

THE ON GUARD

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James becomes first ANG 3-star director



Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Gillis, National Guard Bureau
Secretary of the Air Force, James P. Roche administers the oath to Lieutenant General Daniel James III, the new director of the Air National Guard while James' wife, Dana, holds the Bible.

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Daniel James III is the first director of the Air National Guard to be promoted to three-star rank because, he recounted recently, he took to heart his grandmother's advice about being prepared.

"My father's mother told me when the train of opportunity pulls into the station, don't tell the conductor that you've got to run home and pack your bags. You need to have your bags already packed," said James.

He is the first African American to become director of the 108,500-member Air National Guard, 8.9 percent of who are African Americans, according to the 2002 National Guard Almanac.

James, 56, who officially became the 11th Air Guard director on June 3, was publicly promoted to lieutenant general

on June 26 at the Bolling Air Force Base Enlisted Club in Washington, D.C., beside the street named for his late, legendary father.

That was Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr., the first African American to become a four-star general in the active Air Force. He was also an original member of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen who wrote their own story about African Americans being prepared for their opportunities during World War II.

The fighter pilots among those 992 African Americans still relish their reputation of never having an American bomber that they were protecting shot down by enemy aircraft, said Dr. Victor Hancock of Washington, D.C. He was one of three members of the Tuskegee Airmen's East Coast Chapter who were distinctive in their veterans asso-

See DIRECTOR On Page 5

Hot times: Battling forest fires and protecting the land

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Homeland defense has meant many new and different things to many National Guard troops since terrorists targeted the United States last September. It is not, however, a new concept to citizen-soldiers like South Dakota Army National Guard Spc. Charles Ginter who associates homeland defense with protecting their people from the terrors of the annual western wildfires.

"As far as the home front is concerned,

we're in the thick of it right now," Ginter said recently while training near Rapid City, S.D., to take his place on the front lines should a wildfire threaten his drought-parched home state. "If we're not doing our federal mission, it makes perfectly good sense to do this here at home."

Ginter was one of seven members of the South Dakota Army Guard's 216th Engineer Firefighting Team to earn their red cards and be sanctioned by that state's Department of Agriculture Wildlife Fire Suppression unit as trained frontline wildfire fighters earlier this

summer.

It was timely training because wildfires were already ravaging the West considerably earlier than usual, fueled by some of the driest conditions ever recorded thanks to a two-year drought that officials have blamed on La Nina. The Washington Post reported that more than 18 large fires in six states had charred 2 million acres, "consuming acreage at a pace roughly double the 10-year average."

A battalion-size body of Army National Guard troops was called to state-active duty

in Colorado and Arizona to help deal with the largest fires in those states' histories and allegedly ignited by people employed to fend them off.

Four Air National Guard cargo planes from North Carolina were flown to Colorado to fight the fires from the air along with two similar C-130 "Hercules" aircraft belonging to the Air Force Reserve.

All six planes were sent north — to South Dakota — to dump cooling chemicals on a

See FIRES On Page 7

IN THE NEWS

Challenge

Guard program helps at risk students succeed.

8



THE GUARD ADVANTAGE

Opportunity

Guard soldier makes the most of college benefits

5



MISSION

Mobilization

Soldiers moving soldiers to fulfill mission.

4





Commentary

About The On Guard

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More than one 11-time winner

Dear Editor,

An article in the On Guard (April edition, page 5), Georgia Guard Racks up Two More Wins, stated that the 116th Bomb Wing at Robins AFB, is the only unit in the Air Force - active or reserves - ever to receive the coveted Air Force Outstanding Unit Award on eleven separate occasions.

The 123d Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 2001 - its 11th such honor!

I also understand that the 193th Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard has 11 awards.

I thought that you might be interested in this information. Please let me know your thoughts!

Lt Col Rich Frymire
Community Manager, 123d Airlift Wing
Kentucky Air National Guard

Dear Editor,

It was brought to my attention that an article in the April issue of On Guard contains an inaccuracy. The article, Georgia Guard racks up two more wins, claims that 116th Bomb Wing is "the only unit in the Air Force - active or reserves - ever to receive [the Air

Force Outstanding Unit Award] on eleven separate occasions."

My unit, the 193rd Special Operations Wing, has also received 11 A.F. Outstanding Unit Awards. Would it be possible to publish this fact?

Lt. Edward E. Shank
Chief of Public Affairs
193rd Special Operations Wing

(Editor's note: We apologize for not recognizing your units in the original story. We could not find anyone that keeps a running record of the number of wins per unit.)

Reserve, Guard transitional health care benefits improve

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- A recent change to health care benefits will be a big help for Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard people who were mobilized in support of the war on terrorism.

Under the revised transitional health care benefit plan, Reserve and Guard people who were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency and have more than six years total active federal service are eligible for 120 days of health care following their period of active service.

Guard and Reserve members with less than six years service will get 60 days of continued medical care. Under a worldwide demonstration project, family members are also covered under this plan. This program is

retroactive to Jan. 1.

Eligibility for these benefits will be determined by information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

"I think the No. 1 thing a member can do upon demobilization is to ensure their information in DEERS is correct," said Col. Kathleen Woody, director of medical readiness and programs in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "That's paramount because all of your benefits are contingent on the information in DEERS."

The Defense Manpower Data Center is sending a letter to people who are eligible for this benefit, but only if the information in DEERS reflects their having served in support of a contingency operation such as operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom.

"Our Reserve and Guard members and their families have sacrificed a great deal by responding to the call to duty in support of the war on terrorism," Woody said. "We have an obligation to ensure that each individual is aware of this transitional health care benefit."

Members and families who were enrolled in TRICARE Prime while on active duty will automatically be disenrolled upon release from active duty. The Reserve component member or family must actively re-enroll if they wish to continue TRICARE Prime during the transitional health care period.

An enrollment form is available on the TRICARE Web site or at a local TRICARE service center. No enrollment is necessary for TRICARE Standard or Extra.

GUARDTOONS



*"Are you
enrolled in
Tri-Care?"*



In the News

95th Civil Support Team trains for the worst

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team will go a long way to make its point and to help train others in its unique ways of war, which involves dealing with weapons of mass destruction.

That is precisely what that team, based in the San Francisco Bay community of Hayward, Calif., did while taking part in a weapons of mass destruction training exercise held in Rapid City, S.D., earlier this summer.

Taking part in Patriot Response 2002 on the South Dakota plain about 1,100 miles from the California coast was another day at the office for the team that is trained to do what most people would rather not.

The California team members flew in a week early to work with their South Dakota counterparts in the 82nd Civil Support Team, which does not have the same sophisticated equipment such as a communications van and a mobile laboratory for testing suspicious substances.

The 22-member California team is one of 27 "heavy" Guard teams the Department of Defense certified to detect biological, chemical and radiological substances for first responders anywhere in the country. Five more heavy teams are being trained and equipped in preparation for certification.

The South Dakota unit is called a "light" team because, besides not having all of the equipment of a heavy team, most of its 22 members are traditional, or part-time, soldiers and airman. Because it lacks equipment and full-time personnel, the light team has not been federally certified to operate outside of its own state. Twenty-two light teams are located across the country where full-time teams have not been fielded.

The 95th, certified last January, is the newer of two heavy teams based in the Golden State. The Los Angeles area's 9th Civil Support Team was called up for World Series duty in Arizona last fall and for XIX Winter Olympics support in Utah last February.

The new California team took full advantage of its opportunity to show the South Dakota folks what a fully trained and equipped National Guard team can do during the exercise that coincided with Joint Thunder '02. That was a two-week training exercise in South Dakota and Wyoming for more than 5,000 members of reserve components from 13 states.

The California team surprised a lot of people during the hot Friday at the Rapid City Regional Airport where much of the Patriot

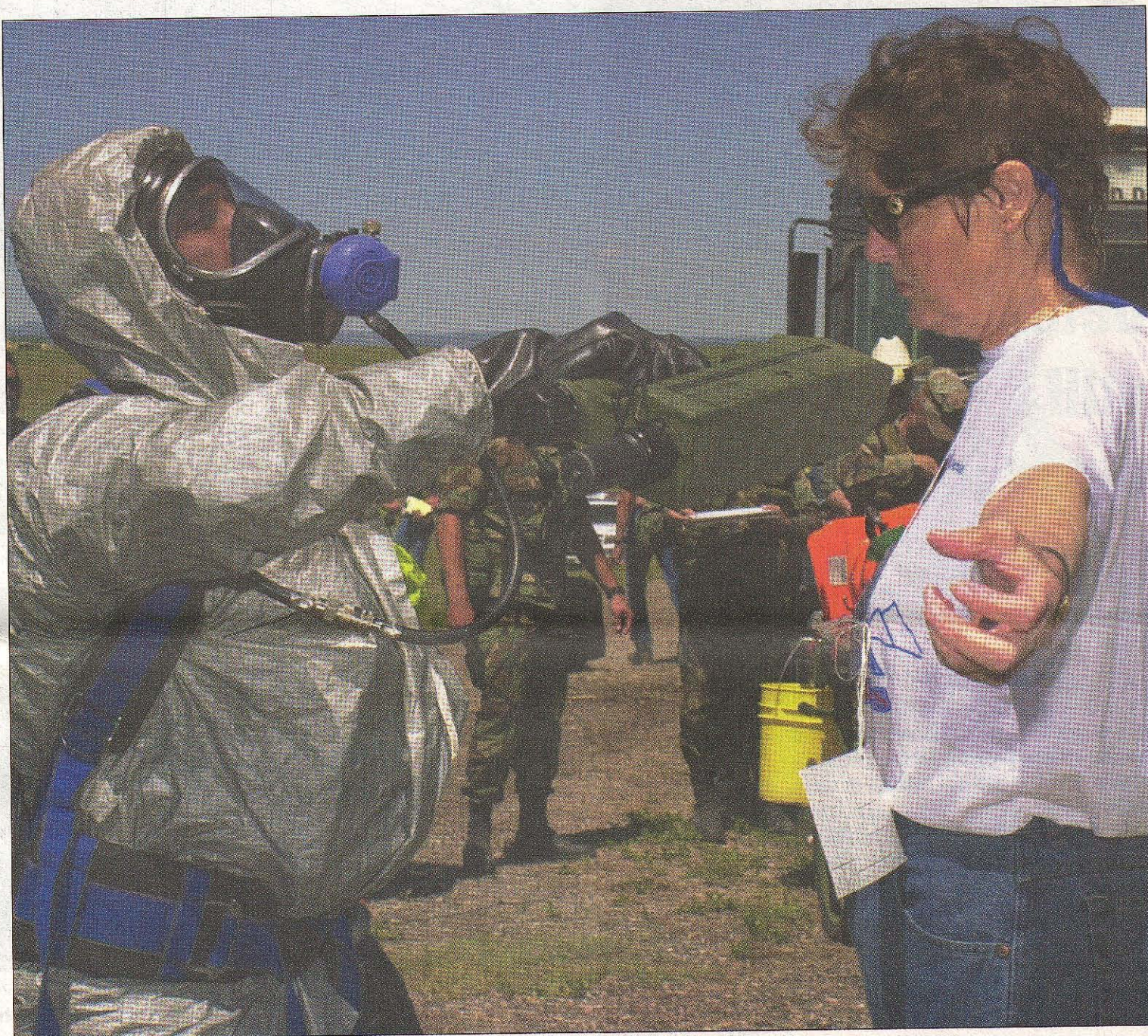


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

A member of the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team examines a victim of a simulated airplane crash for toxic substances during a training exercise in Rapid City, S.D., earlier this summer.

