



VA Medical Center's 2003 Veterans Day Parade

Veteran Grand Marshals, Returning Operation Iraqi Freedom Air National Guardsmen and women who served in Iraq



*(Front Row L-R) MSgt David Ramirez, Sra Jeffrey Robertson, TSgt Brian Fernandez, SSgt Maria Van Olphen, SSgt Hector Jeffrey, SSgt Kevin Bringhurst, MSgt Scott Burton.
(Back Row L-R) Sra Timmy Herrera, CMSgt Glenn Klassen, MSg Cathy White, TSgt Scott Timmerman, SSgt James Hopkins, TSgt Aaron Whipple, MSgt Jeffrey Moore, SSgt Christopher Gray*

This year, members of the Air National Guard are helping us to honor all veterans as they serve as the 2003 Veterans Grand Marshals.

These Guardsmen and women were recently deployed to Iraq and served there during the war that was waged as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Some of these members served in the Gulf for six months and were a part of the first operational units assigned to Iraq.

They shared their stories of mealtimes with meals ready to eat (MREs), tales of hot dusty days where the temperatures reached 142 in the shade and recollections of dry hot winds that would often times burn their ears when it was blowing. Their camaraderie helped them to deal with the volatile situations of war.

We are happy to have these guardsmen and women back home on safer ground and we join with them in saluting all our veterans who have served our country since its inception, since they truly all are "Heroes One and All".