

# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXXII, 03 NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD March 2003

## When the enemy is your best friend



Photo by Lt. Col. Ron Tittle, Florida National Guard  
Pfc. Edward L. Stokes of the Florida National Guard's Troop E, 153rd Cavalry, from Ocala, Fla., prepares equipment for a three-week deployment to Fort Stewart earlier this year. More than 100 soldiers from the scout unit helped train Florida National Guard infantry soldiers deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

### Florida scouts deploy in support of infantry brigade

By Pfc. Bradley A. Staggs  
107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

OCALA, Fla. — For the soldiers of Troop E, 153rd Cavalry, it would have been easy to be miserable on a winter morning in Florida that started cold — and simply got colder as the hours passed, especially once the rain started. It would have been easy to complain about being taken away from family and friends to drive several hours in a noisy 5-ton truck with heat coming only from the engine. But not on this day...and not from these men.

The Florida Army National Guard scouts deployed for three weeks to Fort Stewart, Ga., to support Florida soldiers of the 53rd Infantry Brigade headed overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Using their annual training time, Troop E assisted as Opposition Forces (OPFOR) in order to help train the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 124th Infantry Regiment.

"We'll help our guys anyway we can," Sgt. Theron Nelson of Troop E said, as he prepared his vehicle for the long convoy to Georgia. "Our role happens to be in support of the guys going overseas."

The mood among the soldiers working to prepare their vehicles and equipment was upbeat and spirits were high even as some breathed on their hands to keep warm.

The Ocala-based soldiers knew their mission was vital in order to assure success of the 124th Infantry Regiment they are helping to train. In their role as OPFOR, the soldiers of Troop E will set up ambushes, attack using unconventional methods, and use civilian style housing to hide in as they make the experience for the 124th Infantry Regiment as real as possible.

### IN THE NEWS

**Award**  
Fighter Squadron  
of the Year



3

### SPORTS

**The Rock**  
Cut tire takes  
No. 54 out of the  
race



14

### ON THE JOB

**Blizzard**  
Guard members  
clear the way



12





## About The On Guard

The *On Guard* is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 by the Command Information Branch of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The 50,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

## Submissions

E-mail your stories to us by the 15th of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (200 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

Editor.OnGuard@ngb.ang.af.mil

## Address

NGB-PAI-CI  
Suite 11200  
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington VA 22202-3231

## Phone/Fax

(703) 607-2649  
DSN 327-2649  
FAX: (703) 607-3686

## Web Site

www.ngb.dtic.mil/

## Staff

**ACTING CHIEF,**  
National Guard Bureau  
Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees

**CHIEF,**  
NGB, Public Affairs  
Mr. Daniel Donohue

**CHIEF,**  
NGB-Public Affairs  
Command Information  
Mrs. Dalena Kanouse

**EDITOR**  
Staff Sgt. Gary Hicks

**SENIOR CORRESPONDENT**  
Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

# National Guard claims 1st place in sniper competition

By Spc. Michael W. Roger

100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DALLAS, Texas – At the Dallas Police Department's Firearms Training Center, patience and precision are virtues and the snap of a firing pin will send a bullet screaming through the air until it hits its mark.

Last summer, members of the FBI, Texas law enforcement agencies and the Texas Army National Guard presented their best men and women in sniper competition. Among those rising to the challenge were Capt. John Conley, 349th Personnel Support Detachment, and Master Sgt. Phil Dolbow, Information Operations with the 49th Armored Division. Conley and Dolbow earned first place in this year's overall competition and have been competing as a team in sniper competitions for more than a year.

"It's all about readiness and preparing for that moment when we're called to duty," said Dolbow.

"This provides hands-on training, giving us more control in real situations," added Conley.

These homeland defenders practice intently with patience and precision using proven tac-

tics and advanced weaponry. But the real test of their strength lies in their ability to handle the most basic rifle with speed and accuracy.

Last year's competition challenged the marksmen to engage in four separate events as they competed for the association's most coveted prize – respect. Of course winners also get a trophy, but competitors here say that the event is more than just shooting at targets and getting the fastest times. They all agree that competition is an "opportunity for interaction and fellowship among the tactical law enforcement agencies."

"The competition provides a chance to exchange information and tactical ideas. Getting the information is always the key to this job," said Michael Finley, president of the Texas Tactical Police Officers Association.

One of the oldest records of the existence of snipers in U.S. military forces dates back to the Civil War in 1861, when Col. Hiram Berdan used sharpshooters to take out Confederate cannons. Although the sniper has been around for more than a century and continually developed, the TTPOA is still a fairly young organization. Texas police offi-

cers formed their association to bring together the skills and knowledge of police officers across the state.

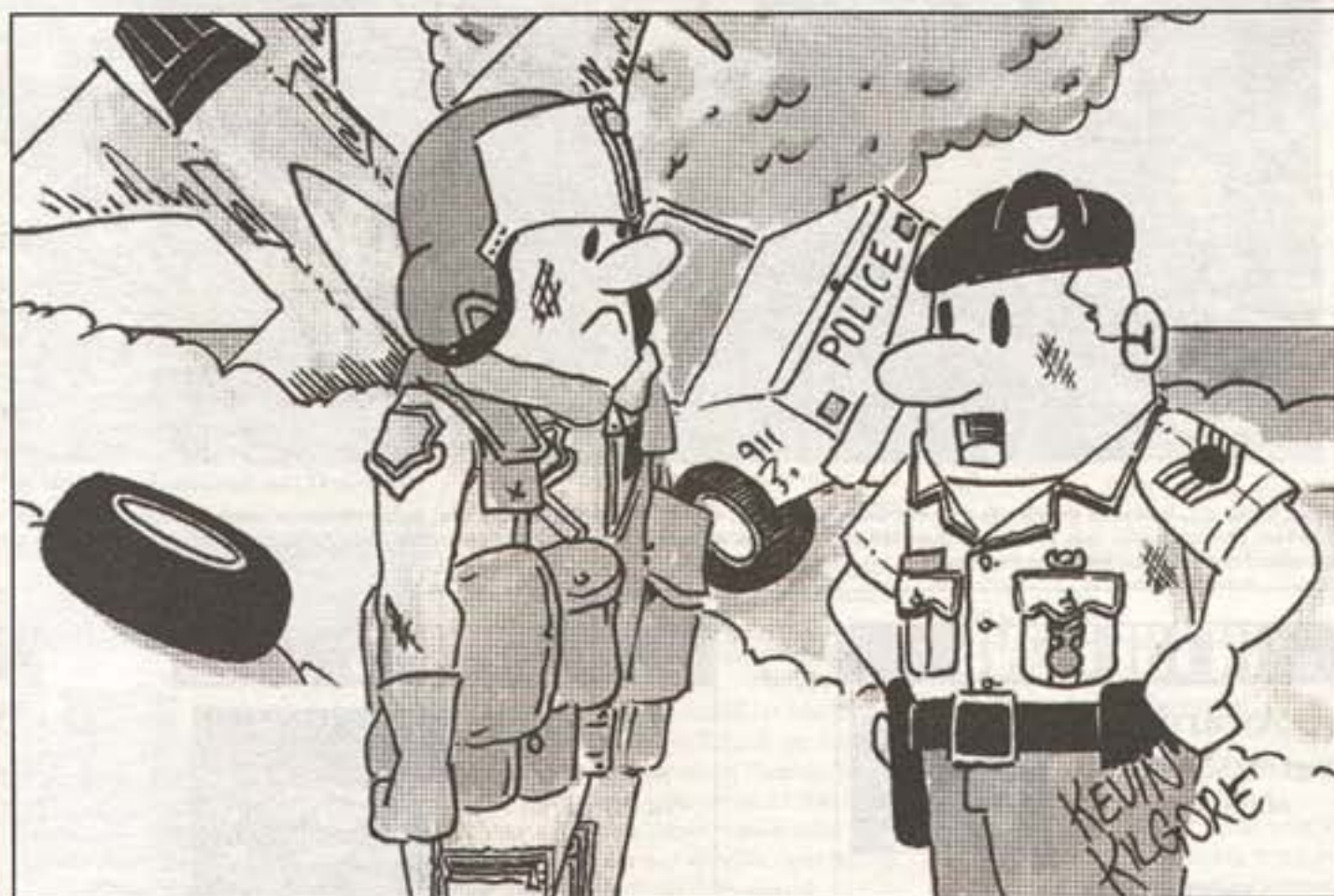
"Having the Guardsmen out here is a good thing too. There is always something we can learn from each other," Finley said.

The competition remained close throughout each event, and the winners were determined by an event that combined accuracy with speed. This is where competitors say that stress really heats up, and composure is critical.

"In competition, the stress on the mind can be just as intense as it could be in real life," said Conley about his experience in weapons competition.

Conley and Dolbow aren't rookies, they are also the state champions of the Adjutant General's Combat Sniper Match. They have consistently scored well at every trial since becoming a team. In the end, all the training and their most intensive efforts paid off. Not only did they take home the first place trophy at the TTPOA competition, but also the learning experience of working with others in their professions.

## GUARDTOONS



"I'll have to give you a warning this time sir, but try to be a little more careful in the future."





