promotion and succession planning, is also on the schedule. Col. (MD) J. Michael Lawlor will be introduced as the new Director, successor to Col. Michael R. Osborn, who has served as Director for three years.



From the editor:

I'm really pleased to be back on the job with the Maryland Defense Force and to bring you the Summer Issue of The Defender, back after a nearly two-year hiatus. I hope you enjoy the new format.



The leadership of both the Maryland Military Department and the Maryland Defense Force is committed to keeping you informed of important news and information in an accurate and timely manner. Information is a true force multiplier.

The last couple of months have been an exciting time for the MDDF. The cover PHOTO of this issue shows our band at one of the Independence Day Parade activities where our ceremonial units – band and cavalry – carried our colors for the citizens of Maryland. I was present at all the parade activities and am happy to report the public reception was tremendous. We should all be proud of our ceremonial units.

You'll also find features about our Annual Muster back in the Spring, 10th Med's mass casualty exercise, our support of the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, and coverage of the Engineers' very busy summer.

You'll also find a bulletin board with the work of MDDF photographers that captures the incredible range of activities that we've undertaken this summer.

The Maryland Defense Force, and the Military Department we belong to, is a diverse command with a lot happening. This journal offers you a glimpse into the different activities and the many volunteers hard at work to make a difference here in Maryland and in the lives of the partners we support in the National Guard. There are many that believe MDDF is one of the most mature State Defense Force's in the country. I believe a quick read through this catalogue of our accomplishments would prove that point.

I invite you to share your thoughts and opinions with other members of the command by contributing letters or professional writings, and encourage you to share The Defender with your friends and family so they too can share in our achievements.

Communications is most effective when it's two-way so let us know what's on your mind. Send your comments to me at the email address below.

Hooah,
Col. Bob Hastings
rhastings@mddf.us

THE DEFENDER

A Maryland Defense Force Publication



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

As is evident from the many accomplishments presented in this issue of The Defender, our members have not been idle! In addition, as a result of a very successful recruiting campaign mounted late last year and extending into the first quarter of 2009, our ranks have increased nearly 25 percent. Now we have embarked upon a new recruiting goal hoping to hit the number 400 by year's end.



What strikes me as so unique about the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) is that we work within our mission to serve the Maryland Military Department year round.

Every day that passes on the calendar we have many individuals or teams of our members engaged with the Department working on a myriad of projects, planning, or providing services. Unlike a few other State Defense Forces or volunteer organizations that train and plan endlessly for an eventual emergency situation—we have daily, weekly and monthly responsibilities in addition to our training and preparedness mission.

While many of our high profile projects are highlighted

herein, much of the daily work that goes on that is not reported here does not go unnoticed! The Governor, Adjutant General, Senior Command and rank and file always acknowledge our many and invaluable contributions to the Department.

Thank you for your continued, enthusiastic work for the citizens of Maryland.

Very respectfully,

Courtney B. Wilson
Brigadier General (MD)
Commander



Governor O'Malley signed House Bill 1473 in May which removes antiquated references and modernizes language pertaining to the MDDF, and clarifying the status, roles and mission of the MDDF.

"They have proudly and successfully served the citizens of Maryland and I'm happy to sign this legislation which clarifies their status," said Governor O'Malley.

National Preparedness Month | September 2009

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed

www.ready.gov

Are you ready



Maryland Defense Force Engineer Corps Matures and Excels

By Col. (MD) Brian R. Kelm, PE

A little over three years since the formulation and establishment of the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) Engineer Corps, the organization has progressed from a fledging unit which is now more operational, stronger, better trained and more professional. This transition has been manifested by the successful provision of engineering support to the Maryland Military Department and the citizens of the State of Maryland

The Engineer Corps has been effectively and actively recruiting the finest engineering leaders in the State of Maryland, and through inspections, assessments and challenging training has become the chosen force multiplier for the provision of engineering capability which would have cost the State thousands of dollars had it not been provided by volunteers.

The mission of the Engineer Corps has significantly increased beyond the inspection and assessment of MDARNG facilities. Other mission support areas that were originally identified consist of internal engineer support to the MDDF, disaster assessment after a natural or manmade incident and the assessment of critical infrastructure prior to a disaster. The Maryland Defense Force Engineer

Corps has grown from a handful of personnel to its current manning of more than 25 engineers.



The Engineer corps conducted a one-day land navigation training exercise at Gunpowder State Park in May. Ten personnel participated, practicing map and compass skills essential to the execution of the Engineer mission. The Engineers routinely conduct field training exercises such as this one for physical training, development of teamwork and planning skills. Pictured are Col. (MD) Brian Kelm (right), Capt. (MD) Paul Sills and First Sgt. (MD) Buddy Scott.