Response training took place for members of the city's fire and police departments and for Pennington County Emergency Management personnel and the South Dakota Highway Patrol. The FBI supervised the event.

"We were completely unprepared for the skills and the assets these National Guard people brought to the scenario," said Mike Thompson, captain of the Rapid City Fire Department's paramedics. "They moved in and took the place of my people who had been on duty for over two hours. They didn't miss a beat."

It is the same everywhere they go, said Maj. John Haramalis, the California team's commander. "Local responders really don't know what we can bring to these situations. That's why we come to these events."

The South Dakota training event had all of the trappings of a crisis that Americans now know is entirely possible following last year's anthrax alarms.

This was the scenario: two terrorists tried to take over an airplane that had been taxiing to take off before being recalled to the terminal. The plane skidded off the runway, rolled over and broke in two, spilling passengers, luggage and fuel. The first firefighters on the scene suspected that the scene had been contaminated with a chemical or biological agent based on the way the surviving passengers were acting.

The firefighters called in the cavalry - the local hazardous material experts who then called in the National Guard. The California team was already in Rapid City, as part of the

play, because outlaw biker gangs had threatened to go to war with each other and use pipe bombs and other chemical devices.

That's why members of the 95th were in the right place at the right time to train with members of the South Dakota team. The California team members put on protective suits and breathing apparatus to help examine passengers for toxic agents. Two of them checked out the crash scene -- the "hot zone" -- for such agents.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Reserve's 323rd Chemical Company from Sioux Falls, S.D., set up its new decontamination tent at the Rapid City hospital to treat people who were afraid they had been contaminated and to

See TEAM On Page 12

Soldiers moving soldiers

Mobilization Augmentation Detachment still responding to Sept. 11

By Mr. Dan Allen

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In the days and weeks following the attacks of Sept. 11 the Army's need for personnel to fill a surge of requirements skyrocketed.

"It takes a great deal of effort and resources to mobilize the force," said the Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz. "And, it requires soldiers to move soldiers."

To meet the requirement, the National Guard mobilized the only unit designed to meet this need — the Mobilization Augmentation Detachment, a District of Columbia Army National Guard unit.

"We are the 9-1-1 force for the active Army and Army Guard," said Detachment Commander Col. Randy Manner. "Following Sept. 11, one half of the officers in the Pentagon's Crisis Action Team were members of the detachment."

Answering the call, the unit was mobilized within five days — augmenting both the Army Operation Center in the Pentagon and the Army Guard Emergency Operations Center in Arlington, Va. The detachment was the first Army National Guard unit mobilized in support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

The unit was created in response to lessons learned during Operation Desert Storm, when large numbers of individuals and units were deployed overseas. The deployment of those soldiers made it difficult to staff the Army and Army Guard's operation centers. As a result of those experiences, the detachment was created. Its wartime mission is to provide support to the Army Operations Center and the Army National Guard Emergency Operations Center. In addition, unit members research and prepare material



Photo by Master Sgt. Ren Willie, National Guard Bureau

Capt. Charles Wollenhaupt, a member of the Mobilization Augmentation Detachment, provides operational staff support in the Army Operations Center at the Pentagon.

for senior Army leadership, such as briefings and information papers.

In addition to training for its vital wartime mission, the unit provides national and regional support to civil authorities during natural disasters and other emergencies during peacetime.

"I think of the unit as the heartbeat of the Army and Army Guard," said Manner. "You don't see us, but we are behind the scenes making things happen."

The unit was demobilized on Feb. 15, but

"We have hard charging, intelligent, and experienced soldiers who take the initiative and can work without direct supervision, but we need more of them. Our new organization now involves eight states and will allow members to drill in their state, but hold slots in our unit."

— Col. Randy Manner

individual members remain on active duty supporting Army Guard operations.

The unit is undergoing major changes, according to Manner, and is in the process of expanding to meet increasing operational needs.

The unit's increased manning has sparked a recruiting effort that spans the United States.

"We have hard charging, intelligent, and experienced soldiers who take the initiative and can work without direct supervision, but we need more of them," said Manner.

"Our new organization now involves eight states and will allow members to drill in their state, but hold slots in our unit."

Unit vacancies exist primarily at the captain through lieutenant colonel level and are open to all branches of the Army.

The unit also has a limited number of non-commissioned officer positions at the staff sergeant through master sergeant level.

"We will consider all qualified officers and NCOs (noncommissioned officers), but we need people with operations experience," Manner added. "The assignments are highly rewarding, but also highly competitive."

Members must also be able to qualify for a top-secret security clearance.

Army Officers and NCOs interested in joining the detachment can contact the unit at 703-607-7377.

Top Guard college grad leads state senate in pledge

By Capt. Len Gratteri

Delaware National Guard

DOVER, Del. — Sgt. Christopher Guest of Newark, Del., and a citizen-soldier with the Delaware Army National Guard, earned the 2002 President's Award at Delaware State University in Dover, as class valedictorian. The top graduate maintained a perfect 4.0 grade-point average during his four years at the university and earned a dual-bachelor's degrees in Aircraft Systems Management and Airways Science Management.

While earning his college degree, Guest took advantage of the Delaware National Guard's State Educational Assistance Program and received more than \$23,000 in tuition, paid up-front, from the Guard. While studying in college, he also earned a commercial pilot's license and flight instructor license with the help of the educational assistance program.

The state legislation authorizing the educational assistance program was signed into law in 1998 as a recruiting and retention tool for the 2,700 members of the Delaware National Guard. In the past four years, nearly 1,200 tuition applications have been approved with almost 60 Delaware National Guard troops now holding college degrees. Overall, the program has contributed \$1.8 million dollars to the higher education of Delaware National Guard members.

Besides being recognized by his alma mater, Guest also participated in a Flag Day ceremony helping to kickoff the Delaware State Legislature's 141st General Assembly earlier this summer. Guest was recognized on the Senate floor for his accomplishments and led the state senators in the Pledge of Allegiance. Later, Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner congratulated him during a visit to her office in the state's capitol.

"The goal of the educational assistance program is to attract the brightest and best around," said Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala, adjutant



Submitted photo

Sgt. Christopher Guest of Newark, Del. was recognized on the Senate floor for his accomplishments and led the state senators in the Pledge of Allegiance. Later, Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner congratulated him during a visit to her office in the state's capitol.

general of the Delaware National Guard. "Sergeant Guest is just one example of how successful the program has been."

Guest was grateful to the lawmakers for making his college education possible through his service in the Delaware Army National Guard.

"This was all made possible by the

Delaware Guard's educational assistance program," said Guest of his accomplishments. "I couldn't pay for college myself, didn't want to go into debt, and was lucky enough to find out about the Delaware Guard's program."

Guest received \$23,000 from the state's program, \$17,000 in federal tuition assis-

tance and also earned about \$20,000 as a paycheck for his service in the Delaware Army National Guard. He also received military training, certifying him as a multi-channel transmissions system operator.

"I think this is the best thing going. Where else can you earn \$60,000 from a part time job?" asked Guest.

FROM PAGE 1

Director

tion's bright red blazers at James' promotion ceremony.

"They decided that what was considered 'good enough' was not good enough for them. They endured whatever was necessary. They paid whatever price to prove they were Americans willing to fight for their country; that they were just as patriotic as anyone else," praised James of how those aviators have influenced him because they did not give in to the racial prejudice of their times.

"I'm very proud to be a second generation Tuskegee Airman ... and to be standing here today," said James after his wife Dana and close friend Gen. Hal Hornburg, commander of the Air Force's Air Combat Command, pinned on his third stars.

"My father taught me love of country and to be prepared, to do my homework and to get my stuff together before I needed it," said James who learned his lessons well enough to become a command pilot with

more than 4,000 hours in fighters and trainers. He flew more than 300 combat missions in Vietnam.

It was his grandmother, a schoolteacher named Lillie Anna James, who told him to be packed for the train.

James, who served for nearly seven years as the adjutant general for Texas, was promoted to lieutenant general by President George W. Bush during a private ceremony at the White House on June 5 after the Senate confirmed his presidential nomination on May 14. Dr. James Roche, the secretary of the Air Force, also held a promotion ceremony for James at the Pentagon on June 5.

Bush, a former Texas Air Guard fighter pilot who was the Texas governor at the time, appointed James to be the Lone Star State's military leader in 1995.

"I'm proud of Dan James, and I'm proud of the wisdom of our nation to select him for this job," said Hornburg who has been a

friend since they flew forward-air control missions together as second lieutenants in South Vietnam beginning in 1968.

"Certainly the nation would not be as strong without our Guard members and reservists because they've been carrying the load of Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom," Hornburg said.

Indeed, 23,491 Air Guard members, nearly a quarter of the force, were involved in the war against terrorism on the day that James was promoted at Bolling. Hornburg also presented James with the Distinguished Service Medal for his "unmatched understanding of the importance of people and the mission" while serving as the Texas adjutant general.

James has succeeded Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr. as Air Guard director. Congress approved the three-star rank for the leaders of the nation's seven reserve components in August 1999 as part of the 2000 Defense Authorization Act.

James received his Air Force commission in 1968 when he graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in psychology. He joined the Texas Air Guard in 1978 and served with the 182nd Tactical Fighter Squadron and the 149th Tactical Fighter Group at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio.

He was operations group commander for the 149th when he moved to Camp Mabry in Austin in November 1995 as the Texas adjutant general.

Now he has joined a National Guard Bureau team in Arlington, Va., during the bureau's Year of Diversity when two other African Americans hold senior leadership positions.

Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Russell Davis retired Sept. 1 after four years as chief of the National Guard Bureau. Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton has been the Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard for the past year. She will remain in that position as James' chief advisor for the enlisted force.