## In the News

# 101st FS: Fighter Squadron of the Year

By Lt. Col. Margaret Quenneville  
Community Relations Officer

OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mass. – The 101st Fighter Squadron, the combat arm of the 102nd Fighter Wing has been selected as the recipient of the 2002 Air National Guard Fighter Squadron of the Year Award.

Units are graded on air defense/air superiority mission performance, operational mission performance, organizational inspection results, training exercise participation, unit achievements and awards, individual achievements and awards, and unit incentive programs. "To be selected as the best out of the 41 fighter units throughout the entire Air National Guard certainly validates the commitment, professionalism and superior quality of the folks in the fighter squadron," said Col. Paul Worcester, 102nd Fighter Wing commander.

Cited in the award package were several accomplishments which set the 101st apart from other ANG units. Particularly significant is the unit's participation in Operation Noble Eagle. Pilots and F-15s from the 101st were the first to respond to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Sept. 11, 2001. Since that time, the unit has flown more than 3,600 hours and 960 combat air patrol missions over major cities in the Northeast. This is in addition to their 3,800 flying-hour program to ensure the 32 pilots remain current in all facets of flight training. The average fighter pilot in the squadron has attained more than 2,100 hours of fighter time and nearly 1,700 hours of F-15 time.

"With a talent base unequalled in the combat Air Force, the 101st Fighter Squadron's aggressive training program and tremendous qualification level is the envy of all fighter units," said Lt. Col. Tim Lynch, commander



The Massachusetts Air National Guard's 101st Fighter Squadron has been selected as the recipient of the 2002 Air National Guard Fighter Squadron of the Year Award which is based on air defense/air superiority mission performance, operational mission performance, organizational inspection results, training exercise participation, unit achievements and awards, individual achievements and awards, and unit incentive programs.

of the unit. He went on to add that last year the squadron had an extremely high operations tempo. They participated in several deployments geared toward training pilots in dissimilar air combat tactics against aircraft such as the F-16 "Fighting Falcon." The unit also participated in live-firing exercises at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. This deployment offers pilots a rare opportunity to fire live missiles at realistic aerial targets. In

September F-18s from Canada visited Otis for two weeks of simulated aerial combat missions.

The squadron's safety record is also noted as exemplary. Boeing Aircraft, manufacturer of the F-15, presented the squadron with a 70,000-hour mishap-free plaque and the Aviation Excellence Trophy. This Boeing award has only been given to two F-15 units in its history, and the 101st Fighter

Squadron is the only Air National Guard unit to receive it.

Receiving the ANG Fighter Squadron of the Year Award is the second time in less than a year the 102nd Fighter Wing has been recognized for its superior performance. In September it was awarded the Winston P. Wilson Trophy for being the most outstanding fighter unit in the Air National Guard.

# Army Guard soldier awarded German medal

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

RESTON, Va. – The German armed forces decorated two American soldiers, including an Army National Guard sergeant major, with two of its distinguished awards during a German-American Day celebration at its command center in northern Virginia on Nov. 6.

Brig. Gen. Hans-Georg Atzinger presented the Bundeswehr Bronze Cross of Honor to Sgt. Maj. Terrence Werley from the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington and the Bundeswehr Medal of Honor to Staff Sgt. Ray Stull Jr., from the 3rd U.S. Infantry at Fort Myer during the ceremony at the German Armed Forces Command in Reston, Va.

Werley was recognized for managing an

exchange training program for Army Guard and German soldiers. Stull was honored for making it possible for German troops to train in the Washington, D.C., area.

Atzinger commands the joint command that was formed in 1965 to oversee all German troops stationed in North America, including the approximately 7,000 who train with members of the U.S. Armed Forces each year.

The Cross of Honor presented to Werley five days before the United States observed Veterans Day is one of the awards that replaced the famous Iron Cross, Germany's most coveted military decoration through the end of World War II, beginning on Nov. 6, 1980.

The Iron Cross was discontinued in 1945 because of its association with The Third

Reich. The Cross of Honor is rarely given to anyone outside of the German military, it was explained.

The ceremony coincided with the American observance of Veterans Day on Nov. 11 which was called Armistice Day until 1954 and which commemorated the end of World War I between the allied forces, including the American Expeditionary Force, and the Central Powers, including Germany, in 1918.

Now the Americans and the Germans are NATO allies. Werley has helped that alliance during the past six years by managing the Army Guard's exchange training program with German soldiers.

"It is to a large extent due to the Sgt. Maj. Werley that the different exchange programs between the German and American armed forces are conducted so successfully," stated

the citation accompanying Werley's award.

"Due to his incessant commitment and his high professional and social competence, Sgt. Maj. Werley is a highly valued point of command for the German Armed Forces Command, United States and Canada," the citation added.

"Being recognized by a foreign country is one of the most flattering things that can happen to you," said Werley, a veteran of 31 years in the Pennsylvania Army Guard. "It makes you feel good and it makes you want to work even harder."

"These exchange programs are important because of our NATO relationships for peacekeeping missions and in the event of a war," added Werley who also manages Army Guard exchange programs with Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom and Latin American nations.



# From 'Helmets to Hardhats'

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Members of the National Guard and the five other reserve components hoping to find work in the civilian construction industry and men and women who want to work construction after leaving full-time military service can get help from a new federally-funded program based in San Diego, Calif.

The program is called Helmets to Hardhats. The intent is to help people with military experience get good jobs in the civilian construction trades that the program's organizers claim are facing a critical labor shortage.

People can learn more about the program and register on line through the program's new web site [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org).

"The construction industry needs to recruit 1.6 million new workers over the next five years to replace those people who will be leaving the labor force," said officials from The Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans, citing several federal and industry projections. "Over 40 percent of the work force will retire in the next 10 years."

The center launched Helmets to Hardhats in January thanks to a \$3.4 million appropriation for the pilot program that Congress approved as part of the 2003 Defense Appropriations Act.

Pennsylvania Rep. John Murtha was chief among the members of Congress who advocated the legislation.

Matthew Caulfield, a retired Marine Corps two-star general, and his son Dan, a former Marine Corps officer, who served during the Persian Gulf War, are the program's principal organizers, who believe that military people are uniquely qualified to reinforce the construction industry.

"We need people to maintain our infrastructure, our roads and bridges and dams," said the retired major general. "The way we're going, in 10 years we won't have enough iron workers. What better source of people to bring into the construction industry than those who have already been trained in the military?"

Helmets to Hardhats officials hope to recruit 23,000 people into that industry during the first year and 166,000 during the next two years.

It is a way for people in the reserve components to learn about many of the best jobs in the construction industry, including union jobs that would offer good pay, good benefits and the promise of advancement while they advance in the military services, the Caulfields explained.

The program emphasizes jobs that offer higher than average wages and benefits. A recent national survey indicates that union workers earn an average of \$4.08 more per hour than do other construction workers.

It is also a way for the construction industry to find new workers who have already acquired the discipline and dependability to work with members of other races and the other gender as well as the leadership skills

and the safety training that is stressed by the military.

"This is a match made in heaven, but the construction and military organizations don't know each other very well. We have to educate employers about what the military does," Dan Caulfield explained. "We believe that Helmets to Hardhats can do that."

The 16-member staff, including five field recruiters and as many more field trades consultants, are currently carrying some key messages to 15 unions, with more than 7,000 locals, that form the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department.

One is that veterans want work. The unemployment rate among military veterans is three times higher than the national average. That included a 14.8 percent unemployment rate among veterans between 20-24 years old during the first quarter of 2002.

Another is that military people offer the construction industry a stable work force that is looking for good jobs and careers without having to go to college or enroll in some other training program.

"They join the service when they're 18 and single, and they leave three or four years later married and with a couple of kids," Dan Caulfield pointed out. "Johnny doesn't need a training program. Johnny needs a job."

Union apprenticeship programs make it possible for veterans and reservists to learn a trade while they're earning a good living, the Caulfields stressed. And the lessons they learned while in uniform could make it possible for the new workers to begin their apprenticeships at a higher level than people who have never worked before, they added.

Helmets to Hardhats can also help recruiting, its advocates believe, by ensuring people who are thinking about joining the military that they will be able to use their training to get a good job when they return to the civilian world.

"This puts a market place value on military skills, and we're here for you when you're ready," Dan Caulfield said.

Glenn Schaeffer of Harrisburg, Pa., learned many years ago how military training can enhance one's civilian career and how civilian job skills can help someone who is in uniform.

He joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in March 1960 after becoming an apprentice electrician in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1957.

Schaeffer trained to be a military medic at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. His civilian electrical training made it possible for him to join his armored cavalry troop's communications team and to become a radio and teletype operator.

He also served as a chemical-biological-radiological (CBR) sergeant and an intelligence NCO during his six years in the Guard at the same time he was completing his union's apprenticeship program.

He worked for 10 years as an electrician at a Harrisburg hospital. "My National Guard medical training helped me to understand the medical people and procedures while I was

*"It's becoming harder to attract qualified people to blue collar professions today because so much emphasis is placed on getting college degrees. The fact is that many people who start college don't finish or they wind up with degrees that they can't use while a lot of good paying blue collar jobs go begging."*

— Glenn Schaeffer

at the hospital," Schaeffer said.

