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THE ON GUARD

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Former Guardsman inaugurated

D.C. Army, Air Guard troops help usher President Bush into office

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
and SFC Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

The raw, rainy Saturday afternoon did not dampen SrA. Timothy King's youthful enthusiasm as he stood ready to carry an Air National Guard flag down Pennsylvania Avenue on Jan. 20.

"I think it's awesome. It's incredible," said the former Marine of the fact that the new President of the United States he was helping to honor in Washington, D.C., once belonged to the Air Guard.

King, 24, has for the past year belonged to the District of Columbia Air Guard's 113th Wing based at Andrews AFB in Maryland. He is a member of the wing's honor guard.

He did not think twice about carrying the bright blue guidon in front of the nearly 100 Air Guard members who marched in the inaugural parade for President George Walker Bush, a former Texas Air Guard fighter pilot.

"Awesome. Outstanding. I'll do it in a heartbeat," said King when asked to carry that flag nearly two miles while marching in his very first parade. That is precisely what he did.

In all, 1,114 men and women from the D.C. National Guard took part in the inaugural activities. It is a special ritual, pointed out Maj. Gen. Warren Freeman, the commanding general, because that

National Guard force is the only one in the country that answers directly to the president. Other state National Guard forces serve their governors, unless mobilized for federal duty.

Nearly 100 D.C. Army Guard soldiers also marched in the parade.

Army Guard Maj. Enrique Young and Air Guard Col. Linda McTague marched in front of the Army and Air Force columns as members of joint staffs representing those services' active, Guard and Reserve components.

Other D.C. troops did their part.

Nearly 400 Army Guard military police and Air Guard security force people directed traffic and pedestrians on the capital's busy streets while helping the



Photo by TSgt. Corensa Brooks

EYES LEFT -- District of Columbia Air marchers (right) salute their new commander in chief during the inaugural parade Jan. 20.

Metropolitan Police manage the inaugural crowd.

And a 100-member Army Guard reaction force was sent from the D.C. Armory downtown to the MCI Center. Those citizen-soldiers stood by in case they were needed to help control demonstrators who were attempting to disrupt the parade.

Other police agencies kept the demonstrators under control, however, and the

■ See INAUGURATION, page 5



Photo by MSgt. Richard Perkins

AIMING for
VICTORY

Massachusetts SSgt. Allen Bachand, a member of the 102nd Fighter Wing's Security Forces Squadron, fires an M-16 prior to competing in *Defender Challenge*, a worldwide Air Force security forces competition. The Air Guard team finished 6th.



COMMENTARY

■ Readers Return Fire

ABOUT the PAPER

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GUARD MAIL

Guard Gushing

Having just read the "Actively Agitated" letter in your December issue, I would like to assure the letter writer that not all active duty soldiers consider Guardmembers to be "second-class citizens."

As the Public Affairs Sergeant Major for Forces Command, I want to make it absolutely clear that we could not get our job done without the professionalism, hard work and outstanding support of our fellow Public Affairs Guardmembers and Reservists.

SGM Carol A. Sobel
U.S. Army

Comparing Components

I was reading your December paper and the letter regarding the negative opinions about the National Guard held by some active component soldiers struck home.

Since my time in the Guard, I have heard a number of less-than-desirable remarks such as "Nasty Guard" and "No GOs." Our troops go through the same basic training as active component soldiers and our NCOES schools follow their teachings and are certified.

The average Guardsman and woman has to perform anywhere from 3 to 4 jobs on a drill weekend. They have two days a month, and 15 days a year to get it right -- and must test out on their evaluations to prove it. The active soldier has 330 or so days a year to get it

right. We do all these tasks while holding down a civilian job.

I use to be in an Armor unit. They went to the field for gunnery several times a year, and most every time, qualified those crews. On most of those drills, Friday was spent travelling. You shot all day and night Saturday. You cleaned up and turned in on Sunday. We qualified most of our crews in one day and had active duty evaluators to ensure we did it right. The active component units that I have seen set up on a range for the better part of a week to complete the same task.

I'm currently in a transportation unit. We pull many missions, taking us all over the country. We have thousands of safe driving hours and an outstanding equipment movement record. Not bad for a bunch of "weekend warriors."

I have seen a lot of good people in the Guard, and it gets old being bashed all the time.

SSgt. David M. Bailey
Louisiana National Guard

Making a Birthday Wish

The Guard has reasons to celebrate on many occasions. We have promotion parties, end-of-annual training parties and end-of-drill parties. Seasonally, we celebrate with the holiday meal.

One occasion we don't celebrate is Dec. 13, 1636. That's right, the Guard's birthday. This event is significant for many reasons.

First, it is nice to recognize that an organization is one year older. If nothing else, celebrating another birthday signifies that the organization has suc-

ceeded in doing whatever it was meant to do in 1636.

Second, the National Guard is the oldest arm of the U. S. military establishment. The regular Army can claim it is the oldest professional force (established June 14, 1775), but only the Guard can trace its heritage to 1636, when it was the militia.

Third, the Guard's birthday reminds us the U. S. Constitution mandated the militia/National Guard to be a part of our military tradition. Through a combination of historic precedents and political pressures of the time, the framers of the Constitution spelled out a military structure that relied on a state-supplied militia in time of need.

All in all, the Guard's birthday, of which few in the Guard are aware, is important. For those of us who revel in history, the Guard is the oldest. For those proud of another year of accomplishments, then Dec. 13 is your day.

For those who don't care either way but do recognize that a birthday is a reason to celebrate, then congratulations, you're one year older and so is your Guard.

SFC Bob Wiegert
Missouri National Guard

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GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"I think I know what the Army did with all those garrison caps."



IN THE NEWS

■ Tuskegee Time ■ Clintons Recalled ■ Guardsman Grieved

Tuskegee heroes honored

■ Air Guard academy hosts African-American aviators

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Frederick Douglas learned more about his African-American heritage than he expected while attending the Air National Guard's academy for noncommissioned officers Feb. 13. That's when a handful of able Tuskegee Airmen barnstormed into Knoxville, Tenn., to tell their World War II story during Black History Month.

February is a busy month for the remaining black veterans intent on telling the story of how they had to fight racial prejudice for the right to fight for their country. Some took just four days off in February 2000.

Douglas is 34 and a technical sergeant in the Pennsylvania Air Guard. He has virtually the same name as Frederick Douglass, a



Photo courtesy of the Tennessee National Guard

famous 19th century African-American orator, writer and abolitionist -- one of the first prominent civil rights champions.

Douglas acknowledged that he knew only a little about the all-black Army Air Corps aviators, who began breaking down the military's racial barriers in 1941 in the same way that Jackie Robinson cut across major league baseball's color line nearly six years later.

"They were never mentioned in our history books," Douglas said. "But a lot of black Ameri-

cans have not been included in our history books, such as the ones who fought during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the buffalo soldiers who helped tame the West."