Candidates challenged

Command Sergeant Major demands solid leadership

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The Army National Guard's senior enlisted leader challenged more than 200 new officer candidates recently to learn how to effectively lead citizen-soldiers during this country's war against global terrorism.

Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III also told the men and women who are beginning officer candidate school at historic Fort Meade in western South Dakota that he would kick their backsides if, after earning their commissions, they unnecessarily put their Army Guard soldiers in harm's way.

Lever delivered his four-minute pep talk on the parade field of the former Army cavalry post where the "Star Spangled Banner" was first played in 1892 during Retreat ceremonies and at the end of parades and concerts.

"We are in desperate need of officers throughout our Army National Guard, probably never more so than today as we are fighting the global war against terrorism," Lever told the candidates who have already undergone basic training and in many cases have already become noncommissioned officers.

"As you train here, think about those soldiers we will be asking you to lead," he said. "And it won't be leading in peacetime. It will be leading soldiers in a time of war. The responsibility that you're getting ready to accept is great. I know you're up to it."

The 200 candidates, predominately from the western states, were beginning their first two weeks of officer training. An estimated 150 of those will remain at Fort Meade for the following four weeks to take part in the fourth "fast track" Accelerated Course 501 that the South Dakota Regional Training Institute commanded by Col. James Preston is conducting for the fourth straight summer.

Another 25 or so candidates will join that class for a projected total of 175, said Lt. Col. Doug Quarve.

The fast-track candidates can earn their commissions in eight weeks. Those who are successful will complete their training at Fort Lewis, Wash., later in the year. The others will continue to train during weekend drills for the next year before spending their final two weeks at Fort Lewis next summer.

The four-week phase of a new fast-track program for officer candidates from the eastern part of the country also began earlier this summer at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. About 270 citizen-soldiers were expected to begin that program.

"I'm surprised we had as many candidates

for this program, considering the new fast-track program is being started at Fort Indiantown Gap," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Zimmerman, the personnel sergeant at Fort Meade.

A total of 174 fast-track candidates from 25 states trained in South Dakota last summer.

This year's numbers are welcome because there were 2,038 vacancies for 1st and 2nd lieutenants and 4,220 vacancies for captains throughout the Army Guard this past spring, said Lt. Col. Cindy Dwyer at the National Guard Bureau. That amounted to a 27 percent shortage for company grade officers, she added.

Just because the Guard needs new officers does not mean that life will be a cakewalk for the candidates this summer. They'll have to earn their gold 2nd lieutenant's bars the hard

"If you do one thing, one thing that puts my soldiers at a risk: that's unacceptable. Or if you do anything to lead them in a way that we don't lead soldiers, this sergeant major will come back and kick your backsides. You had better treat my soldiers right."

- Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Lever

way.

That was evident immediately after the opening ceremony at Fort Meade when the tactical training staff began demanding countless pushups and leg lifts and other forms of physical exertion from the candidates who quickly began to sweat under the intense South Dakota sun.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lever, who 33 years ago graduated from The Citadel, the state

military college in his native South Carolina, let them know the heat will still be on after they earn their commissions.

"If you do one thing, one thing that puts my soldiers at a risk: that's unacceptable. Or if you do anything to lead them in a way that we don't lead soldiers, this sergeant major will come back and kick your" backsides, Lever promised. "You had better treat my soldiers right."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mouilleseaux, National Guard Bureau

Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III (left) and South Dakota's State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Birnbaum welcomed officer candidates to the Regional Training Institute at Fort Meade near Sturgis, S.D., earlier this summer.

FROM PAGE 1

Fires

fire that threatened the tourist town of Deadwood, explained Air Force Reserve Tech. Sgt. Dave Morton.

National Guard soldiers and airmen have already spent the past year pulling security duty at more than 400 civilian airports, staffing Canadian and Mexican border checkpoints, and deploying to the United States' Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba to help guard detainees suspected of belonging to Taliban and al-Qaida terrorist cells.

This summer, the early wildfire season was the new twist in homeland defense for the National Guard.

Nearly 300 Army Guard troops in Arizona had pulled security duty with police officers at evacuated communities. They also staffed armories for people seeking refuge from a 463,000-acre fire that had destroyed at least 423 houses and forced 30,000 people to be evacuated from nine towns.

That Guard mission was winding down, reported Arizona Army Guard Maj. Harold Jones, because that fire which had threatened but then spared Show Low was 35 percent contained and 25,000 residents were returning to their homes.

However, another 550 Guard troops were standing by if they were needed, Jones added. A part-time firefighter for the Bureau of Indian Affairs was charged with intentionally setting one of the two fires that combined into that inferno.

About 185 Army Guard troops were on duty in Colorado's Pike National Forest where the Hayman fire, allegedly set by a U.S. Forest Service worker, had scorched 137,000 acres, destroyed at least 133 houses and, *The Associated Press* reported, had already cost more than \$29 million to fight.

Colorado citizen-soldiers have been transporting firefighters and equipment and providing security personnel for fires at Black Mountain, the Coal Seam, Missionary Ridge and the Pike National Forest earlier this spring, according to 1st Lt. Holly Peterson, the Colorado National Guard's spokesperson.

Furthermore, the North Carolina Air Guard's 145th Air Wing in Charlotte sent four C-130 aircraft, which can drop 3,000 gallons of chemical retardant, called "slurry," in about five seconds on the blazing countryside, to Peterson Air Force Base in central Colorado to support that effort.

The North Carolina Guard unit joined forces with the crews of the two Air Force Reserve planes from the 302nd Air Wing based at Peterson. In all, about 100 Air Guard and Reserve personnel were on duty there.

The six planes equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems were flying between 12 and 20 sorties per day as needed by the U.S. Forest Service, said Morton, a 302nd spokesman.

All six planes, Morton added, were needed

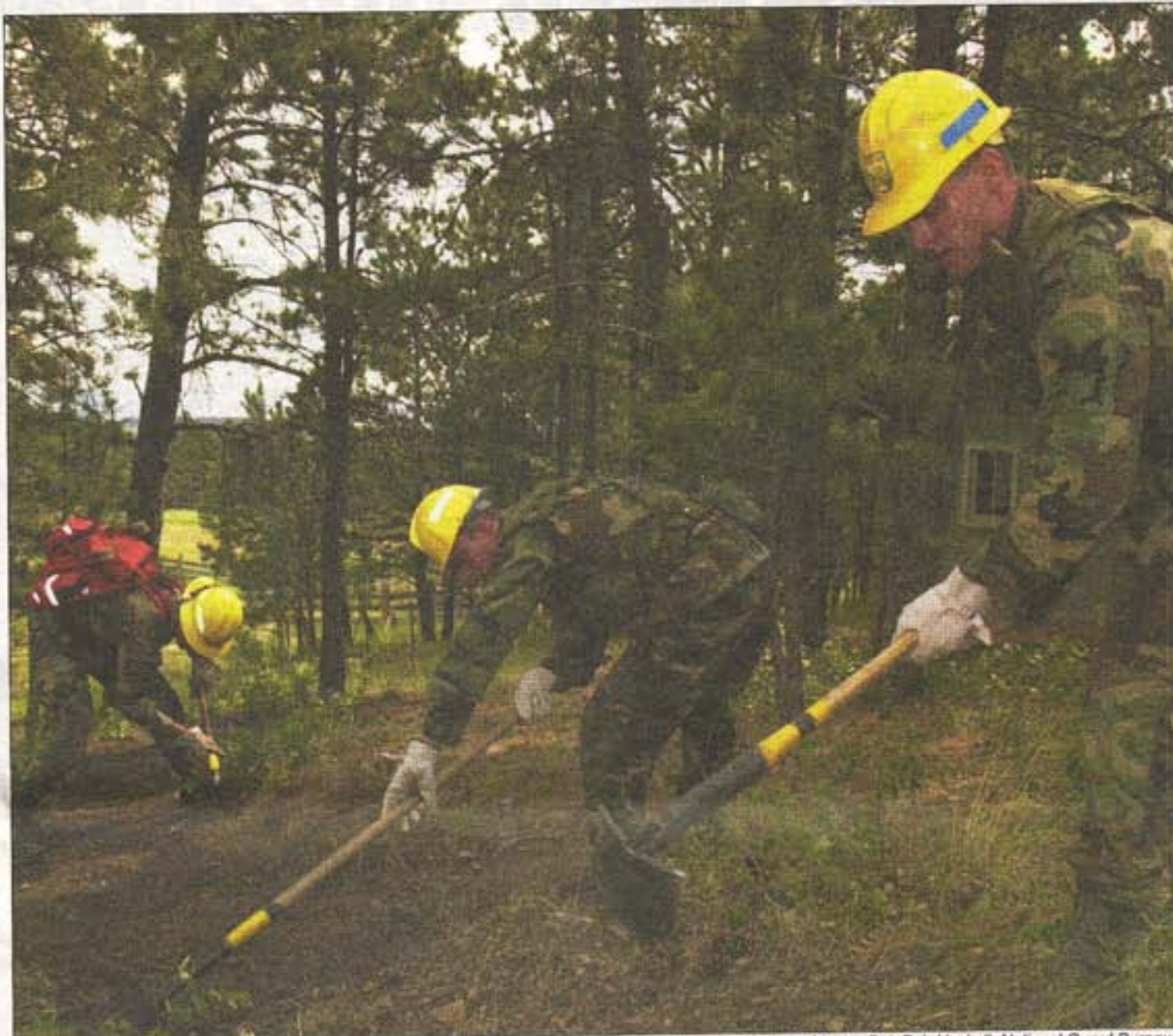


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers, members of the 216th Engineer Firefighting Team, dig a firebreak at Camp Rapid in June while earning the red cards that enable them to work on the front line of a wildfire. (Below) Spc. Tony Tryon trains with a chainsaw while learning to work on the front line of a wildfire.

to fight the new Grizzly Gulch fire in South Dakota.

That's where Guard troops like Spc. Charles Ginter and 1st Lt. Stuart Muzzy, the commander of the 216th Firefighting Team, were primed to reinforce the state's civilian force which was stretched to the limit. Many of those firefighters had been dispatched to Colorado, explained LaVerne Hermanson, the South Dakota Wildlife Fire Suppression unit's veteran chief trainer and safety officer.

The Guard soldiers had four days of training - lectures in a classroom and digging firebreaks and cutting trees in the field - at Camp Rapid before Hermanson issued them red cards. They can now work on the front line of a wildfire for 12 or 14 hours a day and for 15 days at a time, he explained.

"The most important thing you do out there is to go home at night," Hermanson told the citizen-soldiers.

