

# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXXI, 06 NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD July-August 2002

## Hanging up the uniform, not the commitment



By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Retiring, it seems, is a fulltime job. Just ask Lt. Gen. Russell Davis who is so busy preparing to retire as the 24th chief of the National Guard Bureau that it is hard to believe he's actually going to leave. He is not resting on his oars.

Take the last weekend of June for example. Davis was honored by the Army National

Guard on Friday

afternoon at the Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. He became the first National Guard general to be inducted into the Reserve Officers Association's Minuteman Hall of Fame on Saturday

night in Philadelphia. He left on Sunday night for the Sinai to thank the Army Guard troops from Arkansas who are on duty in that buffer zone between Israel and Egypt.

The Air National Guard general, meanwhile, is promising people at every stop that while he may soon hang up his uniform he will not retire from his commitment to support members of the Army and Air Guard and the five other reserve components.

"I will be leaving the job and the uniform, but I will not be leaving my commitment and dedication to our service," he said.

"I am traveling around the world to thank the people who have made our missions happen," Davis told his Army Guard audience that filled the readiness center's expansive meeting room on June 21. "That's why I'm here today; to tell you how much I appreciate

all that you do."

Lieutenant General Roger Schultz, the Army Guard's director, praised Davis as a leader who has always taken the time to talk to the troops during his four years as the Guard Bureau's chief.

"He's not a drive-by chief," said Schultz. "He stops and talks to everyone."

"Our most important service is doing something for others that they cannot do for them-

selves. It's about taking care of people. If we ever forget that, we're in deep trouble," Davis said.

"The National Guard is as ready now as we've ever been. We're contributing more than we've ever contributed before."

*"The National Guard is as ready now as we've ever been. We're contributing more than we've ever contributed before. And it's all because of people like you."*

— Lt. Gen. Russell Davis

And it's all because

of people like you," added Davis about how Guard troops have been prepared to answer their calls to duty at home and around the world long before and ever since the terrorist attacks of last Sept. 11.

There will be many more talks and tributes this summer before Lt. Gen. Russell Davis ends his 44-year military career, including 37 years in the Air National Guard.

He will, for example, return to the Army Guard Readiness Center for an all-states awards ceremony. The Air Force will honor him with a retirement ceremony and pass and review at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. His National Guard Bureau retirement dinner will be held one

See CHIEF On Page 5

LET'S ROLL ... Lt. Gen. Russell Davis prepares to take his final flight aboard an F-16 Fighting Falcon. During his 44 years of service, he has seen just about everything in the National Guard and what it can accomplish when necessary. From surveying the horrific damage on ground zero following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 to the mountains of Korea, he has traveled far and wide in order to remain in close contact with the troops in the field.

### IN THE NEWS

#### Pioneer

Pilot breaks new ground for South Carolina.



3

### PUBLIC TRUST

#### Connected

Illinois Guard shares abilities with the public.



14

### TRAINING

#### Counterdrug

Maine Engineers train, assist in war on drugs.



6





# 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.

## Submissions

E-mail your stories to us by the 20th of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (200 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

Editor.OnGuard@ngb.af.mil

## Address

NGB-PAI-C  
Suite 11200  
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington VA 22202-3259

## Phone/Fax

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

## Web Site

www.ngb.dtic.mil/

## Staff

**CHIEF,**  
National Guard Bureau  
Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis

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

**CHIEF,**  
NGB-Public Affairs  
Command Information  
Maj. Lee Packnett

**EDITOR**  
Staff Sgt. Gary Hicks

**SENIOR CORRESPONDENT**  
Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

**STAFF WRITER**  
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking

# It's about pride, not race

Dear Editor:

Here's a response for the person in Missouri and anyone else that wonders why we are the "Tacos." I had to write this response when I was in the unit's Social Actions sections because someone from the U.S. Air Force thought it was a racial slur! People who are offended don't understand the history of the New Mexico Air National Guard - it's something we are proud of.

Why are we known as the "Enchilada Air Force," home of the "Tacos?" There are many stories - the most documented occurred when the unit was six or seven years old.

In summer 1953, the unit was participating in annual training with Wyoming and Colorado. New Mexico's P-51 "Mustang" fighters were severely beating the other two units in air-to-air gunnery. Everywhere we went the unit served green chili and fabulous enchilada dinners. One morning members woke up to a big sign the Colorado Air National Guard made stating "Enchilada Air Force (188th) waxed 'em again!" From that day on, the moniker "Enchilada Air Force" stuck.

The Enchilada Air Force is representative of a first-class unit known around the globe.

It represents a history of top-notch fliers as well as the enchilada dinners we have served to people during our deployments.

In 1957, the unit was redesignated and federally recognized as the 150th Tactical Fighter Group. In January 1968, the group was activated as a result of the Pueblo Crisis, and in June of that year the Group's 188th Tactical Fighter Squadron and about 250 maintenance and support personnel were deployed to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. The remaining Group airmen were assigned to various bases in South Korea.

The Enchilada Air Force was proud to be one of only four Air National Guard units to be called upon to serve in Vietnam. Upon arrival the unit was assigned the call sign "Squid." No one liked the call sign so the unit wanted to change it to "Enchilada." They already had a 15-year-history known as the Enchilada Air Force.

A C-41 courier aircraft was already using the call sign "Enchilada" so they had to think of something else. The commanders met and tried to find a word indicative of New Mexico that would go along with the Enchilada Air Force. They came up with "Taco".

When the call sign was cleared with the Air Force commander in Vietnam, the response

was "Great!" At the time the 188th Tactical Fighter Squadron was assigned under what is now the 31st Fighter Wing. The unit (currently 150th Fighter Wing) has used the call sign "Taco", since its service in Vietnam in 1968, for more than 30 years.

The unit flew over 6,000 combat sorties in the F-100 "Super Sabre" jet fighters and amassed more than 630 medals and decorations before release from federal active duty in June 1969. The unit also received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with a bronze "V" for valor.

The New Mexico Air National Guard has undergone several aircraft conversions throughout its history including the F-80, F-100, A-7D, and F-16C. Major accomplishments of the unit include being the first Air National Guard unit to receive the F-100 and A-7 fighter aircraft; first Air Guard unit to receive low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night equipped F-16C fighter aircraft; first Air Guard unit to be assigned to the prestigious Rapid Deployment Force, now known as the U.S. Central Command; first Air Guard unit to receive the Low Altitude Night Attack modification to the A-7D aircraft.

The Group received the Spaatz Trophy in 1956, Winston P. Wilson Trophy in 1980, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 1989 and 1995, Top A-7 Team at Gunsmoke in 1989 and 1991, Distinguished Flying Unit Award in 1991, and Outstanding ANG Unit in 1991. In 1993, the "Tacos" came in third place for fighter teams in the F-16 at Gunsmoke after flying it for less than a year. The unit also qualified to compete in the F-16 at Gunsmoke 95.

The enchilada dinners and the "Taco" flavor of the New Mexico Air National Guard have become celebrated by our deployments to Denmark, Singapore, Australia, Bosnia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

We and our proud heritage and Southwestern U.S. lifestyle have become renowned around the world.

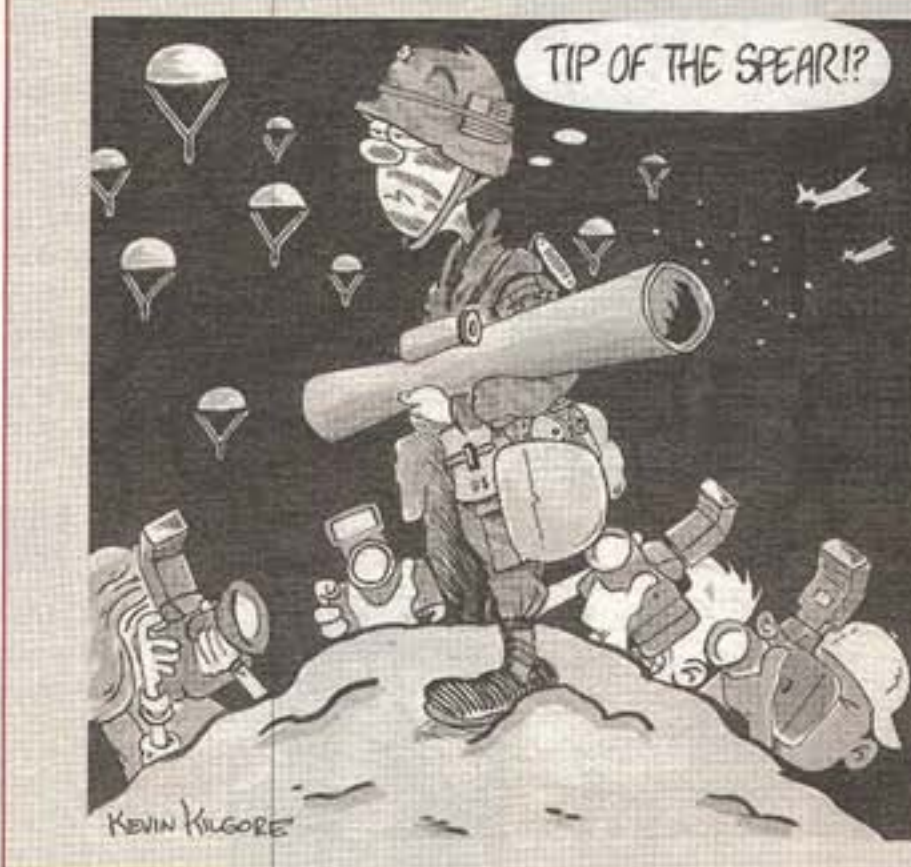
To be known as a truly unique, first-class flying unit and by our fitting nicknames, the "flavor" of this wonderfully hospitable family is accurately described.

The "Tacos" have the proud distinction of being ambassadors for both America and New Mexico throughout the world.

Maj. Kimberly M. Lalley, New Mexico National Guard Public Affairs Officer

(Editor's comment: Many battles have been won on pride and prestige alone. It's good to see those two attributes so prominently on display.)

## GUARDTOONS







## In the News

# Aviator breaks new ground for SC Guard again



Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip H. Jones, South Carolina Public Affairs  
Capt. Stephanie Batten of Camden, S.C., an aeromedical physician's assistant in the South Carolina Army National Guard, stands next to a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Batten, a former National Guard pilot, has flown both the UH-1 Huey and Blackhawk helicopters.

By Sgt. First Class Danny Brazell  
S.C. Army National Guard Public Affairs

CAMDEN, S.C. - When South Carolina Army National Guard Capt. Stephanie Batten of Camden, S.C., decided to reach for the stars, she got a little closer to them than most of us. It started in 1989 when Batten became the South Carolina Army National Guard's first female helicopter pilot.

It was not about being the first female helicopter pilot that thrilled Batten. It was flying. "Flying was a passion," she said, "something I knew early in my career I just had to do."

Batten entered the South Carolina Army National Guard in 1986 as a combat medic with the 659th Air Ambulance Detachment. It was on her first helicopter flight, with that unit, that she realized she wanted to fly.

"I took that first flight and I said to myself, I'm going to learn to fly. I'm going to go to flight school," said Batten.