His CBR experience made him a logical choice to take a course in industrial atomic energy uses, hazards and controls in 1965. And that enabled him to help deal with this country's worst nuclear accident - the partial meltdown at Three-Mile Island near Middletown, Pa., in March 1979.

"That combination of training gave me a good idea of what the workers had to do to repair the problem," Schaeffer said. "I could sort of bridge the gap between the technical people and the electricians."

Young people have many chances to benefit from similar training today, insisted Schaeffer, who will promote the Helmets to Hardhats program to union people in Pennsylvania.

"It's becoming harder to attract qualified

people to blue collar professions today because so much emphasis is placed on getting college degrees," Schaeffer observed.

"The fact is that many people who start college don't finish or they wind up with degrees that they can't use while a lot of good paying blue collar jobs go begging," he added.

And there are many young people in this country who don't want to go to college but who want to serve their country and get good jobs and raise families, said Schaeffer and the Caulfields.

Helmets to Hardhats, they claim, will give those people the chance to put their best foot forward in the construction industry after they have done that in the military.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Matthew Caulfield (left) and his son Dan, both former Marines, recently visited Washington, D.C., to explain the Helmets to Hardhats program designed for people, who want to apply their military training to civilian jobs in the construction industry.



# Communicating for peace

## Guardsmen blends in with Afghan population

By Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Even during the earliest stages of the war on terrorism, the National Guard fought on the frontlines of Afghanistan, thanks in part to a citizen-soldier who volunteered to serve as a linguist with coalition special operations troops rooting out Al Qaida and Taliban fighters.

Sgt. 1st Class Mahmood Qadri is now safely back in the United States performing his daily duties as an Army National Guard NCO. But only a few months ago, he roamed the mountains of eastern Afghanistan, in search of terrorists.

"It's like the Wild West over there, only worse," Qadri said. "There are all of these different military gangs in the country. They're like the mafia. Then, you have the business people who want protection and different governors. But the government can't do anything because they have nothing."

Immediately following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Qadri worked the telephone as a training noncommissioned officer for the Army National Guard's Training Division in Arlington. Months later the Army's Central Command based in Tampa, Fla., ordered Qadri to report to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., for temporary duty as a linguist. Qadri speaks both Arabic and Urdu — a Hindi dialect spoken in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

"They were fighting over me in Afghanistan," he said. Qadri and three other linguists quickly joined the special operations troops, who traveled throughout Afghanistan training local militias and providing perimeter security for coalition forces.

At an abandoned Russian airstrip in eastern Afghanistan, the coalition troops came under hostile fire. The trained Afghan troops traveling with the coalition soldiers used a Russian tank to quickly dispatch the aggressors.

"When we were fired on, the Afghan troops quickly fired back and they got them," Qadri said. They were really good and very experienced."

Qadri came by his language skills because he spent much of his childhood in the Middle East and Asia. His parents are from Hyderabad, India, known as the high-tech "Silicon Valley" of that country. When Qadri was a child, his family lived in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, because his father worked as a linguist for the U.S. State Department.



Photo provided

**Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Mahmood Qadri (second from right) stands in front of a Russian-made armored combat vehicle along with local Afghan militia troops guarding a former Soviet air base in eastern Afghanistan as coalition Special Operations troops used the base as a staging area on the War on Terrorism.**

Qadri later attended a private high school in Lebanon, but when the country's raging civil war reached a boiling point in 1975, his family was forced to leave for the United States. After graduating from school in the United States, he joined the Marine Corps.

In 1982, Qadri returned to Lebanon during coalition attempts to quash the violence there. He remained in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve for six years before joining the North Carolina Army National Guard. During the Persian Gulf War, he earned a combat patch while augmenting the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade as a linguist.

Eleven years later, the 46-year-old soldier trudged up and down dangerous Afghan mountain passes with coalition special operations troops, earning the right to wear another combat patch. But this time, it was much different than serving in Beirut and Kuwait.

"Most of the troops I worked with were in their early 20s. They called me 'the old

man' all the time," Qadri said. "They treated me with respect, but I was feeling old because I was with these much younger people."

Qadri wasn't a single soldier anymore, either, as he had been during previous wartime deployments. When he went to Afghanistan, he left behind his wife, and young children. "That was hard, really hard," Qadri said. "I really missed my family and I thought about them all of the time."

After he volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan, Qadri's orders directed him to immediately stow his razor blade.

With beards, Qadri and the other linguists and special operations troops could more readily blend with the local Afghan population. The soldiers also adopted native clothing and headgear.

Qadri's beard was an effective disguise; so effective, in fact, his children didn't recognize him when he returned from Afghanistan. Although the children finally started getting used to his beard after

several days, Qadri shaved off the bushy growth. And the family had to go through the familiarization process all over again.

"They finally got used to me being around again," Qadri said.

Although Afghans in eastern areas of the country lived in the midst of a brutally dangerous war zone, Qadri said they were extremely friendly toward U.S. and coalition forces.

"Their concerns were about basic things like their family, their safety, eating, getting water, getting their children educated," Qadri said. "I hardly saw any women; it was mostly just men. Many people had sent their families to Pakistan."

Also, the local populace urged U.S. troops to remain to help rebuild the war-torn country, Qadri said.

"The Afghan people are very hard working and they are a proud people. They just don't have the opportunities that other people have," he said.



# Taking care of business: Troops mobilize

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ANDREWS AFB, Md. - The concerns of a nation on the threshold of another war were reflected in the tear-filled eyes of a little girl who said good-bye to her daddy at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., early on Feb. 21.

"I'm afraid this is a lot harder on my little girl than she thought it would be," said the father, an enlisted man, who deployed with about 200 members of the District of Columbia Air National Guard's highly-decorated 113th Wing to a place they could not talk about so they could support the war against terrorism.

The desert brown camouflage uniforms and flight suits they wore during their mobilization ceremony were a sure sign that the members of the D.C. Air Guard's fighter squadron were bound for a base within F-16 striking range of Iraq should they have to engage in a war against that country.

"We had been kind of anticipating it, and we were due for a rotation for Operation Northern Watch anyway unless this kicked in," said the Air Guard sergeant. Neither he nor other members of the wing are being identified, because of the sensitive nature of their deployment and to help safeguard their families.

The father has promised his daughter a trip to Disney World when he returns. But no one was predicting how long it would be before the dad returns from the deployment that members of the wing seemed anxious to get on with.

"We want to make sure that Sept. 11 never happens in our backyard again, so we have to take care of business elsewhere," said another veteran airman about the wing's first major deployment since 1998, when members were sent to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey to support Operation Northern Watch.

Here is the difference. Northern Watch is an ongoing mission that would have committed members of the wing to help enforce the no-fly zone over northern Iraq for about 90 days beginning in April, a wing spokesman explained. The mobilization to possibly participate in a full-scale war could last for as long as a year.

That's why little girls clung to their fathers' necks, why sons tried to look brave, and why spouses, parents and close friends of the departing Air Guard members quietly talked, laughed and prayed together for as long as they could in the D.C. Air Guard's Hanger 8.

Members of the 113th, however, were clearly ready to do their part just as many National Guard members have been doing since Sept. 11, 2001, and as the pace of the mobilizations for missions at home and abroad has picked up dramatically this year.

Preparations to wage war with Iraq unless that country agrees to disarm to President Bush's and the United Nations' satisfaction have prompted the increased call-ups. The National Guard is providing more than half of the reserve component troops, who have responded to this duty call.

The number of Army and Air Guard people alerted for or participating in the war against terrorism vaulted from nearly 52,000 on Jan. 10, to nearly 99,000 by the following Monday, the National Guard Bureau reported. That was the largest Guard force alerted since terrorists attacked the American homeland 16 months earlier.

The total first surpassed 100,000 on Jan. 29 and had climbed to about 120,000, including 22,305 Air Guard members, the day those in the 113th Wing faced a huge American flag and briefly celebrated their mobilization.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

**A little girl says good-bye to her daddy at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., as he prepares to depart with about 200 other members of the District of Columbia Air National Guard's highly-decorated 113th Wing to support the war against terrorism.**

That's about a quarter of the National Guard force, and that total included 15,000 Army and Air Guard personnel, whose units have been identified for mobilization even though they have not been officially alerted.

About 1,000 of the D.C. Guard's citizen-soldiers and airmen have been brought on board. That includes members of the Army Guard's 547th Transportation Company, who were honored on Jan. 24 before departing for their mobilization station at Fort Eustis in Newport News, Va.

That outfit was mobilized for Desert Shield duty in November 1990 and logged more than 700,000 miles in Saudi Arabia while hauling food, fuel, ammunition and other supplies and while transporting casualties and prisoners of war during its five months in the Persian Gulf.

The 113th Wing was not mobilized for that war against Iraq. Officials insist it is ready for action should it be needed this time.

"This is the most highly-trained wing in the Air National Guard," said Brig. Gen. David Wherley, the wing's commander who now also serves as the acting commanding

general for the D.C. National Guard following the retirement of Maj. Gen. Warren Freeman.

"Now it's the 113th Wing fighter element's turn to take part in the war on terrorism overseas after having flown combat air patrols and having been part of that war in this country since Sept. 11," added Wherley. He promised that his staff would be committed to looking after the families while the Guard members are gone.