"Our adjutant general does not want to get

caught by surprise," said Muzzy about the importance of the training. "If a lot of our civilian resources are in Colorado and the Black Hills goes up, who do you call? The National Guard."

Ginter is getting to be an old hand at this wildfire business. The college student helped protect buildings at the Custer Boy Scout Camp from the Jasper fire that scorched 80,000 South Dakota acres in August 2000.

Now he has been re-certified to be flown to a fire line as part of a "drop crew," similar to the smokejumpers that have been among the first responders for forest fires for many years.

There is something special about that duty, he and the others maintained, especially if it means taking on a fire in their home state.

"I worked on reports at night during the Jasper fire two years ago," said Spc. Casey Brown. "This work is a lot more appealing than doing reports."



Texas Guard runs program to

By Master Sergeant Anna M. Wagner
Texas National Guard

GALVESTON, Texas - Children of this great country are born to a land that is world renowned as 'the land of opportunity' and that's exactly what they have. Unfortunately, that can sometimes work against them.

This dilemma of having too much opportunity seems to be more of a challenge to our children these days as they reach 16 to 18 years of age. Try as they may to stay focused on their education, oftentimes material items or friends are too distracting. The temptation to stray down the wrong path is too great and many youths drop out of high school.

Through a program created in 1999, the Adjutant General's Department of the Texas National Guard operates the Seaborne Challenge Corps, or SCC as the military likes to call it. The Corps is an educational outreach program for at-risk youth from across the entire state. Its mission is to reclaim the potential of 16 to 18-year-old students who are not likely to successfully complete high school.

The SCC originated as a joint effort of the Texas National Guard and Texas A&M University. In 2001 the Adjutant General's Department assumed full operational control of the in-residence program. SCC in Texas is one of 27 states and territories operating under the National Guard Bureau's Youth Challenge Program.

Seaborne students are recruited through their high school teachers, counselors or truancy officers. Those who volunteer for the



Photo by Master Sergeant Anna M. Wagner, Texas Army National Guard

(Above) Physical fitness training provides exercise for their bodies as the staff educates their minds in a Texas National Guard-run Seaborne Challenge Corps in Galveston, Texas. (Below) Armando Garcia takes a few minutes at the beginning of the day to study.

program are screened for academic potential, drug use and the desire to accept the challenge of a military style academy.

There is a misconception about some of these kids background, says retired-Col. Tom W. Bridgwater, Jr., executive director of Seaborne Challenge Corps located in

Galveston.

When children are not succeeding academically or a truancy problems exist, some of these children need to get away from their contemporaries, says Bridgwater.

"There is an advantage to being in a different environment. This allows their real-self to come out and the real kid is really pretty good," he said.

Each class is configured into platoons, which have four academic days per week, two volunteer service days and one day for incentive events and voluntary attendance at Galveston area places of worship.

One student in the current class, Armando Garcia, came from Anderson High School in Austin, and he says he wanted to better his life and improve his chances for attaining a college education.

"High school just wasn't cutting it for me. There were too many distractions and I didn't have the grades I wanted, but here at Seaborne there are no distractions, we're all the same," said the 17-year-old Garcia, a platoon leader. "We all come here and get done what needs to be done. We just move ahead, that's all we do. We don't look back because there is nothing back there anymore."

Garcia sees the program as a way to get his life back on the right track.

"This program helps to straighten out the things that need to be straightened out, they help you to become a loyal citizen," he said.

Garcia aspires to go to college and has set his personal goals high.

"Maybe someday I'll work for a branch of the government - like in politics," he added.

Like many young adults they have dreams however, education is the primary focus for the students as well as for the teachers.

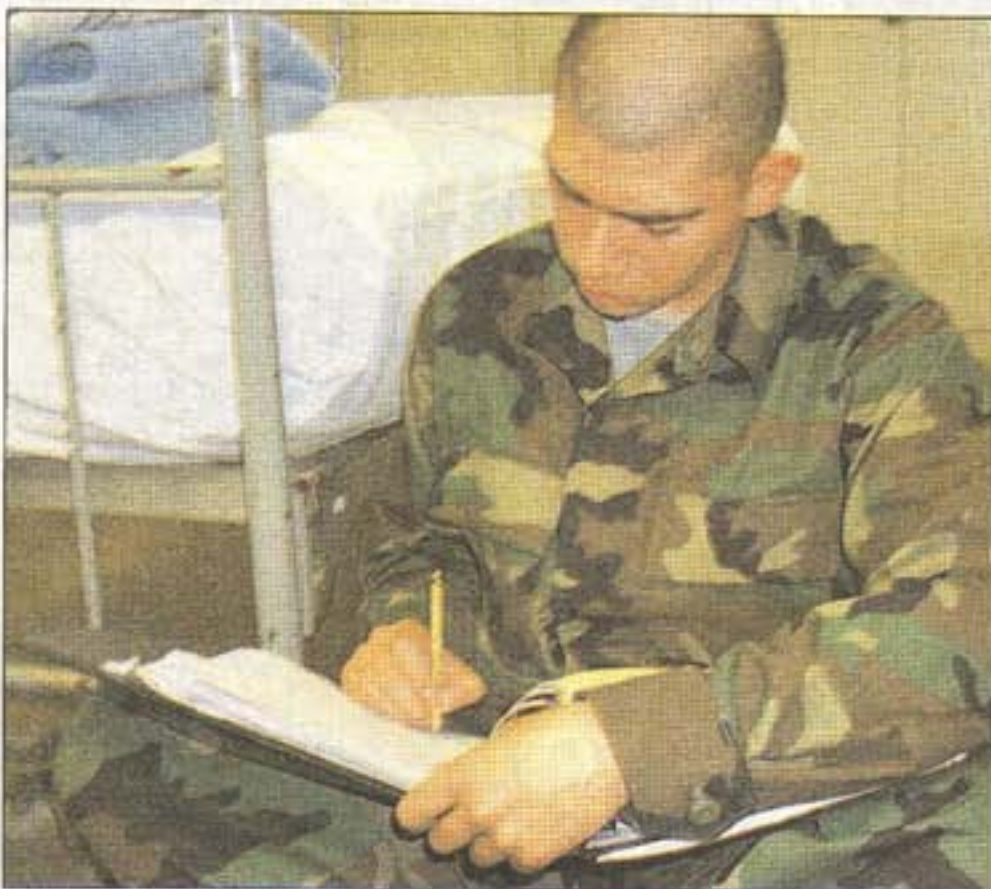
"I have a strong desire to help young people who desire to turn their lives around," said Brenda Castillo, teacher of computer-knowledge skills.

Castillo began her teaching career four-years ago after retiring from an administrative career with The World Bank.

"I've had a desire to work with at-risk youths and ultimately that's how I ended up here at SCC. I'm helping them see that they have great potential and that they have the ability to make a contribution to society as responsible adults and citizens," Castillo said. "I get a great thrill out of being a part of that process for them."

Twenty-six of the 103 recent graduates are now in post secondary education, and another 20 are committed to military service and 39 are employed. Thus officials reason the program recaptured the potential of these young people to become resources to themselves, their families and communities.

Also, the local oceanfront community also gets involved by giving the students a sense of belonging by accepting their offers of volunteer community service.



help at-risk students make it

Vickie Ladner, volunteer program coordinator for The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, acts as a liaison between Corps and the Medical Branch.

"We have them fill out applications and list their skills, any languages they speak and what department they might want to assist in," she said.

The two groups share a mutual admiration for each other.

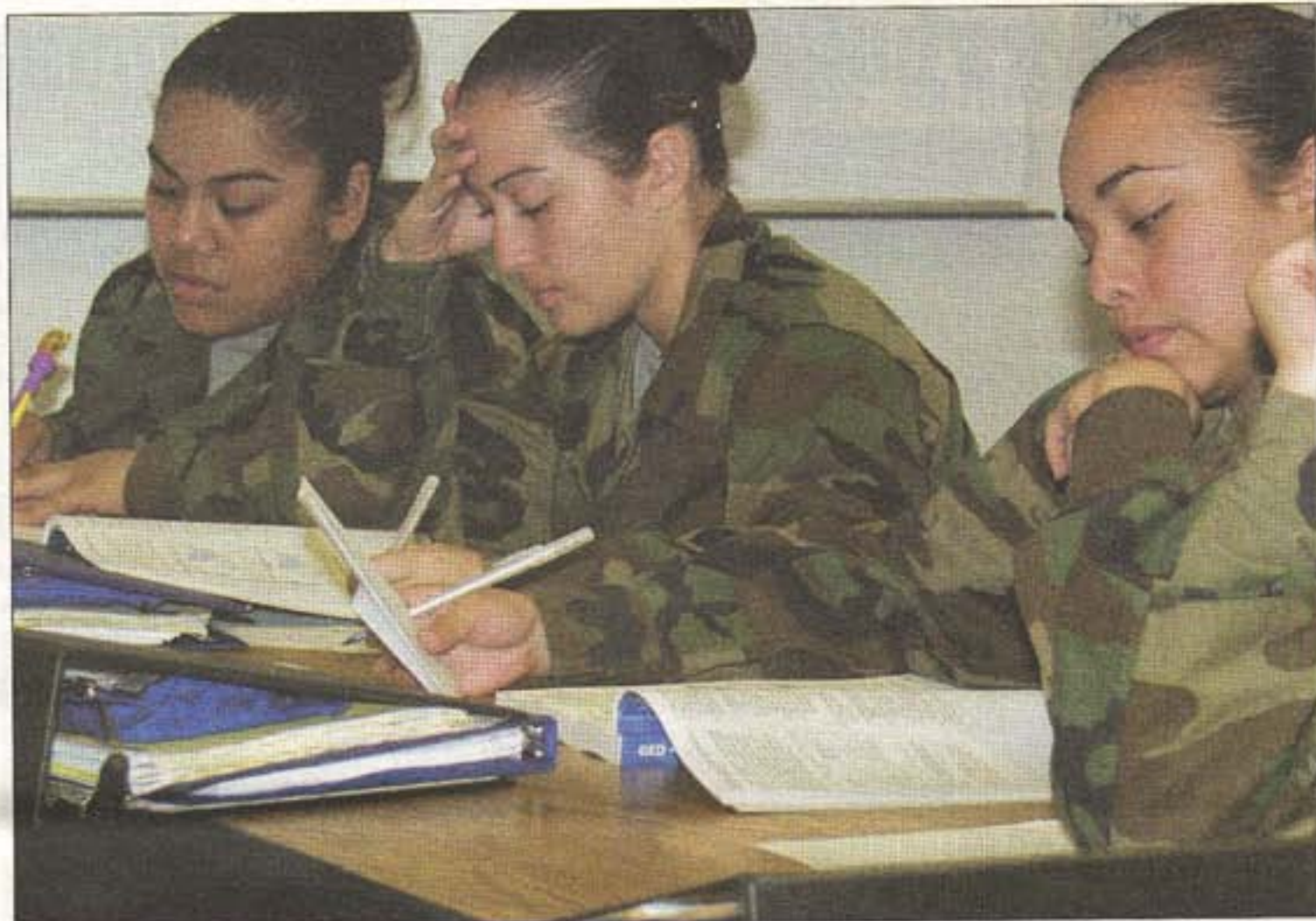
"We have a great admiration for the program and we'd like to see it work out so the kids get something out of it as well," Ladner added. "It's a win-win situation with this program, the impact they make here is quite large."