Perhaps the feeling was instinctive. Batten's father, Ed Baxley, was the former South Carolina National Guard Chief of Staff and a National Guard helicopter pilot as well.

It was not long before she was off to officer candidate training at Fort Benning, Ga. and then flight school training in 1988 at Fort Rucker, Ala. (where she attended school with her future husband, Andrew Batten, also a National Guard helicopter pilot). She hardly had her ceremonial pilot wings pinned on her uniform before she was flying a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter. She flew in medical airlifts over South Carolina after Hurricane Hugo (1989) roughed up the South Carolina coast.

Her passion for flying turned to disappointment, when six years later, her air ambulance unit (now designated the 1259th Medical Detachment) was deactivated by the Army. Batten entered unemployed helicopter pilot ranks.

"It was a terrible loss for the state," said Batten. "That unit was one that could benefit all of South Carolina at anytime."

Military downsizing left few options for the National Guard veteran of 16 years. Helicopter pilot slots were few and difficult to find in the National Guard, even for a seasoned veteran.

Batten had another profession she could use to stay connected with flying. She is a physician assistant in civilian life. Physician's assistants can conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses and they have some autonomy in making medical decisions while under the supervision of a doctor.

In the fall of 2001, Batten decided to attend the U.S. Army Flight Surgeon Course at Fort Rucker. Another challenge for her, another first for the South Carolina Army National Guard, since the state had never sent a physician's assistant to the course.

She finished the six-week course as the Distinguished Honor Graduate, top in a class of 40 people, becoming the first National

Guard member and the first physician's assistant to receive the award.

"It's good representation for our state," said Batten. "Being able to represent my profession in that way was a real honor. I didn't expect any honors, I just went there to learn."

It was not Batten's first time at the top, in the medical field. Batten finished at the top of the combat medic course she attended when she first joined the National Guard as an enlisted soldier, leaving the course as an honor graduate.

The flight surgeon course teaches Army medical providers the ins and outs of aviation medicine. Aviators must undergo stricter medical requirements because of the nature of their job. Attending the class meant Batten, who is now a member of the Darlington-based Company C, 163rd Support Battalion could maintain a vicarious relationship with her beloved helicopters.

"The flight surgeon's course was a way of staying connected to aviation," said Batten. "I also wanted to have a part in helping to maintain the health and readiness of our aviators."

Batten had to overcome another hurdle before she could realize her dream to once again work with helicopters and their crews: There are no aeromedical physician assistant positions in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Company C leaders came to her aid, though. In a somewhat unusual arrangement, Batten is allowed to leave her unit to spend one weekend every three months to serve as an aeromedical physician's assistant with units of the South Carolina National Guard's 51st Aviation Group based at McEntire Air National Guard Base in Eastover. The arrangement allows the Guard to have an aeromedical physician's assistant available for the flight crews and it allows Batten to maintain her relationship with the aviation side of the Army.

"Aviators have much stricter medical parameters than do average soldiers," said Batten. "They more frequently have to have their vision and hearing checked, and they have to have yearly physicals. If they are on certain medications, they have to be followed closely."

Who would know that better than a former pilot?

"I am here totally as a medical physician's assistant," she said. "I would never tell a pilot, 'Hey, you missed your heading.' I'm just not that type of person."

Batten said that her background helps her to more readily identify health concerns of aviators.

"Having been a pilot helps me to realize the rigors, the stresses involved in flying," she added. "Because I know the maneuvers they must do, I have better insight into what they need to do to return to aviator's duty if they have a problem."

Batten, the mother of a 4-year-old, said she still feels the urge to sit in the pilot's seat.



# Holy promotion:

## Air Guard Chaplain named monsignor

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Pope John Paul II has recognized a National Guard chaplain who has devoted more than two decades to helping Air Guard men and women find inner peace about the prospects of going to war.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Charbonneau, a Catholic priest for nearly 30 years, was given the honorific title of "monsignor" in recognition of his extraordinary work and accomplishments, he was recently informed by the Archdiocese of Military Services.

Charbonneau, 53, is deputy chief of the Air National Guard's Chaplain Services Division at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va. He is the first Air Guard chaplain at the Guard Bureau to be named a monsignor.

That lifetime appointment, which is effective immediately, elevates the Connecticut Air Guard chaplain above the rank and file clergy and goes with the title "Chaplain to His Holiness," Charbonneau explained.

It will not, he added, alter his military duties. Nor does it mean he will be summoned to Rome. He will continue to guide and support the 56 Catholic chaplains who minister to Air Guard units across the country and to counsel all who seek him out at the Guard Bureau. He will also continue his efforts of the past five years to entice Roman Catholic priests to become Air Guard chaplains, he explained.

"Twenty-two percent of our Air Guard chaplains are Catholic priests, but 29 percent of our force is Catholic," Charbonneau said. "Our goal is increase the number of Catholic chaplains to about 30 percent."

He will also continue to celebrate Mass on Sunday mornings at the Reagan National Airport near Washington, D.C., as he has been doing for several years since joining the Guard Bureau's staff in July 1996.

"I never saw it coming. I was totally blown away," said the down-to-earth Charbonneau about his designation as a monsignor. "I have always felt it is important to do your best by consistently maintaining the ministry and not look for recognition."

That recognition is indeed significant, other priests explained, and it gives him a higher standing in the Catholic clergy's pecking order.

Monsignor, in the spiritual order corresponds to the word officer in the military, states The Catholic Encyclopedia about the title that dates back to the 14th century.

"I never thought I'd be considered," said Charbonneau who is the first Catholic priest from the Air Guard to be assigned to the National Guard Bureau. Charbonneau's main concern, however, remains with the Air Guard people who must come to terms with the idea of doing harm to others when they

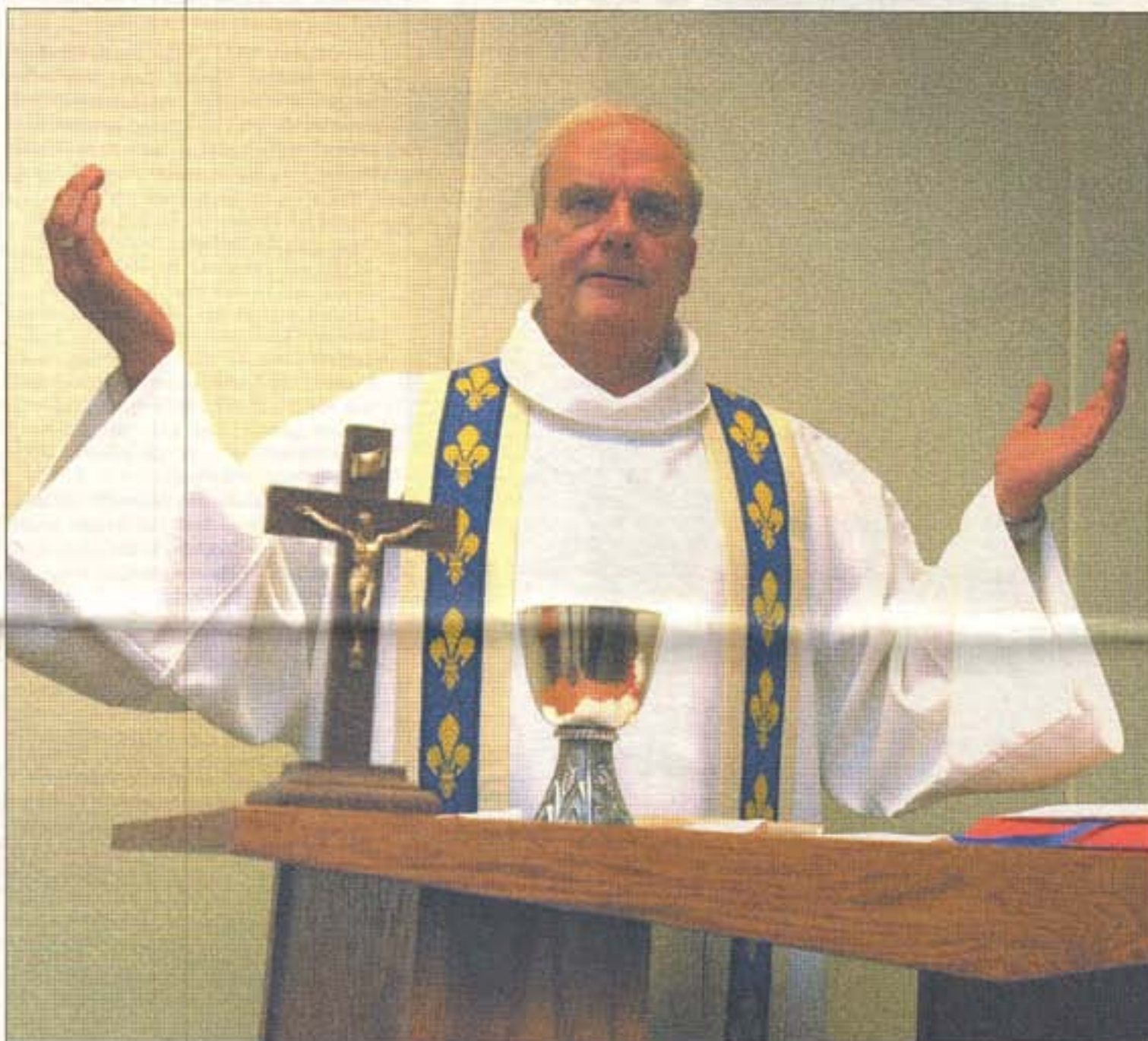


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Charbonneau, the first Air National Guard Catholic chaplain serving at the National Guard Bureau, has been named a monsignor. He has been a priest since 1973.**

are sent to war and with the unit chaplains who must help those men and women resolve their moral conflicts.

"The satisfaction I get from being a military chaplain is to prepare people to go to war if our country needs them and to help other chaplains be ready to go to war with their units," he said. "It doesn't get any more rewarding than to be there with them."

Charbonneau paid his own dues at the unit and state levels after being ordained as a priest in 1973.

He served with an Air Force Reserve wing at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts for 16 months after receiving his commission in November 1979, and he was senior chaplain for the Connecticut Air Guard from

March 1981 until joining the Guard Bureau staff in 1996. He served on the Air National Guard's Chaplain Advisory Group from 1994 through 1996.

He was also principal and president of his alma mater, East Catholic High School in Manchester, Conn., for 15 years before accepting the full-time position at the Guard Bureau.

He is regarded as a man who reasons rather than a priest who preaches by those who have asked for his help in resolving their conflicts about serving their God as good Christians while serving their country as good airmen and soldiers.

Charbonneau indicated he has counseled many people about those conflicts as the

National Guard has taken an active role in the war against terrorism at home and abroad since last Sept. 11.

"We all know that this is the military duty we signed up to do for our country, even if we hoped and prayed as Christians that it would never happen. We have to believe that, somehow, God will get us through," observed Lt. Col. Bill Charbonneau, who can now be called "monsignor" because of his new standing in the Catholic church but who will always answer to "chaplain" because of what he does for the National Guard.

(Editor's note: Chaplain (Col.) Donald Hill is a priest who is the chief of chaplains for the Army National Guard.)