An auditorium full of blue-suited men and women, including ROTC cadets from three local high schools and the University of Tennessee, know a lot more about the African-American airmen and women -- named for the eastern Alabama town where they trained -- following that Tuesday's program at the

FLYING FANS -- Air Guard officer candidates seek Leonard Hunter's autograph after a Black History Month presentation.

I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center.

The seven Tuskegee representatives, in distinctive red blazers, included three of the fighter pilots who never lost a single American bomber to enemy aircraft during escort duty over Nazi Europe. One was a bomber pilot who trained hard but never served overseas.

"They were heroic participants in our American history," said Col. Glen Knable, the Tennessee Air Guard's 134th Air Refueling Wing commander.

Yet, until the HBO movie "Tuskegee Airmen" hit the airwaves in 1995, most Americans had never heard of the 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group or the African-American men who refused to yield to that era's racist ways.

"The segregation in the South

■ See TUSKEGEE, page 13

Military social aide recalls duty with Clintons

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A president who talked Arkansas college basketball for 10 minutes with the Easter Seal poster child on a Monday morning after Easter. A first lady who immediately requested that "someone get Socks" when a young visitor asked to see the first cat. A first couple that graciously hosted the president of the People's Republic of China during a state dinner in the autumn of 1997.

Shirley McVicker, a major in the Louisiana Air Guard, has a mental diary filled with personable stories about Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton and service at the White House. The National Guard Bureau's new chief of protocol shared some of those memories in January -- nine days before the end of the Clinton presidency.

McVicker was a military social aide at the White House for more than half of the eight



years that the Clintons lived there.

The additional duty never got old. "How could you not remain in awe of the White House?" said McVicker who served her commander-in-chief from September 1994 to September 1998 and who returned for a few more months in early 1999 to help orchestrate the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 50th anniversary celebration.

She is believed to be the first member of

FIRST AIDE -- Maj. Shirley McVicker (center), flanked by the Clintons.

the Air National Guard to serve as the senior Air Force aide and the first member of any reserve component to become the senior aide for the 50 or so officers from all services who discreetly execute all official events -- from bill signings to Christmas receptions -- held at the White House.

McVicker was the senior Air Force aid for 18 months and the senior aide for the entire program during her final full year -- while she was also assigned full-time to the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., and while she was pursuing her American University law degree at nights.

Military aides, McVicker explained, are the people in formal dress uniforms who greet the guests -- including foreign leaders and football players -- when they come to the

■ See McVICKER, page 4

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Sponbeck mourned

Col. Leif Sponbeck, former Guard Bureau staff officer who was serving as a military advisor to the Secretary General at NATO in Brussels, Belgium, died of a heart attack Feb. 2. He was 57.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Joy, and their four children.

Sponbeck was born in Jonkoping, Sweden, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1950. He grew up in Salt Lake City and graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in marketing and advertising.

Following graduation he worked for more than 10 years in the broadcast industry as an advertising and marketing executive for CBS and ABC.

Sponbeck joined the Utah National Guard in 1966, and began his active duty military assignments in 1983.

Virginia selects 1st black general

Bert W. Holmes Jr., a Virginia Beach doctor, became the first African-American brigadier general in the Virginia Department of Military Affairs during a ceremony Feb. 15.

Holmes is currently serving as assistant adjutant general at Fort Pickett.

In October, Gov. Gilmore appointed Lt. Col. Frank Butts, an African American, as commander of a Virginia National Guard brigade, the first to hold such a post in the Guard's 208-year history.

McVICKER

FROM PAGE 3

White House and who keep every event flowing smoothly without interfering with or overshadowing the president or first lady.

"We provide their comfort zone in their own home," said McVicker. A "pull-off aide," for example, stands to the right of the first couple in a receiving line and subtly urges star-struck visitors to move along with a slight movement and a White House stare. "They get the message," smiled McVicker.

"We represent our services. We also represent the entire country," she added. She was the first American to greet every international dignitary who attended President Clinton's 1995 reception at the New York Public Library during the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

It's easy to make the case that Shirley McVicker from Charlotte, N.C., has come a long way since joining the Air Force as a security police dog handler in July 1975 and since entering the Air Guard in September 1981. She first served in Washington in 1988. She earned her commission as an intelligence officer in August 1989. She is also a competitive skeet shooter.

She first visited the White House with her parents when Lyndon Johnson was president, McVicker recalled. She has since come to know it as few people do. She has seen, for example, the scorch marks left from 1814 when British soldiers burned the presidential mansion.

Take the East Room, McVicker related. It has been used for stringing up laundry. President Carter's daughter Amy roller-skated on the hardwood floor. Theodore Roosevelt's daughter was married there. Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant and John F. Kennedy are among the seven deceased presidents who have lain in state there.

McVicker has also come to know the Clintons as gracious hosts who have made everyone feel comfortable and important in the historical home.

When she was near the end of her tenure as senior aide, McVicker related, Hillary Clinton said to her: "You're always here. What am I going to do without you?"

Desert vets honored at 'tomb'

■ *'We could not have done it without them'*

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The leaders of this nation's two largest military reserve forces honored their veterans of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm by laying a wreath at the United States' most hallowed shrine recently.

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, National Guard Bureau chief, and Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, Army Reserve chief, commemorated the 10th anniversary of the massive campaign at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Approximately 200 attended the solemn ceremony that honored the nearly 160,000 citizen-soldiers and airman who were mobilized for and played a vital part in the Persian Gulf War a decade ago.

Indiana Congressman Steve Buyer, an Army Reserve lieutenant colonel and Gulf War veteran, joined Davis and Plewes for the full Army Honors wreath ceremony by the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard).

"Those who served during Desert Shield and Desert Storm were truly America's crusaders," said Buyer who spent five months in the desert as a military lawyer. "They fought for no bounty of their own, and they left freedom in their footsteps."

Although no National Guard troops were killed in combat, Davis said he reflected at the Tomb of the Unknowns on those who did die.

"I reflected on how much they meant to their families and how much they contributed to the Guard that we are all so proud of today," Davis explained.

Sixty-three reserve component troops,



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton

STORM SALUTE—Rep. Buyer (center), flanked by Davis and Plewes, addresses 200 attendees at Arlington cemetery.

including 28 Army Reserve soldiers who were killed by a SCUD missile at the Dhahran Barracks in Saudi Arabia, lost their lives during the conflict that began with devastating air attacks on Jan. 17, 1991. It ended with a cease-fire on Feb. 27 following a decisive 100-hour ground war victory by U.S.-led coalition forces.

Ten Decembers ago, however, reserve troops were fully engaged in the mobilization that began the previous August after Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait.

When that oil-rich country was liberated six months later, members of the Guard and Army Reserve comprised 34 percent of the 468,000 U.S. service people who took part. More than 108,000 Guardmembers and Reservists went to the Gulf.

"We showed that when we were needed we were there," explained Plewes. "We were there with ready units, and we fit right into the organizations that were overseas and that we were supporting here."

"We also did it very quickly," the Army Reserve chief added. "We showed that we are accessible. It was a high-water mark in terms of understanding what our capabilities are for supporting our na-

tional military strategy."