Community service projects for the students range from serving at the Medical Branch, the courthouse, and Gulf Health Care facility, American Red Cross, Women's Crises Center and the Nature Conservancy of Texas.

A residence program such as Seaborne Challenge Corps also offers medical care that is run very much like military sick call. Sergeant 1st Class Debbie L. Cano, licensed vocational nurse and a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Detachment 5, State Area Command Health Services, sees to the administration of medication, provides first aid and makes assessments to determine if additional medical care is required.

"I pride myself on my experience through the years. I've been in the military 19 years and they have all been in the medical field," she says. "I constantly talk to the kids and give them encouragement. I believe in this program. This program has been proved to work and there have literally been thousands of kids nationwide that have graduated through the Challenge program."

Originally, the Corps began as a more than nine-month-long Seaborne Conversation Corps back in 1992 and was a joint effort between the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. Back then, it focused more on providing at-risk youth with a mar-



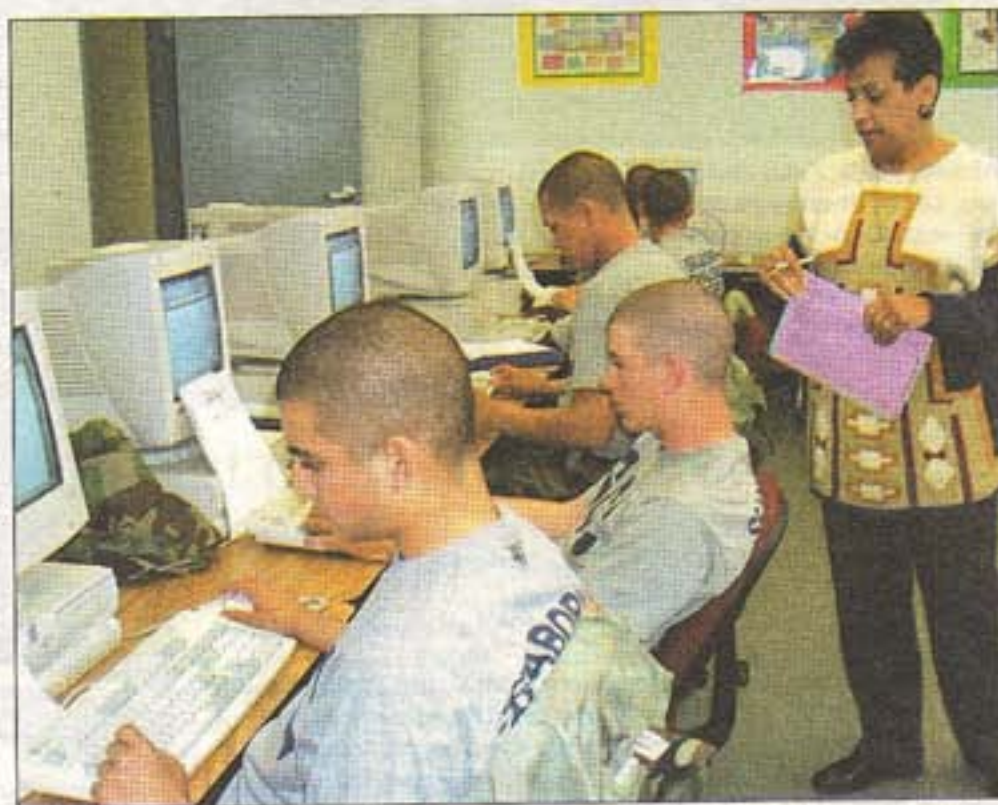
ketable life skill, mainly to train to be a deck hand on maritime ships.

The National Guard redeveloped the program into the current Seaborne Challenge Corps.

SCC evolved into a 22-week course with goals of teachers-providing GED preparations and a structured, disciplined environment in which to learn. In addition, the students are provided with a foundation of positive values and community service.

Upon graduation, the young adults enter a 12-month mentorship with a member of their hometown community and strive to contribute positively to 'the land of opportunity.'

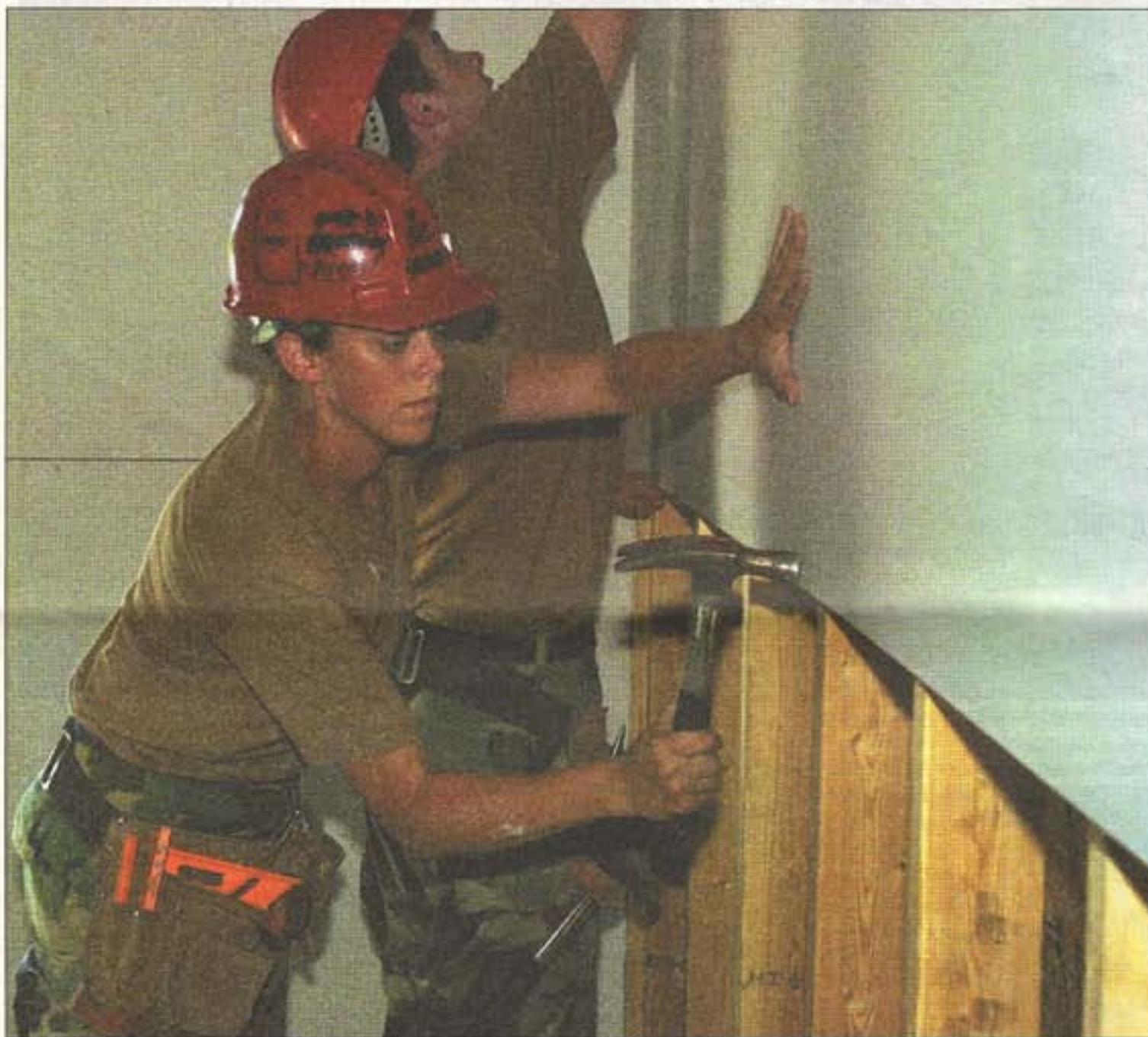
(Above) Female cadets apply themselves to studying in class in a Texas National Guard-run Seaborne Challenge Corps in Galveston, Texas. (Below) Brenda Castillo teaches the students in the computer knowledge skills class. (Below left) SCC cadets wait in military-style discipline to take their leave from the dining facility.





Support

Engineers build on Native American reservation



(Above) Little Falls resident and Army National Guard soldier Spc. Laura Sherwood drives a nail into drywall she and her unit are installing in a home they are building on Red Lake Reservation during their annual training in June in support of Operation Walking Shield.

By Master Sgt. Charles Farrow
Minnesota Army National Guard

RED LAKE, Minn. - Nearly 50 Army National Guard soldiers from Camp Ripley based Company C, 142 Engineer Battalion helped build roads and houses on the Red Lake Indian Reservation in this summer as part of a unique civil-military program.

Innovative Readiness Training is a Department of Defense program designed to improve military readiness and at the same time help rebuild the United States.

Company Commander, Capt. Wayne Schlangen, said his unit is receiving the "best training in years, especially in electrical, carpentry and plumbing."

According to the Department of Defense, "Unless specified by Congress, each civil-military project must contribute to and enhance unit training and readiness; fill a need that is not otherwise being met; and may not be used to justify additional expenditures or personnel authorizations."

The soldiers here are all in annual training status or already work full time for the National Guard, said Schlangen. This is the second of three rotations this year. One came this spring and another will follow later this summer.

"And they want to come back next year," he said.

Under the Innovative Readiness Training program, Operation Walking Shield will provide the reservation with two housing developments of 22 homes each. Four homes are being built on site and 40 previously occupied homes will be relocated from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

Reserve Navy Seabees and engineers from an Army Reserve unit from New Hampshire are also working at Red Lake as part of the Walking Shield effort.

Photos by Master Sgt. Charles Farrow Minnesota Army National Guard



(Right) Army National Guard soldiers from Camp Ripley based, Company C, 142nd Engineer Battalion unload drywall from a semi-trailer and carry it into a house they are building on the reservation at Red Lake, Minn. They performed their annual training here while participating in Operation Walking Shield.