# I do solemnly ...

Irma Ugrincic, a Bosnian immigrant, takes the Oath of Enlistment, joining the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157th Air Refueling Wing as a laboratory technician. Ugrincic, a ballerina, left Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, with her husband, Predrag Jovanovic, a police officer, in 1997.



## Immigrants serve their new country

By Michelle Firmbach

(Courtesy of the Portsmouth Herald)

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. - They met over a handful of dates - the only food they could find. It was a quiet day. There was no shooting. It wasn't long before they fell in love, married and fled their home country.

When these two Bosnian refugees ran from war's aftermath, they never thought they would end up in the New Hampshire National Guard.

Irma Ugrincic arrived in New York City five years ago, carrying two suitcases and \$32 in her pocket. Ugrincic, a ballerina, left Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, with her husband, Predrag Jovanovic, a police officer, in 1997.

They had no friends, no relatives and could speak barely any English when they arrived. They wanted a normal life - a job, a car, basic freedoms.

"Unfortunately, in our country that was not possible because of all the destruction and war," Ugrincic said.

But that is what they found here. They lived in Chicago for a while. Ugrincic got a job making flight reservations for

*"After four years of being at war, you just want to get away from that. But I realized it's not like you see in the movies; in the Guard it's just a big family. People really care about each other." - Ugrincic*

American Transit Air. Jovanovic volunteered for the Salvation Army.

About a year later, they settled in New Hampshire. Ugrincic joined a Nashua-based ballet company. Jovanovic found a job working as an engineer in Manchester.

It wasn't long before Jovanovic decided to join the New Hampshire Army National Guard, despite Ugrincic's objections. She wanted to escape the arms and the uniforms.

"After four years of being at war, you just want to get away from that," Ugrincic said. "But I realized it's not like you see in the movies; in the Guard it's just a big family. People really care about each other."

Jovanovic, 30, was called to active duty five days after Sept. 11, serving as a flight medic aboard VH-60 "Blackhawk"

helicopters with the 1159th Medical Company of the New Hampshire Army National Guard.

"I don't think it's enough to pay taxes," Jovanovic said. "This country gave us the opportunity to start over again. This is a better way."

Now, Ugrincic has signed up for duty. Ugrincic volunteered to serve her new country in the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157th Air Refueling Wing as a laboratory technician.

"I just think it's a wonderful opportunity to give a little back to this country," she said. "When we arrived here, we didn't have anything. This country gave us opportunity."

"At first I thought about going into the Army, but, no offense, I just like the Air Force better," she said.

The couple has applied for citizenship.

FROM PAGE 1

## Chief

evening at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington.

It will be hard, however, to top the tribute that his peers gave to Davis on June 22 when he was inducted into the Minuteman Hall of Fame during the 78,000-member Reserve Officers Association's 76th National Convention in Philadelphia.

Some 800 people attended the banquet at the Adam's Mark Hotel where Davis and Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes were inducted into that hall of fame with a dignified display of satin-finished brass nameplates on the fifth floor of the association's headquarters in Washington next to the U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court.

Plewes retired as chief of the Army Reserve on May 23. Admiral James Loy, who will retire as commandant of the Coast Guard on Aug. 1, was inducted into that hall of fame when the convention opened on Thursday, June 20.

Davis has joined a distinguished group of 77 others who have been inducted into the hall of fame. Former President Harry Truman was among the first four to be inducted in 1959. Others include President John Kennedy, Sen. Barry Goldwater, Air Force Gen. Curtis LeMay and Army Generals Omar Bradley, William Westmoreland and Colin Powell.

"I feel a little bit out of place among these great patriots," Davis told his Saturday night audience after becoming the first National Guard general to receive that distinction. "But I know for certain we all serve the same country and that we all have had the same level of energy, dedication and commitment."

The Reserve Officers Association was formed in 1922 and chartered by Congress in 1950 "to support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security."

"We're all committed to the cause against terrorism," said Davis of the effort that has galvanized more than 80,000 reserve component troops, including more than 50,000 from the National Guard, with their active duty counterparts during the past nine months.

"This is a fantastic team that the United States has put together over the years that has been the salvation of liberty not only for those who have the privilege of living in this country but for the world," Davis observed.

"We continue to make sacrifices for the liberties we enjoy," he added, "but I don't know one of us who would step away from that because when that sacrifice is required we all stand up and want to be counted."



# Blocking the flow of drugs: Maine engineers train hard while helping in the war on drugs

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

SAN DIEGO - It took Joshua Chamberlain a long time to get to California. That well-traveled Civil War hero from Maine finally made it in spirit, if not in deed, to the West Coast 88 years after his death thanks to a few hundred members of the Maine Army National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion.

Furthermore, the battalion traveled 2,600 miles across the country this spring to serve together in the same way that Chamberlain's famed 20th Maine Infantry Regiment held the left end of the Union line at Gettysburg, Pa., on the pivotal afternoon of July 2, 1863.

The southern Maine battalion based in Gardiner includes in its lineage the 20th Maine. Its motto is: "To The Last Man."

Helping to stop illegal drugs from entering this country, rather than helping to defeat the Confederate Army and preserve the Union, was the cause that brought the 133rd together for two weeks of annual training along the Mexican border near San Diego, in California's southwestern-most corner. You

can't get much farther from Maine within the continental United States.

It was the first time since a change of command ceremony in Augusta, Maine, in July 1995 that the battalion had been together. No one was certain how long it had been since the entire battalion had actually served together in the same place.

"It's been a long time," said Lt. Col. David Duehring, 52, who took command of the 133rd earlier this year. He was determined to pull his battalion together by making their recent annual training a memorable event for the Guard citizen-soldiers from Maine and for seven Army National Guard medics from Indiana.

"We want to show these people the magnitude of their organization," said the new commander who hopes the adventure will help persuade enough additional people to sign up and bring the battalion of 571 citizen-soldiers to its authorized strength of 661. "We want this to be an annual training they'll remember and talk about for a long time," he said of the 360 who made the trip.

There was plenty to talk about. Besides the

*"I get the chance to talk them through the process, and I see a lot of light bulbs go on. They say 'Yeah, now I get it.'"*

— Sgt. 1st Class Michael Kutz

primary engineer mission along the border where Tijuana, Mexico, crowds next to southern California, the Maine troops tested their combat and land navigation skills in a hellish place of snakes and rocks called La Posta where Navy SEALs train for mountain warfare.

They showed 18 civilian employers who were flown in from Maine what this National Guard duty is all about. They stood tall late one afternoon during an impressive battalion review and awards ceremony. They woke up the U.S. Navy base where they stayed while shouting cadence during a before-dawn battalion run the following morning.

In short, they packed as much soldierly work and training as they possibly could into two memorable, busy weeks in California.

The main mission involved training under the California Army Guard's Task Force

Grizzly. That organization has been providing the heavy equipment and bringing in engineer troops from all over the country to build and maintain a sophisticated barrier system between San Diego County and Mexico for the U.S. Border Patrol since 1998.

The idea is to channel all of the traffic between the two countries through established highways, so-called points of entry, and to make it more difficult than ever to smuggle illegal drugs past the Border Patrol along what used to be an open and inviting border.

Separate companies from the 133rd have supported that mission for two weeks at a time during the past three years when as many as 20 units have been rotated to the project from April through September, the annual construction season, explained Capt. John Klinkam, the task force's deputy director.

However, this was the first time that an entire battalion was brought to the project for two weeks and it worked extremely well, California people claimed.

"This has been fantastic, just fantastic," said Klinkam. "The 133rd was an excellent battalion to test this idea. This is the future for Task Force Grizzly."

Many people made it work in many ways.

Consider, for example, the Wilkinsons. David is the first sergeant, the top enlisted soldier, for Company C in Lewiston and Norway. Alicia, his wife, is the noncommissioned officer responsible for readiness at the Headquarters Support Company in Portland.

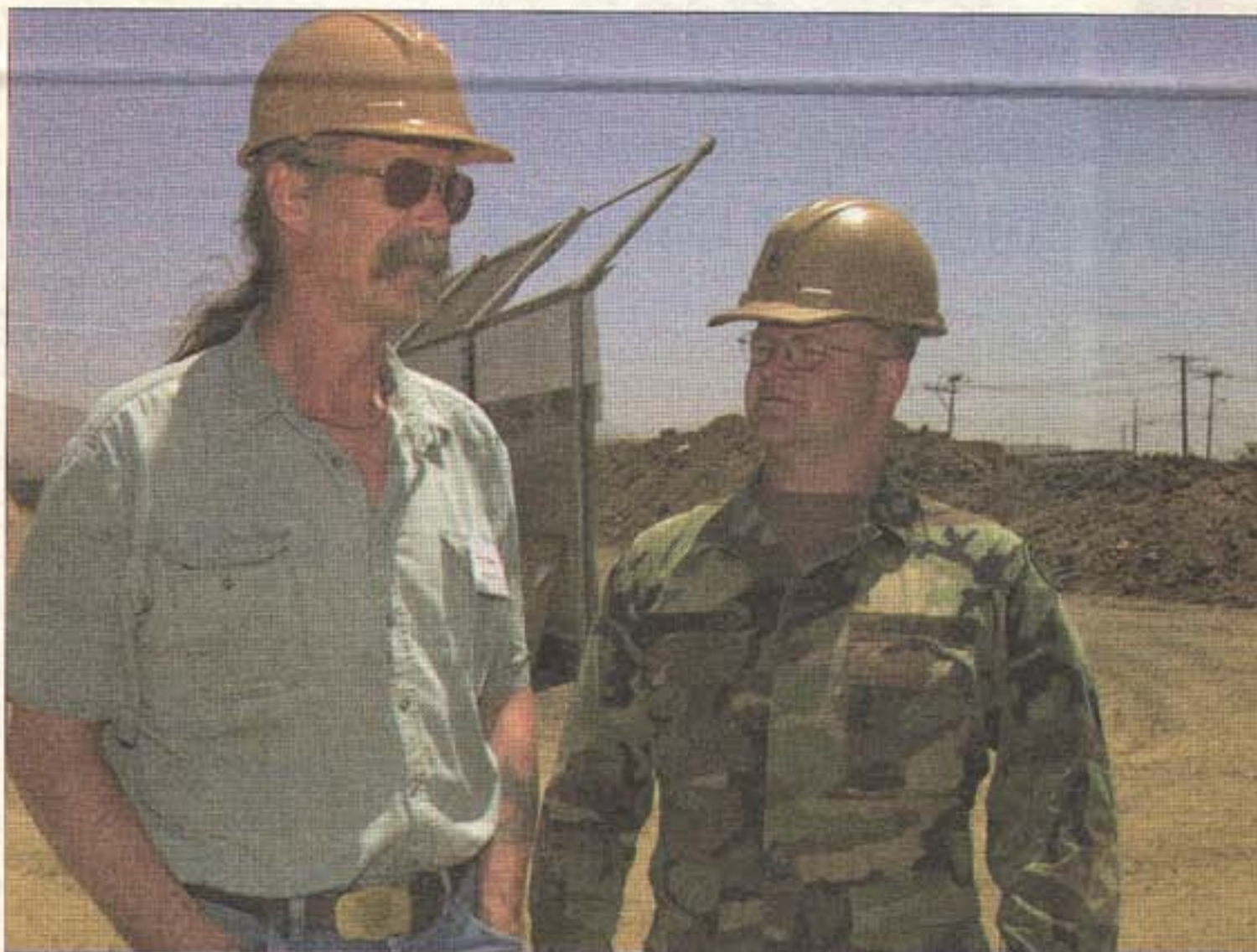
They left their three children, including two daughters who are 2 years old and 6 months old, with relatives in Maine so they could serve with their battalion in California.