With the current staffing of 25 personnel, two operational units have been established along functional lines with one of these units focused on the technical engineering side while the other operational unit is construction focused.

To support the MDARNG as well as MEMA, an engineering unit has been established known as the Maryland Emergency Engineering Response

Team (MEERT). This unit consists of a “bull pen” of graduate engineers with the vast majority being licensed Maryland professional engineers. The commissioning of this unit was welcomed by the MDARNG after three years of successful ISR inspections which established the professional success and qualifications of the Engineer Corps.

The ability to quickly obtain the services of volunteer professional engineers from a stable of multiple disciplines which can quickly provide technical and engineering assistance for facility and construction problems has been of great value.

The Engineer Corps has not only graduate engineers, but experienced personnel with exceptional expertise in construction methods, safety and management. To take advantage of these valuable skills the second unit established is the Construction Division. One of the initial projects accomplished by the Engineer Corps in 2007 was the design and management of the renovations of the Merson Building at the Pikesville Military Reservation for use as the headquarters for the Maryland Defense Force. Although limited by the size of the unit and the material and tools available,

the new construction arm of the Engineer Corps provides the skill and expertise to assist other units in the MDDF with construction support as well as guidance and safety expertise to help these other units help themselves.

Liaison Officers - Although not an actual operational unit, dedicated liaison officers have been identified and detailed to the MDARNG 58th Troop Command and MEMA for coordination during natural or manmade disasters. The 58th Troop Command is the MDARNG headquarters which will be designated for command, control and communications responsibility for any MDARNG response to a major disaster that hits the State.

The single greatest success of the Engineer Corps over the past year has been the sustained and well regulated growth of the unit. The organization has grown from approximately 12 personnel to more than 25. Measuring the growth by numbers alone does not show the complete success of the recruiting effort. The technical capability of the unit has more than doubled as the technological quality and expertise of those recruited has greatly increased. One example of the increase in capability is that over the past year the organization has gone from one professional engineer (PE) to a total of 10 PEs currently on the unit's roles.

Much of the success of the recruiting effort has been a strong partnership between the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) and the Engineer Corps. The past, current and future presidents of this organization have all been brought into the Engineer Corps resulting in some of the most distinguished engineering professionals in the State of Maryland being members of the Corps.



In July, 12 engineers conducted a shelter assessment of the Queen Anne's County High School in Centreville, Md. MEMA has tasked MDDF Engineer Corps with conducting disaster shelter assessments at public schools throughout the state – commencing with the eastern shore counties. Pictured are Maj. (MD) Linda Chatterton (left) showing the building representative, Capt. (MD) Ryan Gross and Lt. Col. (MD) Steven Arndt the preferred locations to be considered for disaster sheltering based on the survey work done by her team earlier in the day.



On August 8th, 19 members of the Engineer Corps attended disaster assessment training at the Maryland Joint Operations Center at MEMA headquarters at Camp Fretterd, Md. The training prepares the Engineers to assess the level of damage after a disaster has occurred. Pre-disaster shelter surveys and post disaster damage assessments are key missions for the Engineer Corps.

10th Medical Regiment Conducts Mass Casualty Exercise

“One of the unique capabilities of the MDDF is our ability to deploy organized teams of doctors, nurses and medics into an emergency field situation”

Brig.Gen. Courtney Wilson

*Story and Photos by Corporal (MD) A. Hastings
MDDF Public Affairs*

The Maryland Defense Force’s 10th Medical Regiment participated in a major multi-agency disaster exercise at Towson University on April 17.

This was the MDDF’s second year participating in the event hosted by the university’s College of Health Professions.

The exercise involved students, faculty, local emergency services, the Maryland National Guard, the Maryland State Police, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Baltimore County Medical Emergency Task and several state and community agencies.

The exercise scenario involved a powerful tornado striking the university and surrounding areas of Towson, creating hundreds of casualties which quickly overwhelmed local first responders and emergency rooms.

In real life, Towson University functions as a surge site or “overflow” site in the event of a Baltimore-area mass casualty crisis. The scenario is realistic - in 2001 a tornado

rolled across College Park killing two people and injuring more than 50.

The exercise involved some 700 participants, including 500 Towson University students who volunteered to be “casualties.”

Among the 67 MDDF participants who provided both medical and operational support to the exercise were 32 doctors, physician’s assistants and nurses.



“One of the unique capabilities of the MDDF is our ability to deploy organized teams of doctors, nurses and medics into an emergency field situation, as in this scenario,” said Brig. Gen. (MD) Wilson, MDDF commander.

MDDF personnel were responsible for a number of tasks to include triage instruction, medical support to injured victims and nursing students, mental health support and referrals, security, communications, and establishing an operations center and a field treatment center.