News Makers

Texas Guard energized over new battery

On Guard Staff Report

The Texas Army National Guard has been testing a vehicle battery that has proved to reduce waste while saving money. The Optima battery provides higher voltage than conventional batteries, delivering 800 cold cranking amps (CCA) with 120 minutes of reserve capacity. Four hundred -forty were purchased for the Texas Guard's tactical wheeled vehicles.

The Optima battery is expected to last 12 years, nearly five times longer than a traditional battery. The high-tech battery contains its acid in a fiberglass casing guarding against "free-acid" spills or leaks. Due to this design, the battery can operate in any position and is maintenance free. At 40 pounds, it is almost half the weight of a traditional lead acid battery, cutting down on manufacturing materials and reducing waste.

Although the initial cost of the battery was \$100 each, the unit has still saved money in the long run. Since the Optimas were installed three years ago, only 13 had to be replaced. Using conventional batteries, all 440 would have had to been replaced by this year. The Texas Guard has saved an estimated \$27,000, or \$60 per battery.

Even if the new batteries don't last the full 12 years, they have already proved to be more cost effective with better performance than traditional batteries. Also the new batteries are environmentally friendlier than the batteries they replaced.

For more information, contact Maj. Pat Dye, of the Texas Adjutant General's Department by telephoning (512) 465-5194.

Hollywood in New Jersey



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen

Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Taurino (background) discusses instrument operations on the UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter to world-renowned author Tom Clancy.

Author Tom Clancy works on training video

By Tech Sgt. Mark Olsen

New Jersey Military and Veterans Affairs

OCEAN CITY, N.J. - Members of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) located at Trenton-Mercer Airport recently assisted in the production of a U.S. Army training video with world-renowned author Tom Clancy in Ocean City.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 James denHartog, Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Taurino, both UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter pilots, and crew chief Staff Sgt. Lee Metz, flew the New Jersey Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter that brought the film crew to the Ocean City Airport to film the training video.

The video production concerns the maintenance of the Advanced Flight Control Computer, or AFCC, which is used on the UH-60 helicopter. The Advanced Flight Control Computer takes signals from the navigation computer and transmits them to the flight control computer onboard the helicopter.

Tom Clancy provided the introduction to the training video.

The 1159th Medical Company was instrumental in the recovery operations following the attack on the World Trade Center. On Sept. 11 and the ensuing days, pilots and crews from the 1159th flew FBI, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other federal and state agency teams in support of Ground Zero recovery operations.

General honored by foreign military support group

Translated from Russian
By Evgeniy Denisenko

Evening Bishkek

BISHKEK, Krygyzstan - A very important occasion coincided with a recent visit to Ganci Air Base by representatives of the Krygyzstan Republic's assistance fund to support veterans of

the defense and law enforcement structures called "Seiloo VSS" while the commander of Coalition Forces in Krygyzstan, Brig. Gen. Wayne Lloyd, a West Virginia Air National



Lloyd

Guard citizen-airman commanding the task force, became an honorary member of this social organization.

The council of the organization adopted this decision after a warm reception, organized by Coalition personnel for Krygyzstani veterans in honor of Victory Day.

After this event, both sides expressed the desire to have a continuing relationship.

The induction of Lloyd into membership into "Seiloo-BSS" is a demonstration of their respect for this U.S. military officer and recognition of his service in the struggle for peace and against international terrorism. Today the brigadier general is bestowed with special recognition as evidenced by this honorary membership.

A concert was held, in which participated youths, adult performers and military service members from one of the units. After this a meeting was held between Coalition personnel and their guests on the subject of further cooperation, in which our veterans organizations and American veterans organizations will participate.

STARBASE participants receive special guest for rocket launch

By Capt. Todd W. Nadeau

Maine Air National Guard

BANGOR, Maine - The idea was for the kids of STARBASE Maine, co-located at the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor Maine, to launch their rockets before graduation, but today they had a special guest. This guest was a little older than 10-years-old, and he showed up to class with his own

rocket to launch and a leather jacket with a Secretary of Defense patch.

Mr. Craig W. Duehring, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs spent a few minutes with a local fifth-grade class who were participating in STARBASE. Mr. Duehring was in Maine to visit some of the state of the art facilities of Maine Air National Guard's 101st Air

Refueling Wing and to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Army Guard Flight Facility.

As part of his visit to the Maine Air and Army National Guard, Mr. Duehring decided to participate in the graduation rocket launching ceremony held by STARBASE. The children were really surprised when he launched a three-foot rocket specially made

for him by the STARBASE teaching staff. STARBASE is a program funded by the federal government and hosted by the National Guard to inspire youngsters to think about science, physics, math, technology, teambuilding, and the dynamics of flight. Currently, the STARBASE program is operated in more than 20 states and 30 locations stretched across the United States.

Reacting to the threat ...



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Two members of the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team were plenty hot inside their A-level protective suits while checking a piece of luggage for deadly chemical and biological agents in the "hot zone" of a simulated airplane crash during a training exercise at the Rapid City, S.D., airport earlier this summer.

FROM PAGE 3

Team

help handle the crash victims brought in by other National Guard and civilian medical units.

Now, the "plane" was actually an old bus rolled onto its side. The "runway" was a gravel road. The "toxic agent" was a harmless balm ordinarily used to soothe sore muscles. And nobody really died.

But the participants played out the scenario as if it were a real emergency at one of this country's airports. That gave the California and South Dakota teams a

chance to check out each other's techniques.

"The best way to learn is by teaching," said one of the California people whose identity is being withheld in keeping with the Guard teams' desires for personal security.

"These new teams may see or suggest things that we have not looked at," he added. "These South Dakota people made our job so much easier because they're

very eager to learn. They've come a long way from where they were just a week ago."

"This gives us the chance to work with a heavy team's equipment so our people could support one of those teams if we had to," said a South Dakota citizen-soldier. "It's always good to work with the experts."

The experts never stop learning, pointed out Haramalis.

"September 11 has made all of us much more aware of the potential hazards," he said. "We're evaluating the compounds being used by the suicide bombers in the Middle East. We see that as a threat in which we need to be better trained."

"We try to stay ahead of the power curve," added the California commander while wrapping up the exercise in South Dakota. "And that's not easy to do in this business."

Guardisman lends helping hands

By 1st Lt. Johnny Rea

379th Aerospace Expeditionary Force

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy considers himself a very "hands-on" kind of guy, both in uniform and out.

When he's not documenting Operation Enduring Freedom as a videographer, the Connecticut Air National Guard citizen-airman is relieving stress and tension as a massage therapist to war fighters deployed to Al Udeid.

"Massages improve circulation, relieve muscle tension and give general feelings of relaxation and well-being," said Fennessy, a member of the 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron at Al Udeid. His home unit is the 103rd Fighter Wing at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Conn.

Fennessy graduated from the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy — a 20-month-long course — in 1999, and was certified through the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Body later that year. He is also a professional member of the American Massage Therapy Association, licensed and insured in Connecticut.

Operating through the 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron, Fennessy began offering free massages in late May in order to maintain his certification.

"It also appeared there were a lot of stressed out people here, and everyone enjoys a good massage," said Fennessy, who is halfway through a six-month deployment to Al Udeid.

The intense course Fennessy completed covered the gamut from anatomy and physiology to pathology, first aid and ethics. "We had to learn every bone in the body, every muscle, attachment and movement," he said. "It was very demanding, but well worth it."

The massages are conducted in the equipment supply tent within tent city on Al Udeid. Services handles his schedule — two one-hour appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays, and one on Fridays.

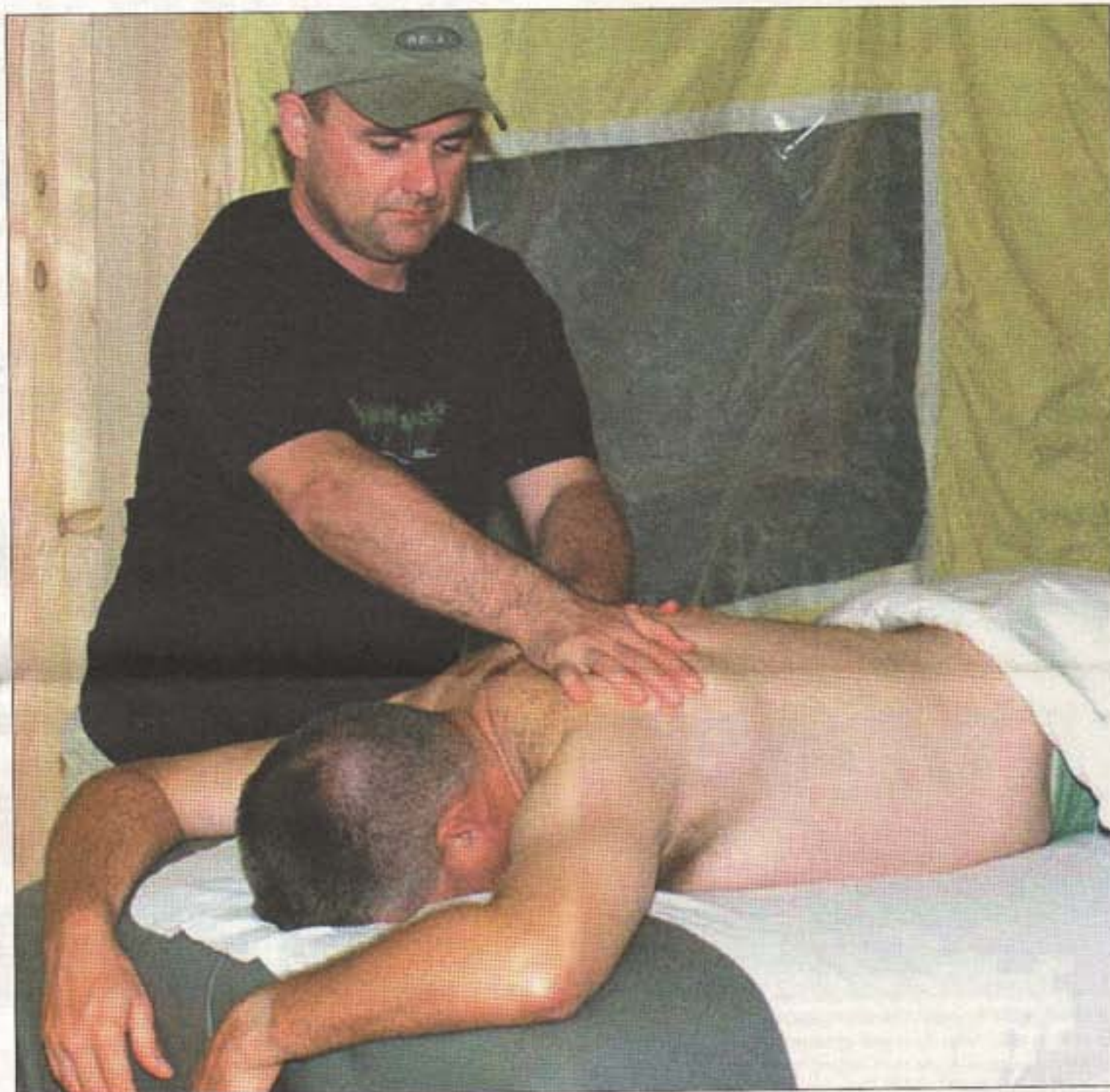
The massage table was constructed by base civil engineers and members of the 200th and 201st Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron deployed to Al Udeid.