It was the first time they had both been away from their children at the same time, said Alicia, and that was not an easy thing to do.

"If something happened, it would take us a day and a half to get home. And that would be the quickest. That's my biggest concern," added Alicia, who spent Mother's Day a long way from her children.

"But this is where we belong with our soldiers," she said. "And our children are in very capable hands." So were the projects that occupied most of the Maine engineers' working hours, along a more than 7-mile stretch of the dry, dusty border and at La Posta.

They upgraded stretches of the gravel road that runs between the two stretches of fence



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Maine Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Harold Whitten briefs his civilian boss from Maine, Larry Hawks, about the construction work which citizen-soldiers in the 133rd Engineer Battalion did on the U.S.-Mexican border barrier system during their two weeks of annual training in southern California in May. Part of the new barrier is in the background. Whitten works for Hawks as a custodian at the Enfield Station Elementary School.

See ENGINEERS On Page 7



FROM PAGE 6

## Engineers

that defines the international border. They built two concrete box culverts and prepared another site for a stretch of six-foot drainage pipes before new fencing and lighting systems can be erected.

They constructed two wooden barracks and improved rifle and pistol ranges for SEALs who train at the La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Site.

They acknowledged that it was a unique place and way to improve their skills as military engineers.

"Our company would probably not come to the U.S.-Mexican border to do a surveying job," said Spc. Carrie Fletcher, who works for a commercial surveying firm in Windham, Maine, and who belongs to the battalion's technical engineering section.

"This has let me expand my range of experiences," added Fletcher who was part of the surveying team working on a Saturday morning at the J.W. Creek project, 50 yards from Tijuana, where the big drainage pipes will be buried during the course of this summer.

"This is a long way to travel for training, but a lot of my people are getting to work on the equipment," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Kutz, Fletcher's supervisor, who is also a civilian surveyor. "I get the chance to talk them through the process, and I see a lot of light bulbs go on. They say 'Yeah, now I get it.'"

The amount of work the Maine people accomplished impressed people like Doug Hucker, a retired SEAL who manages the La Posta training area.

"I've been waiting for two years to get this work done. These Maine people did it in two weeks," he told the civilian employers who flew to California to see what their workers do as National Guard soldiers. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program made that three-day trip possible during the battalion's second week of duty.

"These engineers are the most professional builders I've ever seen," Hucker added. "They would be in competition with the Navy's Seabees."

The engineers did not go hammer to hammer with the Seabees. They did, however, go head-to-head among themselves during the "Chamberlain Challenge."

Eight teams of half a dozen members ran, walked and climbed a grueling course over the La Posta terrain during the weekend. They were tested on rescuing a downed helicopter pilot. They put on their protective chemical suits and ran in the 90-degree heat. The fastest teams took more than three hours to cover the route. Two teams did not complete the course.

Those that did found Lt. Col. David Duchring waiting for them at the highest point of the course, a 4,000-foot peak that overlooked that expanse of southern California desert.

Commanding the 133rd has been his dream since he earned his commission as a combat engineer in 1981, Duchring explained. Now



Maine Army National Guard Spc. Charlie Warren adjusts the steel rods for a concrete box culvert that citizen-soldiers from the 133rd Engineer Battalion built for the barrier system being constructed along the U.S.-Mexican border during their two weeks of annual training in southern California in May. (Below) Lieutenant Colonel David Duchring, commander of the Maine Army National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion, believes that "soldiers need to see their leaders in the field," even if it means climbing to the highest point on a land navigation course in the southern California desert.

that he has the job, after spending four years as the Maine Army National Guard's recruiting and retention manager, he intends to do it right.

He has purchased bugles for the battalion's eight companies and detachments to be played when the soldiers fall in during weekend drills. He has vowed to be with his troops, even if that means spending a long Sunday on top of a desert mountain.

"Soldiers need to see their leaders in the field," said Duchring.

Joshua Chamberlain believed the same thing. He was wounded six times, once nearly fatally, and he had six horses shot from under him during the Civil War because he insisted on leading from the front. He is still regarded as one of the premier leaders in U.S. Army history.

There is a Maine way of saying that the leadership qualities that served the 20th Maine Regiment so well nearly 140 years ago are alive and well in the 133rd Engineer Battalion today. It goes something like this: "O! Joshua would of been proud."





# Guard pilots out perform active co

By Capt. George Worrall

Massachusetts Air National Guard

FORT DRUM, N.Y. - An Air Force Reserve and two Air National Guard fighter units rounded out the top team honors in the worldwide A-10 competition, known as "Hawgsmoke," held at Fort Drum New York earlier this year.

The four-member team from the Air Force Reserve's 47th Fighter Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., took home the trophy and the honor as the world's best overall A-10 team. The competition included 17 teams from the Air National Guard, Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

"I think what really pulled it off for us were a lot of lessons learned from the last competition," said Maj. Marc "Thor" Olson, pilot and winning team leader, 47th Fighter Squadron. "We came in second in the overall in 2000...and we really wanted to strive to be better than we were before."

"Our maintenance people back home play a really big part in making sure the jets and the weapons systems all worked so our success is a reflection on the quality work they did getting us ready."

The runners-up, both from the Air National Guard, for the overall team award were the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 131st Fighter Squadron, Barnes Municipal Airport, Mass., in second place and the Maryland Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Squadron from Baltimore in third place.

"Two reasons the Guard and Reserve did so well is the average experience level is higher than the active duty, and while the guard and reserve operations tempo is higher than it was, the active duty [tempo] is still higher," said Maj. Kevin J. "Stubby" Campbell,



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Jeremiah Macht

**The 131st Fighter Squadron team from Barnes Municipal Airport, Mass. who won second place in the 2002 Hawgsmoke competition at Fort Drum, N.Y., pose for a team photo.**

who led the third place team, 104th Fighter Squadron, Baltimore, Md. "Their [active duty] ability to focus and prepare for this [competition] is more limited. Each member of my team had 1500 [flying hours], on average about 500 more hours per team member than the active duty."

The 62 A-10 aircraft, commonly called "Warthogs," represented all but one of the world's A-10 units. Crews came from as far away as Germany and Korea to pilot their A-

10 Thunderbolt IIs in the competition, which was hosted by the previous winning team from the Connecticut Air National Guard's 118th Fighter Squadron.

"Day one was a tactical competition, where they practiced employing against a target out on the field with controlled timing. Day two was live bombing and strafing [firing the A-10's Gattling gun against a target]," said Lt. Col. Landis Cook, pilot and Hawgsmoke lead judge, of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 118th Fighter Squadron.

Cook explained that the judges compared the digital tape that objectively shows the details of the mission, to the videotape, from inside the aircraft that shows what the pilot and their instruments saw to determine accuracy.

The competition focuses on accurately dropping bombs, firing the Maverick missile and strafing proficiency with the A-10's 30 millimeter Gattling gun. The judges added up the individual and team scores to determine winners based on where their bombs landed and how well they shot.

"With 17 very highly qualified teams there is not a whole lot [of points difference] between doing very well and ending up near the bottom," said Lt. Col. Dennis "Gator" Yount, leader of the Top Bomber Team, 118th Fighter Squadron.

At the awards ceremony, Lt. Col. Daniel

Peabody, from the Connecticut unit that organized the competition, explained that they decided to continue with the competition for two reasons after the events of September 11. "The first", according to Lt. Col. Peabody, commander, 103rd Operations Group, Connecticut Air National Guard, "was because of the relatively small community of A-10 units, the units can benefit from the personal relationships that competition fosters as they work together on tactics used in military hot spots across the world."

"The second is to send the message that [although] we don't have a lot of smart weapons on the A-10, we have a lot of smart pilots and maintenance people who can deliver actual ordinance onto actual targets."

In addition to the top overall team, awards were presented to individuals and for the subcategories that made up the overall award. First in the major subcategories were the 118th Fighter Squadron, Bradley International Airport, Conn. as the Top Bomber Team, and the 131st Fighter Squadron, Barnes Municipal Airport, Mass. as the Top Tactical Team. Both teams are from the Air National Guard. Maj. Kevin J. "Stubby" Campbell, 104th Fighter Squadron in Baltimore, earned the top overall pilot award.

"I would be lying if I did not say there was some luck involved," said Campbell about



Maintenance crews remove a travel pod as an A-10 arrives at Fort Drum, N.Y. for the 2002 Hawgsmoke competition, May 16.



# Component in national competition



As Connecticut's A-10's arrived May 16 at Fort Drum, N.Y., maintenance crews fueled and loaded bombs for the 2002 Hawgsmoke competition.

his accomplishment. "Given the caliber of those in the room [at the awards ceremony] anybody could have done it."

Units represented included: the 25th Fighter Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea; 47th Fighter Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; 74th and 75th Fighter Squadrons, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; 81st Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; 103rd Fighter Squadron, Willow Grove, Pa.; 104th Fighter Squadron, Baltimore, Md.; 118th Fighter Squadron, Bradley International Airport, Conn.; 131st Fighter Squadron, Barnes Municipal Airport, Mass.; 172nd Fighter Squadron, W.K. Kellogg Airport, Mich.; 190th Fighter Squadron, Boise Air Terminal, Idaho; 303rd Fighter Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.; 355th Fighter Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska; 354th, 357th & 358th Fighter Squadrons, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.; 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; 706th Fighter Squadron, Naval Air Station New Orleans, La.



The 104th Fighter Squadron team from Baltimore, Md. who won third place in the 2002 Hawgsmoke competition at Fort Drum, N.Y., pose for a team photo.





## Sports

## Looking forward to the 2006 games

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. - The next Winter Olympics may seem like an age away, but 2006 is right around the corner for National Guard soldiers who are already determined to improve on the United States' fortunes in the bobsled and biathlon in Turin, Italy.

Specialist Bill Tavares from New York and Sgt. Tuffy Latour from Vermont, the two coaches of the gold-medal women's bobsled team, and Spc. Mike Kohn from Virginia, a bronze medalist bobsledder, made that perfectly clear earlier this year at the National Guard Bureau's home office in Arlington, Va.,

"We've had only a week off since the Games ended. We've been given the team for the next four years, and we're already preparing the budget for the World Cup and for training for the next Olympics," explained Tavares near the end of a whirlwind week of receptions around Washington, D.C.

The bobsledders were among nine soldier-athletes who were honored at the National Guard Bureau following the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

They included seven Army Guard soldiers, Army Reserve 2nd Lt. Garrett Hines and

active Army Spc. Doug Sharp. All but Hines represented the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program. Five were members of the three-bobsled teams that earned gold, silver and bronze medals at Park City, Utah.

"What you all have done and continue to do and what you represent is such a magnificent example and role model for the young people out there and for all of our soldiers," said Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Two Army Guard biathletes also got an extra 15 minutes of fame.