Guard and Reserve troops flew combat sorties in jet fighters, they showered Iraqi troops with deadly artillery fire and they performed a multitude of other functions -- from refueling airplanes to transporting troops and cargo to caring for enemy prisoners -- necessary for sustaining a force at war.

Members of the Guard and Reserve quickly became integrated partners with the active forces.

The South Carolina Air Guard's 157th Tactical Fighter Squadron and the 138th from New York took part in the initial air attack.

Army Guard artillery units from Arkansas and West Virginia fired missions to support British and French troops, and Oklahoma's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, with its multiple launch rocket system, had the highest rate of fire for any field artillery battalion in the VII Corps or Third Army.

Sadly, the Army Reserve's 14th Quartermaster Detachment, a water purification unit from Greensburg, Pa., suffered the highest rate of casualties for a single unit. Thirteen were killed by the SCUD missile. That accounted for nearly 10 percent of the entire country's 148 combat deaths.

The Guard and Army Reserve troops were repeatedly praised.

"When the history of Desert Shield and Desert Storm is written, America's Reserve and Guard forces will receive a great deal of credit for America's success," stated Air Force Gen. Hansford Johnson in "From Shield to Storm," a report about the Air Guard's role in the Gulf. He commanded the Military Airlift Command at the time.

"Quite simply," Johnson said, "we could not have done it without them."



Photo by SFC Lek Maleo

BUILDING RELATIONS

Texas Army Guard Sgt. Frank Anthony Garcia, a member of the 176th Engineer Battalion, maneuvers a heavy six-by-six wooden beam that will be part of a wall for a command bunker in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The exercise joined soldiers from Texas and the Czech Republic as part of the 'Minuteman Fellowship' program.



Photo by SSgt. Darrell Hudson

INAUGURATION

FROM PAGE 1

Guard troops did not have to go into the street.

"They've been really rowdy at times while they're expressing themselves, but they've been civil," said SSgt. Lawanna Manning, one of the military police soldiers, who encountered demonstrators during her watch near Pennsylvania Avenue.

"We're standing by, manning our stations and performing traffic control. That's our mission," she added.

The Guard members were determined to stand tall partly because the president's military background gives them something in common.

Bush is the first president with a National Guard background since Harry Truman assumed the office in 1945. He is the 19th president who has served in this nation's National Guard or militia. He is the first president who has done his military duty in one of the Air Force components.

Bush joined the Texas Air National Guard in May 1968 and became an F-102 jet fighter pilot in the 147th Fighter Group in Houston.

Texas Army Guard MSgt. Larry Todd, 59, a full-time spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, spoke for all 458,000 men and women of the Army and Air National Guard while helping narrate the inaugural parade as it passed by the White House.

Todd was the only National Guard member asked to help narrate the presidential parade. He snapped to attention in his dress green uniform after the new president arrived and said: "Mr. President, on behalf of the Texas Air National Guard and

DIRECTING — D.C. Sgt. Cornell James (above) and SSgt. Kenny Holland (below) worked traffic during the inauguration.

the Texas Army National Guard, your home state's troops, and members of the military worldwide, we wish you congratulations and Godspeed."

Others who watched the inaugural parade gave the Guard marchers good reason to look sharp. That group included the former President Bush who was a World War II Navy pilot, Secretary of State-designate Colin Powell who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff 10 years

ago during the Persian Gulf War, and Vice President Richard Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Cheney and Rumsfeld have served as secretaries of defense.

Their knowing eyes would know if the military people were in step.

The D.C. Guard members also had to uphold the National Guard's tradition during this nation's 54th presi-

dential inauguration. Members of the militia and Guard have helped usher every American president into office beginning with George Washington, in 1789. The Guard first marched in 1809 for James Madison, the fourth president and the first to have an inaugural parade.

"We are proud to be the only marching units representing the National Guard from the United States," said D.C. Army Guard SFC Sylvia Lynch, who has marched in every inaugural parade since Jimmy Carter took office in 1977.

She woke up at 4 a.m. on inauguration day to march for President Bush.

"I'm proud," she added, "to march for a president who has served in the National Guard."



By MSgt. Sean Brennan

INSIDE THE INAUGURATION

The Texas Army Guard's Larry Todd shared the microphone with television star Pat Sajak while others marched with rifles

Master Sergeant of CEREMONY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

It's a good thing that Texas Army National Guard MSgt. Larry Todd loves a parade, because he worked one to remember in the nation's capital Jan. 20.

Todd was one of America's voices who narrated for throngs of spectators the inaugural parade in Washington, D.C., honoring the 43rd president, fellow Texan and former Air National Guard pilot George Walker Bush.

Todd had a front-row seat. He was one of four announcers who worked in the White House viewing stand directly across Pennsylvania Avenue from where the new president and his family watched the parade.

Former Army broadcaster Pat Sajak, venerable host of television's "Wheel of Fortune," was one of the narrators.

"Mr. President, on behalf of the Texas Air National Guard and the Texas Army National Guard, your home state's troops, and members of the military worldwide, we wish you congratulations and Godspeed," said Todd after the newly-sworn-in president had arrived.

"The president grinned and gave me a thumbs-up," Todd related.

Bush became the first U.S. president with a National Guard background since Harry Truman and the 19th president who has served in the Guard or the militia. Bush joined the Texas Air Guard in 1968 and became a jet fighter pilot. He is the first president from an Air Force component.

Ed Clements, a radio announcer from Austin, and Charles Brotman, who has narrated presidential parades since the Eisenhower administration, were the two other personalities at that location.

The foursome described the floats and bands and military units that passed before the presidential party and the thousands of spectators along Pennsylvania Avenue who braved the afternoon's bone-chilling rain.

"It's a beautiful day here in the nation's capital," Todd told the cheering crowd.

"Parades are a part of Americana that we in Texas have been doing forever," said Todd, who lives in Austin and who has

narrated five inaugural parades for Texas governors, including the two held when Bush was elected governor.

"Working at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. where President Bush and his father, the former president, was watching was quite a thrill," said Todd, who was asked to participate the week before the inauguration.

It was hardly his first time in the national spotlight. Todd, 59, is a civilian public information officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He was interviewed on network television after seven convicts escaped from a Texas prison Dec. 13.

Celebrities and military personalities narrated the parade at seven different locations along the 1.9-mile route from the Capitol, where Bush took the oath of office at noon, to the White House. Larry Todd was the only National Guard narrator.

Tens of thousands of people turned out for the nationally-televised parade of 10,900 participants, including 2,129 marchers from



Photo by TSgt. Corense Brooks

MIKE MAN — MSgt. Larry Todd (left) helped narrate a fellow Texan's big parade.