"They did a fantastic job on it," said Fennessy. "It's very comfortable and has a small hole cut out so you can breathe while laying face down. And it's sturdy enough to land a KC-10 on it."

There are several different styles of massages, according to Fennessy, a 36-year-old native of East Hartford, Conn. He's been trained in the "Swedish" massage — a gentle, full-body massage technique that he says is the most common throughout the world.

He's had the opportunity to give several "first time" massages at Al Udeid and considers it a great opportunity.

"It opens the eyes of a lot of people about massages. As a male massage therapist, one



Submitted photo

Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy, a member of the Connecticut Air National Guard, helps relieve stress and tension as a massage therapist to war fighters deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar.

of the biggest obstacles I face is the reluctance of guys who don't want to receive a massage from another male, or women who feel uncomfortable," he said. "I can understand their apprehension, but remember, this is therapy — nothing else."

Fennessy requires all clients to first fill out a questionnaire on their medical history, lifestyle habits and expectations of the massage. It also contains instructions for the session: showering beforehand is a must, and clients will be covered by a sheet or blanket, except for the body part being worked on.

"It helped me with some muscle issues I have with my leg and knee," said Master Sgt. Scott Wallace, a design engineer with the 612th Air Operations Group at Al Udeid and

recent massage recipient. "I've had massages before and I think this is a good service for both therapy focus and the relaxation process."

1st Lt Jennifer Baird had never received a massage in a deployed location before, but when the opportunity presented itself on her first night in Qatar, she didn't hesitate.

"My co-worker had signed up for the massage, and unfortunately for her, she was alerted to fly an hour before her appointment," said Baird, a KC-135 "Stratotanker" air-to-air refueling tanker pilot assigned to the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at Al Udeid. "Being the good friend that I am, I stepped in to take her

place."

Deployed from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., Baird said she didn't know what to expect, but was pleasantly surprised.

"It was definitely one of the best massages I have ever had. He has created a relaxing environment — in a tent, in the middle of the desert — for you to unwind and forget about the heat and being separated from your family," she said. "It was a great way to end the day, especially here, where there is not a lot of personal time or ways to treat yourself."

Word of Fennessy's service is spreading as he's booked solid throughout this summer.

"They all leave the tent smiling, so I must be doing something right," Fennessy said.



States

Massachusetts Army Guard soldiers await 'mobe' orders

By Spc. David Claffey and Capt. Winfield Danielson

Massachusetts Army National Guard

LEXINGTON, Mass. - In the largest unit mobilization of Massachusetts Army National Guard citizen-soldiers since the Persian Gulf War 10 years ago, more than 400 soldiers from the 211th Military Police Battalion recently mobilized to Fort Drum, N.Y., to conduct final preparations for overseas deployment in support of the nation's war on terrorism.

The battalion headquarters, based in Lexington, Mass., mobilized with two of its companies, the 972nd MP Company from Melrose, Mass., and the 772nd MP Company from Taunton, Mass.

After September 11th, soldiers from the 211th answered the call to duty, guarding critical installations and securing seven major airports throughout the state. Shortly after the airport security mission ended, May 17, the MPs found they would be needed again, leaving them barely a month to spend with loved ones.

"We squeezed a whole summer's worth of family activities into about three weeks," said Sgt. 1st Class David Leighton of the 772nd, who also deployed with the unit a decade ago to the Mideast during Operation Desert Storm. Leighton's wife Brenda, who he was dating 10 years ago, noted that this was an entirely different experience, because this time they have two children that would be apart from their father for a year or more.

The communities were very supportive of their soldiers. The 972nd MP Company held their send-off earlier this summer, at Camp Curtis Guild in Reading, Mass. Nearly 600 attended this event, as family and friends would not let the distance to Camp Curtis come between them and their soldiers.

Melrose, Mass., Mayor Rob Dolan where the unit is based, presented a town resolution in support of the troops to Capt. Alan Aldenberg, the 972nd commander.

In Taunton, Mayor Thaddeus Strojny hosted another send-off ceremony one month later for the 772nd that was attended by more than 1,000 people. The event featured a parade to the Taunton Green that included 772nd soldiers, veterans organizations, the city fire and police departments, and the State Police Bagpipers. The 772nd was the final unit in the parade, and when they came in view the crowd roared, waving flags and signs in support of their soldiers. The sentiment was not lost on the soldiers.

"The send-off was beautiful," said Spc. Kelly Studebaker of the 772nd.

The following summer day's send off ceremony for the 211th Headquarters and Headquarters Company soldiers may have been smaller than the two company events, but no less emotional. Also held at Camp Curtis Guild, about 200 soldiers, family and friends came to say their last good-byes before the troops piled onto a bus bound for Fort Drum.

"I feel I have something to contribute overseas," said Capt. Brett Conaway, holding his son Patrick in his arms. "It is going to be a long year but we are going to make it through."

Conaway's wife, Rhonda, reflected on the loss of her husband's presence. "It is going to be hard to fill in for a hero."

"The cost of freedom is very high, and it is paid for by soldiers and their families. Without them, we wouldn't be able to win this war."

- Lt. Col. John Hammond

While many of the soldiers in the 211th served in airports and other facilities in the days and months following September 11th, they

were still able to spend time with their loved ones. Now they will serve in a foreign land, where they will fight for the people they left behind.

"The cost of freedom is very high, and it is paid for by soldiers and their families," said Lt. Col. John Hammond, commander of the 211th MP Battalion. "Without them, we wouldn't be able to win this war."

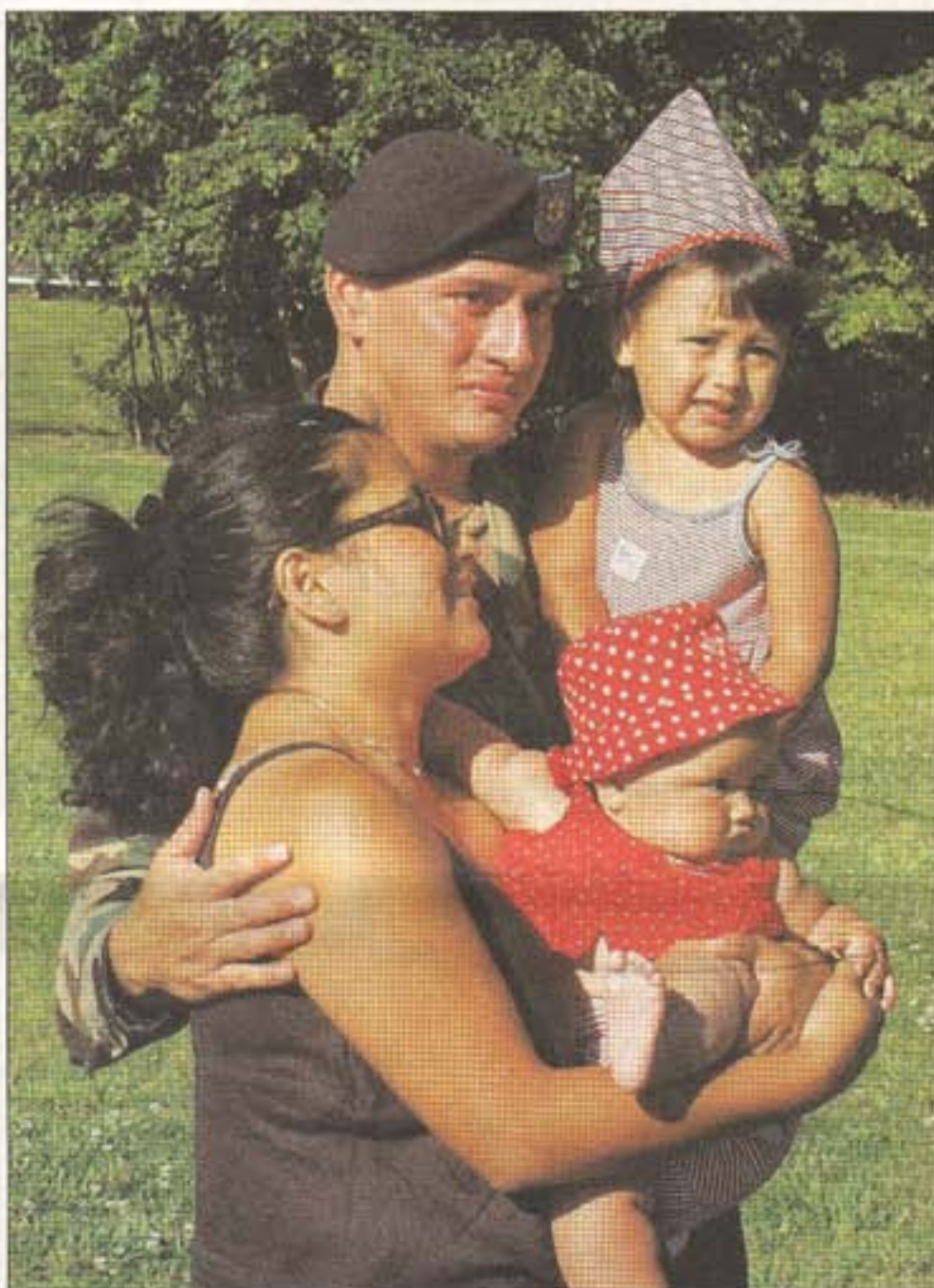
It wasn't just families saying goodbye. Entire communities donated their hard-working men and women for the cause.

Brig. Gen. George W. Keefe, the Massachusetts National Guard adjutant general, attended all three send-off ceremonies. Keefe noted the show of community support is one of the things that makes the National Guard special.

"The outpouring of support I have seen for these soldiers is just incredible," Keefe said. "It really shows the close ties Guard units have with their community."