Sergeant Kristina Sabasteanski from Vermont was singled out for helping to carry the tattered American flag recovered from the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks into the opening ceremony. Vermont Spc. Jeremy Teela was recognized for his unprecedented 14th place U.S. finish in the 20-kilometer men's race on the first day of that combined skiing and shooting event.

Minnesota Guard Spc. Andrea Nahrgang, a member of the women's biathlon team, and Vermont Staff Sgt. Dan Westover, an alternate on the men's biathlon team, were also part of the delegation.

The group presented Davis with a framed

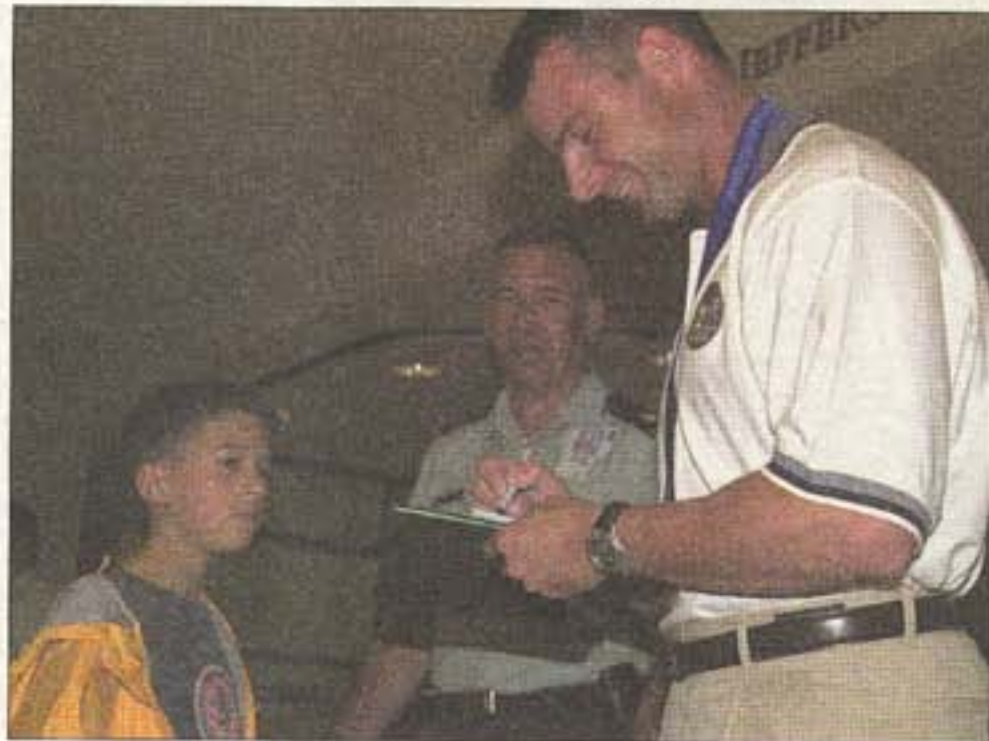


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Joseph McCloskey, 10, was one of the young fans who sought autographs from Virginia Army National Guard Spc. Mike Kohn (right) and other military members of the United States' 2002 Winter Olympics team at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va. Kohn earned a bronze medal in the four-man bobsled event. Joseph's father, Army Guard Maj. Tom McCloskey, looks on.

collage of a dozen autographed photos of the 2002 military winter Olympians.

"I've been told that I may go through a post-Olympic depression. But I have not experienced any of that," said Kohn after visiting the White House and posing with a few dozen members of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams for a group photo with President George W. Bush.

The president praised the Olympians for lifting the country's spirits while claiming a U.S. record 34 Winter Olympics medals.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz welcomed 11 of the military athletes, including gold-medal women's bobsled driver Spc. Jill Bakken from the Utah Army Guard, to the Pentagon on behalf of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Placing a wreath beside the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday "was one of the cool things we got to do," said Teela.

Scores of autograph-seeking youngsters who went to work with their military parents on Thursday converged on the soldier-athletes who visited the National Guard Bureau as part of Operation Laurel Wreath.

Hines, who belonged to the Georgia Army Guard from 1996 to 1998, was part of the U.S. four-man bobsled team that earned the silver medal for finishing second after he placed fourth in the two-man competition.

Kohn and Sharp were pushers on the four-man team that earned the bronze. Sharp, a

chiropractic doctor, cracked up the crowd when he said he would like to join the Air National Guard.

"We'll figure out some place to use you," laughed Davis, an Air Guard general from the District of Columbia.

"We're really proud of you for serving and representing your country in more ways than one," said Davis in a more serious tone. "You've represented your country in military uniforms and in your capacity as Olympians. That's a high privilege and a high calling."

The work has not let up, said those intent on representing the U.S. in Italy four years from now.

"There was joy for about two weeks, and then we jumped right back on the horses and got back to work," said Latour about how the first women's Olympic bobsledding gold medal won by Bakken and civilian Vionetta Flowers has rubbed off on the coaches. "It's kept me and Bill interested in going for the gold in 2006."

Teela vowed that he would make another run at the biathlon team, and Kohn has said he hopes to be driving rather than pushing a bobsled by then.

"My father used to be in the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C.," Kohn related. "One of his Army friends told me that being an Olympic athlete is the second-best way to serve your country. Now I know what he means."



Photo by Master Sgt. Carl Legore, National Guard Bureau

New York Army National Guard Spc. Bill Tavares (left) accepts a Certificate of Commendation from Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, for representing this country last February during the XIX Winter Olympics in Utah. Tavares is the head coach of the two-woman bobsled team that won the gold medal during that inaugural winter games event.





# News Makers

## Massachusetts Air Guard unit assists community in cleaning up 11 environmental restoration sites

WESTFIELD, Mass. — The governor and legislature of Massachusetts recently recognized environmental cleanup and community involvement efforts at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, Mass.

Gov. Jane Swift and the state senate issued proclamations commending the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Wing and its Community Advisory Board.

According to John Richardson, installation environmental manager, the base has removed four 25,000-gallon underground storage tanks, excavated or recycled nearly 1,900 tons of fuel-contaminated soil, remediated 357 cubic yards of soil, and initiated a soil bio-venting system at a total cost of nearly \$835,000.

Formed in 1996, the Community Advisory Board is the main information link between the installation and the nearby community for the unit's clean-up of 11 Environmental Restoration Sites.

The board is co-chaired by Col. Michael Boulanger, 104th Fighter Wing commander, and Everett Talmadge, community co-chair. The board also received the Year 2002 Green Business Award from the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee for its "ambitious efforts to help protect the Barnes Aquifer."

For more than five decades, the 104th Fighter Wing has provided fighter and battlefield air superiority, flying aircraft ranging the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter aircraft to the current A-10 Thunderbolt close-support attack aircraft. The wing has also assisted the community during local emergencies or natural disasters over that same time period.

## Thirty-three years in the air

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Ga. — Chief Warrant Officer Riekke Barron of the Georgia Army National Guard was recently awarded the Silver Order of Saint Michael from the Army Aviation Association of America, one of the highest awards given to an Army aviator. The Order of Saint Michael recognizes Army aviators who have made significant contributions to the promotion of Army Aviation.

Barron, an Army pilot for more than 33 years is the state aviation standardization officer and is assigned to the 1st Aviation Group of the Georgia Army National Guard at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. He has served in the active Army, the Army Reserve and the National Guard.

The Order of Saint Michael is named after the archangel who wages war against evil. There are three different Saint Michael medals presented annually — gold, silver and bronze. The gold and silver medals represent an aviator's national contributions to the field of Army Aviation and are approved by the national director of the Army Aviation Association of America.

"Barron has made a significant impact on Army aviation not only in Georgia, but throughout the entire nation," said Col. Dennis Livingston, 1st Aviation Group commander who presented the prestigious award to Barron at military ceremonies held recently at Dobbins.

In 1969, Barron joined the Army to satisfy a strong desire to learn to fly. He was selected for flight school and soon graduated as one of the top in his class. Earning the privilege to choose the aircraft he wished to fly, Barron chose the huge CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Within a few months after gaining proficiency in the cargo-hauling helicopter, Barron was sent to Vietnam as a member of the 1st Aviation Brigade.

Returning from Vietnam, Barron's aviation skills were called on at Fort Rucker, Ala., site of the U.S. Army's helicopter training school in Alabama. At Fort Rucker, Barron taught young aviators how



Barron

to fly the powerful Chinook before he was reassigned as a flight instructor for a Chinook unit in Korea.

Barron has more than 17,000 total hours of flight time with more than 7,000 hours as an instructor pilot. He possesses more than 800 combat hours in the Chinook.

Leaving the active Army in 1977, Barron returned to Fort Rucker and for the next 19 years worked as a civilian instructor pilot for the Army. During this period, he joined an Army Reserve unit flying the new UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Barron returned to Georgia and went looking for a unit that flew the Blackhawk helicopter and soon his knowledge and experience landed him an instructor pilot's position with the Georgia Army National Guard that recently acquired eight of the UH-60 aircraft.

In 1999, Barron and his crew was selected by the Army National Guard to showcase the UH-60 Black Hawk at the Dubai International Air Show in the United Arab Emirates.

Barron's skill and aviation knowledge was also instrumental in the Army's development of a night vision goggles heads up display.

## McArthur Award

By MSG Pallas deBettencourt  
Massachusetts National Guard

Duty, Honor, Country ... The West Point motto, words perhaps best personified by General Douglas MacArthur and portrayed throughout his personal life and military career. In his memory, the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation was formed and is now headquartered in Norfolk, Va. The foundation exists to honor those junior officers who have shown exceptional skills in leadership and who display a commitment to the concepts of duty, honor and country.

Each year since 1988, the Foundation has presented 27 awards to outstanding company grade officers. The officers come from all components of the Army, are nominated by their Major Commands

Slater (MACOMs) and compete through a centralized board. Thirteen awards are given to the active Army, seven to the Army National Guard and seven to the Army reserve.

This May, Chief Warrant Officer James D. Slater, a member of the 726th Maintenance Battalion, was awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award by the Army Chief of Staff at the Pentagon. "I'm honored, yet also humbled to be winning such a prestigious award," said Slater. "It's quite an honor to be chosen... There are [officers from] 54 states and territories competing for this award and all are equally deserving."

The ceremony, held on the quad of the Pentagon, included each recipient conducting an in-office visit with their respective congressman, an awards breakfast and a host of guest speakers. Each recipient will also partake in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Va.

"The military has provided me with a comfortable and stable living, and has given me a satisfying career with many an opportunity to excel and advance. I have always been proud to be in the service of my country," said Slater.

## National Defense Medal authorized for troops on active duty on or after Sept. 11

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Defense announced recently, that service members on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to receive the National Defense Service Medal.

"The sacrifices and contributions made by the Armed Forces in direct response to the terrorism attacks on the United States and

to the long-term resolution of terrorism merit special recognition," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

The National Defense Service Medal may also be awarded to members of the Reserve components who are ordered to federal active duty, regardless of duration, except for certain categories.

While no closing date has been established, eligible service members can receive the award immediately.