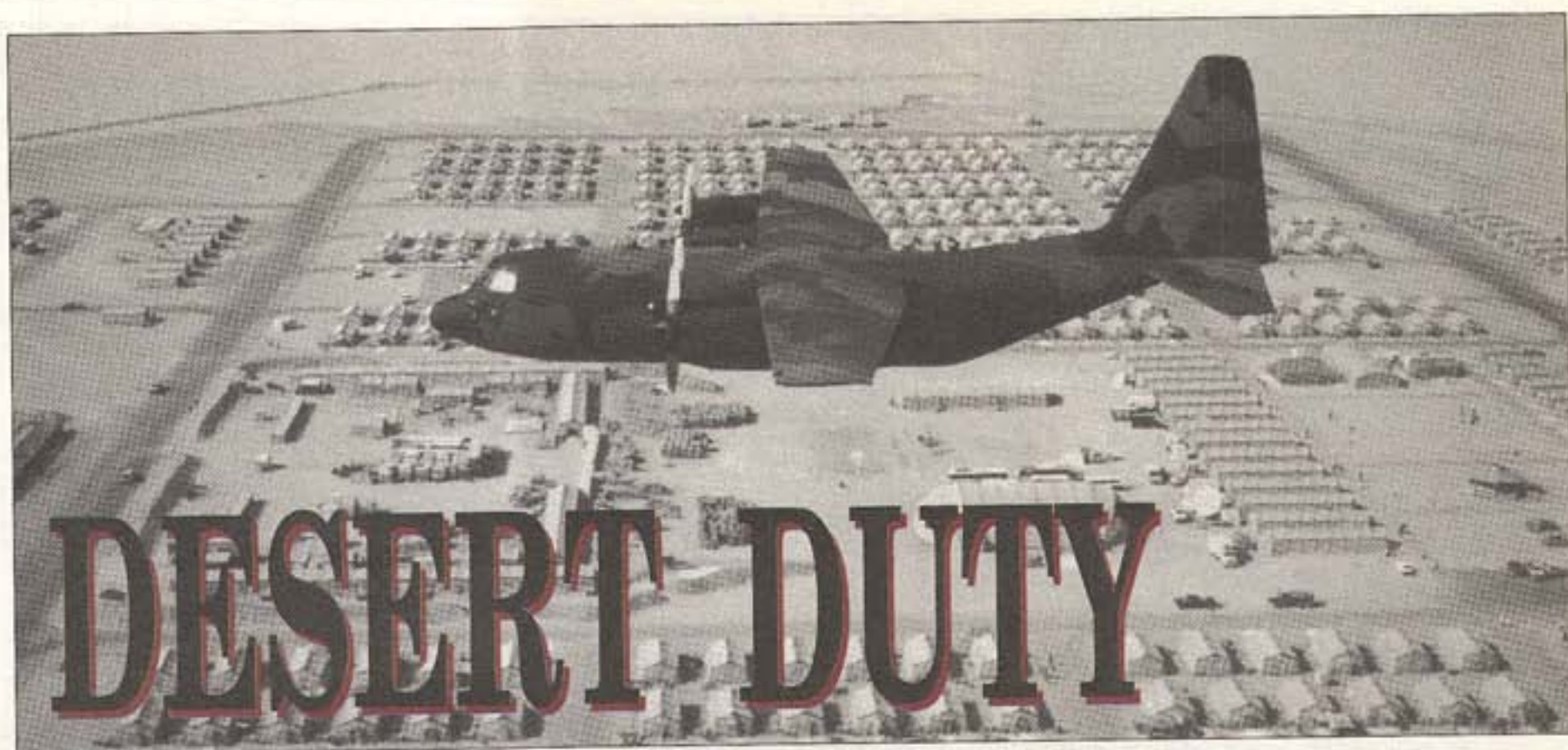
the five military services. District of Columbia Army and Air National Guard units marched during the afternoon's long procession that included 38 marching bands, 11 floats and 376 horses.

Todd had access to a lot of information while telling the crowd about the participants from 44 states. The 1st Cavalry Division's horse detachment, for example, was among the 1,817 from Texas.

The presidential party thoroughly enjoyed the parade, said Todd, and, yes, there were some emotional moments.

"When the University of Texas Longhorn Band and the Texas A&M Aggie Band passed in review, tears of joy were flowing from everyone," he said.

"I did the best job I could, just like the soldiers who were marching," said Todd. "The only difference was, they were carrying rifles, and I was carrying a microphone."



Nearly 75,000 Army and Air Guardmembers deployed to Persian Gulf over 10 years ago

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Lt. Gen. John Conaway was 56 that January while he paced in the Pentagon, as a veteran football coach might stalk the sidelines, during the long day and night that his team began playing in the "super bowl."

It was Jan. 17, 1991, and Conaway's team, the National Guard, was teamed up with the United States Air Force and Army a third of a world away against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi army that had invaded oil-rich Kuwait five months earlier.

Air Guard F-16 fighter planes from South Carolina and New York were among the armada of U.S. warplanes that began the air war that marked the end of Operation Desert Shield and the beginning of Desert Storm.

Air Guard tankers refueled U.S.-led coalition fighters high above Saudi Arabia. Reconnaissance jets from Nevada dodged surface-to-air missiles while photographing the damage from the initial attacks. And Army National Guard troops anxiously waited in the desert, wondering when they would be ordered into action against Iraq's intimidating Republican Guard.

The New York Giants and Buffalo Bills may have been

preparing for Super Bowl XXV in Florida that January, but the Big Game was finally underway in the Persian Gulf. America held its breath.

John Bolyn Conaway was an Air National Guard three-star general and Chief of the National Guard Bureau. His team had already made the varsity. He understood, perhaps more than most, that how well the Guard's aviators and soldiers performed in the Gulf would determine how much the entire National Guard would play in the future.

Desert Shield and Desert Storm was not just a game. At stake was an entire future. Ten years later, the National Guard is still reaping the benefits from its performance in Southwest Asia in 1990-91. The Army Guard's peacekeeping rotations in Bosnia and Kosovo and the Air Guard's ongoing Northern and Southern Watch missions over Iraq remain the most visible results of that labor.

Some people have said, tongue-in-cheek, that it wasn't much of a war but it was the only war they had. Conaway maintains it was the right war at the right time for the National Guard.

In all, 74,815 National Guard men and women were mobilized. From that force, 37,848 Army Guard soldiers and 5,240 Air



Photos courtesy of NGB Historical Services

Guard members went to the Persian Gulf to help protect America's interests as mandated by the 1980 Carter Doctrine.

None were killed in combat. All experienced the exhilaration and the uncertainty of serving in a war zone — where SCUD missiles could shatter the night even for those who were not on the front line.

"It was important for the Guard to get involved in this hunt ... because the active duty force was large enough for this particular conflict," Conaway related in his 1994 "Oral History" and repeated in his 1998 book "Call Out The Guard."

The U.S. military, however, would soon be reduced in size, he knew, and National Guard units would have to be included in future operations.

"It was important that the Guard be there to give a true test of how we [had] done. It was like the 'Super Bowl,'" said Conaway, who had labored at the National Guard Bureau since 1977 to modernize the Guard and factor it into the total force that former Defense Secretary

GUARD in the GULF — A Delaware Air Guard C-130 crew (above) with the 166th Airlift Group flies a mission over a Saudi air base. West Virginia Sgt. Henry Crawford (left) treats an injured Iraqi prisoner of war.