About 30 citizen-soldiers from the 42nd Military Police Company based in Chicopee, Mass., were transferred into 211th unit for the deployment, and an Army Reserve unit from Ft. Bragg, N.C., will also be part of the task force. Together the units will support U.S. Central Command, the U.S. military's joint unified command conducting military operations in Southwest Asia.

(Right) Friends and family line the streets around Taunton Green, Mass., to bid farewell to the 772nd Military Police Company.



Photos by Capt. Winfield Danielson

Sgt. Douglas Wilson holds his niece Aurora in his arms while hugging his sister Tanya during the 972nd Military Police Company send-off ceremony at Camp Curtis Guild, Mass. He is one of more than 400 soldiers being deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.





History

First Guard President:

Washington gets an image makeover

By Renee Hylton

National Guard Bureau

George Washington - militia officer during the French and Indian War, commander of the American army during the American Revolutionary War, presiding officer of the assembly which drafted the U.S. Constitution and first president of the United States. "First in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," the outline of Washington's life and accomplishments were a familiar story to Americans for almost 200 years.

But for today's younger Americans, the image of this first of 19 presidents (including the current commander-in-chief, Pres. George W. Bush) to have served in the militia or National Guard is growing increasingly dim. The drive for diversity and emphasis on the history of society in many textbooks has replaced what historian Peter Henriques called "white male heroes on horseback" with women and minorities, a correction of the record that has unfortunately come at the expense of traditional political and military history. A recent survey taken at the nation's most prestigious private colleges and universities found that a majority of seniors at these top-ranking schools could not identify George Washington as the general who commanded American forces at Yorktown.

The staff at Mount Vernon, Washington's estate on the Virginia side of the Potomac River which has been a top Washington, D.C. tourist attraction since before the Civil War, were shocked at the ignorance of young visitors about one of the greatest - some would argue the greatest - of our founding fathers. To counter this disturbing trend, the foundation which owns and runs Mount Vernon is raising \$85 million to build and endow a high-tech visitors center, which will include interactive exhibits and a film by Steven Spielberg. The goal, Mount Vernon's executive director James C. Rees recently told *The New York Times*, is to present Washington "...as a figure with all the brilliance and bravery of Indiana Jones."

To do that, Washington's military career will be highlighted, and that career will feature not only Washington's role in the American Revolution, but also his earlier militia service. During the French and Indian War, Washington's militia experience on the frontier brought him to the attention of British military commanders. He was only 23 years old in 1755 when he rallied panic-stricken fellow survivors of General Edward Braddock's disastrous Indian



In John Trumbull's painting of the 1777 Battle of Princeton, NJ. American brigade commander Hugh Mercer has only seconds to live, as a mounted Washington prepares to rally his troops.

ambush in the Pennsylvania forest, an experience as hellish as anything Spielberg ever imagined for Indiana Jones. It was valuable combat experience for the man who would 20 years later assume command of the collection of militia regiments which had just become the American Army.

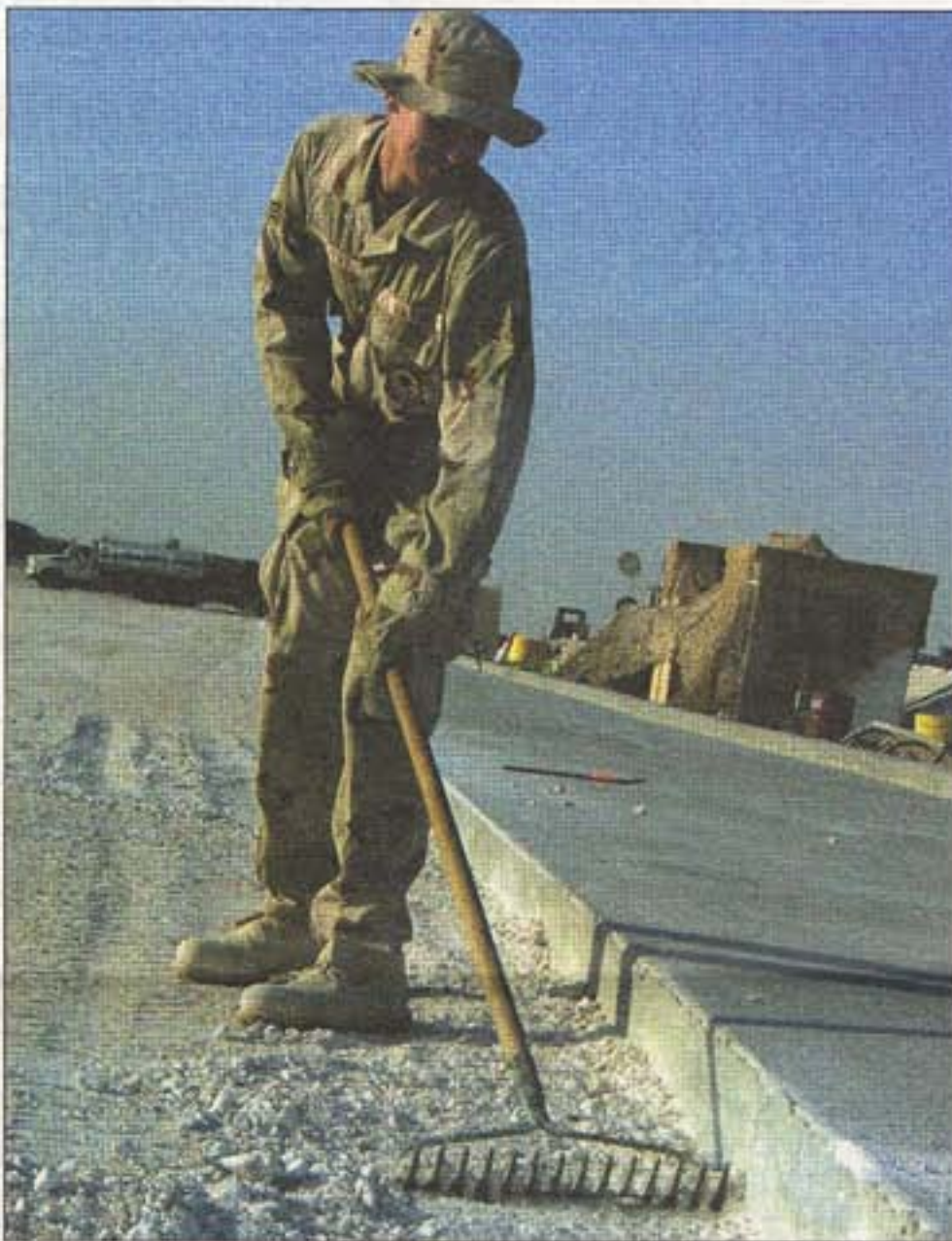
The staff at Mount Vernon are working hard to put George Washington back on his horse. When the new visitors center opens in 2007, said Director of Marketing Stephanie Brown, visitors will be able to trace the military and political aspects of Washington's life. Since it was militia service that began his public career, Guardmembers should wish Mount Vernon well. And any member of the military, active or retired, who visits Washington's home on Veterans Day will not have to pay an entrance fee. It's Mount Vernon's way of saying "thank you" on behalf of General George Washington, the "man on horseback" who did so much to win American independence.

Presidential notes:

* If you want to learn more about George Washington, you can visit the biography section of your local public library. There should be many books to choose from; a good choice is John R. Alden's *George Washington: A Biography*, published in 1984.

* You can also visit Mount Vernon's website, www.mountvernon.org. The Virginia plantation, about 10 miles south of Washington, D.C., was purchased in 1853 by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union to save it from destruction, the nation's first example of historic preservation. The original mansion and carefully reconstructed colonial farm attracts some 1,000,000 visitors a year.

Red Horse: Building an airport from scratch



By Airman 1st Class Tarkan Dospil
379th Air Expeditionary Wing

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar - "Lead, follow or get out the way." That's the motto for the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 201st Expeditionary Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operation Repair Squadron Engineers, or RED HORSE.

The elite two-state crew handles most of the large construction projects around Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and throughout the region by combining forces to build an entire air base from scratch.

Following their mantra, the unit is responsible for building and working at remote deployed areas, it's one that makes sense. The group of construction handymen and women have previously traveled the globe building air bases from the ground up.

The 200th is based at Port Clinton, Ohio, and the 201st is based at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. The combined 200th and 201st, RED HORSE Squadron is constructing several of Al Udeid's roadways - about \$2 million in materials cost alone.

"This is part of a scope-of-work project here, which will improve and upgrade the base," said Master Sgt. Ronald LeVan, non-commissioned officer in charge of RED HORSE's airfield equipment shop. "It's the largest paving project, dollar-wise, ever taken on by this RED HORSE unit."

Constructing the eight miles of roadway on Al Udeid is one of the squadron's biggest paving projects currently ongoing in the theater.

"It really needs to be done," said Senior Airman Tim Sievert, a pavement construction equipment operator with RED HORSE. "There's a lot of dust flying around, and a lot of wear and tear on the vehicles here."

RED HORSE is comprised of specialized

workers pulled from various civil engineer fields.

"People want to be in RED HORSE," LeVan said. "We're very selective because of the specialized work we do. We have a lot of special capabilities like a demolition team, deployable pavement system, and well drilling capability, along with others. These capabilities are what makes us unique."

RED HORSE also owns all of their deployment assets, bringing with them their own heavy equipment, tools, vehicles, engineers, logistics, medics, cooks, and finance assistants.

Being in RED HORSE means constant dedication to work. Their mascot, "Chargin' Charlie" - a giant, sneering, red horse operating a bulldozer - says that alone. And because, as many of them say, "once in RED HORSE, always in RED HORSE."

"Once you have the RED HORSE designator, you're pretty much staying with us," LeVan said.

The squadron is made up of 404 men and women. Even though the 200th is located in Ohio, while the 201st is based in Pennsylvania, in wartime when the squadron is federally activated, the two units join to form a full squadron. Even though the two units are separated by state lines, they have deployed together every year for the past 31 years.

"Deploying together to Al Udeid is nothing new for this team," said Lt. Col. Dewey Perkins, squadron commander. "We train together, work together, plan together and deploy together. This is a tight group of professionals."

A typical day in RED HORSE begins at 2:30 a.m., added Master Sgt. Greg Vogt, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of airfield equipment, and continues, "until the job is done."



Photos by Airman 1st Class Tarkan Dospil.

Above) Staff Sgt. Chris Blackwell, a heavy equipment operator, drops new gravel with an asphalt paving machine (Top left) Senior Airman Tim Sievert, 200th-201st RED HORSE Squadron, scrapes concrete gravel for a new paving project on Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. (Left) Airman Derek Knieremen shovels gravel for the pavement of a new road.