One of the primary objectives of the exercise was to train Towson's nursing students in triage and to expose them to a realistic and demanding mass casualty situation.



Lt. Col. Thomas Krisanda explains how to establish an improvised field treatment facility to Towson nursing students.

"Mission one was training and exposing the young nursing students at the department of nursing at Towson to disaster triage," said Col. (MD) Wayne Nelson, Jr., deputy commander of the 10th Medical Regiment of the Maryland Defense Force. "They get very little exposure in school and we are one of the few programs in the country that gives them this kind of real life exposure to the five-star disaster triage process."

MDDF medical personnel taught the nursing students the proper execution of the triage process and reviewed each student's assessment and treatment plans for the victims. Defense force members were also responsible for carrying out communications with National Guard members both on the ground and in the air and ensuring that the premise was safe at all times.

Although this was a training exercise, the MDDF has done it for real before. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina which struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, MDDF deployed some 250 medical volunteers to Louisiana for 18 days where they established six treatment centers and treated more than 7000 patients.



Colonel (MD) Stanley Milken Assumes Command of 10th Medical Regiment

The commanding general of the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) has selected Col. (MD) Stanley Minken to succeed Col. (MD) Robert Barish as commander of MDDF's 10th Medical Regiment.

"The Adjutant General and I have the utmost confidence that we are placing the men and women of the 10th Medical Regiment in the care of an exceptional leader," said Brig. Gen. Courtney Wilson, commanding general of the Maryland Defense Force. "Colonel Minken has my full trust and confidence and best wishes for a successful command tenure."

Minken joined the MDDF in early 2006 and has participated in a number of missions in support of the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) including Post Deployment Health Re-Assessments and Freestate ChalleNGe. Minken also deployed along with the MDNG to Bosnia in 2006 as part of Maryland's international partnership program to supply much-needed medical care and establish goodwill between the people of Bosnian and the United States. In his civilian career, Minken is currently the chief medical officer at Chester River Hospital Center, a practicing vascular surgeon and the former chief of academic surgery at the Department of Defense's Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md.

"It's truly an honor to be commanding such an outstanding unit," Minken said. "The 10th Medical Regiment has an incredible and proud heritage, and an equally bright future."

Col. Robert Barish, who has commanded the regiment since 2005, relinquished command due to his appointment as Chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.

"The State of Maryland owes a debt of gratitude to Bob Barish, not only for his time as commander of the 10th Medical Regiment but for a lifetime of exemplary and unselfish public service," said Wilson.

Under Barish's leadership, the regiment reached unprecedented levels of operational performance and executed some of the Maryland Defense Force's most important missions including deployments to Bosnia, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. In his nearly four years as the regiment's commander, MDDF medical personnel conducted post-deployment health assessments for more than 1750 National Guard soldiers and launched an innovative program to conduct critically-important Combat Life Saver training for MDNG units.

MDDF Conducts Successful Annual Muster, Launches CERT Effort

By First Lt. (MD) Bryan Fischer

On March 28, 2009, the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) conducted its twenty-sixth annual muster. This event is the annual gathering of all active members of the Maryland Defense Force. MDDF members trek from every corner of Maryland, from the mountains of Garret County to the sand dunes of Worcester County to participate in this important tradition.

The military muster dates back to the time of Henry VIII of England. During those turbulent times, musters were conducted by local military units to account for their readiness and strength. But in twenty-first century Maryland, the MDDF is more than just tradition.

“The annual muster is an important event in our overall training program,” said Brig. Gen. (MD) Courtney Wilson, MDDF Commanding General. “It’s the anchor of our annual calendar. It provides us the chance to recognize the achievements of the previous year, to communicate important information to our members, and to efficiently complete elements of mandatory training, as well as enhancing morale and esprit.”

This year, MDDF leadership introduced Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) to the muster. CERT is designed to teach both civilians and military personnel the basics of emergency response procedures. In order to become a certified CERT responder, MDDF members were given their first full day of training at the muster. From blocking and cribbing to retrieve trapped individuals, to first aid and life saving techniques, MDDF members were put through their paces.



The training is being coordinated by the MDDF’s G3 Section, which oversees training and operations. In addition to the training conducted at the muster, several more classes are required to complete certification.

According to Captain Chonn Gann of the MDDF’s G3, “CERT was chosen because it offers a national standard of preparation that many other State Defense Forces and homeland security organizations have already adopted.” After MDDF members have completed the necessary requirements, they will be officially certified and be eligible to wear the CERT ribbon on their uniforms and be qualified to train new MDDF members as well as other emergency management personnel. The leadership of the MDDF believes this new training to be critical to the modern mission of the MDDF.