Melvin Laird had called for in 1970.

Conaway became the Guard Bureau's chief in February 1990, half a year before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

"In future conflicts we won't have any choice," he observed three years after the war. "We had a choice in this one. We had to determine if we were doing it right or did we need to change some things."

Desert Storm worked especially well for the Air Guard, Conaway claimed, and it gave the Army Guard a chance to flex its modernized muscles even though the major combat units did not get in on the action.

"Without Operation Desert Storm, we just would not have known how good our Air Guard combat units were," Conaway stated in 1994. "That is just like the fact that we do not know how good or how bad the mechanized combat units of the Army Guard are, because they did not call them up and put any of them in combat with the active duty U.S. Army," he added.

"We had field artillery brigades over there from the Army Guard and a lot of combat service support, engineers, medical and military police units. They distinguished themselves in re-

markable fashion as they flowed with the VII and XVIII Airborne Corps, showing the great job they could do," Conaway said.

Gen. Collin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he was prepared to send the Georgia Army Guard's mechanized 48th Infantry Brigade to the Gulf in February 1991, Conaway recalled last December. But the ground war that began on Feb. 24, and overwhelmed the Iraqis and forced them to vacate Kuwait, lasted only 100 hours. The 48th never got the order, he added.

A lot of other units did, however, after President George Bush authorized a reserve call-up on Aug. 22. Nineteen Army Guard units — 482 citizen-soldiers from 13 states — were federalized five days later. Members of 398 Army Guard units would serve during the next year. Nearly 300 units would go to the Gulf.

Many Guardmembers and their families were surprised by the first call to arms since 1968. Conaway said the National Guard was better prepared for Desert Storm than the American public realized and that calling up the Guard helped galvanize America's support.

"We were in a non-draft environment with an all-volunteer



DESERT DAYS — Maryland Spc. Bridget Novak of the 290th MP Co., stands guard duty in Saudi Arabia.

force. We needed the support of the American communities," he said. "Calling out the Guard and the Reserves was the best way to get the communities involved."

The experience of the support units, the corporate memories of the old-hand noncommissioned officers, and the citizen-soldiers' civilian backgrounds made the National Guard a credible force, Conaway claimed.

Guard soldiers proved themselves when they got their chance.

Field artillery brigades from Tennessee and Arkansas showered Iraqi soldiers with steel rain on the first day of the coalition's ground offensive, and Oklahoma's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery achieved the highest rate of fire in the Third Army with its multiple launch rocket system.

Arkansas's 142nd Field Artillery Brigade reinforced the United Kingdom's 1st Armoured Division on the third day.

"For 45 minutes, there was what I can only describe as a running roar as MLRS submunitions exploded in a carpet right the way across the full depth of the enemy position," praised a UK brigade commander. "By golly, they were good."

The brigadier said that an Iraqi artillery commander told him after the war that 90 percent of his crews were killed or wounded and that he lost 70 guns during

that bombardment. "That was a pretty major achievement," added the British officer.

The 142nd fired 682 rounds and rockets during 41 fire missions while the 100-hour ground war lasted, according to the Army Guard's Desert Shield-Desert Storm after action report.

There were many other achievements. Air Guard historian Charles Gross, Ph.D., detailed them in his report *"From Shield to Storm."*

Air Guard F-16s flew 3,645 missions and dropped 3,500 tons of ordnance without losing a single plane to enemy fire. Reconnaissance missions totaled 1,045, including 350 in combat. Tankers from 12 of the Air Guard's 13 air refueling wings pumped over 250 million pounds of fuel into more than 18,000 aircraft. Cargo planes flew some 40,000 hours while transporting 55,000 people and 115,000 tons of equipment and supplies.

"When the history of Desert Shield and Desert Storm is written, America's Reserve forces will receive a great deal of credit for America's success," stated Air Force Gen. Hansford Johnson, who commanded the Military Airlift Command. "Quite simply, we could not have done it without them."

Anyone who has ever gone into combat knows there is no such thing as a splendid war.

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, Chief of the Army Reserve, placed a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 12th. It was a solemn tribute to those in their services who were mobilized for the Persian Gulf War a decade earlier and to the 28 Army Reservists who were killed.

It also commemorated the start of the evolution of the National Guard and the other reserve components as we know them today, it was observed. For Desert Shield and Desert Storm erased virtually every doubt about the resolve and the ability of this country's reserve forces, including the National Guard, to go in harm's way.

INSIDE DESERT STORM

When shrapnel tore into a soldier's arm, Maine's Carolyn Kroot charged into action

No Shell SHOCK

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Carolyn Kroot discovered that some of the frightening things she had heard about combat were all too true on Feb. 23, 1991, the day the 100-hour ground war started in the Persian Gulf.

That was the afternoon that a jagged, five-pound piece of shrapnel nearly tore off Bob Collin's left arm.

The 15 or 20 minutes that Kroot feverishly worked to help stop the bleeding and save Collin's life tested some of her fundamental skills as a soldier and made up her most enduring wartime memory.

"You just react. There's no time for feelings. You just do what you're trained to do," she recalled.

Kroot, now a warrant officer in the Maine Army National Guard, was Carolyn Robertson during the Persian Gulf War. She and Collin were staff sergeants in the Maine Army Guard's 286th Supply and Service Battalion. Their job was to supply the 1st Infantry Division with beans, bullets and petroleum during the push from Saudi Arabia north into Kuwait.

No Guardmembers died as a result of Desert Storm's air and ground combat, but Bob Collin came close. Hell came calling at 2:15 p.m. in a gritty place north of Hafar Al Batin near the Kuwaiti border.

A hail storm of shrapnel pelted the side of Kroot's tent. She did not hear an explosion because, she explained, there was always a lot of noise. She did, however, hear "Medic!" She raced to help.

Collin, who had just stepped outside the logistics tent, had an 8-inch long piece of steel running through his arm and was calling for help. He was bleeding profusely, bright red blood from a severed artery.

Collin makes no bones about what hap-

pened next. "Carolyn saved my life. I'm glad she was there to help me," he said.

"Oh, my God, Bob," said Kroot who began bandaging his arm with her field dressing after he had calmly pulled out the jagged piece of metal. It may have come from a U.S. ammunition truck that had caught fire and exploded. It may have come from a Russian-made artillery shell fired by the Iraqis. Nobody can be sure.

It didn't matter. Kroot stayed with her friend. So did Maine Army Guard Capt. Dave Lary who squeezed Collin's shoulder to choke off the blood. Two Tennessee Army Guard soldiers ran over with personally-stocked medical aid bags to help.

"I remember helping him sit down and loosening his boots to keep him from going into shock," Kroot said. "Blood was everywhere. I put on a field dressing. Then I covered it with a pressure dressing. Bob kept joking about the whole situation. He told me I got a no-go because I used my own field dressing instead of his."