The wing has many earned distinctions, including nine consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Spaatz Trophy as the Air Guard's top flying unit for 2002.

Now it has gained the distinction of being called to serve on a front far from home.

"I know that separation just ain't easy. Just ask one of us former grunts," said Sherwood Goldberg, a Vietnam veteran, who is vice chairman of D.C.'s Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs. "But when your children and your grandchildren ask you what you did during the war against terrorism, you will be able to say with pride, 'I did my part.'"



# Finding closure for Shuttle Columbia

By Sgt. 1st Class Lek Mateo  
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LUFKIN, Texas -- Residents of the quiet East Texas community awoke Feb. 1 to a rumble that shook homes and rattled windows. The disturbance was not a roll of thunder but multiple sonic booms from the fallen space shuttle Columbia during its failed re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

Texas responded immediately to the disaster when Gov. Rick Perry called several hundred National Guard service members to duty to assist the recovery effort under the operational name of "Big Thicket."

Large military troop-carrying vehicles filled with soldiers rolled out from various armories throughout East Texas and converged on the impacted counties along the Texas-Louisiana border to help in the massive joint recovery operation.

The Texas soldiers are working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other federal, state and local agencies during this emergency operation.

Upon receiving their marching orders, members of the Guard quickly deployed to start searching the likely impact area that focused primarily on six East Texas counties, encompassing thousands of square miles along the shuttle flight path.

NASA officials warned the public and search teams to avoid touching material from the shuttle because of the possibility that it may be explosive, radioactive or contaminated with dangerous rocket fuel.

Among the Guard units deployed was Texas' 6th Civil Support Team from Austin, one of 32 authorized National Guard units of its kind specially trained to detect, identify and remove hazardous materials. For the first time since their activation as a unit, the 6th CST converged with CSTs from Arkansas,

Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico to work during this crisis.

The Texas Guard also provided aviation assets from the 49th Armored Division. The crews flew numerous missions throughout the state, logging in more than 100 flight hours, especially over East Texas where the majority of the shuttle material was concentrated.

On the ground, soldiers moved in-line 20-feet apart from each other, performing what they all described as a "police call" on a grand scale. Where shuttle material was mixed in with existing debris on the ground, Guardsmen had to pay special attention in what they described as looking for a needle in a haystack.

Col. Eddy M. Spurgin, task force commander of the 36th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 49th Armored Division, commended his soldiers for their diligence and motivation on a mission that he deemed noble and worthwhile.

"I would like to let every Texan know that we are all citizen-soldiers, and that just a few days ago, we were all at our civilian jobs and going about our everyday business when we were called up to serve after the shuttle tragedy," Spurgin said.

Some of the local soldiers who live in the area have been on duty since the first day of the catastrophe - helping local law enforcement officials secure shuttle material that descended from the stratosphere only hours before.

These reinforcements provided much needed relief to the overwhelmed first responders. The grim task of trying to locate the remains of the seven astronauts continued as an effort that NASA and the Guard considered top priority.

"Our soldiers are very sensitive to the solemn job they undertake -- and place great respect and reverence for the deceased and

*"Our soldiers are very sensitive to the solemn job they undertake - and place great respect and reverence for the deceased and their families. We are all citizen-soldiers, and when we are asked to do something for our state or for our country, we'll respond and do what is asked of us."*

— Col. Eddy M. Spurgin

their families," said Spurgin. "We are all citizen-soldiers, and when we are asked to do something for our state or for our country, we'll respond and do what is asked of us."

Spurgin also expressed his appreciation for the countless community volunteers and private groups who turned out in force to help feed and provide moral support for his soldiers and the various participating agencies involved with the recovery operation.

Robert L. Barker, a 65-year-old retired veteran from Hemphill, Texas, was one of the volunteers who felt a sense of patriotic duty to help with the shuttle tragedy. The small-populated town swelled overnight from the influx of hundreds of searchers, turning the local VFW meeting hall into a command center and staging area. Barker recalled how he and his neighbors crawled through the thickets looking for material from the shuttle on the day of the disaster until fatigue forced him to stop.

Feeling a common bond with the Guard members who took over the search, Barker said they impressed him with their professionalism and sense of duty during their stay in his town. One of the soldiers praised by Barker was Pfc. Frank I. Allen, of Co. A, 4th Armor, 112th Bn., 49th Armored Div., who volunteered for the mission.

A full-time college freshman attending Texas A&M University at College Station, Allen postponed his studies so he could participate. Instead of learning about history in

the classroom, Allen is experiencing and living real-world history.

The young soldier and his team members braved the unrelenting cold rain that fell steadily on them as they trudged tirelessly through muddy fields and woods. Allen said that the foul weather was an inconvenience that they all could live without, but locating a significant find gave him and his fellow soldiers a feeling of warmth and motivation, which helped to minimize their discomfort and drove them to look even harder.

"We did different things to motivate each other," Allen said. "Anytime one of us found something, we all felt like the team found it because we are all out here searching."

Allen commented that the astronauts sacrificed their lives for America and the world when the mishap occurred and that is why every effort should be made to recover their remains. For Allen the disaster still seems surreal, but its impact could be felt by everyone when they did find shuttle material or remains of Columbia's crew.

"You kind of lose a sense of how real it is until you find another piece, and then it becomes real again," Allen said. "You still can't believe that you are out here picking up pieces of the space shuttle."

Allen added that he hopes the families of Columbia's astronauts find closure and know that he and the rest of his unit are willing to stay as long as needed to finish their somber task.

## Frigid weather cancels final day of biathlon competition

JERICHO, Vt. -- The final story at the 2003 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships here at Ethan Firing Range was the weather.

After a weeklong battle with the frigid weather that moved into the northeast after the opening event, the final day's below the allowable limit temperature of -4 degree Fahrenheit, plus the wind-chill factors forced the race jury to cancel the team relay race.

The already delayed morning start, left the 18 teams, including the four first ever official full women's teams sitting in the Walker Building at the site complex, waiting for warmer temperatures that never came.

In the interest of safety, the race was cancelled. A few were disappointed, however, most were thankful that they did not have to struggle with the environment at the same time as racing the competition.

The 28th CNGB Biathlon Championship concluded with Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville, the adjutant general of Vermont awarding the medals at the final banquet.

Earning All-Guard Composite Honors for

their combined performances in the two individual races were:

### Senior Men

Spc. Jesse Downs, VTARNG  
Spc. Brian Lilly, VTARNG  
Spc. Jacob Beste, MNARNG  
Spc. Mark Matheny, MIARNG  
Spc. Benjamin Kamileciwz, VTARNG  
Capt. Curtis Schreiner, NYARNG

### Senior Women

Spc. Sarah Riley, MIARNG  
1st Lt. Sara Granroth, VTARNG  
Tech. Sgt. Deborah Nordyke, NYANG  
Spc. Erin Graham, VTARNG

### Junior Men

Pvt. James Smith, MTARNG

### Junior Women

Spc. Andrea Motely, OHARNG

Awarded the rotating annual Chief's Trophy for the team events was Vermont, with second going to Minnesota and third to Montana. Next year's competition will be held at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minn.



Photo provided

Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville presents awards at the 28th CNGB Biathlon Championships in Jericho, Vt. to (left to right) Tech. Sgt. Deborah Nordyke, 1st Lt. Sara Granroth and Spc. Sarah Riley.



# Guard team learns to master disaster

By Master Sgt. Deb Smith

HQ Colorado Air National Guard

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Nestled deep in the misty Appalachian coal country, and a half-mile inside a West Virginia mountain, its damp and the light is dim. But the chill in the air doesn't come close to the chill running up your spine as you step over the injured and dying that litter the path ahead.

Resembling something more out of a horror movie than a classroom, it's not what most people think of as an ideal learning environment. But then Lt. Col. Fred Hoon and his 22-member team aren't "most people."

"This is type of environment really takes us out of our comfort zone," says Hoon. "And in our business, that's exactly where we need to be."

Hoon is the commander of the Colorado National Guard's 8th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST), and staying uncomfortable is exactly what this elite group did while training at the Center for National Response (CNR) near Standard, West Virginia.

## A Different Kind of Pop Quiz

Open to civil and military organizations that respond to weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials events, the CNR is a two-lane, 2,800-foot long mountain tunnel with over 79,000 square feet of training space. Built in 1953 and abandoned by the Turnpike Authority in 1987 when I-77 opened between Beckley and Charleston, the former West Virginia Turnpike Tunnel is now one of the nation's leading emergency response training complexes that can accommodate multiple scenario exercises. And the scenarios are as realistic as they come.

"We try to give folks an unrealistic look at what they may walk into someday," said J.B. Anderson, Logistics Manager for the CNR. "WMD events will never look like you think they will and the actors and effects we employ are meant to



Photos by Master Sgt. Deb Smith, Colorado Air National Guard

**Nestled inside an abandoned turnpike tunnel in the hills of West Virginia, the Center for National Response is far-removed from the prying eyes of both the media and the public. Its remote location makes it an ideal spot for many WMD-CST and HAZMAT teams to train without upsetting local residents or confusing other first responders.**

shake students out of any preconceived ideas that can cause them to overlook details."

