

Patriot Academy

Quarterly

>>STUDENT LIFE

STUDENTS BRING CHEER TO NEEDY CHILDREN

Operation Christmas Blessing
Hailed as a Huge Success

>>FROM THE COMMANDANT

RAMPED UP

2010 PRESENTS NEW CHALLENGES
AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

>>SPORTS

GOING TO COURT

BASKETBALL TEAM
HOOPS IT UP!

COMBATING THE DROPOUT EPIDEMIC

THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
HAS A NEW WEAPON

>>PA SPOTLIGHT

HARD TIMES TO A HELPING HAND

SGT NANCE
p. 26

"Patriot Academy provides an opportunity for America's youth to become a Guardsman and a productive citizen in their local community, while serving their State and Country."

LTC (R) Clyde Bligh

Dedicated on this 20th Day of August A.D. 2009

www.NGPatriotAcademy.com



Is the lack of a high school diploma keeping you from pursuing **your dreams**?

The Patriot Academy can help you get on the fast track to success in 2010.

TEAMWORK THROUGH TRAINING. CONFIDENCE THROUGH EDUCATION.

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At the National Guard Patriot Academy*, you not only earn an accredited high school diploma, but also learn the critical life skills that will make you a valuable and successful member of your community.

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No doubt, you already know what loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage mean. But how often do you live up to them? At the Patriot Academy*, you will develop a deeper understanding of these values and how you can incorporate them into your everyday life.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

A local recruiter will screen you to determine if you meet the criteria for enrollment and enlistment. If you meet all the requirements:

- 1 The recruiter will arrange for you to attend** ten weeks of Basic Combat Training (BCT) as soon as possible. There, your mind and body will be pushed to their limits and honed into fighting shape.
- 2 Upon successful completion of BCT,** you will travel directly to the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC) in Butlerville, IN, to begin your academic and military training.
- 3 You will be placed on Active Duty for Operational Support** (ADOS) orders and paid at your current grade (E-1). Your duty day will consist of a mix of both military training and civilian education (for up to nine months).
- 4 Using your Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA),** you will complete your high school diploma through Liberty University Online Academy (or another accredited distance learning provider). National Guard instructors will provide you with support and guidance to assist you in meeting your academic requirements.
- 5 Upon successful completion** of your military and academic requirements, you will proceed on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT).
- 6 After completing AIT,** you will return to your home and your unit of assignment as a polished, professional, and educated member of the community. You will also be eligible for a \$5,000 enlistment bonus.



NATIONAL GUARD 
PATRIOT ACADEMY

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NATIONAL GUARD PATRIOT ACADEMY

Earn your high school diploma, receive
full-time pay and benefits and sharpen
your skills as a Soldier



FIND THE
COLOR
OF YOUR OWN
CHUTE



NATIONAL
GUARD



www.NGPatriotAcademy.com

Patriot Academy Quarterly

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Patriot Academy Quarterly

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2010: LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW CHALLENGES

By Col. Perry W. Sarver, Jr., Patriot Academy Commandant

2009 has been an incredible year for the Patriot Academy. What was once spoken in meetings led to the renovation of an old school and then the academic framework to allow high school dropouts the second chance to graduate with an accredited diploma. Without the leadership of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Clyde Vaughn or the individuals who applied, the Patriot Academy would still be a grand idea collecting dust in DC.

A tremendous amount of time planning and executing was invested this year to launch the Patriot Academy. Our work has only just begun and the challenges are greater than ever. Nearly 1.2 million high school students nationwide drop out of school every year, creating an epidemic of huge proportions, both socially and economically.



While the Patriot Academy may not be the solution to our national problem, it is an important option to those who are able, willing and eager to step up to our challenge. The Patriot Academy serves as a model for other organizations to follow.

We are seeing positive results in our students. Physical fitness scores have improved, students are displaying important leadership qualities and many are close or have completed their degree completion program and are taking college courses. There is no doubt in my mind that this program will serve as a catalyst for many good things to come to those who give their all.

As we start a new year, we must learn from the past and continue planning for the future. By June 2010, the Patriot Academy will quintuple to 250 students. For cadre and staff, it means working smarter as a team to give young Soldiers every opportunity to be successful in all areas of their lives. For students, it means that you will become alumni of an accredited high school, proud of your training and accomplishments and richer for your experience at the Patriot Academy.



The Patriot Academy is your school and I am proud to be serving as its first commandant. I appreciate all of your hard work, dedication, loyalty and passion this year. I wish you, your families and respective states/territories continued success for 2010 and look forward to new opportunities to enabling students to make positive changes in their lives.



WHERE CREDIT IS DUE Col. Perry W. Sarver, Jr. pins new rank and the Army Commendation Medal on Staff Sgt. David Jenkins.

Indiana's Top Education Official Enlists Military to Combat Dropout Epidemic

Story by 1st Lt. Kyle Key, photos by Sgt. Michael D. Price

In the latest move to reduce the growing rate of high school dropouts and keep Indiana students in school, the state's chief public education official has placed a new weapon in his arsenal.

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett recently visited with former high school dropouts and officials at the National Guard Patriot Academy to learn more about the program and locate dropouts looking for a second chance.

Bennett arrived by helicopter with Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant General of the Indiana Army National Guard and was given a tour of the students' dorms, classrooms, library and a briefing by the school's commandant about how the National Guard is helping states to reduce their dropout rates.

According to Alliance for Excellent Education, 1.2 million high school students nationwide will fail to graduate each year.

In the state of Indiana, one out of every 10 high school students will drop out. At the Patriot Academy, there are 18 students from Indiana who are scheduled to graduate with their high school diploma in March 2010.

Bennett told Umbarger that with access to over 450 high schools in the state, he will help distribute information about the Patriot Academy in order to help find dropouts who meet the admission guidelines and enlistment criteria.

"It has been a goal of mine to create multiple pathways for learning that enable all students to attain post-secondary success," Bennett said.