The National Defense Service Medal was first established by President Eisenhower in 1953, and was subsequently awarded for honorable active service for any period between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954,

between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974, and between Aug. 2, 1990 and Nov. 30, 1995.

(Editor's note: The National Defense Service Medal is on the web at: <http://www-per-scom.army.mil/tagd/tioh/awards/national%20defense%20service%20medal1.htm>)





## History

## Surviving the perfect storm: The real story

By Mark F. Soupiet

The release of "The Perfect Storm," a movie depicting the true story of the sword fishing boat Andrea Gail and its disappearance at sea, introduced millions of theatergoers to the terror and violence wreaked by the massive meteorological disaster that churned the North Atlantic in late October 1991. Hundreds of miles southwest of the doomed Andrea Gail, USAA members Lt. Col. David Ruvola and Lt. Col. Graham Buschor learned about the storm first hand.

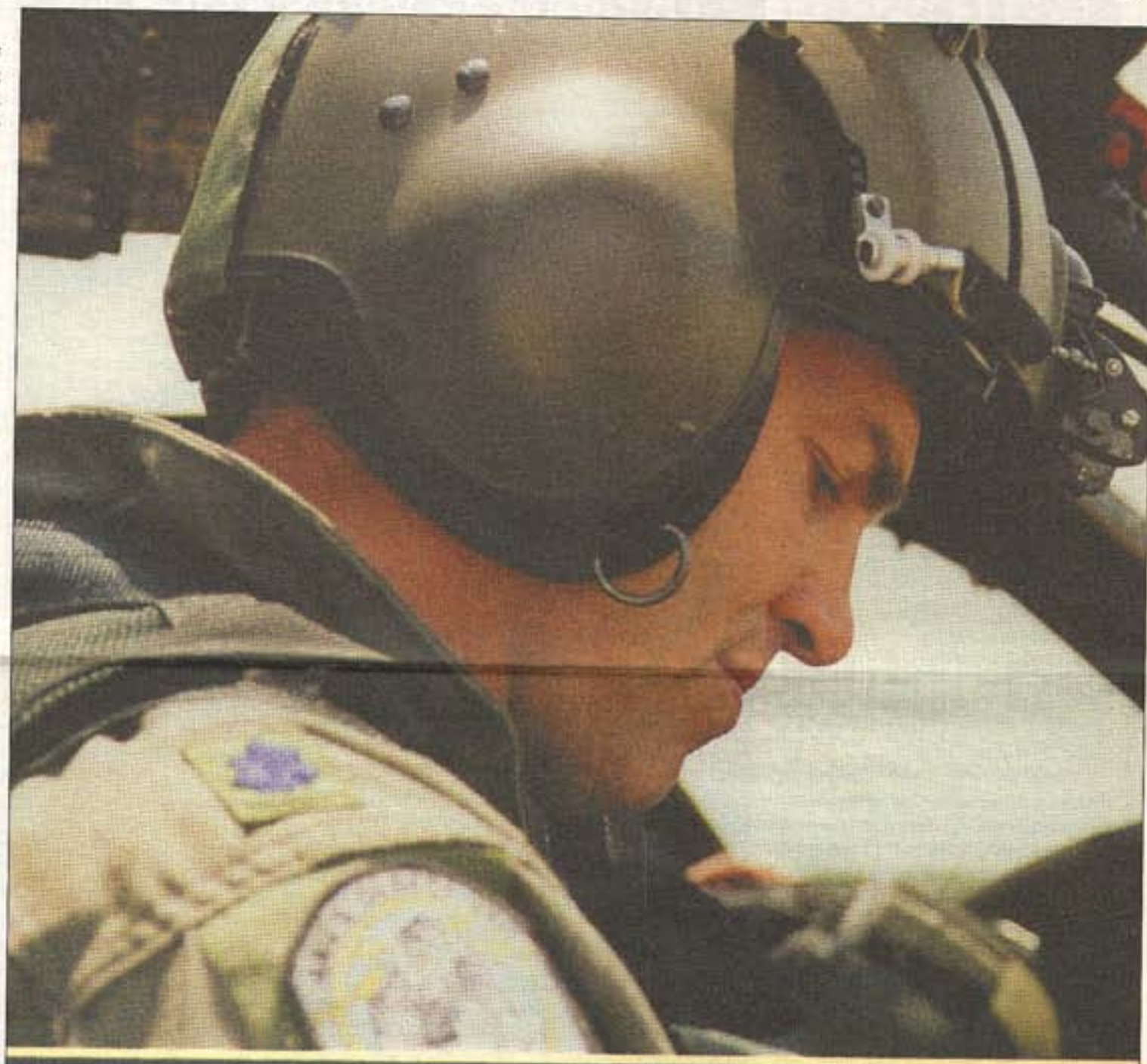
The pair, both helicopter pilots at that time with the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard, were called upon to help save a civilian on a sinking sailboat 250 miles off the New Jersey coast. Their story of courage, in the face of life-threatening danger, was told in gripping detail by Sebastian Junger, author of the best-selling novel, "The Perfect Storm." A composite story of several such real-life rescues by the Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard also became a subplot in the movie.

Late on the afternoon of October 30, 1991, with co-pilot Buschor at his side, Ruvola flew an Air National Guard H-60 helicopter over the thundering sea in near-total darkness toward the stranded vessel. The crew included flight engineer Jim Mioli and two pararescue jumpers (PJs), John Spillane and Rick Smith. After two mid-air refuelings from a C-130 tanker plane and more than an hour of flying into the worst weather they had ever faced, the H-60 crew was unable to attempt the rescue.

"We were looking down at 30- to 40-foot seas and the winds were 40 to 50 knots," says Ruvola. "We didn't know whether or not a PJ dropped into the water would be able to make it onto the boat, and whether or not we'd be able to get him back off the boat. The hoist operator was concerned that — because of the size of the wave-swells — the cable could be snapped while hoisting someone back into the helicopter.

"All considered, we decided to allow the C-130 that was overhead to drop survival gear [to the stranded sailor] and head for home," Ruvola explains. Fortunately, the crew of a Romanian freighter eventually pulled the man to safety. But because of a fluke communication mix-up earlier that day, Ruvola didn't have the necessary weather information to prevent what would happen next.

A band of rain 80 miles long and 50 miles wide was closing in on the H-60 as it made its way west toward home. At 8 p.m., Ruvola was attempting to connect with the C-130 to refuel when the helicopter hit a wall of 75-knot headwinds. "It was very, very turbulent and we were trying to find smoother air to complete the final refueling," recalls Ruvola. "We continued to climb and even descend



Submitted photo

**Lt. Col. David Ruvola flew an Air National Guard H-60 helicopter over the thundering sea in near-total darkness on a mission to rescue a civilian on a sinking sailboat some 250 miles away.**

below the clouds. At one point, we were 500 feet above the water and you could see the ragged, bottom edge of the clouds mixing on the horizon with the whitewater of the ocean." Visibility was so bad inside the clouds that, on occasion, Ruvola was unable to see the C-130's wings directly in front of him.

An hour-and-a-half later, after 30 harrowing attempts between 4,500 feet and 300 feet made unbelievably difficult by weather-damage to the C-130's left-hand fuel drogue, the H-60 had only 20 minutes of fuel remaining. Unable to complete the refueling maneuver, Ruvola made the fateful and necessary decision to ditch into the Atlantic. Co-pilot Buschor issued a mayday over the

radio's emergency frequency and alerted the Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa, a few miles to the northeast. "I remember very vividly my call for help," says Buschor. "I was painting the Tamaroa on our radar, so I knew it was only 12 miles away. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough fuel to go that far.

"The Tamaroa responded almost immediately and told us to head toward them. We knew the number one engine was about to roll off-line because of fuel starvation," Buschor says. "I remember telling the Tamaroa, 'Negative, negative, we are ditching right here!'"

At an altitude of 200 feet, the H-60 pierced the bottoms of the clouds and — from a hovering position just above the wave crests —

Ruvola told his crew that ditching was imminent. While the crew prepared to abandon the helicopter, Ruvola's primary concern was to make sure the massive helicopter didn't hit them on the way down. Moments after Ruvola gave the order to bail out, Buschor, Smith and Spillane, in that order, jumped into the howling storm.

Smith and Spillane, without the aid of night-vision goggles, didn't know how far they would fall because of the 80-foot waves below them. If they hit crests, they would have dropped just 10 feet or so. As it turned out, both likely plunged between 60 and 70 feet, hitting wave troughs at close to 50 miles

**See STORM On Page 15**



# Troops 'police up' Bosnia

By Ivana Avramovic

European Stars & Stripes, Bosnia Bureau

SREBRENİK, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Armed with big black trash bags, some 25 National Guard troops recently liberated Bosnia and Herzegovina's 13th century Srebrenik castle of litter.

Surrounding the castle walls and digging through the bushes, members of Area Support Group Eagle collected bags of soda cans, food wrappers, cigarette butts, juice cartons, beer bottles and glass.

Every once in a while, they stopped to take photos of the sun-bathed valley view below and beyond the castle.

Capt. Philip Henson, a Tennessee Army National Guard citizen-soldier, based at Eagle Base, earlier visited the castle in January when everything was covered in snow.

"I've never been to a castle in my life. I'm from Tennessee," said Henson, who calls himself a big history buff. "This is a trip of a lifetime."

Henson, who initiated the cleanup effort, said he imagined it as an "Adopt-a-Castle" program similar to Adopt-a-Highway programs in the United States. He hopes other soldiers and Bosnians will continue to keep the area clean.

"We're here to show that we're not just concerned with where we are in Tuzla," said Staff Sgt. Brenda Arrindell, "but that we're concerned about the whole area."

One of the concerns Arrindell had was about land mines, but when the safety officer said that it was safe, other soldiers immediately went to work on the castle.

Almasa Hadzic, a reporter with the Bosnian daily newspaper Dnevni Avaz, said that in the 10 years she's been living in the area, she has never seen a cleanup project of the castle or a historical monument, only of streets and neighborhoods.

"It's nice to clean (the castle), but I am personally ashamed that there aren't any Srebrenik residents here today," Hadzic said.

"I hope this will be a (boost) to our (Bosnian) people, because Americans understood the importance of this monument."

But Henson did not mind picking up someone else's trash around the castle, which is between Eagle Base and Camp McGovern.

"We're okay with that," Henson said. "I think everybody here is having a good time."

His unit members agreed. "I enjoy travel, I enjoy helping out," said Staff Sgt. Michael McCully. "I don't mind picking up trash, getting communities involved, give them a little sense of pride of their area."

He said that he thought of the cleanup as setting an example for the local children.

"They really don't know any better," he said, "and if they see things being fixed, they may try to keep them that way."

## Maintaining excellence...

By Tim Franklin

Illinois Department of Military Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - In the world of military operations, maintenance translates directly to combat readiness and in the world of military maintenance, the 232nd Corps Support Battalion based in Springfield does it as well as anyone in the entire U.S. Army.

Citizen-soldiers of the Illinois Army National Guard battalion recently swept all three categories of the coveted Army Award for Maintenance Excellence at National Guard Bureau level and recently walked away with the Army-level competition in two of three categories. At the National Guard Bureau level, the 232nd Corps Support Battalion won the large Modification Table of Organization and Equipment, or MTOE category, while its subordinate units, the 3637th Maintenance Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, won the medium and small MTOE categories respectively.