Uniquely suited to meet the specialized training needs of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Consequence Management (CM), and Counter Terrorism (CT) first responders, the CNR makes good use of its arsenal of special effects equipment—including a city bus, a subway mezzanine and platform, laid rubble props, over 25 passenger vehicles, three mobile homes and an 18-wheel tanker truck loaded with simulated hazardous materials. In addition, the CNR staff has even constructed a 120-foot wide, 3-foot high passageway designed to train responses to operate in confined spaces. The combination of these life-size training aids, and a highly concentrated curriculum quickly puts both student and equipment to the test.

"In our jobs, we have to always contend that we are not on scene to take care of the injured—and that means we may have to walk over dead and dying people to gather a sample," said MSgt. Alren Woods of the 8th WMD-CST. "Touching an injured person puts us at risk because they may be heavily contaminated with the suspected agent. We're there simply get a sample, assess the situation, and get out. We're of no use to anyone if we're contaminated too. That kind of stimuli—people crying for help—can really make it difficult."

CNR staffers don't take their jobs or their mission in stride. It can take several months to research and assemble a comprehensive training package that will meet the needs of a particular organization. Even preparation for shorter weekend courses may require weeks.

"Students have to think very carefully about every move they make," said Anderson.

"From how they are going to execute their assignment, to

how they are going to manage critical life support resources. Rescue missions can quickly turn into survival missions simply because student teams exhaust their oxygen supply before they reach the injured."

And if that's not enough to think about, students say they're also on the look out for booby traps.

"As we enter the 'hot-zone' we're constantly looking for secondary devices and stuff that not so obvious," said Woods. "We look for stuff like the secondary explosives found in the Alabama abortion clinic bombings—timed specifically to go off after the first responders got there."

## Location, Location, Location

Far removed from any large civilian population base, the CNR enables WMD, HAZMAT and other first responders to train in the manner they need to face WMD and other catastrophic disasters. The growing interest in the facility appears to stem from the extreme privacy of its sequestered mountain location. Teams are able to train to the maximum level without alarming the public and confusing the media.

"It's very difficult to put together a realistic training 'disaster' close to a heavily populated area," said one Colorado Guard member who asked not to be identified. "And after September 11th, folks tend to be a little more nervous when we break out our Level-A protective suits and go wondering through a large-scale venue—we have to act differently and think differently, and that hinders our training significantly. I think you can really tell—we're a lot more focused."

While both training and mental strength can help students prepare, all the exercises in the world are useless if they aren't conducted on a scale that accurately reflects what responders see on the job. CNR participants say textbook training builds a solid foundation, but being able to experi-





# ster in abandoned turnpike shaft

ence training with the depth and magnitude found at the Memorial Tunnel is what helps them get ready for the real thing.

"Training can be designed to give us the ultimate edge, and to do that, the training has to be provided in a realistic scenario or setting," said Woods. "That's why we like training in large-scale venues. Because we know very well that we may be walking into that same large-scale venue and looking for product [contaminants]."

## A Diverse Student Body

Though there are many critical skills that are especially important to WMD and HAZMAT responders, CNR graduates feel the most vital is the ability to work under pressure in a multi-agency environment. Agencies of all levels and jurisdictions may be called to investigate different facets of an accident involving hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction. Local law enforcement authorities, state troopers, firefighters, federal emergency management personnel, the Department of Justice, the military, and even the FBI all may have a particular interest in a single event. Each has agenda, equipment and individual priorities. So how does anything get done?

"During an emergency, decisions often must be made that have a direct impact on saving lives and property, and because there can be so many agencies involved it's important to have a well-established chain of command," said Hoon. "That's the job of the incident commander."

Emergency responders of all types must choose where and when to deploy valuable and often scarce resources. In order to make such critical decisions, as well as those that may not directly impact life and property, a good understanding of how other agencies operate is crucial.

"It's interesting to see everyone working together," said one West Virginia first

responder. "I've never really seen a full WMD team in action until today."

Multiple agencies train at the same time on the same incidents to force them to work together and understand each other's capabilities. For example, one CNR scenario depicted an explosion at makeshift "crack-lab" in which the local responding law enforcement personnel found not only the concealed lab, but also a dead commercial truck driver covered in a powdery white substance. Once law enforcement personnel cleared the building and arrested the suspect, the WMD team was ready to decontaminate the officers, the suspect and send a survey team into the building to collect a sample of the suspicious white powder.

"Establishing good working relationships with other agencies is so valuable," said Woods. "Without them, you really hinder your ability to go out and do joint missions. By doing joint training, not only with other military units, but with other government agencies, we gain trust in what they can do and they gain trust in us."

## Training for the Taking

With a significant amount of federal funding, the CNR expects to train more than 1,500 military and civilian personnel this year. There are no user fees associated with the use of the CNR for state or federal first responders during 2002.

While the typical training course probably won't yield an instant army of master first responders, it will, however, continue to produce better-trained, more confident individuals ready to face the challenges of a post September 11 world.

For more information on the West Virginia Memorial Tunnel Complex or the Center for National Response, visit them online at [www.wvmemoriantunnel.com](http://www.wvmemoriantunnel.com), or contact CNR program manager Mel Wick at (703) 383-4300.



With more than 79,000 square feet of training space, the abandoned tunnel provides the ultimate setting for emergency response teams to train for mass disasters. From collecting chemical samples (top right) to communicating with multiple agencies through specialized communications equipment (right), the tunnel provides a realistic environment to prepare for the worst.





# Georgia Guard unit plays integral part in America's shuttle program

By Lt Col Ken Baldowski

Georgia Air National Guard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Since the tragic events of Sep. 11, the Savannah-based Georgia Air National Guard's 117th Air Control Squadron has played integral part in America's Shuttle Program.

During the past six Shuttle launches, the unit has employed its sophisticated radar to identify and communicate with any aircraft venturing near the restricted airspace over Cape Canaveral, during launch day for America's shuttle missions.

While Mission Control, at Cape Canaveral, calls for hundreds of final authorizations before the launch of a space shuttle, among the most critical reports is the status of airspace security around the sprawling Cape Canaveral complex. If clear, the Georgia Guardsmen monitoring the skies will deliver a confident "Go for Launch" clearing the way for a liftoff.

For each Shuttle launch, more than 50 Georgia Guardsmen of the 117th Air Control Squadron scan the skies in search of unidentified aircraft venturing into the restricted airspace around Cape Canaveral. Their mission is to ensure that this symbol of America's spirit and pride occurs without incident from a terrorist attack.

During a launch sequence that begins days before liftoff, mission crew commander Major Victor Long and a full control team scan radarscopes pinpointing aircraft entering the restricted airspace. "Fortunately, all aircraft have complied with our instructions," said Long, an 18-year Guardsman who has participated in the last six launches.

The Georgia unit is the only Air National Guard unit of its kind assigned to support the launches. "Our mission here at the Cape is a direct result of the terrorist attack on America on 9-11," says Lt. Col. Dick Austin, commander of the 117th. "We're here to help prevent a hostile attack on the Shuttle."

Austin says that soon after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, NASA and Air Force Space Command realized the extra need for security at the Cape. Therefore, they established a no-fly zone during launches and have taken measures to enhance the Cape's airspace defense.

Despite the measures taken, however, there are moments when violations of the airspace take place. "The main violators of the restricted airspace are private pilots of small aircraft that are unaware of the restrictions in place at the time of a Shuttle launch," states Capt. Elizabeth Baker, a veteran of four launches. During such occurrences, 117th Air Battle Managers have at their disposal airborne fighter aircraft that will intercept uncooperative pilots and escort them away from the area.

"NASA recognizes the role that we play for each Shuttle launch, and I feel honored that we are the (Air National Guard) unit asked for by NASA to be a part of this exciting event for America," Austin said.

*(Editors Note: This article on the mission of 117th Air Control Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard for the launch of the Space Shuttle Columbia was written immediately following its launch on Jan. 16, 2003. As members of the Shuttle launch team, the men and women of the 117th share a special relationship with the NASA technicians and mission support personnel who work with the Shuttle program at Cape Canaveral and are deeply saddened by the recent Columbia disaster.)*