At a recent High School Dropout Summit spearheaded by Bennett in Indianapolis, he told the audience of educators about a new \$20,000 incentive for improving graduation rates.



NO STUDENT LEFT BEHIND

Dr. Bennett speaks with Patriot Academy students and encourages them to stay the course and graduate with their high school diploma and continue their military service.

The Graduation Rate Performance Program rewards teachers and principals whose leadership results in an increased graduation rate.

Patriot Academy Commandant Col. Perry W. Sarver, Jr. escorted and briefed Bennett and Umbarger about the Patriot Academy's innovative program on campus.

"The National Guard has partnered with state educational programs around the country through our Partners In Education Program to encourage students to stay in school where they are best served," said Sarver. "But when they drop out and can't go back, that's where the Patriot Academy can help make a difference."

After the briefing, five Patriot Academy students marched in and were introduced to Bennett and Umbarger. Bennett chatted with the students and listened to them as they discussed why they dropped out and how the program has put them on a fast track for success.

"You had to want to take a second chance," Bennett told the students. "You should be proud to be a part of the Patriot Academy."

...continued on next page

**LISTENING**

Dr. Bennett asks questions and listens to responses from Patriot Academy Students.

The Patriot Academy is the first national military high school for soldiers accredited by a state department of education.


Indiana accredited the Patriot Academy on Sept. 2, 2009.

Bennett said he recognized students learn differently and the Patriot Academy "offers an outside-the-box program that effectively brings students back into the classroom."

On their way through the school library and back to the helicopter, Bennett said he was impressed with the program and especially the students for desiring to better themselves.

"The Patriot Academy is a second chance for some Indiana students, and I am proud of the National Guard," Bennett said. "It is clear to me the students at the Patriot Academy are dedicated, active participants in the learning process. Each can be proud of what they have accomplished, and I am confident their experiences at the academy will prepare them for the challenges of our 21st-century economy."

The National Guard also operates a 17-month GED program for 16-18 year old civilian high school dropouts called Youth ChalleNge. There are 34 Youth ChalleNge programs in 29 states including Indiana, and the territory of Puerto Rico. Maj. Gen Umbarger said his state is more prepared than ever to meet the challenge of keeping students in school and increasing graduation rates.

"We are so proud that the Hoosier Youth ChalleNge Academy, and now the Patriot Academy, has been established in Indiana to address the needs of our at-risk youth," Umbarger said. "The young men and women in our communities that want a second chance to prove themselves and to establish strong life goals, have been given that opportunity. The Indiana National Guard stands behind them, ready to lend a helping hand." 

**<<LEFT**

Dr. Bennett and Maj. Gen. Umbarger greet students in the classroom.

RIGHT>>

Maj. Gen. Umbarger, Dr. Bennett and Col. Perry W. Sarver pose in front of the Patriot Academy academic building.



Building on the Rock

By CH (MAJ) Robert Lewis, Patriot Academy Chaplain

People spend their lives building lots of things; relationships, careers, and portfolios to name a few. When we build it is important to put in a good foundation. In the Biblical days, they built on rock, versus sand. Today with our technology, we pour a cement foundation, but the contrast is still there, we want a solid foundation on which to build.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church." In another chapter he said, "The wise man built his house upon the rock."

I remember one time adding on a room to a church, with free labor and people who might have known what they were doing in years gone by. We dug down about four feet, poured a footer and laid four rows of block, and were going to put up the walls when a carpenter friend came along and took one look at the foundation and let us know it was wrong! One corner was at least three to four inches lower than the others! Fortunately we were able to square it up and level it off and build from there.

"The wise man built his house upon the rock."

Sometimes we need to determine if we're building on a good foundation. Are my relationships on the level? Is my career solid enough to withstand the economic storms, or do I need to add more education, or more work experience? What about my financial portfolio, am I saving money or spending it frivolously? Is my spiritual journey being nurtured through worship and quiet times, or is it being neglected?

Patriot Academy is the rock foundation to building an academic and military career. From here you will be able to go on and achieve more education, plus you have an excellent start for a career in the Army National Guard to become the leaders of tomorrow. The church, minister, chaplain and chapel are elements available to building a solid spiritual foundation.

Distance learning and college campuses are available to continue building your education. No matter what you are building there are people and institutions along the way to help, but you are the only one who can ensure you have a solid rock foundation.

Remember, no matter what, building on the right foundation is important for the rest of your life!