At the Army level, the 232nd Corps Support Battalion won the Maintenance Excellence Award for large MTOE category for all Army Guard and Reserve units, while 232nd's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment took the award for small MTOE reserve component units.

In the 20 years of the Army's Maintenance Excellence competition this is the first time units from one state have won in two of the three categories.

"Winning the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence is a testament to the commitment to excellence that the soldiers of the 232nd Corps Support Battalion (CSB) have," said Maj. Gen. David Harris, state adjutant general for the Illinois National Guard.

"Sweeping the awards at National Guard Bureau level is a singular feat in itself, but winning two of the three Army-level awards is nothing short of phenomenal," Harris added. "I am extremely proud of the dedication and effort that went into achieving this truly noteworthy accomplishment. All of us in the Illinois National Guard should recognize this significant achievement by the 232nd CSB."

Established in 1982 by the Department of the Army, the Maintenance Excellence Award recognizes exceptional accomplishment in maintenance and provides incentive to the competitive programs of the major Army commands. For the two Illinois Army National Guard units,



Photo by Tim Franklin, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**Staff Sgt. James Lockwood, a machinist with the 3637th Maintenance Company, 232nd Corps Support Battalion based in Springfield, Ill., prepares to rebores a Humvee engine block at the Camp Lincoln machine shop.**

the road to winning the competition began in October 2001.

The two units first competed at the state and regional level before moving on to National Guard Bureau level, where they were evaluated by a panel of active-Army and National Guard judges.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Landon, a squad leader with Detachment 1, 126th Maintenance Company headquartered in Beardstown, Ill., spoke for many in the battalion when he told of the sense of personal pride felt after receiving the unit-level award.

"We work very hard on weekend drills and put in a lot of time," Landon said about the level of commitment displayed by battalion maintainers. "It takes a lot of teamwork and individuals who realize that they're not in this alone."

A major factor in the success of the 232nd Corps Support Battalion at the National Guard Bureau and Army level competitions was the unit's high operational tempo in fiscal year 2001. The battalion sent soldiers to Germany, South Korea, Iceland, Ukraine, as well as to California, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Kentucky,

Tennessee and Puerto Rico. In addition, soldiers of the Springfield-based battalion supported the people of Illinois by helping to fight flooding along the Mississippi River. The battalion has units based in Springfield, Beardstown, and Quincy, Ill.

"I'm extremely proud of the soldiers of the 232nd," said Lt. Col. Tracy Nelson, the battalion's commander. "With the high operation tempo, it takes a team effort to be successful. Winning the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence is a validation of all the hard work put in over the past year from the ranks right up through the state leadership. This award recognizes their hard work and dedication."

With the Army-level AAME in hand, the Illinois Army National Guard battalion now moves on to compete against units from all branches of the U.S. military for the prestigious Department of Defense Phoenix Award. Representatives of the Springfield battalion will travel to Washington D.C., where the Army Chief of Staff will present them with their award in a special ceremony.





## States

# Important mission: Keeping in touch with the public

By Spc. Megan Hunter

Illinois Army National Guard

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - For the second time in three years, state legislators and Springfield-area residents had the opportunity to meet with Illinois National Guard troops to learn firsthand about the National Guard's roles, missions and equipment.

May 21 was declared "National Guard Day" at the Illinois State Capitol and the contributions of Army and Air Guard soldiers and airmen to the state and nation was the focus of activity in and around the Capitol complex.

In honor of the men and women of the Illinois National Guard, Illinois Gov. George Ryan declared it National Guard Day. Springfield Mayor Karen Hasara also recognized the importance of the Illinois Guard by presenting a proclamation by the Springfield City Council honoring the Illinois National Guard.

"I think a lot of people are not sure of what the National Guard is doing," said Hasara. "I think it is significant to take a moment to reflect on all they are doing around the world and appreciate that."

More than 250 soldiers and airmen, from Guard programs and units throughout the state took part in the day-long event at the Illinois State Capitol. National Guard Day highlighted the important role of the Illinois National Guard both at the state and national level, by offering the citizens of Illinois the chance to learn more about the Guard and what its dedicated members are doing at home and around the world.

"We are showing off a little bit today," said Maj. Gen. David Harris, adjutant general of the Illinois National Guard. "We want the citizens of Illinois to see all the Guard has available for national defense as well as in response to any state emergency that may come up."

"It's always important to show the community and policy-makers the capabilities of the Guard," said Harris. "We have been in the news a lot supporting missions like airport security and various deployments overseas. This event puts a real feel or a face to all of that."

Many of the Guardsmen who participated in National Guard Day felt honored by the response of the public and legislators. Staff Sgt. Darryl Williams worked inside the Capitol building at a display for State Area Command. Williams said he believes the public response was outstanding and that the event went well overall.

National Guard displays lining the halls

inside the Capitol rotunda featured a collection of berets from various nations, such as Poland and Ukraine, where Illinois National Guard troops have trained for the past few years. The Lincoln's Challenge Academy Drill Team gave drill demonstrations on the grounds of the capitol and Lincoln's Challenge Academy Choir gave several performances throughout the day. Army and Air Guard recruiters were also available to answer questions and had a display inside the Capitol building illustrating the benefits and varied careers within the Illinois National Guard.

The culmination of National Guard Day events featured special flag ceremonies to open legislative sessions on the floor of both the Illinois House and Senate chambers.

By day's end Illinois lawmakers and the public came away with a greater appreciation of the Illinois National Guard and its many roles and missions.

"I feel safer after seeing the technology and equipment available in the event of an emergency," said Rachael Sjostrom, a student at the University of Illinois-Springfield. "I am also pleased with the character of soldiers serving in the Illinois National Guard."

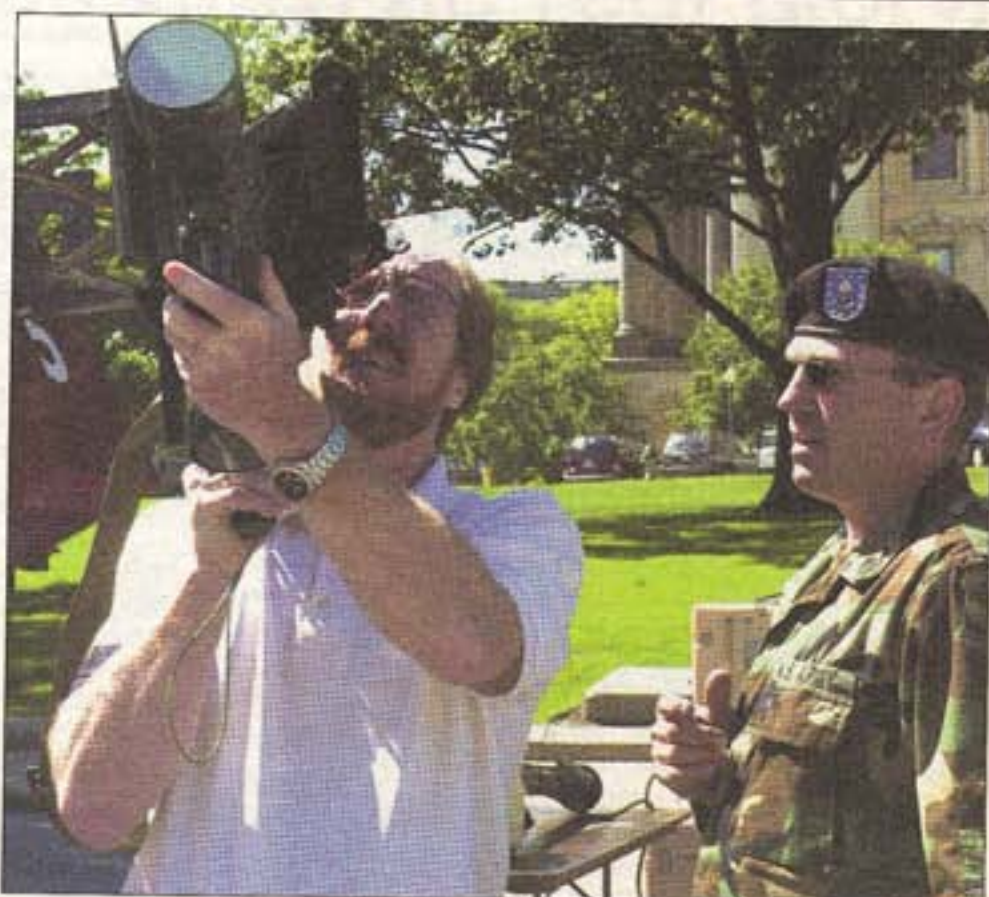


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dan Wellman, Illinois National Guard

(Above) Michael Beveridge, a Springfield, Ill., resident, puts a Stinger into operation with the assistance of Sgt. 1st Class Clifford Wright, a soldier of Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery based in Galva, Ill., during National Guard Day activities at the State Capitol Complex.

(Below) George Jennings (right) said he thought his brother Jack looked pretty "cool" as he tries on a M-40 protective mask during National Guard Day activities at the State Capitol Complex.





# Guardsmen who escaped tower deploys with unit

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Kinkade

Maj. Chris Hardej is no hero. He doesn't want that label. He doesn't believe he's done anything heroic. He's a survivor.

On Sept. 11, he sat in his office on the 82nd floor of the first World Trade Center tower going about his business with the New York State Department of Transportation. An HC-130 navigator in the New York Air National Guard's 102nd Rescue Squadron, Hardej had a few projects to finish before a scheduled late-September deployment supporting Operation Southern Watch.

Then the building swayed. A jet airliner had just slammed into the building a few floors above him. He felt a gush of air and smelled jet fuel. More than 9,000 gallons of fuel were pouring down the natural drains of the elevator shafts. Hardej saw a shower of paper, metal and debris fluttering past the windows in his office. For a moment, he glimpsed the bright blue crystal New York morning sky and thought it was a beautiful day for flying. "That's when I knew it was no accident," he said.

Somewhere in that moment when metal and paper filled the skies, Hardej's normal day at the office became a test of survival. Instinct, honed by nearly 17 years of Air Force training, kicked in.

For nearly two hours, Hardej was one of thousands fighting to escape the building. His memory of the escape is a collection of scrapbook images: firefighters rushing up the stairs and crowding an elevator to reach what would ultimately be their doom; the slow, orderly descent down a maze of stairs; people helping the injured down the stairwell; bottles of Snapple from a busted vending machine passed up the line for thirsty



*"[Deploying] is part of the healing process. That's my excuse. I have a skill, and I want to use that skill. Having the unit here and me staying home just wasn't right."*

— Maj. Chris Hardej

survivors.

As he made his way to the concourse between the two towers, the tower next door began to collapse. Hardej survived a hurricane of debris, dirt and glass by clutching a support beam. Twenty minutes later, he found his way out through the debris just before the tower he was in came crashing down.

After he escaped, Hardej went to a trauma center covered in dirt and filth, looking like what he called a "mud man from one of those Discovery Channel shows." He hiked over the Manhattan bridge to a subway and went home to a wife and daughter who for hours thought he was dead.

