



MAJ. KEITH MOORE



Sgt. CHRIS A. DUNNE

An aerial photo shows tornado destruction in Clinton, Ark. Soldiers (left) with the Arkansas Army Guard's 2nd Battalion, 142nd Fires Brigade repair a damaged roof in Atkins, Ark.

service," said Maj. Thomas Stevens, commander of Reddington's unit, the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron. "He's a patriot—always the first to volunteer."

Over the course of a 25-year military career, Reddington deployed to numerous austere locations around the world.

But he will probably best be remembered for his saving the 134 lives.

One of his most memorable "saves" occurred in 2001. Reddington was part of a rescue crew that hoisted two men from Cook Inlet, Alaska, after their helicopter crashed into the icy water.

"We got the call a minute after the helicopter went into the water, and we took off within 11 or 12 minutes," he said in January. "The two guys were very hypothermic, but we were able to get to them in time."

Reddington began his military career in the active-component Air Force in 1983. In 1989, he was instrumental in standing up the rescue squadron at Kulis Air Guard Base in Anchorage, Alaska, unit leaders said.

Squadron personnel said his increasing expertise since has rubbed off on every unit pararesuceman and led to advances in rescue operations.

"I'd say the most I've learned from Red is his ability to look at a situation and adapt to it, which is very important in any rescue mission," said Chief Master Sgt. Skip Kula, who worked with Reddington for more than 20 years.

Reddington plans to stay around the 212th in retirement. He has accepted a private-contractor job as the unit's dive master.

—By Kalei Brooks

Arkansas Guardsmen are Victims, Heroes Of Rare Late-Winter Tornadoes

After aiding victims of rare late-winter tornadoes in their home state in February, the Arkansas National Guard reported 14 of its soldiers were injured by twisters in Mississippi while preparing early this month for an overseas deployment.

The troops, all members of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, were injured March 3 when a possible tornado caused the roof of their barracks to collapse at Camp Shelby. The soldiers were treated at local hospitals.

They are in Mississippi to prepare for a deployment to Iraq later this month.

It was an ironic twist after Guardsmen in Arkansas, along with troops in several states, spent time last month

dealing with the aftermath of tornadoes, which were unusual for that time of year.

Fifty-two deaths and significant property damage were blamed on the storms that swept across Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee on Feb. 5.

In Arkansas, where six counties were hit, soldiers did everything from provide the governor an aerial view of the destruction to deliver fresh water and a generator to communities in need.

In Atkins, northwest of Little Rock, Ark., where tornadoes first touched down, Guardsmen assisted the local sheriff's department with search and rescue and removed debris.

In Kentucky, 112 Guard members with 16 Humvees and other equipment responded to requests for emergency support after the tornadoes had passed through several communities leaving many with no power and damaged homes and businesses.

In Tennessee, two heavy wreckers from the Guard helped local crews restore power in storm-damaged areas by transporting needed vehicles. Volunteer State troops also provided helicopters for search and damage assessment and opened three armories to the Red Cross.

—NGAUS staff report

Ohio Chemical Unit First to Get New Bio-Detection System

Soldiers from the 637th Chemical Company gathered Jan. 12 in Kettering, Ohio, to display and demonstrate their newest weapon in the fight against terrorism—the Joint Biological Point Detection System (JBPDS).

The JBPDS is the world's most-advanced biological threat detection and identification system, officials said, and January marked its inception into the National Guard.

"We were chosen because of our strong readiness and our performance at Vigilant Guard [a 2007 training exercise]," said Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, commander of the Ohio Army Guard's 73rd Troop Command, the 637th's higher headquarters.

The completely automated and fully mobile system can detect and identify up to 10 agents at once and a broad catalog of other threats, officials said.

It features an on board generator, sealed rear passenger compartment and global positioning systems that can communicate with other JBPDS units.

The Guard is also fielding the equipment to 12 other units in nine states.

The 637th is the agent identification and decontamination piece of Ohio's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package.

—By Spc. Ryan A. Cleary



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