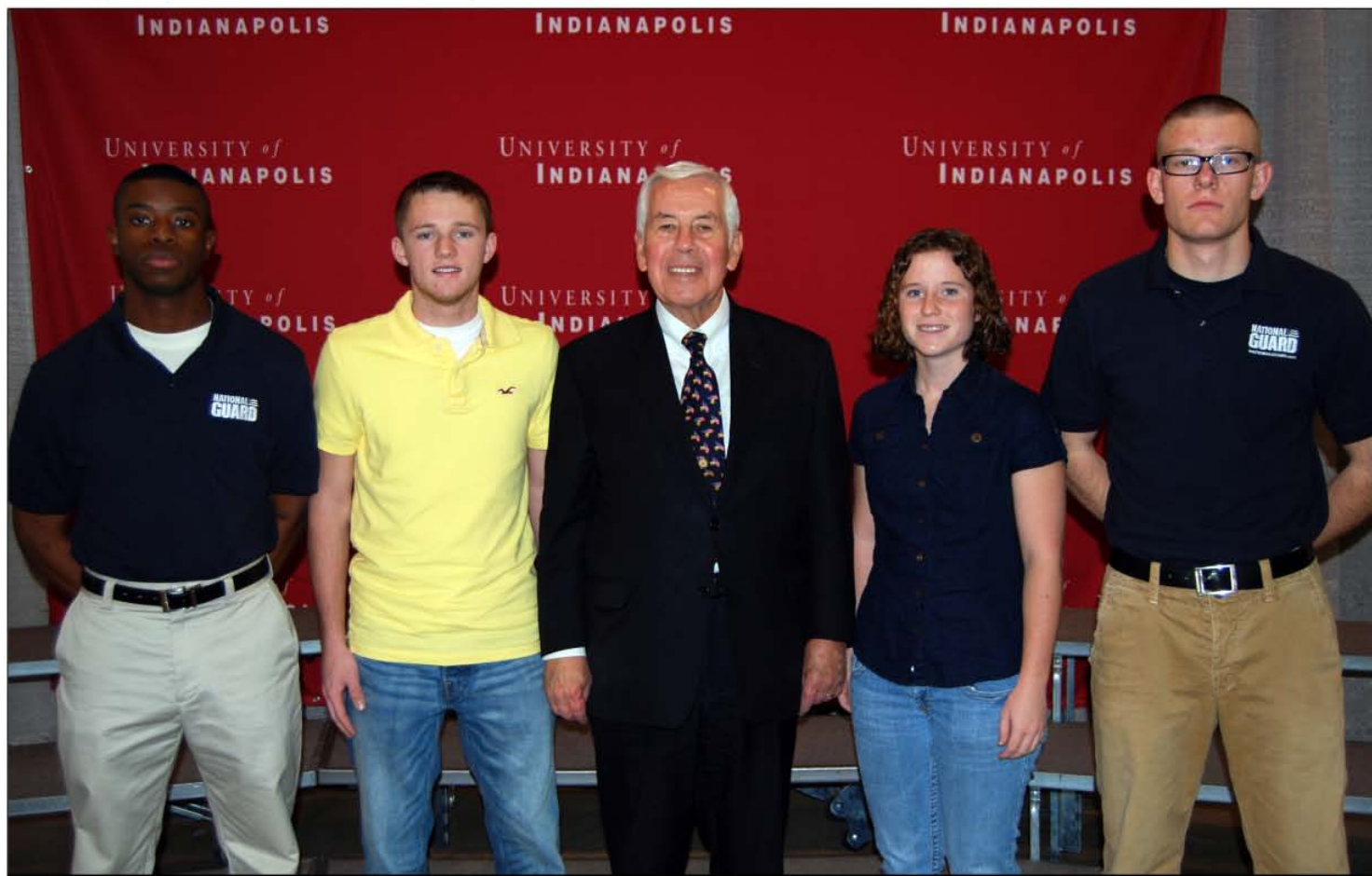
SET IN STONE Dedication ceremony plaque serves as a reminder that things learned here are based on solid principle.



PA Students Participate in Sen. Lugar's Leadership Symposium



Staff Report, photos courtesy of the Lugar Center for Tomorrow's Leaders



TOMORROW'S LEADERS Student-Soldiers from the Patriot Academy participate with their high school peers in the 2009 Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders at the University of Indianapolis, Dec., 12, 2009. In the photo (L-R) Pfc. Devon Pollard, Patriot Academy, Bryce Daugherty, Jennings Co. H.S., U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN), Katrina Brandenburg, Jennings Co. H.S. and Pvt. Joshua Blackburn from the Patriot Academy.

Two students from the National Guard Patriot Academy recently completed their participation in a leadership symposium at the University of Indianapolis, Dec. 12, 2009.

Patriot Academy Command Sgt. Major Judy Macy nominated Pfc. Devon Pollard and Pvt. Joshua Blackburn for their demonstrated leadership qualities to represent the high school at the symposium.

The Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders was created in 1977 by Sen. Richard Lugar during his first year in the U.S. Senate to provide a forum for young Hoosiers to discuss current events.



Following opening remarks by Sen. Lugar, students chose two min-sessions to participate in covering U.S. leadership in the world, media responsibility, health care reform, food and energy security, immigration, climate change and truthfulness.

Each session lasted approximately 75 minutes and consisted of two experts presenting opposing view points followed by an informal discussion with students.



Students Experience Extreme Field Trip

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Kyle Key

High school students from the National Guard Patriot Academy took a break from the books and embarked on their first field training exercise at the ranges of Camp Atterbury, Oct. 16-17, 2009.

The students, who were once high school dropouts, joined the military under the National Guard's new program to give deserving applicants a second chance to receive their high school diploma, become more proficient Soldiers and give back to the community.

"This was not your ordinary high school field trip," said Patriot Academy Commandant Col. Perry W. Sarver, Jr. "Our student-Soldiers have opportunities within the academic year to visit museums, attend collegiate and professional sports events but this weekend was a little reminder that they are also being trained to be the best Soldiers in the Army National Guard."

Students loaded up their gear and arrived at Camp Atterbury Oct. 16. From the garrison, students marched in full battle gear to the training range.

After arriving, Student Platoon Sergeant Pfc. Ryan Grieger from Delta, Colo., occupied the range and ordered his squad leaders to establish perimeter security while a reconnaissance team prepared to gather intelligence on the enemy.



LEAD THE WAY
Pfc. Ryan Grieger leads fellow student Soldiers through field exercises at the ranges of Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Oct. 16-17, 2009.

The advance party began movement and arrived at an objective rally point where Pvt. Brandon Deal and fellow squad members crawled through mud and dense vegetation to determine the number of enemy personnel, their activity, as well as the number and types of weapons.

Beyond the tree line, Patriot Academy Cadre posed as opposition forces securing a building armed with AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. Without detection, Deal carefully scribbled down a few notes and returned to the rally point with critical information for his



LOW AND SLOW
Pvt. Brandon Deal low crawls to capture enemy information during a reconnaissance mission.

"I had to low crawl through the forest floor covered in briars," said Deal. "I thought that was pretty fun. This is way more engaging than a regular high school field trip. I get to do a lot more. I get to have a sense of pride that I'm actually training and learning the skills that I need to defend my country."

Students executed missions throughout the entire field training exercise and were placed in leadership positions to test and sharpen their abilities. Capt. Steven Conway, the company commander, said the training is designed to make Soldiers dependent on their own ability and interdependent on their team.



CHOW TIME
Cpt. Steven Conway and cadre feed troops during field training.

...story continued on next page

BEWARE

THE OPFOR

"As Soldiers progress through The Patriot Academy, they are given more responsibility to lead themselves with limited cadre supervision," said Conway. "The FTX is a good measuring event to see how much the Soldiers have grasped the military training we have provided up to this point at the Academy."

Pfc. Timothy Valley said the training proved their strengths and more importantly where they needed improvement.

"After the ruck march up here and the recon, we went through the improvised explosive device lane," said Valley. "Everything went successfully. Then we conducted raids."

Valley's demeanor changed from excited to distressed. "We had really good recon and our movement was good, but we had some problems getting into the building."

Students' and the opposition forces' M4-style weapons were loaded with air canisters, ammo hoppers and paintballs, making the training more realistic. From above the shoot house building on a wooden walkway, cadre observed and advised as the students entered the kill zone.

"If you get hit, go down!" yelled Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Latham. A burst came from the corner of the room. A student splattered with red paint hit the ground.

STACK UP
Students stack up at the door inside the shoot house in order to clear the room.



"Talk... communicate with each other!" instructed Staff Sgt. Wesley Colinger. "What are you going to do... what's next?"

Pvt. Stephen Pruitt took action and kicked down an obstruction in the doorway.

"Keep security on the door behind you!" yelled a student. As he entered the next room, shots rang out. Opposing forces hit two more students. "I'm down!"



PAINT IN YOUR EYE Pvt. Michael Vance takes a paintball to his facemask during traffic control point training.

Every student had been hit with paintballs by the OPFOR. "Everybody take a knee and take your mask off," said Colinger after the exercise.

He praised the students for what they did correctly, and discussed areas which needed improvement to survive in close-quarters combat.

According to statistics, there is a 70 percent casualty rate in military operations in urbanized terrain.

"[Explosive action] is really important," he said. "You stack up there [at the door] and you go! Come in there like you're the baddest man on the planet."

The area at the doorway is referred by the military as the "fatal funnel." As personnel stack up, it is the point where team members are most vulnerable to be hit by enemy fire.



TAKE A KNEE
SSG Wesley Colinger conducts an after action review with students

...story continued on next page

NO LAUGHING

SPLATTER

From there, it takes surprise, speed and explosive action to minimize casualties and successfully clear a building. Hesitation was not the only thing that hit the students as they breached the door.

“Paintballs are a good way to learn because there is no questioning if and where you got shot,” said Colinger. “I don’t want y’all to hang your heads low. At the same time I want you to understand how quickly and how easily making bad decisions or no decisions or being timid can get you and your buddies killed.”

Pvt. Wesley Beck said that learning to work as a team is a lesson that must be consistently taught. “Teamwork was the most important thing I took away from this FTX,” said Beck.



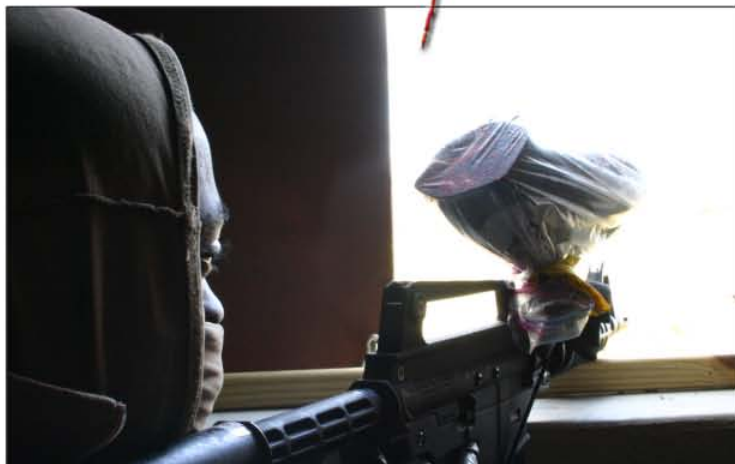
“Everything can be planned perfectly but if it’s not executed as a team, everything crumbles.”

WORKING TOGETHER Pvt. Wesley Beck stated that no man is an island...in training or in operations.

Students executed their own security plans, identified avenues of approach and placed rifleman on the perimeter and set up inactive claymore mines. During traffic control operations the Patriot Academy students interacted with “host nationals,” searched vehicles and processed detainees. Three different scenarios were presented to the students and were required to apply escalation of force procedures.

As dusk fell, Grieger gave instructions to personnel at the gate. “Do not blow those claymores until you call it in!” said Grieger. “If you see a vehicle approaching, you call it in.”

Night patrols were about to begin and students were preparing for contact with the OPFOR. “We’re pulling security,” said Pvt. Jonathan Kern. “We’ve got teams out front, out back, up on the roof and guarding the doors. We’re expecting to get hit tonight.”



EYE FROM THE TOP Pfc. Devon Pollard keeps an eye on activity below from the third floor of a shoot house. Students cleared and occupied the building during the field training exercise at Camp Atterbury.

Kern and his patrol spread out in a wedge formation and began to patrol the area. OPFOR hid in the tree line and opened fire. The patrol returned fire.

“Get on line!” yelled Kern. “Right side, bound backwards...we got you covered!” The students bounded back and got behind cover while returning fire.



HARD CORE CADRE SFC Adam Housewright, SSG Jay Brown and SGT Eric Dotson keep the energy and motivation high for training.

“We’ve been doing a lot of training this weekend that we’ve been rehearsing over the past three months,” said Grieger. “We’ve been setting up traffic control points, conducting raids, recon missions and the cadre is putting us out here to see how well we can execute. The training seems very realistic.”



BECOME A CAREER MENTOR

You've been given a second chance--now make a difference by telling high school students about the importance of staying in school and challenging themselves. We're looking for Patriot Academy Students and alumni as well as Guard members, both active and retired, to share their stories with students across the country.

The Guard's new **Career Mentor** volunteer program will expose educators and students to the diverse civilian occupations held by members of the Guard.

Signing up in the **Career Mentor** database is fast and simple--but the impression you can leave on a student will be long lasting.



Sign up to become a Career Mentor today.

www.partnersineducation.com



Patriot Academy Students Bring Cheer to Local Children and Families in Need

Story by 1st Lt. Kyle Key, photos by Pvt. Brandon Deal



Student-Soldiers from the National Guard Patriot Academy know what it's like to fall on hard times and need a helping hand. A few holidays ago, many of these students dropped out of high school to help their families pay for medical bills, living expenses and drifted from job to job to make ends meet.

Now with their high school diplomas within reach, these Soldiers have spread Christmas cheer and joy to the hearts of local children and families in need.



DEC THE HALLS Students help paint and decorate tree ornaments for local children at the Patriot Academy's First Operation Christmas Blessing, Dec. 11, 2009

With coordination from the Patriot Academy staff and cadre, the students executed Operation Christmas Blessing to give needy Jennings County families a delicious hot meal, household goods and groceries as well as toys for the children.

Mrs. Beth Burnett from the North Vernon Rotary Club decorated the gymnasium with lights, Christmas trees and winter scenes. Holiday music softly played, while a video of a crackling fire displayed over a large projection screen during dinner. Throughout the evening, donated door prizes were given away. The event was held at the National Guard Patriot Academy gymnasium located at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Dec. 11. Nearly 150 people attended the event including North Vernon Mayor Harold "Soup" Campbell and his wife Joanne

As the children were finishing up their meals with pumpkin pie and cherry-chocolate chip cookies, the faint sound of jingle bells got louder and louder. Excited children made their way to the entrance of the gym to see Santa Claus. A little boy took Santa by the hand and took him around the gym. After greeting all the children, Santa sat down with a local family and ate a hearty meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, candied carrots, pumpernickel bread and a cup of piping hot chocolate.

The brightly lit Christmas tree on the gymnasium stage overflowed with colorfully wrapped presents, gift bags and food baskets. The staff prepared a comfy chair, complete with cookies and milk, for Santa to present gifts to the children and families. The right jolly old elf held his belly and smiled as he wobbled to the stage.



NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING Children gathered round at the foot of Santa's chair and listened quietly to him read the "Soldier's Night Before Christmas."

Mayor "Soup" Campbell glanced at Santa and knew he looked familiar. "Santa, you look like City Councilman Dave Shaw," exclaimed Campbell.

Santa said when he's in the area each year, he's often mistaken for Dave Shaw, who also owns and operates Shaw Monuments in Vernon. "I was stopped just the other day by a little girl who thought I was Dave," Santa said. "I didn't want to break her heart so I told her I was and that I was on my way to a Christmas party."

...story continued on next page



Operation Christmas Blessing 2009

Children made tree ornaments and painted pictures at the arts and crafts tables. One little girl gave a painted bell to Santa. "That was so sweet," Santa said. "My heart melted."

The students raised money to purchase toys for the children and pay for their meals. They sat and talked to the children, escorted them during the evening and performed as Santa's helpers. Patriot Academy student, Pvt. Wesley Beck with the Indiana Army National Guard said that his decision to serve his country and better himself really hit home during the event.



EVERY WHO Students and children alike sat down to watch *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

"If we would have not left our comfort zone, we would never have the chance to reach out and touch the families and children in the community," said Beck. "It's truly a blessing in our lives to show them that we as Soldiers put the needs of others before our own."



TO THE FRONT Students, families and children write holiday greetings to soldiers in Afghanistan.



OH TANNENBAUM!

Children paint wooden cutouts of gingerbread men, stars, bells and glass ornaments for their Christmas trees.

The Patriot Academy staff and cadre also sponsored individual families and purchased items needed for their households. Anonymous donors also chipped in to fray the costs of the meals and household goods. Walgreens of North Vernon donated gift cards and Scott Green along with Debbie Ramirez at Linda's Log Cabin Inn of Vernon generously gave an evening of their tips to help pay for the evening.



OFF THE NAUGHTY LIST Santa shakes hands with Pvt. Jonathan Kerns and promises he'll get more than coal this year for Christmas.

The Patriot Academy would like to thank everyone who volunteered and donated this year to make the first annual Operation Christmas Blessing a huge success!



ADVANCED PHASE = MORE FREEDOM

Students Earn Liberties for Completing Program

By Pvt. Nicholas M. Schmidt & Pvt. Anthony Rhodes, Patriot Academy Unit Public Affairs Reps.

Constantly under supervision, the student-Soldiers of the Patriot Academy rarely get to experience freedoms that most experience in high school. But this is no ordinary high school and the students are far from ordinary.

The students at the Patriot Academy are United States Soldiers having completed half of their initial entry training. They're not treated like privates in basic, but do not have the liberties like other active duty soldiers at their pay grades.

Here, the most important mission is to earn a high school diploma. Students are in the classroom all day under the watch of platoon sergeants, monitored during physical training and escorted on weekend trips off post.

They are always under the watchful eye of the cadre for good reason: to maintain discipline, ensure safety and accountability.

There is, however, a silver lining of hope for all students to earn more freedom.

Upon completion of their high school degree requirements, the students of the Patriot Academy get moved into a different classroom where there is no sergeant to monitor them throughout the academic day.

Most of those students are now taking college courses.

Currently, eight students have progressed into the advanced phase of the Patriot Academy.

These soldiers have the opportunity to make decisions even as simple as when they want to go to the restroom, or to lunch.


They are also allowed additional liberties like having a television or mini-fridge in their dorm rooms and being able to wear civilian attire after duty hours.

But with all freedoms given, they can be suspended if students require corrective action.

Pvt. Ismael Ramirez, who is among the college students at the academy, said the transition has been refreshing.

"The sergeants leave us alone, and we get treated like adults, leaving our daily responsibilities up to us to take care of," said Ramirez.

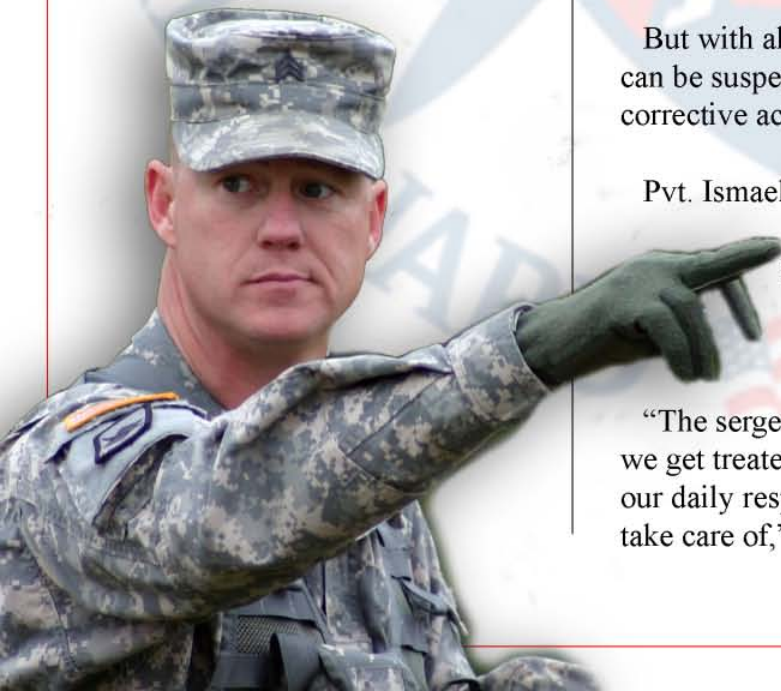
This little bit of freedom and decision making goes a long way for the morale for the soldiers and gives them the opportunity to start acting on their own behalf throughout the day.

After Patriot Academy Class 09-01 graduates, students will be more prepared to take charge of their futures and have a greater appreciation for what it means to serve. 

PHASE I: Students are monitored closely, marched in formation at all times. Students must show progress in academics, military bearing, physical fitness and barracks maintenance to proceed to next level.

PHASE II: Students start to work as a team. As performance and attitudes improve, additional privileges are granted such as refrigerators in rooms, ordering delivery of takeout food and leaving barracks in evening after duties are complete.

PHASE III: Students will be completely student led. Additional privileges include ability to have televisions in rooms, and wearing civilian attire after hours. Students who complete academics operate with minimal daily supervision.



GEAR UP! FOR COLD WEATHER



GETTIN' COLD FEET

Cold Weather clothing:

- Keep it Clean
- Avoid Overheating
- Wear it Loose and in Layers
- Keep it Dry

WATCH FOR EFFECTS TO THE SKIN,
SUCH AS:

- SWOLLEN RED OR DARKENED
- PAIN, TENDERNESS, HOT OR ITCHY
- NUMBNESS OR TINGLING
- BLEEDING OR BLISTERED
- GRAY, WAXY FEELING OR "WOODEN"
TO THE TOUCH
- DIZZINESS, WEAKNESS OR BLURRED VISION
- VIGOROUS SHIVERING
- LACK OF COORDINATION AND IMPAIRED
JUDGMENT
- PAINFUL, RED, WATERY OR GRITTY FEELING
IN THE EYES (SNOW BLINDNESS)



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG





Student Recognized for Participation in Life and Death Emergency Call

Staff Report, photos by 1st Lt. Kyle Key

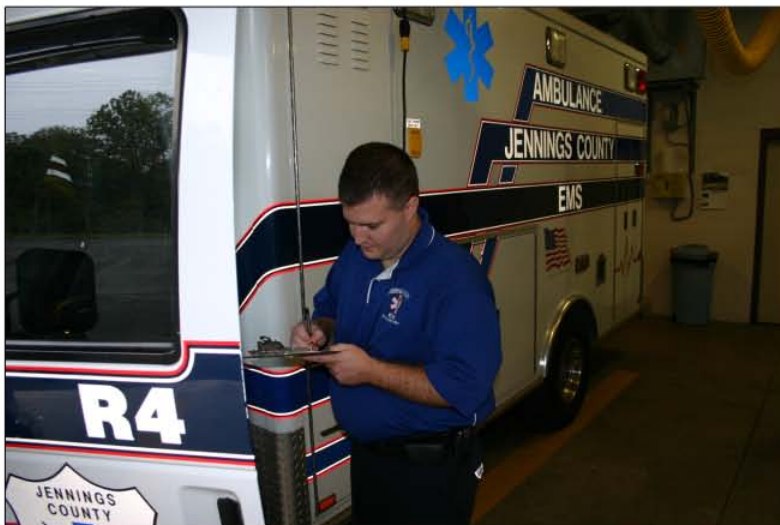
Army National Guard Pvt. Anthony C. Rhodes was recognized for participating in an emergency call during a routine ride-along with paramedics from Jennings County Emergency Medical Service Rescue Squad 20 in North Vernon.

Shortly after Rhodes began his shift, the 9-11 call center in North Vernon dispatched the ambulance to a local home. Rhodes witnessed paramedics at the scene resuscitate the patient and transport her to a local hospital.



911
Dispatchers in North Vernon process calls for emergency officials in Jennings County, Ind.

Rhodes claimed the emergency call to be an incredible opportunity and experience in observing the paramedics in action performing life-saving procedures.



INSPECTION Paramedic Aaron Poole checks off items on his pre-shift checklist at their garage in North Vernon.



RHODES RIDE-ALONG Pvt. Anthony C. Rhodes poses in front of an ambulance at Rescue Squad 20 after his shift with paramedics.



JUMP START
Paramedic Poole attaches a "Y" connector to IV tubing inside the ambulance.

Rescue Squad 20 Paramedic Aaron Poole said Pvt. Rhodes truly got a unique opportunity to experience a real emergency call.

Poole added that the Ride Along program is an excellent opportunity for the Patriot Academy Students and the community to learn about emergency services and training.

Rhodes is the son of Arthur J. Rhodes and Kathy S. Rhodes both of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Rhodes is scheduled to graduate from the academy in 2010.





LENDING A HAND

Pvt. Ethan Calahan and Pvt. Jacob Anderson volunteered at the North Vernon Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

Calahan and Anderson stocked shelves, inventoried food supplies and assisted elderly and needy families.



MAKING AN IMPRESSION Patriot Academy Students refresh and renovate a historic playground with donated supplies in the nearby town of Vernon, Ind.



GOING TO COURT

Basketball Team Hoops It Up



SARVER'S SAVAGES vs. KAELIN'S KILLERS

Pvt. Craig Michaels tries to get the ball past Ch. (Maj.) Robert Lewis to Pvt. Evan Howat during the staff vs. students scrimmage game Dec. 3rd.

By Pfc. Ryan Grieger, Patriot Academy Public Affairs Rep.

For decades, basketball has been one of the most highly followed sports in the world, defining high school and college experiences for generations.

This season, an unlikely team of former high school dropouts are reaching their goals in the classroom and on the court.

Members of the National Guard Patriot Academy basketball team have another shot at a traditional high school experience, and compete with local high schools in scrimmage games.

While the nine-month program doesn't replace a traditional high school experience, playing competitive basketball gives students a chance to participate in something they enjoy.

It also builds school pride, camaraderie and helps students grow mentally and physically.

The team, nicknamed "Kaelin's Killers," after coach 2LT David Kaelin, has been practicing rigorously and has come together in a short time. The Patriot Academy began by hosting tryouts and finally narrowed the team down to the final seven. They practice three days a week for two hours. The team goes over plays, and drills as well as vigorous cardio training. Although there is no set schedule, the players are looking forward to all their upcoming games.

The team's first scrimmage game was against the Patriot Academy Battalion Staff in early December where they narrowly lost by two baskets.

The student body watched in the bleachers while their team battled the staff, led by Col. Perry W. Sarver, the school's commandant. Alpha Company Commander Capt. Stephen Conway announced the game and 1st Sgt. James Duncan kept score.

As the fourth quarter came to a close, the Patriot Academy team narrowed the staff's lead but was unable to overcome Col. Sarver's Savages. The final score was 47-51. The team is scheduled to play the Jennings County High School Panthers in North Vernon, in early 2010.

2009-2010

Patriot Academy Basketball Team

Pvt. Joshua Blackburn
Team Captain



Pvt. Justin France



Pvt. Craig Michaels



Pfc. Devon Pollard



Pvt. Brian Wilson



Pvt. Joseph Morehead



Pvt. Evan Howat



Coach, 2LT David Kaelin

Meeting a Basketball Legend

Bobby Plump: Success Is No Accident



>>>WINNING SHOT Bobby Plump visits with students at the Patriot Academy and discusses his last second shot and moments before which became the basis for the 1986 blockbuster movie, *Hoosiers* starring Gene Hackman.



Photos by 2LT Robert Armaly



Above: Bobby Plump poses in the hallway of the Patriot Academy before addressing the students.
Left: Plump discusses why there are no Cindarella stories and that the Milan H.S. Basketball team built up for several seasons and worked hard to win the championship in 1954.

Only 18 students at the Patriot Academy are from Indiana, but all know the Hoosier folklore of the “Milan Miracle of 1954.” On March 13, 1954, the Milan Indians made it through the state finals to play the Muncie Central Bearcats. Plump was known as a sharpshooter, but even he admitted this was not his best game. But when push came to shove, Plump sunk the last shot at the buzzer to win the final game 32-30. The championship game is still widely known as ultimate tale of the underdog. At the time, Milan’s enrollment was 161, vs. Muncie’s enrollment of 2,200. The Milan ‘54 Museum keeps the feeling alive with the championship trophy, basketball and other memorabilia in Milan, Indiana. Visit their website at www.milan54.org.





Panther Racing Makes Pit Stop to Visit with Patriot Academy Students

Story by Mike Kitchel, Panther Racing, illustrations and photos by 1st Lt. Kyle Key

Throughout the course of the IndyCar Series season, officials at Panther Racing spend a majority of their race weekends listening to veteran Soldiers who attend races during the year. On Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009 at the National Guard's Patriot Academy at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, it was members of Panther's leadership sharing their own personal histories with the troops.

Team owner John Barnes, team manager Chris Mower, chief engineer David Cripps, senior support engineer Jeremy Milless and public relations representatives Mike Kitchel and Benito Santos made the trip down to talk about their careers in motorsports and the importance of education in the success they've been able to accomplish.

The most popular discussion points were mathematics (from an engineering standpoint) and English (PR and communications.)

"(David Cripps) talked about how every 1/1,000th of an inch can make all the difference in the world during a race and with the car's setup, and that's mathematics," CSM Macy explained. "Who would have thought?"

While Cripps and Milless discussed the mathematical aspects of engineering, Mower explained that having grown up in the sport, he'd worked his way up from gopher, to mechanic, to chief mechanic, before dabbling in engineering en route to team management.



Put. Thomas Carver keeps things on the right track.

A WINNING TEAM Panther Racing Team Owner John Barnes talks to students in the campus gymnasium



The Soldiers were able to see, that similar to the military, a race team is a well-organized group working together to accomplish the same goal – winning IndyCar races. And while the stakes and the risks will always be higher for the Soldiers, they were able to see that the same key skills are vital to both organizations. None of which would be possible without education.

"I was watching their faces as (Panther team members) were speaking, and I truly believe that it makes a difference," CSM Macy continued. "We tell them to study hard and make great things of themselves, but when they can see racing professionals like this, it sets something off in them."

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Kitchel explained how his background in English literature enabled him to get involved in PR, and how his position within Panther is equivalent to what Public Affairs staff members do for the military, and how it's important to control the public image of the organization.

"I thought it was a great day for not only the Soldiers, but for our guys as well," Barnes explained. "Clearly we came down here to try to help these Soldiers, but I can tell our guys continue to learn core values, leadership and teamwork skills from being around members of the National Guard."