Brig. Gen. James Adkins, the Adjutant General of Maryland, was also on hand during the muster. Brig. Gen. Adkins offered his thanks to the men and women of the MDDF for their countless hours of mission critical support to the Maryland National Guard. Additionally, BG Adkins recognized 95 MDDF personnel with promotions and awards, including 26 State Active Duty Ribbons to members who were called to state active duty during the Presidential Inauguration.

“I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Maryland Defense Force,” said Brig. Gen. Adkins. “They have established an enviable record of achievement and service and are a critical force multiplier to the Maryland

(Continued on page 20)

"The National Guard for the National Guard" State Defense Force Medical Support for the National Guard

By Lt. Col. (MD) Charles E. Wiles and Col. (MD) H. Wayne Nelson
10th Medical Regiment, MDDF

Current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have placed unprecedented strains on reserve component and National Guard resources. The active military and naval services have drawn on the Guard and reserves extensively to meet the demands of combat operations in both theaters. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the area of medical care. Many National Guard and reserve health care providers have deployed overseas three or even four times.

Physicians, physician assistants (PAs), and nurses overseas are not available for traditional Guard duties in their home states and many required medical functions are strained to the breaking point. Under this unrelenting ongoing stress many physicians and other Guardsmen and reservists have elected to retire or resign.

Maryland has turned to the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) to augment the Army and Air National Guard. MDDF personnel, all volunteers, have deployed with the Maryland National Guard to Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. They have deployed to Bosnia and Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota in support of the 175th Air Wing for humanitarian assistance missions. Defense force personnel, both general medical and mental health care providers, have assisted the Army National Guard with Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) and family reintegration programs for returning Guardsmen and their families.

Doctors and PAs also perform regular Periodic Health Assessments (PHA) and scheduled physical examinations side by side with their National Guard counterparts, some of whom have been recruited from the MDDF. Defense force physicians, dentists, nurses, and physician assistants teach the National Guard Combat Lifesaver course. Other personnel have been integrated into the state's disaster management command centers. Nurses, physicians, and PAs from the regiment supported MDARNG Officer Candidate School in the field this summer. Three physicians are at present in training at Fort Rucker to become Army flight surgeons. The 10th Medical Regiment of the MDDF typically provides more than 400 hours of volunteer service each month in support of National Guard activities, much of this by trained professionals. The Maryland Adjutant General has noted the value of the Maryland Defense Force as a force multiplier for the National Guard.

Other directorates of the Maryland Defense Force augment the National Guard in the areas of chaplain support, legal services, and engineer functions. The MDDF engineers recently completed a year-long survey of all the armories in Maryland. Chaplains fill vacancies in National Guard units. Lawyers provide pro bono services to deployed Guardsmen and their families in crisis. MDDF troops participated in support of the Governor's inauguration and the recent annual convention of the National Guard Association of the United States held in Baltimore was chaired by the Commanding Officer of the 10th Medical Regiment of the MDDF.

The MDDF was originally organized in 1917 as the State Guard. The Maryland National Guard had at that time been called up for duty in France. The government of the state saw a need for an organized and well-regulated militia to fill the roles in Maryland left empty with the National Guard overseas. Similar conditions in World War II led to the reactivation of the Maryland State Guard which has been in place ever since. The current MDDF functions primarily as a reserve of professionals for the Maryland Military Department. Many of its members have prior active military service. Professional volunteers serving in state defense forces can be highly effective and cost-efficient force multipliers for the National Guard.

One guardsman recently asked what the Maryland Defense Force did. After an explanation he observed: "Oh, you're the national guard for the National Guard."

Officio Vocante Parati - "Ready When Called"

Editor's note: The column above was originally published as a guest editorial in the April, 2009 issue of Military Medicine, the International Journal of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

THRU THE LENS

MDDF
photographers
at work



SUMMER 2009



Contact us at
publicaffairs
@mddf.us



MDDF NEWS

Maryland Defense Force Band Honors Maryland's Veterans On Memorial Day

Story and photos by Corporal (MD) Allison Hastings, MDDF Public Affairs

The newly formed Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) Band played in two events honoring America's veterans this Memorial Day weekend. The Band provided ceremonial support for the dedication of Patriots Plaza in Towson and



for the 20th Anniversary of the Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Baltimore.

In Towson on May 22nd the band played at the dedication and renaming of the Towson Court Plaza; now known as Patriots Plaza. The dedication brought out many top officials, to include Brig. Gen. James Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, James Smith, the county executive for Baltimore County, as well as a number of veterans of the 29th Infantry Division.

