

RNG Spotlight



Soldiers from the 379th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, Massachusetts Army National Guard, clear a tree that is blocking the road after a rare October snowstorm dumped nearly two feet of snow in areas of central and western Massachusetts. Roughly 400 Massachusetts Guard members were on duty in that state after the storm, with about 40 on duty in Connecticut and a dozen in New Hampshire, according to National Guard Bureau officials.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Saslav



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Erik Kristensen, 823rd Base Defense Squadron fire team leader, takes a knee while patrolling a village during an exercise at Camp Smith, N.Y., Oct. 28. Airmen from the 823rd Base Defense Squadron from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., and the 105th Security Forces Squadron from Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., trained together for a week and then had to implement everything they learned into a 36-hour field training exercise. The partnership relies on standardized training because the two units are integrated as one fighting force when they deploy together. The 10 days of training at Camp Smith included everything from explosive ordnance training and urban operations training to combat life-saving skills.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Mancha



Lt. Col. David Piffarero, 302nd Fighter Squadron commander, is presented with a plaque and patch to commemorate his 1,000 flight hour in the F-22 Raptor by Jeff Babione, vice president and program manager for Lockheed-Martin's F-22 Raptor program. Piffarero, an Air Force Reservist, is the first pilot out of all of the F-22 Raptor pilots in the Air Force to reach this milestone during a sortie Nov. 4. "Working with an active duty wing and getting the opportunity to integrate with some of the best pilots and maintainers on both the active duty and Reserve side is what makes us so unique and, quite frankly, so good at what we do. This reminded me that there is no place like flying in Alaska and no place that I would rather be."

U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Ashley Conner

We want to hear from you!

To submit a photo of your National Guard or Reserve unit doing cool things, please send photos (300 dpi or greater please) and information to Editor@Ameriforce.net



Marines from 6th Communications Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve, marched in the annual New York Veterans Day parade Nov. 11. This year marks the 92nd anniversary of the New York Veterans Day Parade. The parade is hosted by the United War Veterans Council, Inc. on behalf of the city of New York. It is the oldest and largest of its kind in the nation. Since Nov. 11, 1919, the parade has provided an opportunity for Americans and international visitors to honor those who have served in the nation's largest city. Sgt. Dakota Meyer, the recently awarded Marine Medal of Honor recipient, rode in the parade. Major Gen. Melvin Spiess, deputy commanding general, I Marine Expeditionary Force, represented the Marine Corps as one of the reviewing officials of the parade. Photo by Sgt. Randall Clinton

Guardsmen of the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team decontaminate a simulated casualty here, Nov. 2. The Guardsmen are participating in a training exercise named Vigilant Guard. The multi-agency exercise, which includes National Guard units from California, Colorado, Nevada, Minnesota and Utah, worked to improve communication and operational relationships between civilian, federal, tribal and military partners in preparation for several types of catastrophic emergencies. The events included simulated widespread flooding, a prison riot and an improvised nuclear device detonation. Lt. Col. Jack W. Beasley, director of military support with the Arizona National Guard, said exercises like Vigilant Guard are necessary because they allow the Guard to interface with the state emergency management and local first responders who they normally wouldn't work with in their regular military training. Photo by Spc. Adrian Borunda



U.S. Air Force Airman First Class Darius Tillman with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron marshals an F-16C Fighting Falcon at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan on Nov. 6. Tillman is a Virginia Air National Guardsman deployed from the 113th Fighter Wing. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht