

THE ON GUARD

Volume XXXI, 01 NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD Jan.-Feb. 2002

Vermont Army National Guard biathlete Lawton Redman shot a perfect 10 in Utah during his final race before the U.S. Olympic trials. For the complete story, see page 4.



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Guard members set their sights on the gold

Guarding the Olympics

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY — A significant increase in the number of Army National Guard soldiers committed to keeping the XIX Winter Olympics safe for international spectators, athletes and others bound for Utah is one way to measure how the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have changed life as we know it.

Nearly 5,000 Guard soldiers from 19 states, from as far away as Florida and Massachusetts, are supporting local, state and federal agencies at the Games in and around Salt Lake City during February, according to National Guard officials.

Utah will easily contribute the lion's share — nearly 1,700 citizen-soldiers.

That is about the number of Army Guard troops who were scheduled to support the games before Sept. 11. Since then, the National Guard's part of the mission has increased nearly three fold.

The Games opened on Feb. 8 and close on Feb. 24, and organizers vowed they will be safe and secure.

Security has become a massive undertaking for everyone concerned with the well-being of the 70,000 people expected to visit the area each day as well as for the 3,500 athletes from 80 nations who will compete in 70 medal events for 22 sports, according to the U.S. military's joint Olympic task force.

Another 15,000 international media members will cover the events.

The task force is concerned with 14 locations that include 10 competition venues, athlete residences, a stadium for the opening

Father, daughter serve on two fronts

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

DALE CITY, Va. — "War and Peace" was a literary theme for the Alexander's, a Virginia Army National Guard family from Dale City, Va. during the holiday season.

A young woman named Djann Alexander and her father, Leon Alexander, are on active duty with their units participating in America's new war against terrorism in Virginia and helping to keep the peace in Bosnia.

They are serving in different outfits identified by the same number, 229, because the daughter persuaded the father to join the

National Guard if she could also get in. You might say that his daughter made him join in November 2000.

"I'm a Daddy's girl, and I'll admit it," said Djann Alexander with a smile.

She spent about a year trimming down and shaping up to enlist for six years in the 229th Military Police Company in Virginia Beach. Leon, who had previously spent 12 years in the active Army, joined the 229th Engineer Battalion in Fredericksburg for four years.

Now, Djann Alexander, a 19-year-old pri-



The Alexander's

vate, is part of the military police force at Fort Belvoir, Va., where security has been reinforced considerably because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Leon Alexander, a 44-year-old sergeant, is

helping to monitor mine-clearing operations in Bosnia as part of this winter's Multi-National Division North peacekeeping force headed by the Virginia Army Guard's 29th Infantry Division.

See FAMILY on Page 5

IN THE NEWS

HERO

Medal of Honor winner visits troops.



5

THE GAMES

SLEDDING

Female Guardsman slide into history.



11

HELPING OTHERS

Giving life

Florida Guardsman donates a gift of life.



13



COMMENTARY

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.

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Public support keeps the Guard strong

The morning of Sept. 11 started like any other day. It was unusually warm for early fall in Minnesota.

After the first plane hit the World Trade Center, everything changed. When I arrived at the office that morning, my boss was talking to an official at the Pentagon about a visit scheduled for the following day. During their conversation, news of the strike on the Pentagon flashed across CNN. Shocked, my boss told his colleague what he was watching unfold on television. At first he thought my boss was joking, but within minutes the evacuation of his section of the complex had started.

It was a day of tragedy. But it was also a day when citizens of the United States of America came together in a way I have only read about in history books.

Several weeks ago I was downtown in my uniform, late for a meeting. As I was sprinting across the street, the "don't walk" light blinked on. To my horror I realized the bus that was stopped at the light had lurched forward — and I was directly in front of it.

I remember, in a last, desperate effort, throwing the driver my most pleading look. I was shocked when I saw she had not only braked, but had taken one of her hands off the wheel to salute me. Although I was embarrassed to be caught in such a predicament, I was touched by the gesture.

Even before my ordeal with the bus, about three weeks after Sept. 11, I had a similar experience. I had just left the office, again in uniform, when a man at a bus stop approached me with tears in his eyes, just to say "thanks."

These are only a couple examples of what



**Guest
Columnist**

**Anna
Lewicki**
Minnesota
Public Affairs

uniformed service members all over the country, and the world, have started to experience during the last several months.

But turn the clock back 25 years. The war in Vietnam was fresh on everyone's mind. Military men and women walking around in uniform at that time didn't receive quite the same response I did.

During a recent drill weekend this subject came up. I discovered that a friend, recently retired from the National Guard, remembers those post-Vietnam days well.

When he returned from Vietnam and joined the Reserves, people would yell obscenities at him if he was in uniform.

Even into the 1980s, attitudes were bad. Around that time my friend said he was on lunch break from drill with some friends in his unit. It was a hot day, so they left the car window open a crack while they went in to grab a burger. When they got back to the car they discovered people had spit into the car.

But attitudes started improving before Sept. 11. Ever since the Gulf War there has been a more positive feeling towards the military.

That is evidenced by the fact that during my short military career, the worst attitude I can

recall is indifference. But never hostility.

I struggle with this. Not because I am not thankful for the support right now, but because it is a respect I am sure I do not deserve. It was given to me by the sacrifices of people who may have never known what it feels like to have a stranger on the street snap to attention and throw them a salute.

It is important for me to remember that the pro-military attitudes I am feeling now are not meant just for me. They are meant for every uniformed soldier, airman, sailor or Marine who has served, and continues to serve, in the active, guard or reserve component of the military.

Some say this support is just "in style" now, and as the conflict in Afghanistan rages, it will be replaced with cooler feelings. I can't say what the future holds, but I can say that right now, it is a wonderful feeling. This is an opportunity for the Guard to shine, and I would challenge every one of us to use this to our advantage. It is a great time to be in uniform.

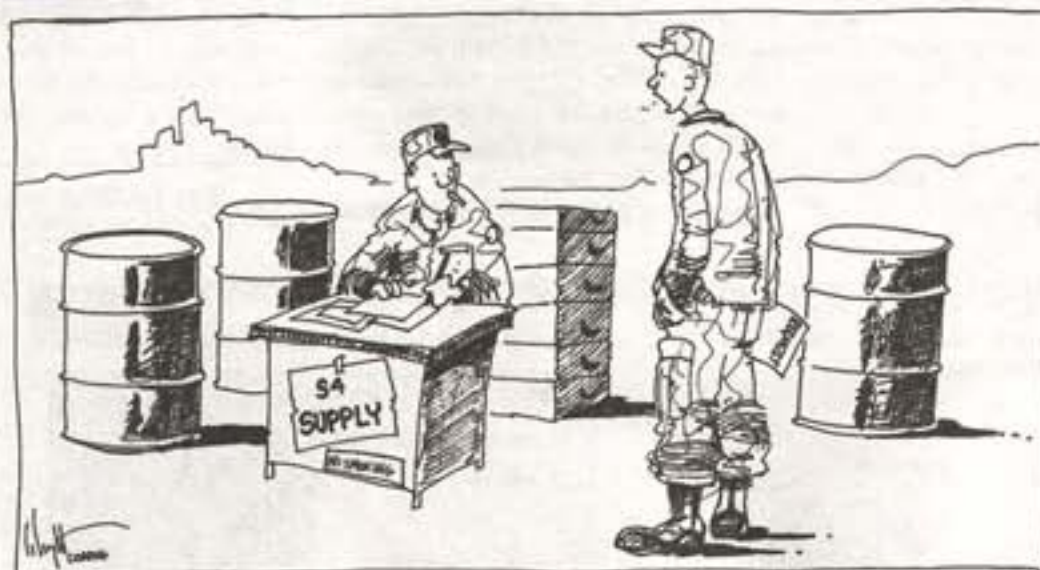
Even my retired friend says we should "enjoy this while we can. It's such a relief from feeling so ill at ease. Back then, you didn't want to go anywhere in uniform," he told me over the telephone.

There were people before us, and among us now, who fought and died without ever receiving a "thanks" from a stranger on the street. For that reason, I straightened up and returned that bus driver's salute — as I dashed for safety — and I told the man at the bus stop that his support is what keeps me going.

(Editor's Note: Senior Airman Anna Lewicki is a member of the Minnesota National Guard and contributor to The On Guard.)

GUARDTOONS

By Sgt. Robert C. Wright, circa 1996
Colorado Army National Guard



WHY IS IT THE ONLY THING YOU BOYS HAVE IN SUPPLY AROUND HERE ARE THE FOUR-THOUSAND REQUEST FORMS I'VE GIVEN YOU?



In the News

Eliminating drug use in the military

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—If you had visited a typical military unit in 1983, about one out of every four service members would have used illegal drugs.

If you had visited the same unit in 1998, about three out of 100 service members admitted to using drugs. Between 1983 and 1998, the fraction of service members admitting to frequent drug use dropped from 23 percent to 2.7 percent. Officials say there are many reasons for the drop.

The Department of Defense is attacking the problem on the two fronts of supply and demand. Education and deterrence are the key aspects of reducing demand for illegal drugs, said Andre Hollis, deputy assistant secretary of defense for counter-narcotics.

Generally, Hollis explained, the services don't take every one to court for illegal drug use, but most members are not allowed to remain on active duty. "That creates, I think, a strong deterrent to violating the rules," he told American Forces Radio and Television Service.

Hollis described educating troops on the dangers and consequences of illegal drug use as the duty of military leaders. "We as leaders must be responsible for the health and welfare of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines," he said.

DoD also works closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration to halt the flow of illegal drugs into the country. Hollis explained that DEA is responsible for identifying sources of drug production; while DoD is responsible for monitoring and detecting drug shipments.

The current war on terrorism has direct bearing on the illegal drug trade as well, in ways that are of particular concern to DoD. Afghanistan is one of the world's leading suppliers of opium — a drug further refined into morphine and heroin.

Drugs that come out of Afghanistan are shipped primarily to Europe, where American service members and American allies can fall victim to drug abuse and associated violent crimes, Hollis said.

"Perhaps more insidious, the pipeline that these narco-traffickers use to ship their drugs and to seal their drugs is also the pipeline that they use for financing terrorism and arms sales, for smuggling illegal aliens, money and for potentially weapons of mass destruction, and for abusing women," Hollis said. "It's a vile pipeline that's used for a variety of evil purposes."

Increased use of the popular club drug commonly called ecstasy is a disturbing trend in the military community as well as among civilians. "Many people fail to realize ... that

ecstasy is a dangerous drug," Hollis said. He cited studies that show even infrequent use can cause serious impairment of cognitive functions.

"That's particularly of concern within the armed forces, where our young people are in charge of and responsible for sophisticated pieces of equipment," he said.

Army Col. Mick Smith agreed. Smith is an expert on drug testing in Hollis' office. "Military people have a dangerous job," he said. "They operate heavy equipment and use complex integrated computer systems."

Smith described a recent Johns Hopkins University study on monkeys given typical doses of ecstasy for a three-day period. "It would be comparable to someone bingeing over a weekend," he said. Tests showed the animals had a significant depletion of nerve cells that produce serotonin — the chemical in the brain that makes us feel good — a year and a half later.

"There's very good evidence that even small amounts of ecstasy can cause permanent brain damage," Smith said during an American Forces Press Service interview.

To combat this rising health concern, DoD is planning to use more sensitive tests to detect ecstasy during routine urine testing. Smith explained that active duty service members must undergo a urine drug test annually. Reserve component members must be tested at least every two years, he said.

The new test for ecstasy will expand the "window of detection," the amount of time after a drug is used that it can still be detected in urine, Smith said. He said all six DoD urine-testing laboratories should be using the new ecstasy test within six months.

During 2000, roughly 1,000 service members tested positive for ecstasy use and were removed from the military, Smith said.

Despite recent concerns over ecstasy use, marijuana remains the most heavily used illegal drug within the military. And marijuana isn't a "safe" drug either, Smith stressed. He cited a Harvard University study that shows chronic users have memory and learning deficits even after they stop using. "It does have some long-term effects on the brain," Smith said.

DoD laboratories test 60,000 urine samples each month, but it would be next to impossible for a mistaken positive result to affect a service member's career. Smith described the steps taken after troops "fill the bottle."

First, individuals initial the label on their own bottles. The bottles are boxed into batches, and the test administrator begins a chain-of-custody document for each batch, Smith explained.

"This is a legal document," Smith said of the chain-of-custody form. "Everybody who has had something to do with that sample

signs it — whether it be the observer who watched the person collect the sample, the person who puts it into the box or the person who takes it out of the box. We have a written record of who those individuals are."

The chain-of-custody requirement continues in the lab as well. People who come in contact with each sample and what exactly they do to the sample are written on the document, Smith said.

Samples then undergo an initial screening. Those that test positive for the presence of drugs at this point undergo the same screen once again. Finally, those that come up positive during two screening tests are put through a much more specific gas chromatography-mass spectrometry test. This test can identify specific substances within the urine samples, he said.

Even if a particular drug is detected, if the level is below a certain threshold, the test result is reported back to the commander as negative. "The system is really built to protect the service member whose sample is coming through the laboratory," Smith said.

DoD laboratories are equipped to test for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, LSD, opiates (including morphine and heroin), barbiturates and PCP. But not all samples are tested for all of these drugs.

"Every sample gets tested for marijuana, cocaine and amphetamines, including ecstasy," Smith said. Tests for other drugs are done at random on different schedules for each lab. "Some laboratories do test every sample for every drug," he added.

Commanders can request samples be tested for steroids. In this case, the samples are sent to the Olympic testing laboratory at the University of California at Los Angeles, Smith explained.

Inevitably, someone will try to "beat the test." But, Smith said, common rumors that make the rounds on military bases won't help you a bit.

He said commonly available substances such as golden seal and lasix are often touted as magical substances that can mask drugs in urine. In fact, they can make it easier to get caught. Smith explained these substances are diuretics, so if they're taken before giving a urine sample they flush chemicals out of the body — right into the collection cup.

Drugs are often more concentrated in the urine after a service member takes one of these substances, Smith said.

And other "sure-fire" solutions are even worse for you. "Some people drink vinegar. I've even heard a few stories of people drinking bleach," Smith said. "I think they were probably worse off after drinking bleach than if they had used drugs."

National Guard names top ESGR representative

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Army National Guard named its top Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve representative during recent 2001 Chief's Strength Maintenance Awards Conference held in Alexandria, Va.

Major Tracy L. Settle, executive director of the South Dakota Committee for ESGR, was recognized as the ESGR representative who has made the greatest single impact developing and improving employer relations with the Army National Guard. Settle is the first recipient of the award, which was created this year.

Settle serves as the state legislative liaison for the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard and as commander of the State Headquarters Detachment. He has served as executive director for the South Dakota ESGR committee since August 2000.

As South Dakota's ESGR executive director, Settle has been active in all aspects of the committee. He developed, planned, and executed more than six major bosslifts at the local, state, and national levels. He developed and presented ESGR briefings to more than 50 civic, government, and military organizations. He worked with deploying units and individuals to ensure that ESGR issues were handled quickly and fairly.

Settle is actively working with the Governor's Bureau of Personnel, the State Association of School Boards, the State Board of Regents, the South Dakota Municipal League, and Chambers of Commerce across the state to provide incentives and benefits to reservists and guardsmen during this period of increased mobilization. He is also working to introduce legislation this year in the state legislature to adopt the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act as the model for the state code governing reservist rights in South Dakota.

According to former South Dakota ESGR Chairman Mac McCracken, Settle's long list of accomplishments made him an obvious candidate for the award. McCracken described Settle as "a tireless advocate of ESGR (who) immerses himself with employees and employers alike in solving problems."

Settle holds a Master of Science Degree from the University of Southern California.

Utah Guardsmen play big role in Olympic security

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY — Army National Guard soldiers, many belonging to Utah units, make up a large part of the U.S. military's expanded Winter Olympic security support force for the Salt Lake City Games in February.

The Department of Defense agreed to provide nearly 4,000 troops to help law enforcement agencies provide security for the international field of athletes and spectators that attended the Games which began on Feb. 8.

About 3,100 will come from the National Guard, stated Col. Frank Grass, chief of the Army Guard's Operations Division in Arlington, Va.

That is more than three times the 1,500 troops slated to support the security force before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, it was recently announced.

"The post Sept. 11 request will increase the total Department of Defense support to approximately 4,900 troops with the majority from the Army National Guard," Grass stated.

The troops will provide aviation, military police, logistics and public affairs support for the event.

Utah and Army Guard officials from many other states, working in conjunction with the Olympics Joint Task Force and the National Guard Bureau, have identified the troops who will be on duty for 35 to 45 days.

They will serve at Olympic venues and activity sites from mid-January until the end of February, Grass said.

Ripley unit serves community

By Master Sgt. Charles Farrow
Minnesota Army National Guard

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. — While the 434th Main Support Battalion, headquartered at Camp Ripley, has the military mission of supporting the 34th "Red Bull" Division, it also provides a wide range of support to the civilian community.

"We provide combat service support to the Division," said Lt. Col. Charles Parins, commander of the battalion. "Food, water, fuel, transportation and medical support — we have a spectrum of jobs from the supply guy to the surgeon."

In fact, the 434th is the largest battalion in the state, with a required strength of 917 soldiers in 54 career fields. The headquarters, Charlie Company, and Alpha Company are located at Camp Ripley. Other companies are located in Duluth, Long Prairie, St. Cloud, Austin and Cottage Grove. About 20 percent of the soldiers in Charlie Company work full time at the camp.

The 434th is recognized as the best out of eight main support battalions in the entire Army National Guard. The National Guard Bureau located in Arlington, Va., determines this ranking after reviewing the quarterly unit status reports from each of the battalions. Special emphasis is placed on unit strength and job qualification.

"Because the battalion performs maintenance on Guard vehicles and provides transportation, tax dollars are saved and soldiers benefit from the training," said Parins.

"We drove 16,000 miles without an accident last year," said Parins.

"You call, we haul" is our motto," said Capt. Rhonda Evenson, battalion intelligence and operations Officer. In Pine City, a tank had broken down and needed to be transported into town to a compound where it could be safely secured. Soldiers were called at home, they responded, and were back at Camp Ripley by midnight," she said.

"In Long Prairie a person with Down Syndrome was missing. The sheriff requested help with the search. It happened to be our drill weekend when we got the call," said Evenson. "We sent 45 soldiers to assist. He was found later in the week and returned to his home."

Evenson said that when the Little Falls library was refurbished, the unit moved all the books and furnishings out and then back



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Walline

Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers transport a "casualty" to a field hospital during Operation Blue Devil.

in after the work was completed.

The battalion has the capability of purifying water, she said. As part of the annual Morrison County Water Festival, "Water teams set up a water purification display and brief high school students on how it works," Evenson said.

During Camp Ripley's Community Appreciation Day, "We set up equipment displays of a wrecker, mobile kitchen trailer, and a fuel tanker," she added.

During the major flooding of 1997 and 2001, the battalion provided much of the needed support. Last April the battalion transported two Armored-Vehicle-Launch Bridge vehicles to Oakport Township north of Moorhead. When rising floodwaters threatened to make the area of 150 homes an island, cast-aluminum 60-foot long bridges were then installed. "It helped save the town," said Evenson.

Most recently, Gov. Jesse Ventura called on the Guard to provide support to the state hospitals during the state employee strike last fall. The Main Support Battalion's medical unit assisted in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area, while other soldiers were called

to Duluth, Austin and central Minnesota.

Spc. Janelle Johnson served at the Brainerd State Hospital where she helped work with the vulnerable adults.

"I was really nervous but I'm so glad I got the opportunity to do it," she said. "It really shows how lucky you are."

Johnson has worked full time for the Guard for the past two years. Currently she works as a supply specialist issuing soldiers their uniforms and equipment. "I always wanted to be in the Armed Forces," she said. "It was a dream of mine. I talked to a recruiter, he explained the benefits, and I joined."

That was almost four years ago. Now, at age 20, she is married and a mother of a 6-month-old daughter. She enlisted during her junior year at Little Falls Community High School, did basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., that summer, then completed her advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, S.C., after graduating.

"I really like it here," she said. "The opportunities and leadership are really great. They're always helping out."

And, so too is the 434th Main Support Battalion ready to help out.

From Page 1

Games

and closing ceremonies, and the Olympic Medals Plaza.

The division of labor has the Utah National Guard and the National Guard Bureau overseeing the troops and other state personnel responsible for the enhanced security. The Joint Task Force-Olympics is coordinating and executing routine support for the Games.

"Security has always been a high priority in

preparing for the Games. The events of Sept. 11 have only strengthened our resolve to do all we can to make the games safe," states a command message from the task force that is based at the Utah National Guard's state headquarters in Draper, south of Salt Lake City.

"Security plans for the Games have been going on for many years. They were good plans before Sept. 11, and they are even better

plans today," the task force added.

National Guard troops will provide support for physical security, aviation, explosive ordnance disposal, logistics and public affairs.

They will begin to arrive in force about two weeks before the Games.

More than 2,000 Guard soldiers, as many as 2,500 are on duty at the Games every day through the closing ceremonies.

Here's why the National Guard is so heavily engaged.

"Due to the laws of this country, active-duty military personnel are not allowed to perform law enforcement activities," Olympic task force officials explained. "Only soldiers under the direction of the state National Guard and the state governor may take part in law enforcement activities."

Medal of Honor recipient visits National Guard in Bosnia

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

TUZLA, Bosnia — People sought out Alfred Rascon everywhere he went in Germany and Bosnia during a recent visit. They wanted to talk to him in Tuzla, to shake his hand, to be photographed with him. They wanted to be near him — if only for a few moments — because he wears the Medal of Honor.

That goes with the territory of being hailed as an American hero, a holder of his country's highest military award. Rascon has learned since former President Bill Clinton placed the medal around his neck nearly two years ago.

Therefore, if people want to meet him, Alfred Rascon has a few things to tell them: about serving their country; about giving something back; about the chance to achieve excellence in the military; about being in the National Guard.

The medal has become the means to his message. Rascon demonstrated many times during the few days he spent with other civic leaders from Maryland who visited National Guard troops serving in Europe this winter.

"The Army taught me discipline, integrity and honesty," he told them. "It gave me the chance to go above and beyond what was expected of me as a kid from Southern California. The military judges people not by their religion or the color of their skin but by the performance of their duties. Military service is what you make of it."

He is 56 years-old and the director of the Selective Service System. He is a captain new to the District of Columbia Army National Guard. Thirty-five years after nearly being killed during the action in Vietnam that earned him the Medal of Honor, Alfred Rascon clearly has people's attention.

"The National Guard gives me the opportunity to continue serving my country and to give something back," added Rascon who was sworn in last July, 17 years after finish-

ing a tour as an Army liaison officer in Panama.

"Being a citizen-soldier is an honorable profession," he insisted in Bosnia. "These National Guard people are leaving behind their livelihoods and their families to serve in the cause of freedom for another country. I want people to understand that. I consider myself an honest broker because I've been there and done that."

Doing that nearly cost Rascon his life while using his body to shield wounded soldiers from grenades and automatic weapons fire during an enemy attack north of Bien Hoa on March 16, 1966. He was administered last rites because he was so badly wounded. President Clinton presented Rascon the Medal of Honor on Feb. 8, 2000.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Rascon as the 10th director of the Selective Service System last May after President George W. Bush nominated him and after he had spent five years as the agency's inspector general.

Rascon oversees the system that registers men 18 to 25 years old for the military draft, should it be reinstated. The system registers an average of 38,000 draft-eligible young men every week.

About 200 full-time employees, including 16 military officers, work at the national headquarters, at a data management center in Palatine, Ill., and at three regional headquarters in Illinois, Georgia and Colorado. Another 450 traditional members of the National Guard and Reserves are assigned to Selective Service posts across the country.

He was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and he moved to California with his parents when he was a young boy.

He laughs at the irony of being told he had to register for the draft in 1967, after getting his parents' permission to join the Army when he was just 17 and after hobbling home from Vietnam. He became an American citizen that year.

Rascon has also held Department of Justice



Army National Guard Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum coined Medal of Honor recipient Alfred Rascon (right) as an honorary member of Stabilization Force 10 in Tuzla, Bosnia, during a recent visit. Blum commands the Multi-National Division North in the American sector.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)

positions with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the International Criminal Police Organization during his 38 years of federal service.

"He is an excellent public speaker and he is a valuable spokesperson to external audiences as well as a motivator for National Guard troops," said one acquaintance of the man who has served in all three Army components.

Rascon served in the Army Reserve from 1966 to 1969 before earning his commission at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1970 and returning to active duty and to South Vietnam for a second tour as a military advisor.

It was during his first tour, however, as an enlisted medic in the 173rd Airborne Brigade that he performed the heroic deeds that initially earned him a Silver Star and ultimately the Medal of Honor.

He saved two wounded soldiers during Operation Silver City. He shielded their bodies for 10 hellish minutes after his reconnaissance platoon was hit by intense enemy fire

while reinforcing a battalion that was also under attack.

Rascon carried ammunition to one machine gunner. He recovered another machine gun so it would not fall into enemy hands and gave it to another soldier who helped drive off the enemy.

Though shot in one hip and bleeding from numerous other wounds, Rascon cared for other soldiers during and after the attack and refused treatment until he was put on a medevac helicopter.

"This man gave everything he had, utterly and selflessly, to protect his platoon mates and the nation he was still not yet a citizen of," praised Clinton as he presented Rascon with this country's 3,427th Medal of Honor.

Rascon is still upholding his adopted country's honor.

"We are the United States of America," he said. "We have always been able to step up to the plate when no one else has stepped up. We're the country other countries want when they need help. And that's the right thing to do."

From Page 1

Family

In another twist of fate, the daughter underwent her basic training and military police training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., this year. The father did his basic training at the same Missouri post in 1978.

"I'm really proud of her because she set a goal for herself, and then she accomplished it," said Leon Alexander at Eagle Base near Tuzla, Bosnia.

"She challenged me to join if she could lose enough weight so she could enlist. She kept after me until I agreed."

"I would have done this anyway, but my father pushed me a lot," said Djann about her decision to join the Guard to help her go to college. "Dad always told me it's a good thing if you can get someone else to pay for your school."

Djann is the third of four children in the family of Leon and Diann Alexander. That

family's life has certainly been changed during the year since father and daughter enlisted to serve for a weekend each month and a couple of weeks each year.

Leon has put on hold his civilian job as a sales representative for a business machine firm in Springfield, Va., to spend a few months in Bosnia.

He helps monitor the local people who are clearing the land of deadly mines, which were put in place during the ethnic warfare in the 1990s.

Djann has taken leave from Old Dominion University in Norfolk where she completed her first year as a nursing student and Army ROTC cadet last May before reporting for basic and military police training in Missouri.

She returned to Virginia on Sept. 21, she explained, and then was ordered to report

for active duty with her unit on Oct. 1. She pulled security duty at National Guard installations in Arlington, Va., before being sent to Fort Belvoir, Va., where she anticipates spending the next year.

"The fact that dad was sent to Bosnia bothered me more than being called up to serve close to home," said Djann who nonetheless likes the idea of her father being back in uniform after leaving the Army in 1990.

"I just liked seeing my daddy go to work in his boots and uniform when I was younger," said Djann who recalled living in Germany twice when her father was a younger soldier. "Everything always seemed to be OK if my dad was in his uniform."

Military life also seems to suit her.

"In high school I was very quiet and timid," Djann explained. "Now I'm more outgoing. The military has taught me to accept change

and about working with a lot of people. Those things are not as stressful for me as they used to be. Besides, I would never have shot a 9 millimeter pistol or an M-16 rifle in nursing school."

"I'm really proud of her independence. She has shown she is willing to grow up and branch out," said the proud father.

Although Djann thought "the military police field would be an interesting challenge," becoming a nurse and a medical officer are among her long-range goals.

For now, though, the challenge of a father and his daughter serving as soldiers is enough for her family to handle, she said.

"We're Christians, and we're a close family," Djann explained.

"We smile to get through difficult times. And we'll get through this."

GUARD CONTENDERS:

Guard members show

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY — Solid rifle shooting during qualifiers gave Army National Guard soldiers Lawton Redman and Jill Krause good reason to believe they can savor the Olympic experience as United States biathletes this month near Salt Lake City, Utah.

Redman, from Vermont, shot all 10 of his targets, and Krause, from Minnesota, hit nine of her 10 during the Utah Winter Games' sprint biathlon that was held on the same Soldier Hollow course where the world's best biathletes will race and shoot during the XIX Winter Olympics.

Redman finished second in the U.S. men's open 10-kilometer race behind Jeremy Teela of Vermont, another Army Guard soldier who is also considered a top contender for an U.S. Olympic berth.

Krause won the women's open 7.5-kilometer event ahead of the Army Guard's Andrea Nahrgang from Minnesota and 1998 Olympian Deborah Nordyke from the New York Air Guard.

It was crunch time on the high desert snow for the biathletes. It was the final race in which Olympic hopefuls could compete, and qualify, before the U.S. trials began on the same open, hilly course four days after Christmas.

"I'm shooting better than ever. This is the first time I've ever cleaned (hit all of the targets) in this format," said Redman who skied the 6.2 miles in 25 minutes, 8.4 seconds. He did not have to ski any of the 150-meter penalty loops that are mandatory for missing targets.

Teela, who skied two penalty loops, nonetheless won the race in 24:41.9.

"Jeremy won because he's such a strong



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Vermont Army National Guard biathlete Jeremy Teela out-skied the field and won the men's open sprint during the Utah Winter Games.

skier," Redman observed. "I just have to repeat this performance in the trials, especially the shooting. Good shooting and good skiing is what it's all about."

"My shooting is good here," said Krause,

who finished the 4.65-mile women's course in 23:45.1. "I still need to work on my skiing, but that will be where it needs to be in a couple of weeks. This has spiked my confidence for the trials," added the 23-year-old woman who got serious about biathlon in 1996.

Twenty-four National Guard biathletes have qualified for the trials, and Art Stegen figures that five or six of them could claim places on the U.S. teams of four men and four women.

Stegen, 55, is the head coach of the All-National Guard team, and his hardy complexion, gray hair and trim physique identify him as a veteran of the winter sport that combines cross-country skiing with rifle marksmanship.

He coached the U.S. team during the 1980 Winter Games at Lake Placid, N.Y. He raced on the U.S. national team for six years, and he coached that team from 1978 to 1981.

Teela and Redman are skiing for the men's national team this winter and are members of the Army's World Class Athlete Program.

Krause and Nahrgang are on the women's national team as is Kristina Sabasteanski from the Vermont Army Guard, another

1998 Olympian who competed in Nagano, Japan. Krause competes for the All-Guard team. Nahrgang and Sabasteanski are Army world class athletes.

All-Guard men Jacob Beste from Minnesota, Jesse Downs from Vermont, and Russian-born Sergei Vinogradov from California are other Olympic contenders as is All-Guard woman Kara Salmela from Minnesota, Stegen said.

"Jill Krause is looking mighty good," added Stegen. "But I think they're all pretty much where they need to be."

Two other former Olympians, Curtis Schreiner from New York and Dan Westover of Vermont, can hardly be counted out, Stegen surmised. Schreiner has earned spots on the last four U.S. teams, and Westover made the '98 team.

Nordyke and Schreiner are married.

"Curtis Schreiner is just a tough competitor. He has a way of rising to the occasion, whatever it may be," Stegen explained.

"Now it's a head game," he added after the Dec. 15 race. "They're testing each other's thought processes. They're feeling each other out before the trials."

Germany, Norway and Russia are consid-



All-Guard biathlon coach Art Stegen: "I think they're all pretty much where they need to be."

mettle in Olympic trials

ered the Olympic biathlon heavyweights, but the U.S. team will have the home course advantage.

The Olympic biathlon course, as well as the cross country skiing course, beside Heber City winds over a series of open, rolling hills at the base of the majestic Wasatch Mountains in oxygen-thin air about a mile above sea level. That puts it near the upper limit allowed for Olympic competition, Stegen said.

"It's extremely difficult," said Redman. "The climbs are short and steep. When you leave the rifle range, you're climbing for two minutes without any rest."

"The altitude can be pretty tough for people who are not adjusted to it," said Sabasteanski. "We're used to it because we've been training here."

And enough people have trained hard enough to make earning a spot on this year's U.S. teams as hard as ever, she added.

"There were seven competitive women who tried out for the team four years ago," Sabasteanski recalled.

"There are seven women this year who can win on any given day."

Jill Krause was one of the National Guard biathletes who felt a lot better about their Olympic aspirations after Dec. 15, proved to be her day.

Krause will be one of two alternates for the women's team, and Vermont Army Guardsman Dan Westover will one of the men's alternates.

The 25-year-old Redman dominated the men's trials during his second year on the national team. He won the 20-kilometer race on Dec. 29, the first day of the trials, and capped off the week by winning the 10-kilometer sprint in 26 minutes, 50.5 seconds after missing just one of 10 targets.

"I had two great races and two mediocre races," said Redman who moved from Vermont to Heber City in the fall of 2000 to train for the Salt Lake City Games.

Making the team was harder than he had expected.

"People who you didn't expect to be strong early in the year came together and did really well in the trials," Redman observed. "No one knew what was going to happen until we raced today. This was a real fight."

Victories in the men's and women's sprints on Dec. 30 helped Teela and Nahrgang lock up their first Olympic team berths. Salmela iced her spot by winning the women's 10-kilometer pursuit race on Jan 2, following a two-day break in the trials.

"I believed last August that I could make the team if I could just hold it together in the trials," Salmela said.

The team members and coaches



Her victory in the Utah Winter Games boosted Minnesota Army National Guard biathlete Jill Krause's confidence going into the U.S. Olympic trials.

will continue to size up the international competitors they will face in February during two World Cup biathlons in Germany this month. Although this is considered the fastest team the U.S. has ever sent to the Olympics, Germany, Norway and Russia are considered the class of that field.

Salmela believes she and her teammates will perform considerably better than in the past, especially before huge home crowds. A reported 14,000, for example, have already paid \$25 and \$50 to watch the pursuit races, the most popular biathlon events.

Teela finished ninth in the 2001 world sprint championships last February in Slovenia.

"I'm much more experienced this year," said Salmela who had been a biathlete for just three years before finishing 56th at Nagano four years ago. "It shouldn't be hard to improve on that."

Living near Soldier Hollow, and staying away from Salt Lake City, during the Games will help keep the biathletes focused, predicted Nahrgang.

"We'd rather have good results," she said, "than the overall Olympic experience."



Lawton Redman turned in a strong performance during the trials, striking all ten targets.

Guardsmen keep peace alive in the Balkans

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

TUZLA, Bosnia — Army National Guard troops from Virginia, Maryland and many others have experienced the war and the peace of America's military commitments since deploying to Bosnia last September for this winter of NATO peacekeeping duty.

They have engaged in the United States' new war against terrorism by helping to break up a suspected suicide terror attack aimed at Eagle Base near Tuzla, the U.S. headquarters, by Muslim extremists believed to be affiliated with Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network.

They assumed command and control of the peacekeeping efforts that are keeping American forces in the Balkans for the seventh straight year, since troops first crossed the Sava River in December 1995.

It was, in short, been a busy autumn for members of the Virginia-based 29th Infantry Division, led by Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum, that deployed its headquarters to Europe for the first time since World War II to command the multinational force in the American sector for six months beginning Oct. 5.

"The peacekeeping mission has not changed, but we have revisited everything involving force protection," said Maj. Drew Sullins, a division spokesman, about the impact in Eastern Europe of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks against New York and Washington. "Things got very busy, very fast."

Twenty-nine civic leaders and four civilian newspapermen got that message loud and clear during a brief visit in November's final week.

Maryland organized the post-Thanksgiving trip because 269 Guard soldiers from that state are part of the 10th Stabilization Force, explained Maj. Gen. James Fretterd, Maryland's adjutant general.

The 29th, nicknamed the "Blue and Gray," is the second National Guard division to command the Multinational Division North in the American sector. The 49th Armored Division from Texas had that job from March to October in 2000. Fretterd believes it is important for National Guard troops to be part of the action.

"It's like being on the Baltimore Ravens or the Orioles. You don't want to sit on the bench," Fretterd observed. "You want to get into the game."

The civic leaders included corporate chief executive officers, state corrections officials, college professors, a clergyman, and Medal of Honor recipient Alfred Rascon, director of the federal Selective Service System. They learned firsthand how the National Guard has become part of the U.S. military's first string.

The Sept. 27 nighttime raid by Task Force Courage at the Visoko Airfield in the French-controlled southeastern sector was a case in point. Infantry troops from the active

Army's 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., and from the Virginia and Texas Guard took down the target, an airport hanger, one week after arriving in Bosnia and eight days before taking charge in the American sector.

The Muslim sympathizers were believed to be planning a chemical or biological attack against U.S. forces in Tuzla, explained Blum. "We went in and got them," he added.

Virginia Guard troops secured the area around the hangar. Texas troops forced their

active Army soldiers.

Four more Guard divisions, based in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Minnesota and New York, are scheduled to command the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia for two-straight years beginning next October after the Army's 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii pulls a six-month rotation.

That means that many more American employers will have to adjust to the temporary loss of workers, such as corrections officers, who are not easily replaced because there is not enough time to train new people



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Civic leaders from the United States visited with Bosnians and Army National Guard troops with the 29th Infantry Division, who are deployed on a peacekeeping rotation in the Balkans.

way in by driving a Bradley Fighting Vehicle through one side of the building. The 10th Mountain soldiers, who specialize in urban warfare, searched the building and seized illegal weapons.

Subsequent operations connected with that raid included the arrest of six Algerian nationals with known ties to bin Laden and al Qaeda, the civic leaders were told. Bosnian authorities extradited five suspects to Algeria. The other, a known associate to one of bin Laden's senior military advisors, were detained in an unspecified location.

"They sent a Bradley right through the wall into the building, and then they took down two armed men," beamed the straightforward Blum about the raid that started the process. "It was a classic case of how well our Guard and active duty troops serve together."

National Guard leaders, including Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, stressed that message so that civilian employers will understand what National Guard troops who work for them actually do when they leave for long tours of duty at home and abroad.

In Bosnia, for example, 4,742 troops from eight countries, including Russia and Turkey, are on duty in the American sector this winter. Of the 2,672 from the United States, 70 percent belong to National Guard units from 18 states and 300 come from the Army Reserve, Blum explained. The rest are

before the Guard soldiers return to their jobs.

About 200 Guard and Reserve members work for the Maryland Division of Corrections, which has 8,000 employees, explained Commissioner William Sondervan. Many of those reservists have been activated for the war against terrorism as well as for duty in Bosnia, he said.

"It's putting a strain on us because we're already short-handed," he added. "We'll pay \$22 million in overtime this year. The call-ups make it a little harder."

The best solution is to pay overtime to corrections officers and support staff for working longer hours rather than hire temporary help, explained Sondervan who is a retired Army military police officer.

Ronald Hutchinson, warden of Maryland's 1,200 inmate maximum security prison in Jessup, has a better idea of what Guard soldiers do after recently visiting a battered village near Tuzla.

"What I saw is not what I expected to see," said Hutchinson of the village chilled by a persistent fall rain. "My inmates live a lot better than some of those people."

That is where people still displaced by the ethnic war nearly a decade ago are living for this winter in shell-damaged buildings and in a complex of 20 new homes built by the Dutch.

Serbs and Muslims lived peacefully together until Serbian forces attacked in May 1992.

Muslim forces counterattacked and drove out the Serbs later in the same month, and Muslims moved onto Serbian land.

The Muslim "Bosniacs" are farming the land for their meager livings until the original Serbian owners return, explained an officer with Finland's highly regarded Civil Military Cooperation staff. That, it is hoped, will persuade the Muslims to return to their homes, but the relocation process is expected to take many more years, the officer explained.

The NATO troops, including Guard soldiers, are making sure that Serb families can move back to their original homes without encountering the wrath of Muslims already there.

Similar situations persist throughout the country, said the Finnish officer.

"I've always supported the Guard," said Hutchinson who has no military background. "Now I'm even more committed to the idea that we have to make it possible for these Guard people to serve their country. It does have a little impact on the prison, but we'll get through it."

Meanwhile, U.S. troops are providing security at a mass grave near Srebrenica where Muslim remains from a 1995 massacre are still being recovered, and they are still uncovering caches of illegal weapons to prevent future bloodshed.

Guard soldiers went after two weapons caches last fall. Members of the 155th Armored Brigade from Mississippi seized one cache that included six surface-to-air missiles, anti-personnel mines, and anti-tank rockets.

Others, from the 29th Division, were airlifted to a wooded hill to look for more weapons. The hill was too heavily mined, however, to be safely searched, so it was covered with explosive charges and blown up.

"Hill 1535 is now Hill 1522," Blum observed.

President George Bush has told the American people that the new war against international terrorism could last for many years. The same can be said about maintaining the peace in the Balkans.

"You have to get the people to charter their own course," explained Blum of the differences that persist among the Muslim, Serbian and Croatian cultures. "That won't happen until someone stands up and says 'I'm a Bosnian.'"

American troops new to the country have to adjust to a different way of life.

The sound of explosions outside of Eagle Base recently prompted a U.S. quick reaction force to charge into the middle of — a Bosnian wedding. The guests were celebrating the nuptials by throwing hand grenades, Blum explained.

One man had too much to drink and blew up his own car, said Blum who has discovered what many other Americans, including the civic leaders from Maryland, have learned since 1995. "It's an interesting place."

New birds



Submitted photo

By Maj. Michael McNamara
Rhode Island Air National Guard

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Christmas came early to the men and women of the 143d Airlift Wing, Rhode Island Air National Guard, when in December, 2001, they became the first unit in the U.S. military to take delivery of new \$68 million dollar C-130J-30 "Hercules" transport aircraft from the manufacturer, Lockheed Martin.

"You're getting a superb aircraft, an extraordinary aircraft," said U.S. Senator Jack Reed, D-RI, during the ceremony. Senator Reed, a member of the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees as well as a former paratrooper with the 82d Airborne Division, was instrumental in procuring the C-130J-30 for the 143rd.

"This is a tremendous Christmas gift you

have given us senator," said Maj. Gen. Reginald Centracchio, the adjutant general of the Rhode Island National Guard. "This aircraft will allow the 143d Airlift Wing to remain a viable force well into the 21st Century."

U.S. Rep. James Langevin, D-R.I., was also present to congratulate the 143d. Langevin, a member of the House's Armed Services Committee, observed that "the C-130J-30 definitely provides service members with the necessary tools to get the job done."

"Welcome to the future," Col. Thomas Haynes, the wing commander, told his troops. "The C-130J-30 is definitely the future of tactical airlift and is a significant improvement over the 143rd's current C-130Es, most of which were produced in the mid- 1960s."

Illinois' 66th Infantry Brigade faces large deployment

By Maj. Tim Franklin
Illinois Army National Guard

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — In a historical deployment, the Illinois National Guard recently saw the 66th Infantry Brigade, which has its headquarters in Decatur, Ill., quickly deploy to undisclosed locations in Europe in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Enduring Freedom refers generally to U.S. military operations associated with the war on terrorism outside the United States.

The 66th Infantry Brigade is one of the maneuver brigades of the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and its headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The 66th Infantry Brigade, with a total personnel strength of about 3,500 soldiers, has units located throughout Illinois.

It is estimated that as many as 1,500 to 1,700 soldiers will be mobilized for this mission.

"This activation would be the largest mobilization of Illinois Army National Guard personnel since the Korean War," said Maj. Gen. David Harris, adjutant general of the Illinois National Guard. "In addition to basic infantry skills, the soldiers are trained in a variety of tasks and I am confident they will handle this mission in an outstanding manner."

The 66th Brigade will be assigned to U.S. Army Europe and it will head up Task Force Santa Fe. The mission of the brigade will be to provide security and force protection throughout the European theater.

The 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized) is being assigned the mission to help defend European installations, in addition to the

Illinois Army National Guard, there will be soldiers from Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Nebraska involved.

However, the 66th Brigade is supplying the largest contingent of the task force. The brigade will provide the task force headquarters, which is the command and control element; several subordinate battalion headquarters; numerous maneuver companies; and other specialized task force personnel, such as chaplains and Judge Advocates General.

Soldiers underwent readiness processing before the holidays and underwent pre-mobilization processing and training prior to deploying to Europe.

This call to active duty is part of the partial mobilization authorized by President George W. Bush following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The 66th Brigade soldiers are initially being mobilized for up to 240 days.

Individuals called to active duty receive the same benefits and entitlements as all members of the active military. In addition, the Guardsmen receive the protection of the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act and Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. These federal laws ensure that all Guard members have re-employment rights after their tour of duty and that other benefits, including a reduced interest rate on loans and mortgages, after their tours.

The Illinois Army National Guard has approximately 10,200 members, and the Illinois Air National Guard has approximately 3,200 members. It is the ninth largest state National Guard in the nation.

"This activation would be the largest mobilization of Illinois Army National Guard personnel since the Korean War."

— Maj. Gen. David Harris

President: Fearless hearts will prevail

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush recently told the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., that he can't tell what course the war against terrorism may take, but he is sure of the outcome.

"I believe in the fearless hearts of the United States military," Bush told the soldiers.

Bush was greeted with chants of "USA" and "Hooahs" and cries of "Air Assault" interrupted his speech.

He said the United States has made a good start in the war of terrorism. He said 27 of 30

Afghan provinces are no longer under Taliban control, and opposition groups, aided by U.S. special operations forces have cut Taliban lines of communications.

"They are on the run," the president said. But much remains to be done.

He told the soldiers the war in Afghanistan is entering its most difficult phase. He said al Qaeda and the Taliban still are in hiding in sophisticated cave complexes located in some of the most mountainous and rugged territory on Earth.

"The complexes are heavily fortified and defended by fanatics who will fight to the death," he said. "Success against these cells may come more slowly."

But, he said, the United States will prevail. "Our enemy hopes to hide until we tire," Bush said. "But we're going to prove them wrong. We will never tire, and we will hunt them down."

Bush said the American military is delivering America's message to countries across the globe. "We fight the terrorist and we fight all of those who give them aid," he said.

"If you harbor terrorists, you are a terrorist. If you train or arm a terrorist, you are a terrorist. If you feed or fund a terrorist, you are a terrorist and you will be held accountable by the United States and our friends."

Bush, who was accompanied by his wife Laura, also thanked military families for their sacrifices.

"Some of you have loved ones that are deployed — or will soon be deployed — far from home in a war against terror and evil," he said. "Our nation and the world are counting on your loved ones."

They are making us secure and they are making us proud."

Bush told the soldiers that Afghanistan is just the beginning of the war against terror.

He said there are other terrorist organizations that threaten America and its allies and there are other nations willing to sponsor these groups.

"We will not be secure as a nation until all these threats are defeated," he said. "Across the world and across the years we will fight these evil ones, and we will win."



Sports

Bobsledders push for the gold



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mouilleseaux



The U.S. Army four-man bobsled team pushes off for its final qualifying run at Park City, Utah. Four-time Olympian Brian Shimer drove the team to a berth on the U.S. Olympic team. The Army team includes National Guard soldiers Mike Kohn from Virginia and brakeman Dan Steele from Oregon and Army Spec. Douglas Sharp, a chiropractic doctor.

**By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mouilleseaux**
National Guard Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY – Relief gave way to resolve for National Guard soldier Michael Kohn and his world-class U.S. Army bobsled teammates as the new Olympic year dawned in Park City, Utah, as memories of Sept. 11 carried over from the year that has passed.

They are relieved because they have qualified for the U.S. Olympic team and earned the distinction as Olympic athletes. Now they are resolved to win an Olympic medal.

Kohn, a citizen-soldier in the Virginia Army Guard, and 1998 Olympian Dan Steele from the Oregon Army Guard make up half of a four-man bobsled team in the XIX Winter Olympics near Salt Lake City.

Utah Army Guard soldier Jill Bakken has also made the U.S. team in the two-woman bobsled, a new Olympic event.

"I feel very relieved. This has been a long journey for me," said Kohn, 29, who has devoted most of the past decade to becoming one of the world's premier bobsled pushers. He has made the U.S. Olympic team for the first time.

"Now I feel like I can take my training to a new level," Kohn added. "I don't have to worry about making the team anymore. It's going to be a matter of winning a medal from this point on."

Kohn, Steele and Army Spec. Doug Sharp, who is a chiropractic doctor, form the three-man push team for veteran civilian driver Brian Shimer who, at 39, has made the U.S. Olympic team for the fifth time.

The Shimer team secured its berth with two solid runs, hitting nearly 90 mph, during the Verizon Champion Series, the U.S. trials, on Dec. 28-29 down the twisting Utah Olympic Park track that drops 341 feet over eight tenths of a mile.

They were considered underdogs because of Shimer's age and his two knee operations and because Steele had signed on as the team's brakeman only about three weeks before the trials.

"Shimer is a great, great driver. I'd love for him to finally get an Olympic medal," said Steele who replaced Shimer's previous brakeman who suffered a back injury.

"We jelled right away. From the very first practice, the three of us had very good timing and our loads were right on the money," assessed Steele of the teamwork critical for pushing and jumping into the cramped, sleek sleds at the start of each run.





News Makers

Top five head to the games

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY – Army National Guard soldiers, including two veterans of the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan, will dominate the United States biathlon team that will compete in the XIX Winter Olympics in February.

Five of the Guard's premier cross country skiers and rifle marksmen – two men and three women – had secured positions on the team when the four-day final trials recently ended at Salt Lake City, Utah. The U.S. will send teams of four men and four women into the Olympic hunt.

Vermont Army Guardsmen Lawton Redman, who won two of the Verizon Championship Series' four races, and Jeremy Teela will be teamed with civilians Jay Hakkinen from Alaska and Dan Campbell from Minnesota on the men's team. Teela is also from Alaska.

Minnesota citizen-soldiers Kara Salmela and Andrea Nahrgang and Kristina Sabasteanski from the Vermont Guard will join civilian Rachel Steer from Alaska, the top-ranked U.S. woman biathlete for the past three years, on the women's team.

Salmela and Sabasteanski are the Guard's Olympic veterans along with Hakkinen, who also competed in Nagano four winters ago.

Redman, Teela, Nahrgang and Sabasteanski are members of the Army's World Class Athlete Program and compete for the U.S. national team. Salmela races for the All-National Guard biathlon team.

This year they will compete on the same Soldier Hollow course outside Heber City where the trials were held and where, local legend has it, U.S. cavalry troops camped in the shadows of the Wasatch Mountains while serving outside Salt Lake City in the late 1850s.

"Representing your country as a soldier and an athlete is twice the honor," said Salmela after the three Guard members representing Vermont and two from Minnesota had earned the distinction as Olympic athletes on the same ground.

Sabasteanski locked up her spot on the final dramatic day, barely beating Minnesota Guard member Jill Krause because of her showing in the sprint, minute on the final day to make the team.

Krause was one of two alternates for the women's team, and Vermont Army Guardsman Dan Westover was one of the men's alternates.

Wax: A key to success ...



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Vermont Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Steve Hall: The right wax in the right conditions will be critical for National Guard troops and U.S. Olympic biathletes to ski their best.

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY – Steve Hall knows a great deal about the part of skiing that does not meet the eye – the wax beneath the skis.

That's why the technical sergeant in the Vermont Air National Guard has been selected to represent the United States during the XIX Winter Olympics near Salt Lake City, Utah in February.

He will be one of three wax technicians for the four men and four women who make the U.S. biathlon team. The technicians' job will involve selecting and applying the right wax to the bottoms of the narrow skis for that team's eight races at the Soldier Hollow venue outside Heber City.

"It means the opportunity to work extremely hard with a lot of people who are trying to propel our team beyond the benchmarks that they've set before," said the deliberate, 32-year-old Hall about this Olympic calling.

The wax technicians will labor in a trailer filled with skis behind the crowds and TV cameras.

However, what they do behind the scenes will have much to do with how well the biathletes perform while skiing and shooting in the limelight of Olympic competi-

tion.

Steve Hall has become a ski waxing expert during the 14 years he has worked for the National Guard Bureau's Sports Office in Jericho, Vt., and as an assistant coach for the All-Guard biathlon team.

"It's come a long way, from putting pine tar and a little candle wax on wooden skis to some of the most high-tech, scientific applications you can do in a highly unscentific environment," Hall said.

In short, it's the art and the science of applying the right kind of wax and just the right amount to make the 1.7-inch wide, carbon-fiber skis glide over the snow with the least amount of resistance.

Hall says he can tell right away if he did his job well, or not.

"It's instant gratification from the athletes when they've had a good performance and their skis have been good," Hall said.

"A lot of people don't understand how hard they work and how much making the Olympic team means to these individuals," he added.

"You feel quite a responsibility to make sure they have everything they can possibly have to do their best."

"For some people, this will be their last Olympics," added Hall who will be participating in his first. "We want to ensure it's their best."

Olympian will have home-field advantage

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell and Doug Ide

National Guard Bureau

PARK CITY, Utah – Every seasoned athlete appreciates the home-court advantage, especially when a championship is on the line. Utah Army National Guard Spc. Jill Bakken is no exception.

Park City, Utah, is where she lives with her mother, Peggy Smith. Park City, Utah, is where she will compete in the championship of her life, the two-woman bobsled, during the XIX Winter Olympics in February.

"We have the home-court advantage, and we need to take advantage of that," said Bakken who will drive one of the United



Bakken

States' two women's sleds during the Salt Lake City games which began on Feb. 8.

Her home court at the Utah Olympic Park is a twisting, steeply banked ribbon of smooth, glare ice that is eight tenths of a mile long and that plunges 341 feet from top to bottom.

The sleek sleds hit speeds of 80 to 90 mph and pull four or five times the force of gravity while careening through the lower turns during the runs that last less than 50 seconds.

Bakken, who competes for the Army's World Class Athlete Program, is one of three Army Guard athletes who have made U.S. bobsled teams. Mike Kohn from Virginia and Dan Steele from Oregon are part of the four-man U.S. Army team piloted by civilian Brian Shimer.

Bakken joined the Utah Guard's 115th Engineer Group headquarters in Draper in March 2000 before becoming an Army world class athlete.

During earlier time trials, Spc. Bakken and Army Spc. Shauna Rohbock rallied from a second-place finish on the first day of the trials to win the women's bobsled competition.

"By the reaction of the two other teams that came down after us, we thought they had won," added Bakken. "I was excited. I haven't been USA I for a few years now."

REPEAT CHAMPS:

Texas high school recaptures Guard rifle title

By Master Sgt. Mark R. Whitson
Arkansas Air National Guard

ATLANTA, Ga. — Junior air rifle shooters numbering 22 high school students and representing five states competed for bragging rights as some of the nation's best young shooters at the 19th Annual National Guard Bureau-sponsored Junior Air Rifle National Championships recently at the Tom Lowe Shooting Grounds-Olympic Complex.

The annual competition was the first year that the matches included both the Sporter and Precision classes. In the past the match was limited to Sporter class only.

Winning first place in the Sporter Team class was the North Mesquite High School Junior ROTC from Mesquite, Texas, with a score of 2093 points. They won the competition for the second consecutive year.

According to Lt. Col. Frederick B. Martin, coach of the North Mesquite team:

"Preparation began at the conclusion of last year's match. We set the goal of winning the state championships in the postal match, and then to come back and repeat as national champions, which we were lucky enough to do this year."

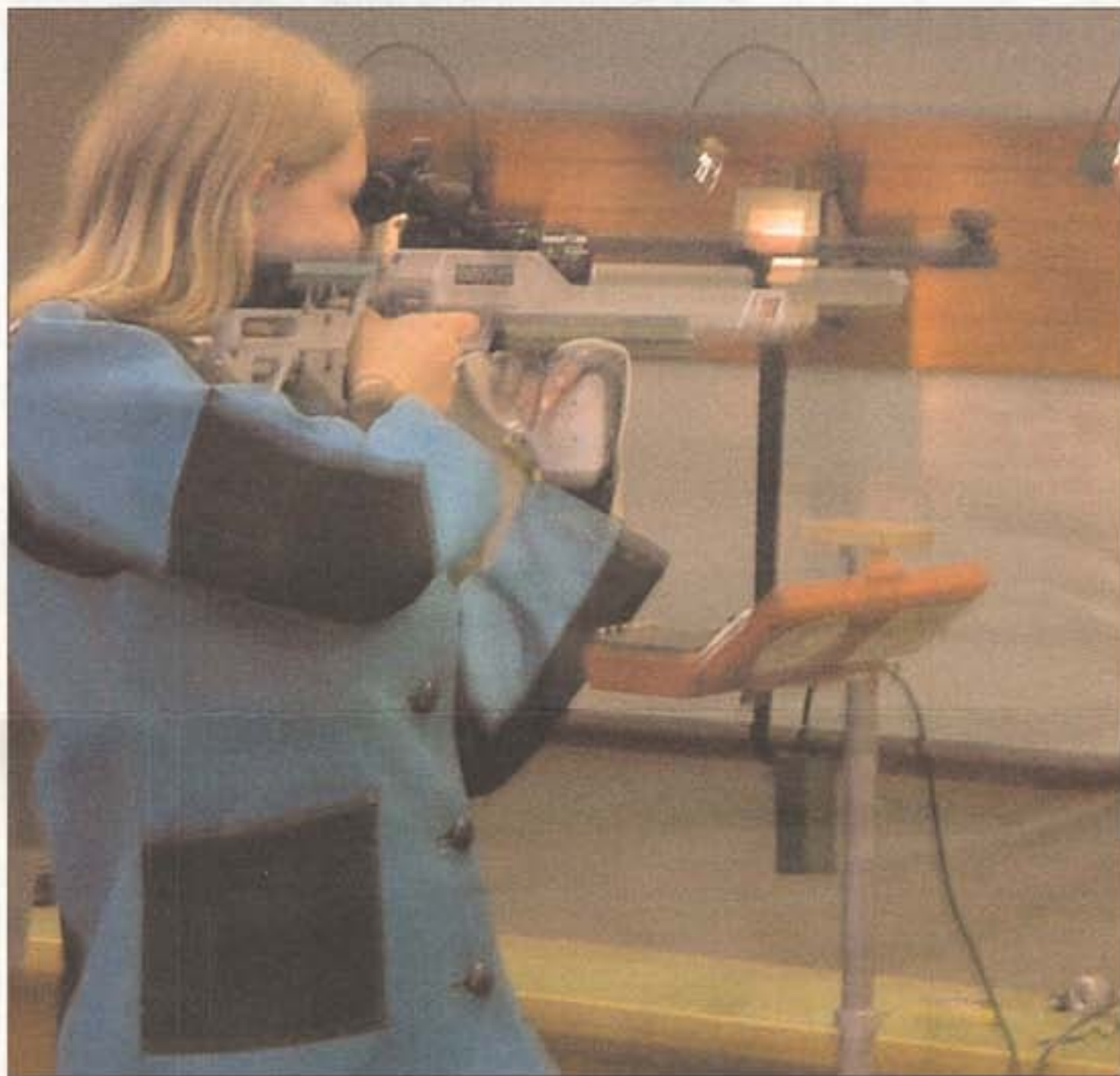
Eivind Flores, North Mesquite's team captain, added, "This year we were seeded second, which was a little different from last year, but we've been mentally prepared for it for quite a long time. This is something that I really wanted (repeating as champions), because otherwise the captain from last year's team would have held it against me."

Second place in Sporter Team competition went to the Winnsboro High School Junior ROTC from Winnsboro, La., with a score of 2022 points. It was also the second-consecutive year for the Winnsboro team to finish second to North Mesquite High School. Winning third place in the Sporter Team class was the Buckingham County High School Junior ROTC from Buckingham, Va., with a team total of 1926 points.

In the Sporter individual class, Brad Reed, a member of the North Mesquite High School JROTC team, had an overall top aggregate score of 1136.2 points to take first place among all competitors. The second place finisher was Joey Stroud of the Winnsboro JROTC team with a score of 1133.3, a difference of less than three points.

Winning first place in the Precision Team class was the Central Florida Rifle and Pistol Club from Orlando, Fla., with a score of 2308 points. Second place in Precision Team competition went to the Ashland Eagles Junior Rifle Club from Ohio, with a score of 2,237 points.

In the Precision individual class, Joseph C. Hall, a member of the Central Florida team, turned in an overall top aggregate score of



Courtesy photo

An air rifle competitor takes aim as the nation's best young shooters competed in the 19th Annual National Guard Bureau-sponsored Junior Air Rifle National Championships recently in Atlanta at the Tom Lowe Shooting Grounds-Olympic Complex.

1269.7 to take first place among all Precision competitors. James W. Hall was the second place finisher and trailed his brother by 21 points with a score of 1248.4.

The third place Sporter individual aggregate winner was Eivind Flores, a member of the North Mesquite team, with a total score of 1119.2. Winning third in the Precision individual was John Dunning III, a member of the Central Florida team, who had an aggregate score of 1246.3 points.

The matches are organized and conducted by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark., which has overall responsibility for small arms training of

all National Guard forces nationwide.

Competitors are between the ages of 14 and 18 and must be sponsored by an Army or Air National Guard unit or an organization, club or school affiliated with the National Guard Junior Marksmanship Program.

The championships are the third and final phase of the tournament. The first phase is the state championship and the second phase is a qualification round based on the top state teams. The top seven teams from each class are then invited to attend the national championships.

Teams participating in the Sporter class this year include: the North Mesquite High

School Junior ROTC Rifle Team from Texas; Winnsboro High School Junior ROTC from Louisiana; Buckingham High School Junior ROTC from Virginia.

Teams participating in the Precision class this year included: the Central Florida Rifle and Pistol Club from Florida; the Ashland Eagles Junior Rifle Club from Ohio.

This year 184 teams consisting of 1,320 individuals from 44 states and territories participated in the program which is intended to provide beginning and developing shooters with an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior shooters.

Guardsmen giving gift of life to help others

By Spc. Thomas Kielbasa

Florida National Guard Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — He may not be Santa Claus, but Tech. Sgt. John Zabrocki recently gave a present far more precious than anything found under a Christmas tree. He gave the gift of life.

The 36-year-old Florida Air National Guardsman from the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron helped a complete stranger — by simply donating bone marrow.

Prior to Christmas, Zabrocki donated about 1,000 cubic centimeters of his bone marrow during a two-and-a-half-hour operation at Georgetown University, knowing only that his extracted marrow would be given to a 19-year-old woman with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia.

"It is so cool to be able to help someone," Zabrocki said. "My dad helped everybody he could before he passed away, and I guess it just got ingrained in me."

Every month more than 100 "givers" like Zabrocki from around the country donate bone marrow through the National Marrow Donor Program, or NMDP. The NMDP registry holds screening information on nearly 3.7 million volunteers willing to give marrow to patients suffering from leukemia or other potentially fatal blood disorders.

"Without a bone marrow donation, the patient has a 30 percent chance of recovering from a standard treatment," Zabrocki said. "However with bone marrow, and depending on the type of leukemia, it raises (the statistic) up to 50 to 65 percent recovery."

Like so many other people, Zabrocki was initially under the false impression that only

"It is so cool to be able to help someone. My dad helped everybody he could before he passed away, and I guessed it just got ingrained in me."

— Tech. Sgt. John Zabrocki

directly related family members could donate bone marrow to people in need. Those assumptions are wrong. As a result, Zabrocki registered for the life-saving program after learning about it through the National Guard.

"I always thought only a family member could donate bone marrow," Zabrocki added. "I thought you could only donate bone marrow to a child or a sibling. And I didn't realize it was a national program."

Despite a strong dislike for needles, Zabrocki endured seemingly countless blood tests before being designated as a perfect match. But, he figured if he could save a life it would all be worth it.

"I'm very phobic of needles, but sometimes you just have to bear down and do something you know is for a good cause," he said. "In the back of my mind I kept thinking, 'Oh God, I have to give blood again.' Once the nurse was laughing at me because I was cringing and I had my eyes shut-tight."

"I'm a big baby with needles," he admitted. "But, aside from the needles and giving the blood, it is something so easy to do. You are literally just lying there saving a life."

During the operation Zabrocki was given general anesthesia, and doctors inserted needles into his hipbone to withdraw the marrow. Afterward Zabrocki said the residual

pain he felt after the procedure was worth it: he was even ready to sign up for his next donation.

"It is just the right thing to do," he laughed. "They said that they would cut me off after three donations, but I will be fighting for the fourth one."

Rules of the program strictly forbid donor and recipient contact for one year after the donation, but Zabrocki will receive periodic updates on the status of the patient.

Florida Air National Guard State Command Chief Master Sgt. Susan Shonka assisted Zabrocki in preparing for the bone marrow donation, and is also a past marrow donor. Her donation five years ago helped save the life of a 2-year-old girl from Pittsburgh who had leukemia.

"I didn't know anyone who had been through the donation process before so it was a little scary at first, but I didn't hesitate," she said. The girl, now a healthy 6-years-old, frequently corresponds and visits with Shonka.

"Just getting on the registry is taking the first step," Shonka said. "Chances are you might never be called, but you do so little, just for the chance to save someone's life. And there's no cost involved."

Shonka, now a recruiter for the NMDP, noted two other Florida National Guard troops were recently contacted by the C.W. Bill Young Donor Center because they



Zabrocki

could be potential matches for marrow recipients.

"They treat you like a hero," she said of the people in the program. "I will never be able to experience the way they made me feel again."

"That is probably the most special thing I have ever done in my life, and nothing will replace that — it is the idea that you are doing everything you can to help a person."

The NMDP always has a need for volunteers and donors. Personnel interested in helping with registration, screening, drawing blood or publicizing a drive should contact the DoD Marrow Donor Center at (800) MARROW-3.

National Guard chief visits major defense facility

Master Sgt. Roger W. Tibbetts

First Air Force Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Chief of the National Guard Bureau Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis visited 1st Air Force and the region's North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, with Air National Guard citizen-airmen working at the air operations center.

Davis, a presidential appointee, is responsible for forming and developing policy, plans and programs for the Army and Air National Guard. He is also the senior National Guard officer, serving as the Army's and Air Force's official channel of communication with state governors and adjutants generals.

The National Guard Bureau chief's visit included senior operations briefings and an up-close look at Operation Noble Eagle and the important role the Guard is playing in the mission's continued success.

"We've got a large number of people involved in NORAD and Homeland defense," said Davis. "A grand total of about 20,000, both Army Guard and Air Guard, who are directly involved in Noble Eagle."

Davis says the Guard is not only actively involved with the NORAD air defense mission, the Guard is busy with the logistics of communications and maintenance of systems used to accomplish the mission.

"On the Army side, we are working many of the nations airport and key facilities security issues," said Davis.

"Most folks who have traveled lately have seen our Guard members out in airports as an armed, visible presence," added Davis. "In addition to that we are guarding a number of priority facilities, biological facilities, chemical and nuclear, as well as some bridges and tunnels."

The manning and supplying of Operation

Noble Eagle are not our only primary concerns at the Guard Bureau, Davis said.

"The Guard has deployed people and equipment to support Enduring Freedom, with about 20,000 Guard members involved in the ongoing mission," he added.

Although his focus is the procurement of funds and equipment for the National Guard and its support of both Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, Davis is concerned for the people who make the job happen for the Guard.

"I'm down here at Tyndall at the invitation of Maj. Gen. Larry Arnold and wanted to come here and see what the people at 1st Air Force were doing, and get a brief update on the mission from their perspective," said Davis. "As well as to meet some of the people and say thanks for a great job they do."

Davis stressed that with an all-volunteer force you can't say thanks enough to people for what they do.



U.S. Army photo by D.J. Montoya
Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief, National Guard Bureau, observes air traffic of the coast of Florida with Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rivera, a tracking technician with the Southeast Air Defense Sector. Davis was at Tyndall Air Force Base touring 1st U.S. Air Force.



States

Texas Guard delivers a delightfully blue (and green) Christmas

By Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Benner
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

AUSTIN, Texas – Eager children peer out of windows and doors, each hoping to catch the first glimpse of "Blue Santa." To their surprise, they are given toys by Blue Santa's green-clad helpers. No, they are not elves exactly, but they are the most reliable and enthusiastic helpers Blue Santa could ever wish for.

Every year camouflage-clad soldiers and airmen from the Texas Army and Air National Guard joyfully help the Austin Police Department bring holiday cheer to families in need. It's "Operation Blue Santa," but with a hint of green.

Operation Blue Santa, a moniker that refers to police officer blue, provides Christmas dinners and gifts for families needing help during the holidays.

Margarine Beaman, a Blue Santa board member and long-time volunteer, said fortunately, the program has kept up with the increasing needs of families.

"We're lucky to have so many volunteers from throughout the community," said Beaman. "Without the Texas National Guard, this could never happen. They take care of our building repairs, pick up the donations and are especially vital to our huge delivery day. Today we accomplished 3,640

deliveries."

Delivery day resembles a military deployment as rows and rows of camouflaged trucks and humvees convoy out from Blue Santa headquarters.

This military delivery force is necessary because only a limited number of police cars, fire trucks, and their crews can be pulled from the streets.

The program's first president, Texas National Guard Sgt. Maj. Benny Aleman, who joined Blue Santa in 1975, beams with pride when talking about the partnership between the National Guard and other community service organizations.

"The Texas National Guard is the backbone of this organization," said Aleman. "Without them, we probably wouldn't be able to have this program."

Aleman said that Blue Santa is blessed with a lot of behind-the-scenes help from service members and their families.

This year, Dana James, wife of Texas Adjutant General Daniel James III, is the organization's president.

"She's been involved for years," said Aleman. "She puts a lot of energy into everything she does."

In some cases, the Blue Santa program literally brings Christmas to those families struggling to live day-to-day. Luxuries such as toys and turkey dinners are not in their

budget.

Sgt. Orvin Lee of Company A, 449th Aviation Support Battalion helped deliver Christmas year after year. He admits to being bitten by the volunteer bug and experiencing immense joy when he's helping others. He said that many soldiers in his aviation unit are also hooked and that they show up in full force every time.

The roar of the diesel engine from Sgt. Lee's truck is enough to excite children half a block away. Some of them run from house to house, hoping to get a peek at what Blue Santa has in store for them when the huge Army "sleigh" arrives at their own front door.

Hearing the camouflage-painted truck coming closer brought the Reyes' family outside for a better look at the action. Anthony, the youngest of three boys, bolted down the sidewalk to watch the soldiers unload boxes for other families.

"Calm down, Anthony, you'll trip and fall," his mother Renee called out. "He can't help himself," she said. "He's so excited. The boys are anxious to open their presents now, but I'm going to make them wait until Christmas Day."

From the first delivery to the last, the National Guard volunteers realize how much their efforts are appreciated.

As he led the way for one of the large mil-

itary trucks, Maj. Gen. James said that he noticed an increased outward showing of support from bystanders and motorists.

"Lots of folks were honking, waving, and saluting as we passed by," said James. "There is an increased sense of American patriotism and pride this Christmas season."

While some families are anticipating the early morning deliveries, others are bewildered when the soldiers bring the large boxes to their doorstep.

"Many of the families are not expecting a delivery of food and gifts because they were secretly nominated by somebody who knew they needed extra help," James added.

Sgt. 1st Class Linda Varda, a combat medic, said she relishes the happiness she brings.

"It reminds me that almost everybody needs a little help," said Varda.

"This is a way for me to share some of the good fortune and blessings that I've received when I've needed help. I truly believe that giving and receiving evolves in cycles."

For example, Robin McCallion and her children have donated to the holiday program in years past. She recently lost her job and as a result, is unable to share as before.

"This is the first year that I've had to sign up for this program," said McCallion. "I never thought I would. I'm so grateful for Blue Santa. It's wonderful for the children who have so little."

Texas Air Guard dominated Air Force One security over U.S. skies



Submitted photo
A Texas Air National Guard F-16 prepares to take off from the 147th Air Wing's base in Houston, Texas. Several fighters flew cover for Air Force One while it made its way back to the Nation's Capital.

By Chief Master Sgt. Bob Anderson
Command Chief, 147th Fighter Wing

HOUSTON, Texas – Afterburners blazed as F-16 "Fighting Falcons" from the 147th Fighter Wing, Texas Air National Guard screamed into the Texas sky on an intercept course. The day was September 11 and the Texans were flying cover for their former unit member – now turned commander in chief.

Two jetliners had already slammed into the World Trade Center. Another was headed to the Pentagon and as the Attorney General would disclose later: "We had reason to believe Air Force One was a target."

Even with all the confusion and initial rumors, this was no exercise. It was not a drill.

One of the pilots, recalls the sight as the combat ready F-16s approached the target. "None of us ever thought we would be sent on this kind of mission," said one pilot with the call-sign of "Spike". "But there it was, right in front of us."

"It" was Air Force One and on-board was a former Texas Air National Guard 147th pilot, former commander in chief of the

Texas National Guard and now-President George W. Bush.

"We had a job to do," said another intercept team pilot called "Rollo." "We did it. We are all glad things went as well as they did."

From their initial contact point somewhere over the Florida panhandle the 147th escorted the president to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. As Air Force One and part of the escort teamed landed and refueled, other fighter wings flew Combat Air Patrol over Shreveport and Bossier City, La.

When refueled, they swapped missions. After the president had spoken to the country, he stepped back onto Air Force One. Soon they were headed to an undisclosed location. Not long after, they landed at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Once there, the Texas Air Guard pilots repeated more refueling and combat air patrols while the president was on the ground. After meeting with top military and civilian advisors and developing a planned response, the President headed back to Washington, D.C., 147th pilots and aircraft continued the escort mission until they approached Andrews Air Force Base where they were assisted by the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Fighter Wing.



History

Air Guard pilots called unsung heroes over Cuba

By Warren Trest

Former senior historian, U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency

For nearly four decades the government denied that guardsmen had flown and fought in support of CIA-backed Cuban exiles attempting to overthrow communist dictator Fidel Castro. Their covert role in the failed invasion became one of the closely held secrets of the Cold War as told in a new book, *Wings of Denial*, which pays tribute to four Alabama Air National Guard heroes who gave their lives at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961.

Donald Dodd, a history professor at Auburn University, and I researched recently declassified documents and interviewed participants to finally tell the story of the Air Guard's covert role in the Bay of Pigs and the book was published to roughly coincide with the invasion's 40th anniversary.

The Alabama Air National Guard got involved in October 1960 when CIA operatives asked for their help in training exiled Cuban pilots to fly B-26 bombers supporting the invasion. As the last remaining Air Force wing to fly B-26s, the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing in Birmingham, Ala., had the expertise that the CIA desperately needed. Wing commander Brig. Gen. George Reid Doster jumped at the opportunity. Doster readily recruited nearly 80 volunteers from the Birmingham and Montgomery areas to deploy to secret bases in Guatemala and Nicaragua to serve as advisors to the Cuban exiles preparing for the invasion.

While training the exiled Cubans to fly, arm, and maintain the B-26s, the Alabama guardsmen regularly flew transport missions and performed operational duties along with the Cuban aircrews. The Alabama Air Guard did its job well. A top CIA official praised the results, reporting on the eve of the invasion that the exile B-26s crews were equal to the best U.S. Air Force squadron.

As the date for the invasion neared, the guardsmen flew with the Cuban exiles to Puerto Cabezas, a jungle-staging base on the Nicaraguan coast to launch pre-invasion strikes to knock out Castro's air force while it was still on the ground. During the early morning hours of April 15, 1961, the same day a 1,500-man invasion force sailed from Puerto Cabezas, pre-invasion air strikes were carried out against Cuban airfields.

But because of a last-minute strategic decision made at the highest levels, a decision was made to reduce the strike force by half and follow-up strikes to destroy Castro's air force were cancelled. Eight of Castro's airplanes, including British-made "Sea Fury" propeller-driven fighters and T-33 jet trainers with fighter capability, survived the



Photo courtesy of Col. Mike Haas, U.S. Air Force-Retired

Fidel Castro looks over the wreckage of a B-26 bomber shot down near his field headquarters on the final day the Bay of Pigs invasion. Alabama Air National Guard pilots Thomas "Pete" Ray and Leo Baker survived the crash, but were later killed by Castro's troops.

attacks on the 15th. These planes were primed and waiting for the invasion forces when they landed on the beaches at the Bay of Pigs before dawn two days later.

Castro's fighters shot down five B-26s and sank two of the invading force's ships on the first day. When the other ships pulled back into international waters, the invaders were stranded on the beachhead without ammunition and supplies. Attempts to re-supply them by air proved futile. The brigade fought valiantly against overwhelming odds, but could not withstand the onslaught of Castro's superior numbers.

The exhausted B-26 pilots had been flying nearly nonstop for 48 hours. They had lost six bombers and twelve brave men to enemy guns. They knew the end was near for their comrades on the ground. They were physically and emotionally drained, but two of the exile pilots insisted on flying attack missions the next morning anyway.

In a desperate attempt to stave off impending defeat, the CIA authorized U.S. pilots to fly B-26s into combat on the 19th. When the call for volunteers went out, seven Alabama guardsmen stepped forward. Six fully loaded B-26s took off in the predawn hours and headed toward the hotly contested skies over the beachheads at the Bay of Pigs.

The lead formation was commanded by Billy "Dodo" Godwin, a major in the Air Guard, and Gonzalo Herrera, a fearless Cuban pilot known as "El Tigre" by his compatriots. The other Alabama Guard pilots

were Joseph L. Shannon, Riley Shamburger, and Thomas Willard "Pete" Ray. Crew members from Alabama included Leo Francis Baker, Wade Gray, Carl "Nick" Sudano, and James Vaughn, a CIA employee.

When the unescorted bombers arrived over the Bay of Pigs at sunrise, Castro's fighters were waiting for them. The two lead bombers sustained hits but delivered their ordnance and were returning to Puerto Cabezas when the other bombers arrived in the target area. Two of the B-26s came under attack as they approached the beachhead. Joe Shannon was able to outmaneuver the T-33s but his wingman Riley Shamburger was hit. Shamburger and his observer Wade Gray went down with their plane.

Further inland, a Cuban fighter brought down Pete Ray's bomber as he pressed the attack against heavily defended targets. Ray and Baker walked away from the crash only shortly later to be killed by Cuban soldiers. A few hours later the beachhead collapsed and the invaders surrendered to Castro's army. The Cuban dictator held 1,189 prisoners until December 1963 when he ransomed them to the United States for \$53 million worth of food and drugs.

Since the U.S. government denied its role at the Bay of Pigs, the Alabama guardsmen were sworn to secrecy. Honoring that commitment, they found that the hardest part was being unable to tell the families of the men who were killed what had happened to their

loved ones.

In a bizarre twist to the story, Pete Ray's family learned in 1978 that for 17 years his body had been refrigerated in Cuba on Castro's orders. The Castro regime preserved the slain guardsman's body as a propaganda trophy and as evidence of "Yankee aggression."

At the family's urging, the CIA arranged to have Ray's body returned to Birmingham for burial in December 1979. The agency privately presented the family with a medal to Ray for his heroic act, but still publicly denied that he was serving his country at the Bay of Pigs.

Twenty years later, at the close of the century, the deeds of the four Alabama guardsmen who died at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 were finally made public and their names memorialized at the CIA's Wall of Honor in Langley, Virginia. In January 2001, the CIA honored the other guardsmen who flew into battle on the last day of the invasion in a special ceremony at the 117th Wing headquarters in Birmingham.

The Air National Guard citizen-airmen can now talk about their experiences. *Wings of Denial* tells their story in the larger context of Cold War confrontation and tragic mistakes made by decision-makers. I believe the book, and other recently published documentation, tells of these citizens-soldiers' stories with clarity, conviction, and compassion.



TRAINING

Space Command and Army Guard move toward union

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The union between U.S. Army Space Command and the Army National Guard took a solid step forward this month. With that step, the Colorado Army National Guard continues in the forefront.

Fourteen soldiers from the 193d Space Battalion recently mobilized to active duty at Fort Carson. They join nine other soldiers from the battalion who came onto active duty with U.S. Army Space Command in November.

These activations are the latest in a progression of events unfolding in the relationship between U.S. Army Space Command and the Colorado Army National Guard. Soldiers from the 193d Space Battalion began weekend training with the Command this last summer and, in September, the battalion formally organized as part of U.S. Army Space Command.

These are all indicators that the National Guard recognizes the importance of the space mission to the Army, said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard during a visit to U.S. Army Space Command.

"I have no doubt there's space in the Army's future," he said. "There's a mission here. Think about that. We (Army National Guard) are here in the Army's future. For us it's really exciting. This for us is new and it's emerging and we're excited to be a part of it."

Two days before the latest mobilization, Schultz met with members of the 193d as they trained and prepared for active duty. Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, adjutant general of Colorado and Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Crowder, commander, Colorado Army National Guard joined Schultz on the visit.

They were briefed on current operations within the Command. Soldiers from the 193d joined others from the 1st Space Battalion in demonstrating some of the space capabilities that his soldiers bring to the Command through Army Space Support Teams and other missions in managing satellite communications.

"You know, this is a team that works here," he said. "Guard soldiers, traditional members come off the street from the business community across this country volunteering to help us out in time of need."

"That means in some cases (working) shoulder-to-shoulder with our active counterparts, assuming the responsibility for leadership in ways that we perhaps have not traditionally thought of — I'm talking about Space."

The National Guard leaders also discussed with Space Command officials the potential role of the Army National Guard in the Space mission — how the 193d needs to evolve.

"Space has not been on our forefront for pri-



Photo by D.J. Montoya, U.S. Army
Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director for the Army National Guard, talks with Colorado Army National Guard Sgt. James Dunlap, (center) about his recent training with the U.S. Army Space Support Team during a recent visit to the U.S. Army Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo.

orities in our past, even recent past," Schultz said. "We've talked about it some, but never really put units against those requirements and today we're developing those — I mean the unit, the design, the structure, the formation; we're developing those right now to put together in a unit."

"It's not just sending the Guard into space missions because it sounds good. (We're asking) what does Space (Command) begin to require in terms of units, in terms of skills, in terms of capabilities?"

Part of the challenge, Schultz said, is that the space mission is evolving. There is a general lack of awareness about how space-based products can help warfighting commanders, Schultz said.

"I had a sense there was potential here in terms of a mission opportunity," he said. "But I've also learned a new appreciation for what goes on in terms of the product, the outcome — an enhanced field commander's warfighter sense of how these [Space] prod-

ucts might place. This is the value-added piece. The key for us now is to communicate [this] to commanders."

As the future Space mission evolves, Schultz said he wants to ensure that the Guard development is in synchronization with the need.

"We are going to create and design [this unit] in concert with Army Space and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command requirements," he added.

The case in point came in the enthusiasm shown by the 14 Guard members activated onto active duty. They recently began their week-long mobilization-training schedule beginning at Fort Carson with briefings and equipment issues. Then, the soldiers reported for duty at Army Space Command.

"This mobilization is different than the regular monthly training we have received at Army Space Command," said Lt. Col. Michael Yowell, 193d commander and one of the 14 members mobilized.

"Instead of a two-day intense session, we will be training and doing real missions daily just like being back on active duty."

It will take about six weeks to fully train the soldiers on their missions, Yowell said. "This will bring us up to par with our active duty counterparts in the 1st Space Battalion, using the same certification process that they use for their Army Space Support Teams."

Once trained, the soldiers will join the other nine in working in the Space-based Blue Force Tracking Mission Management Center and the U.S. Army Space Command operations center.

"As a citizen-soldier, I am naturally giving up a lot on the civilian side to do this," said Capt. Jason M. Held, an engineer for Ball Aerospace working on the Hubble Telescope said. "It's because our country's need is so great right now."