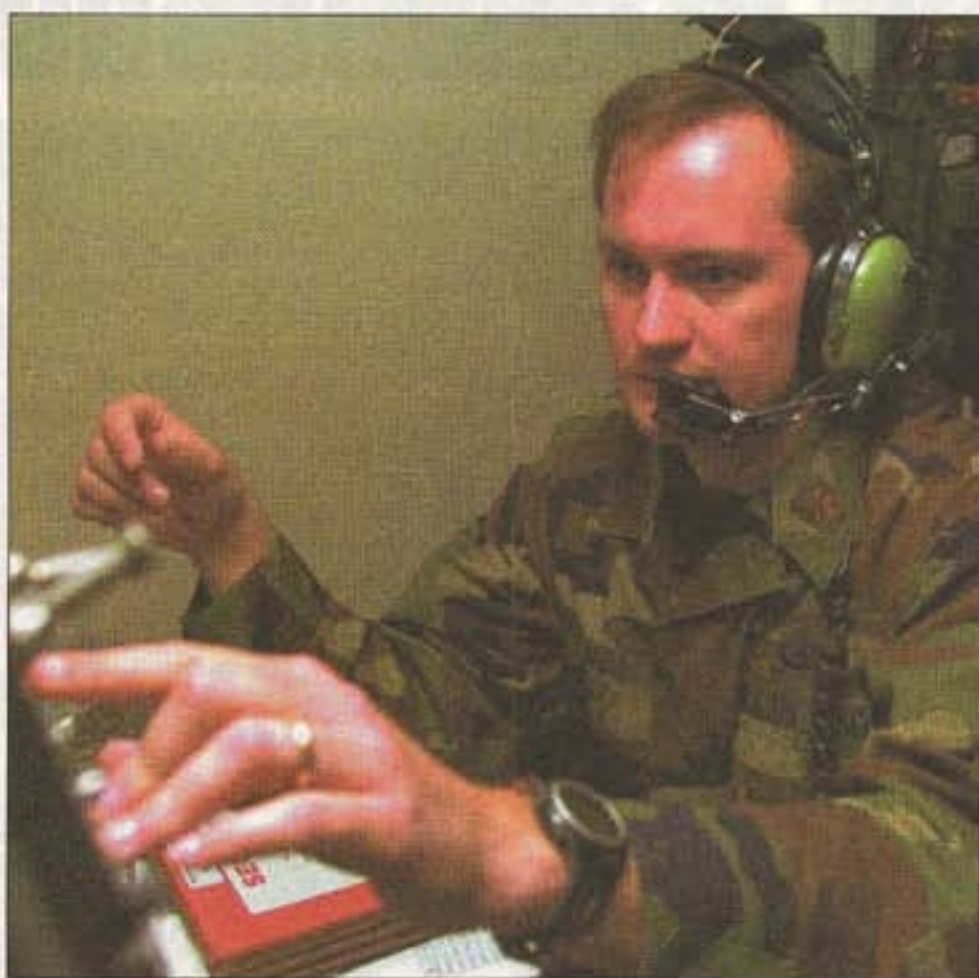


Photo by Lt Col Ken Baldowski



(Top left) Space Shuttle Columbia launches on its 27th mission as seen from the 117th Air Control Site at Cape Canaveral. The January launch was the sixth launch in which the 117th maintained the security of the immediate airspace at Cape Canaveral. (Above) Maj. Ron Spier, 117th surveillance office, monitors aircraft crossing into the "no fly zone" around the Cape during the January launch of Shuttle Columbia. Mission Control awaits an all-clear sign for local airspace before continuing countdown to launch. (Left) A Georgia Guardsman erects an antenna network at Cape Canaveral to assist in airspace security for the launch of Columbia. (Below) Georgia Guardsmen reel out hundreds of yards of cable days prior to the January launch of the Space Shuttle. More than 50 Guardsmen have deployed to Cape Canaveral for each of the past six shuttle launches.





# Taming the 'Beast of the East'

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Nigeria was never like this, said a District of Columbia Army National Guard sergeant, who spent the President's Day holiday weekend helping people dig out from a blizzard that forced the nation's capital and much of the eastern United States into a snowbound halt.

Nearly 800 members of the National Guard, the equivalent of a reinforced battalion, were helping local authorities in eight states deal with the "Beast of the East" by Feb. 18. USA Today reported it was "the biggest storm much of the country has seen in a decade."

Some 350 Army Guard troops were on state active duty in Maryland alone, said citizen-soldiers tracking the force at the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

Delaware peaked at 134 Army Guard soldiers, while New Jersey pressed 84 into state active duty and Kentucky ramped up more than 100 to help clear storm-strewn debris and power up generators in that state.

Troops in New Jersey, New York and Virginia also supported the effort. The total included nine members of the Air National Guard on duty in Delaware, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Many of the Guard troops rolled out in reliable, four-wheel-drive Humvees, or "Hummers," to carry police officers over streets and roads clogged with drifting snow and buried cars and to transport emergency personnel to work.

That was what about 40 District of Columbia Army Guard soldiers, including Sgt. 1st Class Abayomi Emiabata and Staff Sgt. Mark Steedley, did in living up to their motto "Capital Guardians."

Both are full-time members of the D.C. Guard's counter-drug team, but the white



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

**Humvees operated by members of the District of Columbia Army National Guard carried police officers and other emergency workers through Washington streets, where other cars could not go after the Presidents' weekend blizzard.**

powder that concerned them most on this weekend was the snow that made the streets in Washington, D.C., all but impassable. The Guard soldiers and police officers they worked with also patiently dealt with impatient civilians, who seemed to think that the

state of emergency did not apply to them.

Emiabata, who grew up in Nigeria before coming to D.C. to attend Howard University, and Steedley were assigned to the Metropolitan Police Department's Third District and its 25 or 30 blocks in the northwestern sector.

"We didn't even have a word for 'snow,' because it was unknown to us," said Emiabata of his west African homeland. He has learned a fair amount about winter and how the National Guard helps out since moving to America.

"We did the same thing during the storm in January of 1996," said Emiabata as he and Steedley patrolled the district with Metropolitan Police Pfc. Sylvester Jackson during a Tuesday afternoon seven years later.

They had used the Humvee to pull a police cruiser out of deep snow in the city's west end that morning, they said. They did that after towing to bare ground the rescue vehicle that had initially been dispatched to pull out the stuck cruiser.

The two Guard soldiers had also driven Inspector Hilton Burton, the Metropolitan

Police Department's night supervisor known as "Night Hawk," across town the previous evening so he could appear at a press conference at DuPont Circle.

"We get them to where they've got to go or from where they've got to come from. We make sure we give them that extra hand," said Emiabata. "This helps to solidify our relationship with the Metropolitan Police. It also brings a certain degree of good will to the Guard, because the people see us out here."

"I like working with the MPD," said Emiabata, who has helped foster that relationship between the D.C. police force and the National Guard during the past 14 years. "The only difference is our uniforms. Otherwise, they make sure we have the same things and that we are extended the same courtesies."

That feeling of respect seems to be mutual.

"These are sharp personnel," said Jackson, who was working with National Guard troops for the first time. "I can work with these guys anytime."



**District of Columbia Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Abayomi Emiabata (left) and Staff Sgt. Mark Steedley watch the traffic at a busy Washington intersection while Metropolitan Policeman Sylvester Jackson checks in with Third District headquarters during a Tuesday patrol after the Presidents' Weekend blizzard buried the nation's capital.**



# Clearing a path

## Maryland National Guard members dig out the community after severe winter storm

**Sgt. Michael J. Minardi**

Maryland National Guard

BALTIMORE, Md. —While neighborhood children frolicked in the deep snow, Maryland Guard members worked feverishly to clear the streets from a record February snowfall in Baltimore.

The newly elected governor of Maryland, Robert L. Ehrlick Jr., declared a state of emergency and called out the 121st Engineers from Ellicott City, Md., after the four-day snowstorm that dumped over 28 inches finally subsided. With their engineer equipment, members of the unit hit the streets to help the state return to a sense of normalcy.

The snow paralyzed the area and created havoc in its wake.

"It's bad! Real bad," said Sgt. Clarence Henson, Alpha Company, who helped direct traffic around a front-end loader that frantically raced to clear the intersection.

Pfc. Charles Freedman echoed the sentiments of his fellow Guard member, saying, "It's a big mess and a lot of work, but we're the Maryland National Guard and we're here to take care of it."

Spc. Martin Langgle, 243rd Engineers, explained the system worked out for the snow removal. "As soon as one truck gets filled with snow, it moves and the next one takes its place like an assembly line."

The process continued as convoys of snow-filled trucks transported and dumped their white loads at a designated field in Baltimore City.

The operation repeated itself over and over until, finally, city sanitation crews gained the upper hand on snow removal. With the approval of a grateful state, the Guard members were released from their duty.

Reflecting upon the events, Spc. Andrea G. McVey, the unit public affairs representative offered, "We've gotten a lot of positive response from a lot of people in the communities. They actually thanked us and shook our hand and it makes us feel good."



(Above) An Army National Guard loader operated by Sgt. Clayton Chew of the 121st Engineer Battalion removes snow from the streets of Baltimore, Md. (Left) Due to the excessive amount of snow fall, Guard troops had to haul the snow away in trucks.

Photos by Sgt. Michael J. Minardi, Maryland National Guard



# 'Scissors' Cut Environmental Hazards

By Peg Moffett

National Guard Bureau

"Crunch", "crack" and "crumble," such are the sounds of the huge crane-like recycling tool known as "The Scissors." It takes cement filled 500-pound inert bombs and shears them apart until they fall to the earth in small fragments and cement dust.

This is just one of the many tools employed in the dynamic environmental stewardship of air to ground bombing. There are many considerations with environmental stewardship concerns and range training.

These include safety - will the topography of the range allow for low-level flight training? How densely populated is the area? Will noise affect any livestock or endangered species? How cost effective will this range be for training support?

Air training range space can cover far more distance than ground space. Take for example, Shelby Primary Training Range. The range air space encompasses a much greater volume of space than the actual impact area. It bears the name Shelby because it is part of Mississippi's Army National Guard's Camp Shelby.

In an arrangement unique to the Air National Guard, more than half of the Air National Guard ranges are co-located with Army military installations. This facilitates excellent joint service training opportunities and in several ways reduces potential training sprawl by maximizing available training space in the air and on the land.