"The fact he could keep his sense of humor and keep his wits about him was really incredible," she added.

After what seemed an eternity, Collin was taken away in an ambulance, and Kroot hunkered down in her bunker, wondering if the attack would last. It didn't. That's when the reality hit her.

"I thought 'Wow! Oh my God!' I couldn't believe what had happened."

Other memories — the stink of heavy,

smoky air from burning oil wells and images of the Highway of Death — linger from her six months in the desert when she supervised seven other people.

"You learn a lot about people in that situation," said Kroot. "You learn to tell people that you care about them today; that you can't wait until tomorrow."

She was awarded the Bronze Star for her work as personnel supervisor. She received the Army Commendation Medal for helping to save Collin's life. She

became a warrant officer in 1996, and she is the Maine Army Guard's full-time personnel manager for officers in Augusta.

Ten years and 14 operations later, Bob Collin is a professional counselor in Falmouth, Maine. His 16 clients include four Vietnam veterans. He received his Purple Heart in 1994. He still deals with the range of emotions — from anger to oh-what-the-hell — caused by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. But he is proud he served.

"The excitement and the energy reinvigorated me," he explained. "I would do it again. But I would prefer not to get shot."

And he is grateful that on the day he got hurt, Carolyn Kroot was there.



Kroot: Battle tested.

BEHIND THE BOSNIAN MISSION

Secrest & Secrest

Oklahoma father and son
volunteer for Bosnia duty

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Secrest & Secrest is a National Guard family enterprise from Oklahoma that is flourishing in Bosnia.

The peacekeeping business is brisk, and displaced people are returning to their homes at a steady rate.

The junior partner initiated the program and has shown leadership potential.

The board of directors is pleased. So is the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

"Secrest & Secrest" is what other Army Guard soldiers from Oklahoma call a father and son team that is helping maintain the five-year-old peace in Europe while spending their winter in Bosnia.

The father, Sgt. William Secrest, 48, and the son, Spc. John Secrest, 26, are among 85 citizen-soldiers from the enhanced 45th Infantry Brigade, the Thunderbirds, who are stationed at Camp Dobol and working for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Another 85 Oklahoma infantry soldiers are serving farther north at Camp McGovern.

This is the first time in five years that citizen-soldiers have patrolled the countryside in armed Humvees and walked through communities where Serbian and Muslim people are living.

Although National Guard soldiers have been part of the NATO peacekeeping force from the start, until last fall the presence patrols in the American sector were conducted by active Army troops.

"It's been quite an eye-opener for the both of us," said William, about two-thirds through their deployment.

"We've never seen a country torn up by war," he added. "And we're seeing farming techniques that have not been used in the United States in 100 years."

It started when John, the son, got interested in the Oklahoma Army Guard in 1997. His recruiter was SSgt. Jimmy Lewallen who had gone through basic training at Fort Ord, Calif., with William, the father, who first joined the Guard in 1971. William got out in 1978 because of the demands of his civilian job.

The recruiter wondered if William would like to come back into the Guard.

William thought he might because he had often regretted getting out in the first

place. He passed the tests. He lost 30 pounds to meet the weight requirement.

The son enlisted in September 1997. The father re-enlisted a month later.

Then came the mission to Bosnia. Both Secrests wanted a piece of that action, but they were in the wrong outfit.

Company C in the 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry, that is part of the 45th Brigade, got the call to send 85 citizen-soldiers to Bosnia. The Secrests were in B Company. They transferred to C Company to join the peacekeeping force.

William is a gunner and John is a driver for the Humvees that routinely travel a couple of hours from Camp Dobol into the mountainous, southern part of the U.S. sector. Guarding a radio transmission site is one of the unit's missions.

Houses still scarred with bullet holes and places where Serbs killed and buried their Muslim neighbors in the name of ethnic cleansing; horse-drawn farm wagons plodding along the region's winding roads as cars whiz by; youngsters shyly smiling and waving at the passing U.S. soldiers. Those are among the Secrests' most enduring memories of Bosnia.



Secrest & Secrest

"This was a chance to see some place other than the U.S. and to improve myself as a soldier," said John. "This experience has made me look at things differently."

John, who works full-time for a company that makes hydraulic equipment for the oil fields, is the oldest of William E. and Debbie Secrest's three children. A younger son, William, is a lance corporal in the Marine Reserve. They also have a daughter, Melissa.

Although the father and son have bonded in Bosnia this winter, they sometimes pull duty in different places. They have found out how the other is doing when they've called their homes in Oklahoma.

"Have you heard where dad is? How's he doing?" John has asked his wife Tiffany. "Have you heard from John?" William has asked his significant other.

Connecting with the Balkans peacekeeping mission has given the Secrests a new perspective about why this country should continue to help others.

"I've trained for combat in the infantry, but I like to be a peacekeeper," said William, with John nodding approvingly.

"Your heart goes out to these people," added William. "If we pull out now, there is nothing to stop the Serbs from starting again. Killing women and children is just plain murder. I'd step in in a minute to help stop that."



ON PATROL — North Carolina Spc. Jack Fone (above) surveys the Bosnia countryside. Humvees (right) and horse-drawn wagons are common sites along Bosnia's roads.



North Carolina, Oklahoma citizen-soldiers take to Bosnia's streets

Presence PATROLS

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

1st Lt. Matt Stapleton will have some interesting, first-hand accounts about Bosnia to share with his U.S. history students when he returns to New Hanover High School in Wilmington, N.C., later this year.

Not all of the stories will be nice. The 34-year-old infantry officer in the North Carolina Army National Guard expects to return to his home by late March after a fall and winter of NATO peacekeeping duty in the central European land.

"I'll have a Bosnia story for just about everything I teach -- World War I, the Great Depression, you name it," laughed Stapleton after leading a six-hour "presence patrol" into the eastern community of Bratunac and along the Drina River on January's fourth Wednesday.

He laughed with relief as much as anything else, because Stapleton and the other armed Guard soldiers who patrolled in two Humvees that day, have learned since arriving last September that Bosnia is no laughing matter.

Five years of peace have failed to heal many of the wounds and scars left from four years of bitter and bloody civil war -- when Serbian people tried to ethnically cleanse the newly-independent nation of their Muslim neighbors.

It has, however, been an important winter for the Army National Guard. During this six-month rotation in the U.S. sector, commanded by the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, National Guard troops have been patrolling the countryside in vehicles armed with automatic weapons and talked with many people to ensure that the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords are not violated.

Although National Guard soldiers have been part of the NATO peacekeeping force from the start, presence patrols in the American sector were conducted by active Army troops until last fall -- even when the Texas Army Guard's 49th Armored Division ran the operation last spring and summer.

One hundred seventy-six infantry and armor Guard soldiers from North Carolina's enhanced 30th Infantry Brigade and 170 infantry soldiers



from Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Brigade are the first to pull that particular duty with active Army soldiers after weeks of intense training.