On the morning of Oct. 11, precisely at the moment when the nation was watching remembrance services in New York, Hardej was standing on a fly-infested patch of tarmac in the middle of a blazing hot desert somewhere in Southwest Asia. As the television showed people praying while a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" in the background, Hardej talked about his experiences, and why he chose to deploy with his squadron

instead.

"I couldn't see my boys coming over here without me," he said.

His wife didn't want him to leave. He had just survived a terrorist attack. The buildings that once dominated the New York skyline had literally toppled around him. Now he was off to the desert.

"She's seen me go through enough, and I can feel for her because she was there watching [television coverage of the attack] knowing where I work," Hardej said. "She's been through a lot, and she feels I'm pushing my luck."

In many ways, the Air Force is responsible not only for his survival but also the resulting recovery. The deployment kept his mind off the tragedy and let him focus on something tangible, something he could do now.

"Deploying is part of the healing process," Hardej said. "That's my excuse. I have a skill, and I want to use that skill. Having the unit here and me staying home just wasn't right."

As a unit, the New York crash and recovery people take the attacks personally. Some are

firefighters and police officers with the city, and they helped rescue one of the five survivors pulled from the debris of the towers.

"Especially being a New Yorker, you take it personally," he said. "I know a lot of Guardsmen in the fire department and police department. They take it personally because they had a lot of people who didn't make it out that day."

Hardej is the first to admit that he's stayed busy since the Sept. 11 attacks. Maybe it's his way of coping with the trauma, he said. He hasn't really had time to sit and think about that morning.

He doesn't know what he'll do when he has a quiet moment. It's not in his makeup to dwell on the past, but he figures there will be some point when he'll have to look back.

"It's something you can't get away from," he said. "I guess eventually I'll have to sit and think about it. We'll see."

Until then, he's doing his job. It's his role, regardless of the circumstances. It keeps him busy. It helps him survive.

FROM PAGE 12

## Storm

per hour.

"The wind was kicking up salt spray, the landing lights were making everything hazy and beyond that it was pitch black, so really I couldn't see anything at first," Buschor recalls. "Fortunately, my night-vision goggles were still attached to my helmet. I wasn't willing to jump without being able to see, so I flipped the goggles back over my eyes, took a deep breath and jumped off the footboard." He fell about 15 feet, inflated his LPU (life preserving unit) and landed on the top of a wave crest.

"In the military you train to the point that it gets boring and monotonous," he says, "but what's amazing is that when you get into a stressful situation, you respond the way you were trained. It's almost like you're on automatic and you don't have to think about what to do next. Once I hit the water, the first thing that entered my mind was to consolidate survival gear and look for other survivors. That's when it became apparent I was going to be doing that the rest of the evening," explains Buschor.

To avoid the risk of being pulverized by the

H-60's rotors at the time of impact, Ruvola utilized what's known as a hovering autorotation, something like downshifting a car, to slow the rotors by feeding the force of gravity back through the engine.

He and Mioli smacked the ocean while still onboard the dead helicopter. Inside the flooded crew compartment, in total darkness and upside down, they had only the air in their lungs at their disposal.

Ruvola's HEEDS bottle — a three-minute supply of air strapped to his leg — had been lost when the helicopter hit the water. "You're trained in dunker training to always maintain a hand-hold in underwater situations like that," explains Ruvola. "With that hand-hold you know pretty much where you are in relation to the exits on the helicopter. My primary exit was the pilot-door next to me. I grabbed the handle, turned it and the door opened, thank God."

Once outside the helicopter, Ruvola was able to trip the LPUs on his vest, which made him buoyant, and shot to the surface. Moments later, he was able to locate Mioli who, without the aid of a survival suit, was already shivering in the frigid water. Ruvola tied himself to Mioli with parachute cord to

keep the hypothermic flight engineer as warm as possible. "I took my wet-suit hood from my pocket and put it on Jim's head to help keep him warm," Ruvola says.

Eventually, and miraculously, Spillane found Ruvola and Mioli, thanks to emergency strobe lights on Ruvola's survival suit. Buschor was drifting several hundred yards away already. Smith was nowhere to be found. The trio clung to each other — and to life — for several more hours. Spillane had broken four ribs, one bone in his left leg and three bones in his right arm. He had also ruptured a kidney and bruised his pancreas. Mioli was fighting to remain coherent in the 60-degree water. Ruvola was trying to help them both.

Four hours passed in the raging darkness. In that time, the Tamaroa managed to navigate the 12 miles to the spot where the H-60 ditched. Twenty-five minutes later, the crew of the Tamaroa used its cargo net to rescue the furiously swimming Buschor from seas that, at times, placed him 30 feet above the men trying to save him. "I couldn't believe I was on the deck of the Coast Guard cutter," says Buschor. "I didn't think I was going to make it, and it was almost an overpowering

sensation that I had made it that far. The guys immediately picked me up and threw me inside, cut my clothes off and wrapped me in blankets. I was pleading for something to drink, but they wouldn't give me anything because they were afraid I might have internal injuries."

About 40 minutes later and nearly a mile from the spot where Buschor was pulled aboard, Spillane, Ruvola and Mioli were rescued in the same manner — vomiting seawater as they were pulled to the deck. Mioli suffered from severe hypothermia and Spillane was bleeding internally.

Though all four would live to tell their stories, their colleague and friend, Rick Smith, was tragically lost at sea.

"Rick was a great guy with a very quiet demeanor — a true professional," says Buschor. "He knew his stuff. Losing him was very hard. What I couldn't fathom was that he was a PJ (Para-rescue Jumper), yet I made it out alive and he didn't. It is extremely difficult to accept the loss."

Smith, one of the most highly trained survival swimmers in the world, was never located despite nine days of round-the-clock searches by the Coast Guard.

(Editor's Note: Story reprinted with permission from the January/February 2001 issue of USAA MAGAZINE.)



## TRAINING

## Alaska CST investigates unearthed barrels

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

It didn't take long to jump from the frying pan into the fire or, in Alaska's case, from the ice chest onto the glacier.

That has been the brief history of the Alaska National Guard's newly certified, 22-member weapons of mass destruction-civil support team that is based near Anchorage.

The team, designated as the 103rd, had barely been approved for federal service earlier this year in March when it was summoned to Fort Greely, 280 miles to the north to check out rusted, bent and broken steel barrels that had been uncovered during a construction dig.

Civil authorities needed to know if there was anything in those old barrels that could harm the construction workers, the people who would have to remove them, and the Alaskan environment.

They called the Guard, the team with the fleet of blue vehicles trained to detect chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear substances that could be threaten, perhaps kill, others at or near that location.

Thankfully, said one of the team's senior sergeants, the Guard people found nothing to fear in those old barrels after spending 12 hours at the arctic site where spring and summer arrive an inch at a time.

"It was a real world mobilization that turned into a good training exercise," added the citizen-soldier who asked not to be identified, in keeping with the teams' desires to maintain their security.

The 18 members of the Alaska team, commanded by Army Guard Lt. Col. Bradley Jorgensen, who were available for that duty drove half of the distance through a snowstorm. Their top speed was 45 mph. The temperature hovered between 0 and 25 above during their long day at the site.

The conditions were downright brutal for survey team members, in their face masks and protective suits, who had to gather samples from the barrels and for those who had to decontaminate the survey team.

"We know what we're up against here in Alaska, and we have trained hard to be ready to do our job in these extreme conditions," said Jorgensen about the full-time team of 16 Army Guard and six Air Guard people that was formed at Fort Richardson in February 2001.

The team passed its 5th Army evaluation with flying colors in Anchorage earlier in the year when the temperature reached 9 degrees. The Office of the Secretary of Defense certified the team a month later.

"I couldn't be prouder of them as a com-

mander," Jorgensen told the Alaska Military Weekly. "It was a go, no-go grading system, and they received go's in all tasks and sub-tasks which equated to a total of 530 tasks."

The Fort Greely mission, underscored the challenges that all of the National Guard's teams can encounter when they roll out because firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical people want to know what they are getting into.

The teams have been getting into quite a lot across this country.

By the end of April, the first 27 teams authorized by Congress had been tested and certified to perform their duties in their own states as well as in other parts of the country, including states that do not have full-time teams. Hawaii is the most recent team to get the Defense Department's blessing.

Five more teams are being organized in Alabama, Kansas, Michigan, Tennessee and West Virginia so they can be on line by the end of this year.

General Eric Shinseki, the Army's chief of staff, directed that Guard teams be trained and tested at an accelerated pace following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Through Apr. 22, the teams had conducted 421 missions at the request of civil authorities since Sept. 11, National Guard Bureau officials reported.

Teams have turned out 140 times to test powders suspected to be anthrax and unknown liquids and suspicious pieces of mail. They have been part of the standby security forces for the World Series, Super Bowl XXXVI, Mardi Gras and the 2002 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

They have provided technical expertise 227 times to the U.S. Secret Service, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, American Red Cross, various state emergency management agencies, state and local law enforcement agencies, hospitals and health departments.

In short, federal and state officials have come to rely on these National Guard teams which remain under the control of the governors. Here's why:

The 22 members are trained in 14 different military specialties, including medicine and communications. They have undergone between 350 and 700 hours of emergency and terrorism training. They have sophisticated communications vans that can bounce signals off satellites to experts anywhere in the world and that can enable people from different agencies using different kinds of radios to talk to each other on the spot.

They have mobile laboratories that can analyze suspect substances in short order at vir-



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

**Keeping the communications van, called a unified command suite, with its satellite dish ready to roll is one of the tasks that members of the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team pay close attention.**

tually any location.

And they do not let things like the weather or mountain ranges get in their way. The Alaska team is a good example of that determination because that state of 663,267 square miles, which is more than twice the size of Texas, can pose some logistical nightmares, Jorgensen pointed out.

It has only 1,200 miles of paved highways, primarily in the southeastern sector. Juneau, the state capital hard by Canada, can be reached only by plane or boat. Only six of the 74 National Guard armories can be driven to from other parts of the state.

"We just can't drive to many of the hubs where we might be needed," said one team member.

Flying, therefore, is the option that the 103rd must consider first if it has to get to a coastal community, such as Nome to the west or Barrow to the north, or to much of the Alaska Pipeline in a hurry.

"Air transport is the key to our success," said Jorgensen.

Although one of the sergeants who operates the communications van said it can be flown on a C-130 "Hercules" cargo plane, he is designing a comparable, smaller system that can be carried by helicopter to places where

a plane can't land.

The team is also exploring the idea of transmitting information to the van that may be set up many miles away, perhaps in Anchorage, and then having the communications team move it to other agencies, Jorgensen added.

Furthermore, team leaders have to decide in a hurry if they will need help from another state's team, because it could take the cavalry 10 hours to get there. The Alaska unit could function for three straight days before needing relief, estimated one leader.

Those challenges, plus having to work outside during dark days in the dead of winter, make the team's job that much more challenging and rewarding, its members maintained.

"Yeah, it was cold, but we got the system set up in 38 minutes and everything worked perfectly. And we were given 90 minutes to do it," said one of the communications sergeants about the all-important evaluation in February.

"The beauty of this job is that it's a valid mission," said another noncommissioned officer who was one of the first people hired. "I knew that if we started this team from the bottom up, we could do it right."