Until very recently, when the Air National Guard engaged in range training, they used any target available. Practice targets would include old tires and jeeps, unusable aircraft, broken tanks and inert bombs.

In fiscal year 2002, a total of 2,641 training flights (sorties) were flown in the Shelby bombing range. That is about an 88 percent utilization rate.

"We generally consider 70 percent to be the saturation point for a range, so they are busy," said Pat Welch, Chief Airspace, Ranges, and Combat Readiness Training Division for the Air National Guard. With all the old targets and the intense training, the targets and the remains of litter the range grounds cleanup has become a major undertaking for a range that has been in operation since 1971. According to Senior Master Sgt. Cleve Sanders, Non Commissioned Officer In Charge of the Shelby Range, approximately 300 tons from the 500-pound inert bombs have been part of the campaign.

This residue includes scrap metal, which will be sold for recycling with a return of the scrap metal investment going to the Air National Guard.

It costs approximately \$500,000 per range, but costs are reduced as cleanup continues and there is less to clear.

"It isn't cheap, but it is a requirement that we are standing up to. As we clean up the range, we are replacing these targets with the Joint Modular Ground Target (JMGT), which are more realistic for target training and more environmentally friendly," Welch said.

The actual operation for the inert bombs otherwise known as Range Residue



File photos

(Above) "The Scissors" rip dummy bombs apart at Mississippi's Army National Guard's Camp Shelby during Range Residue Resource Recovery. (Below) After an Explosive Ordnance team verifies the dummies are inert, specialized contracting personnel can then cut the bombs with torches.

Resource Recovery, includes a team of military and contracting specialists.

The military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team starts the process by verifying the Bomb Dummy Units or BDU-33/50 practice ordnance are safe and truly inert. The BDUs hold a spotting charge similar to a shotgun shell, if left unchecked could pose a significant danger for operators. After EOD ensures the BDUs are safe and ready for disposal, the Range Residue Recovery contractor slices the BDUs tearing them apart to ensure, that any potential charges are dead. Then, the BDUs are taken to The Scissors to be demolished and the separation of materials for recycling begins.

Sanders points out that the overall range for Shelby is approximately 10 square miles for the main land area with an additional 40,000 acres for the west range.

The west range is used a little less since 1985 when the Army started training with M1- Abrams tanks. The Shelby Range provides for all the services and must work closely with other stakeholders such as the United States Forest Service, to preserve and protect the nation's natural resources. Sanders adds "We work hand in hand with the Army and the Forest Service to provide

the best possible training for all branches of the active military services and the Reserve while maintaining our environmental responsibilities."





# No. 54 gets stoned by the Rock

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. - After picking up 17 positions during today's Subway 400 from its original starting position of 40th, a cut down tire on lap 85 ended the day for the No. 54 National Guard team.

Bodine and the crew tried to make repairs for over an hour but the damage was too much to overcome relegating the Guard guys to a 42nd place finish.

"We had a flat tire," said Bodine to the media as the Guard crew worked on the car in the garage area. "That's the second Rockingham race in a row we've had a flat right-front when running well. It's a shame because the National Guard Ford was fast."

"We worked our way up to 23rd and got in a good spot, so I just started riding because we had a long way to go and patience is what it takes at a place like this."

Track time at the North Carolina Motor Speedway leading up to today's race consisted of an abbreviated practice session and qualifying round on Feb. 21.

Regardless, a solid setup was underneath Bodine and within the first 40 laps, the Guard car was running in 29th position.

Bodine radioed in to crew chief Derrick Finley during the first run to report a handling condition of "loose" going into the turns.

Meanwhile, a mandatory caution to check tire wear on lap 45 was cancelled when Dale Earnhardt Jr., experienced problems on circuit No. 44.

The yellow brought the lead lap's cars, including Bodine's, onto pit road on lap 47. The No. 54 pit crew quickly went to work to make an air pressure adjustment, bolt on four new Goodyears and add gas.

The fast stop enabled Bodine to pick up one-track position to resume green flag racing in the 28th running spot on lap 54.

Just five laps into the run, Finley encouraged his driver by reporting his lap times equivalent to the leader. However on lap 80, Bodine radioed in to report a problem and before the team had a chance to rectify the situation, the No. 54 hit the wall.

"I started bouncing around and thought I had a broken shock, but when we went for 10 laps like that I'm not sure what happened," said the National Guard driver. "Tire wear on the first run looked really good. We were real happy with the tires and the car."

"A place like Rockingham is so abusive on tires. It's literally like running on a big piece of sand paper. Since all we did was put only put a pound of air into the right-front to tighten up the car, we must have just run something over."

Despite the disappointing day, the Guard crew is regrouping and targeting Las Vegas as the place to capture their first victory of 2003.

Gambling for speed may not be necessary after a very promising test session from the Guard guys earlier this month.

Bodine will attempt to defend his pole position at the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400.



Photos courtesy of BelCar Racing

(Above) Todd Bodine, driver of National Guard car No. 54 in this season's Winston Cup NASCAR races, with National Guard troops at Rockingham Motor Speedway. (Below) Race fans had the opportunity to check out the Guard Car.





# Tale of two brothers: Wilsons fought for victory on two fronts

By Ron Holbrook  
Missouri National Guard

Walter and Leigh Wilson joined the Missouri National Guard's Battery C, 128th Field Artillery Regiment in Maryville in the 1930s, a quieter and gentler time for America when just putting food on the table was a chief concern. But, all that would soon change.

Within seven years, both brothers would become officers in the U.S. Army. Leigh would lead his men in one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific. Walter would win the Silver Star for his bravery under withering enemy fire on a battlefield in Europe.

Leigh still recalls the day he enlisted in the Guard, Sept. 7, 1935 and how it was his ability to play the bugle that got him in the Guard.

A bright young high school student at the time, Leigh was starting his junior year of high school at age 14. He had advanced two grades in elementary school. He was practicing on a trumpet in the backyard that September day when a neighbor heard him playing.

"Son, if you can play a bugle and learn our calls, we've got a spot for you in our battery." The neighbor was Capt. Edward Condon, the Maryville battery commander, who had served alongside Harry S. Truman in France in World War I.

"But, I am only 14," was Leigh's reply.

Leigh jumped at the chance to enlist and join his older brother, Walter, who had enlisted in the local battery the year before in 1934. The \$1 a drill seemed appealing, too. Leigh joined as the unit bugler and captain's orderly.

"You have to remember this was the Depression and kids worried about putting food on the table then too," laughed Leigh.

"I think taking in people underage back then was not too uncommon in the Army or the Guard," said Leigh. He added that all through World War II he was four years younger than what his records actually showed. He had his age corrected on his records in 1950.

"We didn't miss the horse drawn artillery by much, just a few years," said Walter. "I think we got the trucks in about 1933. They were old World War I trucks with chain drives, would go about 17 miles an hour.

Walter said that probably two-thirds of the unit's members were college students at Maryville at the time. "That dollar a drill (drills were two hours long and held on four Monday nights each month) helped everyone pay for college. There were a lot of good officers that came out of that group," he said.

In September 1940, Leigh was still a private in the unit when President Roosevelt mobilized the entire 300,000 members of the National Guard to double the size of the

undermanned Army. Walter had left the Maryville unit a short time earlier for a job in Texas.

He left his job in Texas immediately when he found the Guard was being called up and tried to re-enlist at Maryville with his friends, but the unit was full. He was told to go to the Albany unit, then the battalion headquarters, and there he became the unit first sergeant.

There was much patriotism and a little fear of the unknown in the air then. England was under attack almost nightly from Germany's bombs. But a popular upbeat song of the time tried to avenge all those fears for the reservists. Its refrain was: "Don't worry dear, I will be home in a year." The National Guard was called up for one year. After Pearl Harbor, though, those orders were extended by act of the president and that year turned into a long four or five years for most.

The unit left Maryville in November 1940 with a big send-off and ceremonies in many churches. It was a four-day drive to Camp Jackson, S.C.

"We were about the first ones there and they put us out in a big field in tents," added Leigh. "There wasn't much there at first. It was very primitive."

In the spring of 1942 after the unit was shipped to Camp Blanding, Fla., the Wilson brothers were selected to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla.

After graduating from OCS, they were sent to Camp Maxey near Paris, Texas to train basic trainees. "One week we had 20,000 civilians dropped on us for training," said Leigh. "They told us to make them into a division and we did."

## Leigh Wilson's story

In 1943, Leigh decided to volunteer for overseas duty. "The call came for emergency replacement officers for overseas duty. They wanted young single officers," Leigh said. It was for duty in North Africa, he thought.

Leigh flipped a coin to determine if he should volunteer, heads he would go; tails he wouldn't. It turned up tails and he said, "Oh heck I will go anyway." He shipped out to San Francisco and then Hawaii where he joined up with the 27th Infantry Division, originally from the New York National Guard. They set up defensive positions and conducted amphibious training in preparation for the Central Pacific campaign.

There, the young first lieutenant proceeded to the Gilbert Islands and the Mariana Islands for one of the most pivotal campaigns in the Pacific. Whoever held the Marianas could control the sea-lanes south of Japan, cutting off vital oil, food and other supplies needed to sustain a war machine. And from the islands, U.S. B-29 long-range bombers could easily reach Japan's cities, 1,200 miles away.