On May 25th the band performed at the 20th Anniversary of the Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial ceremony which was attended by many veterans and their families as well as current political and military officials. Maryland's Governor Martin O'Malley spoke at the event honoring veterans along with Brig. Gen. (MD) Courtney Wilson, commander of the Maryland Defense Force and Brig. Gen. Allyson Solomon, Maryland's assistant adjutant general-Air.

"The men and women of the Maryland Defense Force are all tremendously proud to be part of these events honoring our fallen veterans and their families," said Brig. Gen.

Wilson. "Our nation is indebted to those who have given the full measure in defense of our freedom."

The Defense Force Band is directed by Maj. (MD) Jari Villanueva. The band was first authorized late last year and was fully operational in March for their first performance at the Annual MDDF Muster. Currently the band has 24 members and is seeking to expand to 40 members total in the coming months. Opportunities exist for any qualified MDDF members especially within the woodwind section.

"The Maryland Defense Force Band is honored to be part of the many ceremonies that recognize the great accomplishments of this nation's veterans," said Maj. Villanueva. "We stand ready to support the citizens of Maryland and our partners the Maryland National Guard wherever and whenever needed."

Making a Difference in Our Communities: MDDF Supports Maryland Youth Program

By Major (MD) Karen Griffith

The Freestate ChalleNGe program is the Maryland version of the National Guard Youth Challenge, a national program started to address at-risk youth by employing a structured, quasi-military training and mentoring program.

The mission of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth to produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. The program teaches life skills and increases the educational level and employment potential of 16-18 year old high school drop-outs.

The Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, located at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Harford County, Md, is funded through Federal and State funds.

This program gives teens a second chance at life. Thanks to this program, I have a chance to be something in life."

Graduate

Applicants are interviewed and questioned as to their willingness to complete the program. All potential students must be drug free. Hundreds of potential applicants from Maryland and the District of Columbia are interviewed and academically tested. Approximately 200 applicants are cho-

sen for each class.

The five month program is both physically and academically challenging. Not all students are prepared for the ChalleNGe and unfortunately many drop out. Those students that do persist are rewarded, not only with a diploma, but a scholarship opportunity. Graduates are more productive citizens and possess self confidence due to the rigorous discipline. The small classes enable the students to get a quality education.

The students' day begins at 0530 hours. After a march to breakfast, classes begin augmented with rigorous physical training. Mentors are on site to aid the students and deal with problems.

The changes I have seen in my son are extraordinary! He has re-focused on those things which are important, like, life, education, and becoming a productive citizen."

Parent of Graduate

As part of its mission to provide supplemental professional and technical support to the Maryland Military Department and the Maryland National Guard, the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) has been actively supporting the Freestate ChalleNGe program for years. MDDF members volunteer to help the staff with all aspects of the program. From the initial student interviews to the final graduation, a team of MDDF members is at the ready to support the academy staff.

With the significant deployment of many National Guard personnel over recent years, MDDF aid is vital to the program. MDDF members from all disciplines volunteer their time to help students transition into and complete the program. MDDF members help in all phases of the program, from the initial interviews, the reporting to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the processing in of the class, to the final graduation, the presence of MDDF personnel is apparent and necessary.

One of the most challenging milestones for both students and academy staff is the day of reporting. This is a critical event where the MDDF provides significant support.

The students, along with their families, report to the auditorium where their academic records, medical records and consent forms must be thoroughly scrutinized and the students are drug tested prior to their departure to the barracks.

The reward for MDDF members volunteering their time and effort, is witnessing Prom Night and the graduation ceremony. What was once a rag tag, undisciplined collection of youth, is transformed in five short months, into an orderly, well disciplined group of young adults ready to take their rightful place in society. Many graduates join the military and become outstanding service members. Others go onto to college and become productive citizens. This is a win-win situation; the only losers are those students that can not stand up to the ChalleNGe!

For more information about the Freestate ChalleNGe, go to <http://www.ngycp.org/site/state/md/>

Or contact Maj. (MD) Griffith at kgriffith@mddf.us

MDDF Officers Earn Military Emergency Management Qualification

Ten members of the Maryland Defense Force and Maryland National Guard have earned the Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) qualification badge. The award of the MEMS badge recognizes an individual's completion of a challenging program of study preparing them to effectively operate in a local or statewide emergency operation. Qualification can be earned as a Basic, Senior or Master Military Emergency Management Specialist.

The following personnel earned the Master MEMS qualification:

Col. (MD) Charles Nalls
Lt. Col. (MD) Donald Alves
Lt. Col. (MD) Michael Shrank

The following personnel earned the Basic MEMS qualification:

Lt. Col. (MD) Ronald Roberts
Lt. Col. (MDANG) Todd Melton
Maj. (MD) Raymond Bocelli
Capt. (MD) Chon Gann
Capt. (MD) Ryan Gross
Capt. (MD) Michael Sheffer
First Lt. (MD) Isadore Beattie

"We are tremendously proud of the members of the Maryland Defense Force and National Guard who have stepped up to earn this qualification," said Brig. Gen. Courtney Wilson, commanding general of the Maryland Defense Force. "Their new skills and knowledge increase the operational competency of the Maryland Military Department and will directly benefit the citizens of our State and Nation."