They are based at two northern camps, Dobol and McGovern, where tanks and infantry fighting vehicles are covered by canvas and ready to roar into action should they be needed.

For the most part, it has been an uneventful as well as an unusually mild, snow-less winter in the Balkans. At Camp Dobol, for example, the citizen-soldiers have taken turns pulling guard duty, driving visitors to the U.S. sector's headquarters in nearby Tuzla and back, and conducting the presence patrols.

They have earned their spurs among the 3,900 American troops, according to Texas Army Guard 1st Sgt. John Hayes.

"It took the active duty folks time to learn that we know our jobs and that we can do this," said Hayes, who is serving as the liaison officer in Bosnia for the Germany-based U.S. Army Europe during this rotation. He served the previous half-year with his 49th Division comrades.

"There were some concerns early on whether active or reserve component troops were going to be assigned to the tough, contentious areas such as Breko and Srebrenica," Hayes added. "I don't hear that anymore. The 3rd Infantry Division leaders have accepted the idea that National Guard

troops can handle themselves as well as the active forces."

The jobs that Guard troops are doing and places they are seeing are the sources of the stories that Matt Stapleton will take back to his high school students, as well as to students at the University of North Carolina's School of Education, where he also teaches part-time.

Many of the Tar Heel State's "Wolverines," for example, helped guard a mass grave outside Bratunac day and night during their first couple of months in the country. United Nations workers exhumed the remains of about 200 Muslims reportedly killed by Serbs at a warehouse during the summer of 1995, explained local interpreter Eldar Hadziefexidic, a young Muslim man.

The grave, a couple of acres of mud surrounded by leafless plum trees and the rubble of blown-up houses, was sealed for the winter.

"There were piles of bones and skulls. The place stank. Even your clothes stank. It sure wasn't like home," said Spc. Kevin Bryan, 47, who spent two years of Army time in Thailand during the Vietnam War and who remained in the Guard for an additional year to serve in Bosnia.

A soccer field surrounded by a cement-block wall, a nearby school where Serbs reportedly killed many more Muslims in Bratunac, and homes still scarred with bullet holes along the

river that borders Bosnia and Serbia are other grim reminders of man's inhumanity to man.

"Ten thousand people are still missing from Srebrenica. Most of them are Muslim boys and young men. They are presumed to be dead," said Eldar.

Yet, five years after the fighting has ended, there is hope among the horror of overgrown fields that are still heavily mined and where a girl's foot was blown off during the winter, Stapleton said.

Corncribs are filled with golden ears and fat chickens peck and scratch beside farmhouses. People are moving in, and they are tilling the land.

The Guard soldiers support that effort regardless of ethnic ties during their presence patrols.

"How is everything?" "Is anyone bothering you?" "Has anyone asked you to leave?" are routine questions that Stapleton asked Serbian refugees who have moved into houses where Muslims once lived.

"Everything is well. Yes, we are all right," the people reply.

Small, hard-rubber balls are a hit with the children who the soldiers meet in the cities and along rural roads.



Photos by SSgt. Bob Jordan

FRIENDLY FORCE — North Carolina Spc. Anthony Hester (top) makes friends with a little girl and her father in the Bosnian community of Bratunac. Spc. Kevin Bryan (above) takes in some caffeine to help stay alert during a patrol break.

"My wife sent me about a million of them," said Stapleton. "We give them to the kids wherever we can."

He is a good enough soldier, after four years in the Army and 10 years in the Guard, to understand the wisdom in Theodore Roosevelt's words about walking softly and carrying a big stick.

"This is a perfect job for infantry units that are not at war," said Stapleton of the armed peacekeeping presence. "Nothing happens in a town that has a lot of cops. It's easy to be friendly while appearing to be aggressive. But it's a little harder to become aggressive if you show up and don't look like you're ready."

He is also a good enough historian to appreciate his interpreter's comment about the war in which some of Eldar's friends died and in whose shadow the country still lives.

"Nothing good came from the war, and nobody won," Eldar lamented.

That may well be the most important lesson about the war in Bosnia that Matt Stapleton will take back to his history students after his days as a NATO peacekeeper are done.



SPORTS

■ Biathletes Battle at Jericho



Photos by SSgt. Robert Trubia

■ Vermont team captures Guard's team biathlon title

By Spc. Erin Elliott
Vermont National Guard

A team of Vermont biathletes outskied and shot competitors from 23 other states to capture the team trophy at the National Guard Bureau's Biathlon Championship at the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt.

The competition was held from Jan. 21-27.

The Green Mountain State squad of Brian Latourneau, Brian Lilly, Paul Gorbald and Jesse Downs bested a four-man Minnesota National Guard team in the 15 kilometer patrol race (9.2 miles) and 7.5k relay race.

The patrol race consisted of a four-man team that skis and fires as a team, explained MSgt. Leo

Girouard, the Vermont Guard's sports administrator. The relay race, he added, consisted of a four-man team that ski and fire in a relay sequence.

The competition also involved the men's and women's 20k individual and 10k sprint races.

In the 20k event, New York's Curtis Schreiner, a member of the World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) and former olympian, finished first with a time of 58:41. South Dakota's Jesse Hansen placed second (1:01:45), followed by Dan Westover (1:03:20).

"It is a tough sport, it incorporates two really difficult disciplines; cross-country ski racing and rifle marksmanship," said Spc. Doug Driessen, a WCAP member and the Utah Army Guardsman who finished fourth in the 10k sprint. "You're out there skiing you heart out, and then you have to come into a range focus on all the little intricacies of marksmanship."

In the 10k sprint, Westover

finished ahead of Minnesota's Jacob Beste for first place. Schreiner took third.

Girouard said the championship is used to determine four of the eight members who will represent the U.S. military biathlon team at the 43rd World Military Skiing Championships in March.

"The competition is a stepping stone for National Guard biathletes who want to make it to the Olympics," he added.

Vermont Army Guard Sgt. Kristina Sabasteanski, also a WCAP member, knows something about the Olympic dream.

"I just missed the 1994 Olympics," recalled this year's 15k women's pursuit race champ. "After that, I joined the WCAP and made the Olympics in 1998. I had the top American finish."

According to Col. Alan Nye, the Vermont Army Guard's chief of competitions, the NGB biathlon championship — first held in 1975 — rotates between Vermont and Minnesota.

"With the ideal snow conditions, and with the three foreign nations attending," Nye concluded, "this was the most exciting and the most professionally handled Guard Bureau championship ever."



FAST TRACK — Minnesota Spc. Jason Rolling (top photo) fires his .22-caliber rifle at one of 20 targets. Vermont Sgt. Kristina Sabasteanski (left) finished first in the 15K women's pursuit race. New Hampshire Sgt. Andy Fisher (right page) tucks coming into the finish line.