After an informal discussion with question and answers, two of the attending Soldiers put on a race of their own, as they disassembled and re-assembled an automatic weapon at breakneck speed. If they were impressed with the fact Panther's pit crew could do a pit stop in six seconds, the team members were shocked to see the young Soldiers tear apart and put back together a machine gun.

At the conclusion of the visit, Barnes and Panther officials took the students to a No. 4 National Guard showcar that was brought in for the event. The interest from the Soldiers was evident, as was the success of the Patriot Academy. 🦁



OLD ACQUAINTANCES Team owner John Barnes and Patriot Academy Chaplain (MAJ) Robert Lewis catch up since their last meeting.



ROLLIN' Pvt. Craig Michaels, Pvt. Justin France, Pvt. Mario Guillen and Pvt. William Glover roll the No. 4 National Guard showcar to the main academic building.



M-60 PIT STOP Pvt. Dustin Hammons and Pvt. Paul Palmer disassemble and reassemble an M-60 automatic assault rifle for the Panther Racing Team.

Log onto www.PantherRacing.com for additional information on the No. 4 National Guard Racing Team and driver Dan Wheldon.

The 2010 IndyCar series is scheduled to open in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on March 14. Overall, there will be 17 races scheduled to include nine road courses and eight ovals.



Nance...by Chance

By 1st Lt. Kyle Key and Pvt. Brandon Deal

The Patriot Academy is a place for second chances, but those opportunities of redemption come at a price. It takes hard work, determination and a positive attitude to succeed for students and cadre alike. According to one Patriot Academy cadre member, there is also a price paid by others as well.

Sgt. Carroll Nance has a unique background reminiscent of a Hollywood drama about a boy who beat the odds and committed his life to serving others.

Nance's biological mother, Pat, worked as a clerical assistant with a mobile home moving business in the foothills of North Carolina. She fell in love with a drifter named Roy who drove for the company. One day, an argument ensued and Pat asked Roy to leave. He didn't come back.

Pat found out that she was pregnant. She was a single mother struggling to provide for several young children. Children and Family services had already attempted to take her children away.

The owners of the moving business, Barbara and Robert became aware of Pat's dilemma and offered to help. Pat didn't want to abort or place the child up for adoption to a strange family. Barbara wanted more children but was physically unable. So Barbara and Robert entered into an agreement with Pat to adopt the child.

WATCHFUL EYE

SGT Carroll Nance keeps an eye on student-Soldiers at the National Guard Patriot Academy during a field training exercise at Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh, Ind., Oct. 16, 2009.



While she was pregnant, she received free room and board, food for her family and a salary. Her only stipulation was that she had to agree that she would not take the child away or try to make contact.

The adoption was unconventional. Robert escorted Pat to the hospital and pretended to be her husband and the father of Carroll Nance. Pat pretended to be Barbara and delivered the baby. She then left the hospital and the real Barbara came back three days later and took the infant home.

Nance was raised with love and strict discipline by his adopted parents. But when alcoholism overtook his adopted father, Barbara filed for divorce and took him to Arkansas. At six years old, he began mowing yards on a regular basis for extra money and legally was able to work at 14 with a moving company.



NO CUTTING CORNERS

Nance assists Pvt. Michael Meadows in properly making his bunk upon arrival at the Patriot Academy.

Photo by SSG Brad Staggs

Since he was four years old, Nance wanted to be a policeman. After graduating from high school he joined the Army as a crane operator and was stationed on active duty at Ft. Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and West Point. During his service, Nance was also deployed to Haiti and Iraq and completed a tour in Egypt.

Nance completed his active duty obligation and joined the Army National Guard and worked full time as a civilian police officer. He missed the military and decided to serve on active duty with the National Guard as an instructor at the National Guard Professional Education Center at Camp Robinson, Ark.

He taught soldiers and funeral details nationwide on how to properly give veterans a dignified funeral ceremony and later served as an instructor with the National Guard GED Plus Program.

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...Helping Others by Choice



WIT AND WISDOM

Sgt. Carroll Nance gets students to break the ice and open up before motivational speaker Al Duncan arrived.

Nance mixes humor and instruction to keep the students' attention and enhance their learning retention.

Nance easily mixes wit into his instruction. "I use humor to cover it up," Nance said. "It's my mask."

When he finds time, Nance enjoys hiking in the wilderness taking in the beauty of nature. He is also learning how to blacksmith and do old fashioned wood working with a spring pole lathe.

Nance is working to finish his bachelors degree and is applying to Officer Candidate School and plans to serve in the Logistics Corps.



Nance joined the National Guard Patriot Academy in April 2009 and has been guiding and instructing new Soldiers as they work to achieve their high school diplomas. Nance serves as the assistant platoon sergeant for Alpha Co. 2nd Platoon.

He said in every capacity he has performed as an instructor, it's the progression of the students' knowledge and abilities that inspires him most.

"When someone goes from first learning something to truly getting it where they switch over to instructing, that's my favorite part of the job," Nance said.

Nance also believes that finding a good mentor to emulate is just as important. "Having someone to look up to and strive to be like is a rare and valuable thing," Nance continued.

"Having this gift gives the students a goal to reach for no matter how far they take their careers. You will always want to be like your original mentor."

Nance describes himself as shy and less than a people person. But the students never know it when he takes command of a classroom.



COVER YOUR PERIMETER Nance gives advice to student-Soldiers as they set up perimeter security at Camp Atterbury, Oct. 17, 2009.

Earn your diploma.

Earn respect.

Earn your pay.



Col. Perry Wilson Sarver, Jr.
promotes Patriot Academy
Student SPC Devon Pollard

It's the Patriot Academy Way



*"From quitting high school
to becoming a Soldier and
student at the Patriot
Academy...I've seen not
only a physical change but
more of a mental change."*

-SPC Devon Pollard



www.NGPatriotAcademy.com