MILITARY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Maryland Guard Member Earns Chaplain of Year Award

By Army Staff Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum, National Guard Bureau

Chaplains have myriad reasons for serving their country, but recognition usually isn't one of them.

"Chaplains are often in the position where we love to serve so much, it's always a surprise to be rewarded for it," said Army Chaplain (Capt.) Rebekah Montgomery, who will receive the Chaplain of the Year award from the Military Chaplains Association on July 17.

Montgomery, a Unitarian Universalist chaplain serving with both the Army National Guard Readiness Center here and Maryland's 58th Troop Command, said she has been a student of religion since high school.

"I was always drawn to how people negotiate their daily lives with the experience of the spiritual," said Montgomery, a Bethesda, Md., native. "I got so much stimulation out of understanding other faith traditions, and I still do."

After an 18-month tour in Afghanistan, Montgomery returned to Maryland and took on two jobs. One weekend a month, she is the brigade chaplain for the 58th Troop Command, a job that she said keeps her grounded in the "M-day" unit mentality. An M-day unit one in which troops serve one weekend a month and a two-week annual tour each year.

"With my state, that's where the real nuts-and-bolts mission is," she said. "I feel like I'm staying in touch and serving at the local level."

During the week, she focuses on a broader mission at the readiness center, advising high-level officials on spiritual issues.

"My position at [the National Guard Bureau] is sort of an aide-de-camp for a general," she said. "You go places and see things you would never see in an M-day unit."

At the readiness center, Montgomery participated in a

recent suicide prevention stand-down, offering her counseling services to soldiers.

"Suicide has been an issue I have seen deployed, in the field and on drill weekends," she said. "It's a fact of life and is something chaplains are often involved in."

Montgomery said she feels she has made a contribution, but finds it difficult to quantify the results. Morale and a decreasing number of infractions can be indicators, but it's tough to measure a chaplain's full impact.

"We don't see the direct results, but we trust God is using us in a profound and positive way," she said. "You can't quantify how many divorces didn't happen. You can't quantify how many suicides didn't happen."

With her award, Montgomery said she realizes her efforts have not gone un-

noticed, and she always keeps in mind the reason she was nominated.

"Just having the opportunity to serve soldiers is the greatest mission on Earth."



National Guard Facility Named for Guardsman Killed in Iraq

A Maryland National Guard facility in Salisbury is being named for a member of the guard killed in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Michael J. McMullen was the first member of the Maryland National Guard to die in combat since World War II.

McMullen, who earned a Silver Star medal for saving the life of a fellow soldier in combat, was fatally wounded on Christmas Eve 2005. He died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center of shrapnel wounds received when a makeshift bomb exploded as he was treating a soldier injured by an earlier bomb in Ramadi, in the Sunni Triangle. He was assigned to the 243rd Engineer Company and was a firefighter and paramedic with the Salisbury Fire Department.

175th Wing Welcomes New Commander

By Master Sgt. Lou DeVeaux, 75th Wing Public Affairs

The Maryland National Guard recently announced Col. Scott L. Kelly as the new commanding officer of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing.

Col. Kelly most recently served as the vice commander of the 175th Wing, which is comprised of both C-130J Hercules transport and A-10C Jet fighter aircraft. An A-10 jet fighter pilot with more than 25 years of service, Colonel Kelly assumed command of the unit during an historic ceremony at the Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md., on Aug. 1. Col. Kelly officially took command of the unit on June 22.

"Col. Kelly is an extremely accomplished Airman and leader who is well-positioned to take the 175th Wing to the next level," said Brig. Gen. James Adkins, The Adjutant General. "As we look to the future, the Maryland Air National Guard will be a leading voice in helping to shape the future of both the Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force. I look forward to even greater accomplishments by Col. Kelly and the men and women under his command. They truly represent the best that the State of Maryland and this great nation have to offer."

Colonel Kelly is a command pilot with more than 3,700 military flying hours. He is a veteran of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, during which he flew 40 combat sorties. He also served as the 455th Expeditionary Group vice group com-

mander during Operation Enduring Freedom. His previous assignments include mission support group commander, operations group commander and fighter squadron commander.

"I'm extremely excited and ready to get to work," said Col. Kelly. "This is a tremendous unit with an extremely talented and hard working group of professionals and I'm honored to command them at this most critical time in our nation's history. We have a number of challenges ahead of us, both at home and abroad, but I have every confidence

that we will continue to demonstrate that the Maryland Air National Guard is second to none."