On the morning of June 15, 1944, an invasion fleet of 600 ships, including 14 battle-ships and 25 aircraft carriers prepared for the attack. On board one of those ships was a 23-year old Army first lieutenant named Leigh Wilson, who just a few years earlier had sounded reveille on the bugle for the Maryville unit.

"There were ships as far as you could see," said Leigh.

Two Marine divisions hit the island hard, but suffered 2,000 casualties the first day! Two days later, the 27th Infantry Division moved north. The battle continued for 21 long days.

"The Marines told us the north end of the island was secure when we went north. Well we found it, it wasn't. Our artillery was sent up there to secure the area and help clear the Japanese out of their bunkers," said Leigh.

Unbeknownst to the Americans, the Japanese high command had ordered a "ban-zai" or suicide attack the next morning, July 6.

That banzai attack headed right where Leigh's battery was dug in.

"It started about 3 a.m. when they sounded a bugle. They came running across an open field directly at us, some with rifles, some with spears. It lasted all day long, wave after wave of them. They just about wiped out two battalions," said Leigh.

At times the artillery battalion was firing at point blank range, straight ahead. Later the area was named appropriately "Harakiri Gulch".

The next morning the body count of Japanese killed was 4,311. There were 406 Americans killed in the battle. "It was not pleasant when we got back in there," added Leigh.

Leigh received a battlefield commission and promotion to captain on Saipan after his battery commander was killed.

Several months after Saipan, Leigh shipped out for Okinawa. "The Japanese had pulled off the beaches so we landed without much problem, then turned south. This turned out to be another real rough operation," said Leigh.

In July 1945, while on Okinawa, Leigh received orders to go home for 30-days leave and with orders to report back to get ready for the Honshu operation, or invasion of Japan in fall of 1945. That never happened. The war ended while he was home on leave.

After the war, Leigh became battery commander and then battalion commander of the 129th Field Artillery for nine years in Maryville. He had the opportunity to entertain former President Truman, his wife, Bess and daughter before the dedication of the new Maryville armory in February 1955.

During a conversation, the president was asked if dropping the atomic bomb was his

most difficult decision. "He said no that saved more than a million American lives," recalled Leigh. Leigh's wife, Barbara, then said: "Well I guess my husband was one of those lives you saved, because he was over there in Okinawa." At that point, she said, the president got tears in his eyes.

Leigh later was named commander of the 135th Field Artillery Group. He was promoted to brigadier general in April 1971 and became assistant adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard. He retired in 1976.

## Walter Wilson's story

Walter continued training soldiers in Texas for another year and then went overseas with the 102nd Infantry Division, landing in France in August 1944. His unit became part of the Red Ball Express that kept a supply line moving to Gen. George Patton's advancing Army.

He served with distinction during the war and earned the Silver Star for his bravery in combat. Interviewed more than 50 years after the event, Walt still didn't like to talk about the night he earned the medal. "Oh, I think all awards are embellished a little," he mused, avoiding the subject.

"About the only time, we had a big problem was this night. We were attacked near a village and then pinned down by sniper fire. Many were wounded and no one was firing back," Walter recalled.

According to the award citation, on Dec. 2, 1944 in Germany, Capt. Walter Wilson was serving as an artillery liaison officer with an infantry battalion. He was with the advance element in order to direct artillery support.

When enemy machineguns opened up on the flank and began to cause heavy casualties, Walter left the safety of his foxhole. "Exposing himself to the withering enemy fire, he ran from tank to tank to encourage the disorganized men and to direct them. Proceeding on his mission, he assisted in wiping out a number of snipers," the award stated. With communications lost, and total disregard for his own life, he ran across an open field to locate Easy Company to send in reinforcements for additional fire support.

Like his brother, Walter also had a distinguished career with the Missouri National Guard. He became a Civilian Technician Personnel Officer in Jefferson City in 1956. In 1962, he became the first State Air Defense Officer and first commander of the new Nike-Hercules missile, 3rd Battalion, 128th Field Artillery at Lone Jack. He was promoted to colonel there.

He headed the state's 14 Organizational Maintenance Shops in 1971-72 and in 1973 was named United States Property and Fiscal Officer for Missouri, directing an office with a then budget of \$50 million and some 200 full-time employees. He retired in 1976.



# Maine mobilizes against terrorism

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

YORK, Maine - He vividly recalls watching tracer rounds pierce the night sky over Baghdad when this country last went to war against Iraq in January 1991. He was in the sixth grade.

"They brought our entire class to the library to watch it on CNN. It made quite an impression," said the man named Justin who has grown from a youthful spectator into a soldier in the Maine Army National Guard during the past dozen years.

Now perhaps, it is Justin's turn to help this country carry its 16-month-old war against terrorism back to Iraq. He and 170 other members of the 1136th Transportation Company have been mobilized and have left Maine for Fort Dix, N.J., in a convoy of camouflage-green trailer trucks as troops from all over the country are being marshaled for another possible war against the forces of Saddam Hussein.

"I've never been overseas before. I hope I never have to go again for something like this," said the young sergeant about his Army Guard unit's call to arms. "But we suspected this was coming because of everything that's happening in the world. And you've got to do what you've got to do."

The sergeant and the other Guard soldiers are not being identified to help safeguard their families. Their comments indicate how much things have changed in the dozen years since 398 of this country's Army National Guard units were mobilized for duty during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Many citizen-soldiers and their families, as well as other members of the reserve forces, were willing to serve but said they never thought they would actually have to go to war when they began being called up in August 1990. Now the universal attitude seems to be "we're ready to go so let's get on with it."

"I've heard a few people express surprise, but most of us are really anxious to go. We're tired of sitting around waiting," said another of the 1136th's soldiers who pulled a peacekeeping tour in Bosnia while he was on active duty.

The "sitting around" ended on Feb. 25, a



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

(Above) A truck driver in the Maine Army National Guard's 1136th Transportation Company has no reservations about being mobilized for the war against terrorism and a possible conflict with Iraq as he prepares to leave his home state on Feb. 25. (Below) Flag-waving residents showed their support for mobilized members of the Maine Army National Guard's 1136th Transportation Company who drove their big rigs out of Maine toward Fort Dix, N.J., on Feb. 25.

bitterly cold day, when heavily loaded trucks from the 1136th's headquarters element rolled out of Bangor, Maine, to the cheers of their families and friends at dawn.

They refueled and joined up with company's smaller detachment from Sanford near the Maine-New Hampshire border and kept on trucking.

This has already become the largest mobilization of Maine Army Guard troops since 1939, when the entire National Guard was called up to prepare for World War II. It is also becoming a bigger National Guard mobilization than the one for the Persian Gulf War.

Approximately 200 members of three Maine Army Guard units were mobilized for several months of Desert Shield and Desert

Storm duty beginning in 1990.

So far, nearly 300 Maine citizen-soldiers, including 120 members of the 112th Medical Company from Bangor, have been called up as part of this year's massive buildup, and another 200 members of the 152nd Maintenance Company have been put on alert, Maine Guard officials explained.

Members of the 112th served in Germany during the Gulf War.

Meanwhile, more than 30 Army Guard troops have begun a year of active duty as part of the security force at the Bangor Air National Guard base.

Preparations to wage war with Iraq unless that country agrees to disarm to President Bush's and the United Nations' satisfaction, prompted the increased call-ups. The National Guard is providing more than half of the reserve component troops who have responded.

The number of Army and Air Guard people alerted for or participating in the war against terrorism vaulted from nearly 52,000 on Friday, Jan. 10, to nearly 99,000 by the following Monday, the National Guard Bureau reported. That was the largest Guard force since terrorists hit the American homeland on Sept. 11, 2001.

The total surpassed 100,000 on Jan. 29 and had increased to nearly 122,000 by Feb. 18. That's about a quarter of the National Guard force. The total includes about 15,000 Army and Air Guard personnel whose units have been identified for mobilization even though they have not been officially alerted.

"I don't know that it's any easier, but it's a lot better because of everything we've

learned during the past dozen years," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Tinkham II, Maine's adjutant general and National Guard leader, who was an artillery officer in Vietnam. "We've learned a lot about taking care of families and how to process soldiers. Our soldiers are as ready as they can be, both physically and psychologically. Their equipment is ready."

Peacekeeping rotations to Bosnia and Kosovo and the Sinai Peninsula as well as 90-day tours to support Northern and Southern Watch operations over Iraq have kept Army and Air Guard units sharpened up for the war on terrorism's mobilizations, National Guard officials maintain.

"We know they work hard at what they do, so we have a lot of confidence in them," said the wife of one 1136th truck driver who rejoined the Maine Army Guard after the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"We all live in denial to some point, but it wasn't a major shock when we heard they would be mobilized," she explained. "All of the families got deployment checklists before Christmas."

"My husband had been out of the Guard for four years," the wife continued. "But on 9-11, they hit us on our homeland. That made it all different. And my husband said to me 'Honey, I don't feel right about just being a civilian now.'"

"I'm very proud of him," she whispered, holding back the tears as the big Army trucks driven by Maine Army Guard soldiers roared back onto the highway, headed for Fort Dix and then, who knows where.