Col. Kelly, who earned his bachelor's degree from The Citadel and is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air War College, assumed command of the 175th Wing from Brig. Gen. Guy M.

Walsh, who was recently selected to be the first Air National Guard officer to command an active duty wing in com-

bat. General Walsh now commands the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing, based in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The 175th Wing is comprised of more than 1,500 members and has an economic impact of nearly \$120 million on the Baltimore metropolitan area.



Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard, and Col. Scott L. Kelly, commander of the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, salute the flag during the playing of the national anthem during the wing assumption of command ceremony held at the Warfield Air National Guard Base on August 1, 2009.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Volunteer in Case of Emergency

By Justin Palk
Frederick News-Post

Lt. Col. Michael Shrank is a member of the Maryland Defense Force. Five years ago, Michael Shrank was surfing the web when he came across the website for the Maryland Defense Force. The Frederick resident had previously volunteered with the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts, and it seemed intriguing, so he dropped them an e-mail, he said.

The Maryland Defense Force is an all-volunteer state military agency that supplements and supports the Maryland National Guard. It's part of the Maryland Military Department, along with the Maryland National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Emergency Management Agency. The force is under the command of the governor, and receives no federal funding.

A few months after his initial e-mail, Shrank joined the force as a major in its information technology and communications directorate.

"It's full-time volunteer," he said. "My wife says I spend way too much time with this."

Now a lieutenant colonel, Shrank serves as the force's director of information technology and communications, and its liaison with Frederick County emergency services personnel. He was also recently certified as a master military emergency management specialist, a level of training force members aren't required to receive.

"I'm a little bit of an overachiever," he said.

The training focuses on teaching the student to work in local or statewide military emergency management mobilizations, and function with other emergency response agencies, including civil agencies, both in the field and in emergency operations centers.



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As a master specialist, Shrank said his job now includes teaching others.

He said he expects he'll stay with the force's IT directorate for as long as he volunteers, but he does have one goal for his time there. "I'd like to make colonel."

Powell Elected President of Md State Firemen's Association

By Michael Schwartzberg, originally published by
The Examiner—Baltimore Emergency Services Examiner

Veteran volunteer fire service member Roger Powell of Reisterstown has been elected as president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association for 2009-10. Powell was recently inaugurated at MSFA's 117th annual convention in Ocean City.

An attorney in private practice in Pikesville and member of the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company for 37 years, is the sixth PVFC member to serve as MSFA president since PVFC's founding in 1897.

His extensive fire service includes serving as MSFA attorney for 35 years and assisting the Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen's Association, as well as representing numerous fire companies/departments across the state as legal counsel.

He has long been active in reviewing legislation and advising officers on issues affecting the state's volunteer emergency services members and has served as an advisor to the MSFA officers, executive committee, committee chairs, and trustees. Additionally, Powell has served on the MSFA's Constitution and Bylaws Committee for more than three decades, is a regular contributor to the Volunteer Trumpet (MSFA's quarterly magazine), and has been the principal editor of The Fire Laws of MD since 1982.

Most recently, Powell served as one of two vice presidents for MSFA, and this past legislative session was intimately involved with several critical public safety issues, including advocating for the association's legislative agenda and working to protect Maryland's world-renowned medevac system from potential cuts that threatened to endanger public safety. Named to the MSFA Hall of Fame in 1989, in 2003 Powell was awarded the Gladhill-Thompson Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to the MSFA, the highest individual MSFA award.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

“One of my goals as president will be to reach out to former volunteers who were at one time active fire service members but who have been gone for some time and need a hand coming back,” Powell said. “Another goal is to enhance safety initiatives across Maryland to ensure our emergency service responders are as safe as possible.”



Powell also intends to work closely with partner agencies such as the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland State Police Aviation Division, as well as with state lawmakers on issues important to

Maryland’s fire, rescue and EMS service.

Powell has also been active in the community at large as well, particularly with the American Diabetes Association and his local community association in Reisterstown, for whom he has chaired a number of events annually. He also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Maryland Defense Force.

MDDF Legal Officer Receives Award For Pro Bono Service

A legal officer with the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) has been recognized by the Maryland State Bar Association with the Brigadier General Philip Sherman Award, recognizing superior service by a civilian lawyer to uniformed service members. J. Michael Lawlor, a Lt. Col. in the MDDF is the inaugural recipient of the award which was presented in a ceremony at the Towson Armory Tuesday.

An MDDF volunteer since November, 2003, Lawlor is the deputy director of the MDDF Legal Directorate and head of its family law department. Lawlor was recognized for providing more than 200 pro bono hours of direct support to national guardsmen and their families, saving them thousands of dollars in legal fees. The MDDF Legal Direc-

torate provides a broad range of pro bono legal support to members of the Maryland National Guard in times of pressing need.

“Mike Lawlor knows what to do, knows how to do it, and gets it done quickly, enabling guardsmen to focus on their duties free of concern about their families and their future” said MDDF Col. Michael Osborn, director of the legal directorate. “Mike is a role model and inspiration to us all.”

A native of Baltimore, Lawlor has 36 years experience as a solo practitioner. He is a graduate the Loyola College and the University of Baltimore School of Law, and a Vietnam veteran who has received numerous citations including the Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 battle stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Republic of Vietnam Cross Unit Citation.

New Leader Named for Finance

Brig. Gen. Wilson has appointed Maj. (MD) Fred H. Eisenbrandt commander of the Finance Directorate.

Maj. Eisenbrandt is an investment professional with 24 years experience in corporate investment banking/equity capital markets syndicate, product development and marketing and private client investment services. He is a Financial Advisor with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney which he joined in 2008 after a lengthy career with Deutsche Bank/Alex Brown in Baltimore. He received a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a member and former Chairman of the Securities Industry Association Middle Atlantic District Executive Board. Maj. Eisenbrandt was commissioned in the MDDF in March, 2009.

Schaffer Named Super Lawyer

Capt. (MD) Brett M. Schaffer of the MDDF Legal Directorate has been elected (for the 2nd consecutive year) as a MARYLAND SUPER LAWYER. That places him in the top five percent of Maryland lawyers as voted by his peers and members of the Maryland Judiciary. Super Lawyers employs a rigorous, multiphase process. Peer nominations and evaluations are combined with third party research. Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis.

Are You a Post-9/11 Veteran? **Information on the New G.I. Bill**

By Capt. Brian Zdunowski
Education Services Officer MDNG

The new Post 9/11 GI Bill – Chapter 33 offers educational assistance for veterans who are attending an institution of higher learning (degree producing schools) who have served an aggregate of 90 days or more on Title 10 active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Unlike GI Bill's of the past, the Post 9/11 GI Bill program pays up to 100% of tuition and fees directly to the school at the start of the term. Eligible members may also receive a percentage of a monthly housing allowance equal to E5 with dependants for the zip code the school is located and is paid directly to the Soldier. Also a book and supply stipend may be paid directly to the veteran not to exceed \$1000 per academic year.

Eligible members are entitled up to 36 months of benefits and individuals will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from their last Honorable discharge or are release from active duty of at least 90 continuous days. No payments will be made for training that occurred prior to August 1, 2009.

For detailed information about this program, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website at www.gibill.va.gov or contact the VA at 888-442-4551.

MUSTER (Continued from page 10)

Military Department.”

For the first time since the reorganization of the old Maryland State Guard into the Maryland Defense Force more than 20 years ago, an official MDDF band was present to provide martial flair and ceremonial pomp to the day. Officially known as the Maryland Defense Force Band, Maryland's Musical Ambassadors, the band was authorized in late 2008 and made its first public appearance at the muster. The MDDF Band began the day in rousing fashion with the national anthem and stirring renditions of “Over There” and other classic military music. In addition to their duties with the MDDF, the band also represents the Maryland National Guard at other events and to date, has even performed out of state by request.

The MDDF counts the Annual Muster of 2009 as a success. Between the critical emergency management training, the martial ceremony and the honor of BG Adkins' attendance, this year is sure to go down as memorable and truly a stepping stone to the next era of the Maryland Defense Force. In order to fulfill the motto of the MDDF, *Officio Vocante Parati, Ready When Called*, Muster will continue to be used to increase our readiness, honor our soldiers and march proudly into the future.



The Maryland Defense Force A Component of the Maryland Military Department

Headquartered at the Pikesville Military Reservation in Baltimore, the Maryland Defense Force is a volunteer uniformed state military agency organized under the Maryland Military Department. Formally established by the Maryland legislature in 1917, the unit's heritage and traditions trace back to the 17th century.

MDDF is one of a number of State Defense Forces authorized by the U.S. Congress under Title 32 and the respective state legislatures. While specific missions vary from state to state, State Defense Forces exist primarily to augment the capabilities of the National Guard. Employing volunteers who bring military experience and/or civilian professional skills, they supplement the capabilities of the National Guard, assist in National Guard mobilization for federal service, replace National Guard assets deployed out-of-state, and support state homeland security missions. State Defense Forces operate under the command of the Governor, as state Commander-in-Chief, and fall under the operational control of the state Adjutant General. State Defense Forces receive no federal funds and are supported entirely by the state.