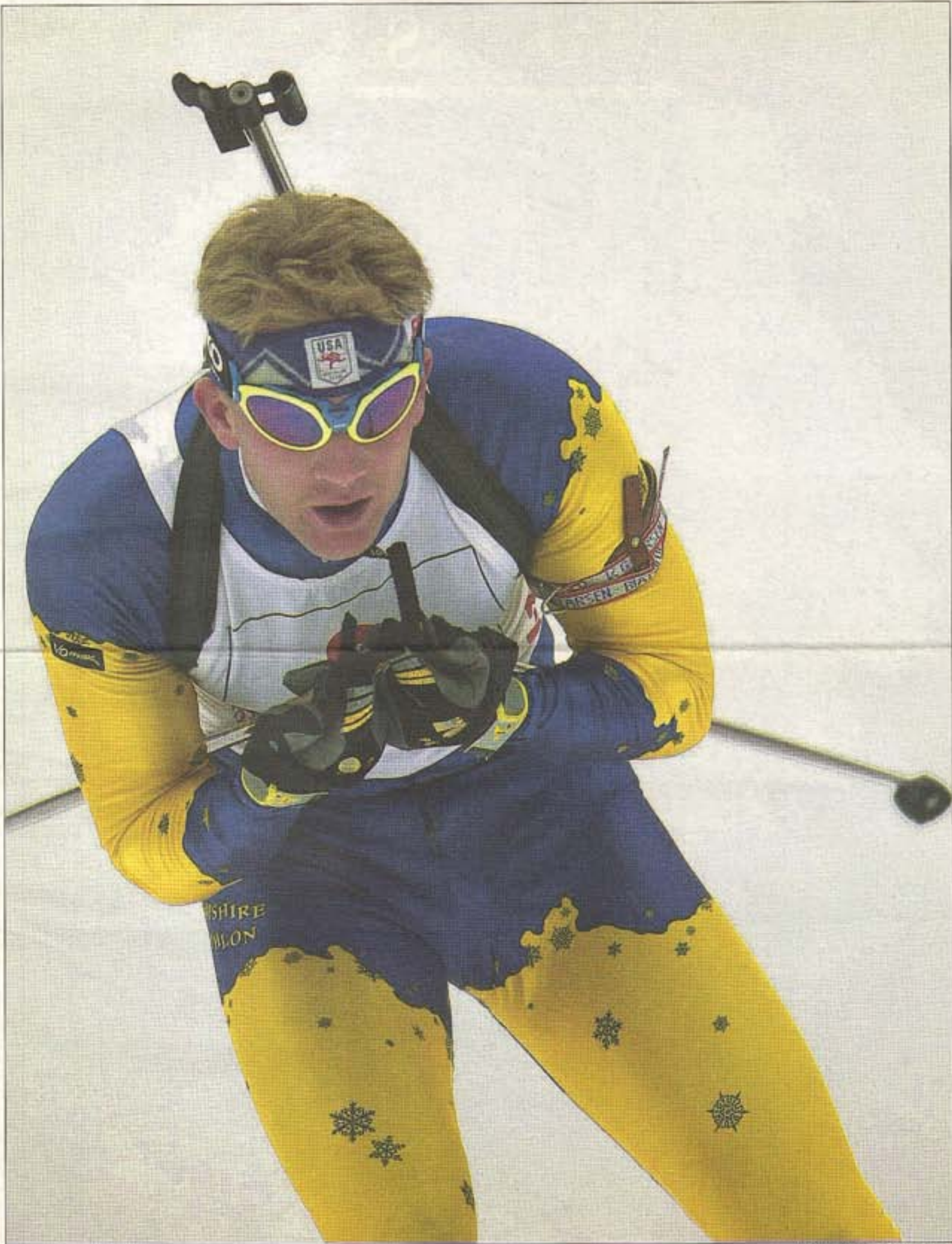


Photo by SSgt. Robert Trubia

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

The Department of Defense recently selected the Alaska Air Guard's 168th Aerial Refueling Wing as its first Reserve Forces Family Readiness Award recipient.

The 168th, based at Eielson AFB near Fairbanks, received the award based on its high mission readiness combined with its highly effective family readiness program.

"The Guard is being called forward more and more," explained Alaska Air Guard Commander, Brig. Gen. George Cannelos, "which puts a strain on our members their families alike." Cannelos says that family readiness is equal to mission success. "When we're worried about our family, our attention to duties can suffer. We must make sure that families are well taken care of."

"The important thing to remember," added Col. Tim Scott, 168th ARW commander, "is that the majority of our folks are not all full-time military. They have important civilian jobs, and they're husbands, wives, moms and dads."

Scott noted that the 168th ARW, recognized repeatedly for its accomplishments, is one of the busiest flying units in the Air Guard.

"We are the air refuelers for this region of the world. Our aircraft fly every day. Frankly, without the support of the families, we just wouldn't be able to do that," he said.

The Reserve Family Readiness Award is based on a number of criteria, including ongoing family support programs, and how a unit is able to sustain a high level of readiness while administering to the needs of their families.

This is the first year the award was given to a reserve component unit.

Maj. Gen. John E. Prendergast, Montana's adjutant general, was awarded the Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharpe medal recently.

The medal signifies the highest professional recognition throughout the U.S. Army of a soldier's achievement and contributions to the ordnance field, which includes maintenance, supply and munitions operations. He is Montana's first-ever recipient.

Prendergast, a 42-year veteran of the Big Sky National Guard, has served the ordnance field in numerous staff and command positions, including 10 years as director of surface maintenance operations. In 1993, he was appointed adjutant.

The medal is named for Samuel Sharpe, a militiaman and member of the country's first National Guard unit -- established in 1636 by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Sharpe was the first citizen-soldier assigned the responsibility as "Master Gunner of Ordnance."

With help from the Utah Air Guard, Navajos at the Tiisnabas Community School at Teec Nos Pos, Ariz., are getting better at communicating in the world using the Internet.

"We arrived here with over 100 computers for the school and began unloading and setting up them up so students could use them," said Lt. Col. Dave Thomas, the community relations manager for the Utah Air Guard.



Family Readiness award winners: TSgt. Deborah Coleman (left), Susan Scott, Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, Nola Barnes and Col. Tim Scott.



Utah Air Guard MSgt. Rick Hodges formats drives at the Tiisnabas Community School.



Retired SFC Joseph Manto (right) reminisces with Lodi, N.J. police officer Lou Avola about his rescue from a flood.

More than a dozen computer technicians from Utah's 151st Communications Wing, and other Air Guard volunteers, traveled to the school for the week-long job of unloading and setting up the 200-megahertz, Pentium-class desktop computers and 50 laptops.

"I think this is a great thing, and I believe we need to get more involved in the community," said SMSgt. Steve Mullin, who led the technicians on the school project.

Retired SFC Joseph Manto, a former New Jersey Army National Guard citizen-soldier, was recognized by top national leaders during recent presidential inauguration ceremonies in Washington, D.C., for saving two police officers.

During the gala event that saw thousands of veterans and 101 Medal of Honor recipients in attendance, Lodi, N.J. Police Officer Lou Avola Jr. singled out Manto for saving his and another police officer's life after their rescue boat capsized following devastating flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

"It was his use of simple tools, ingenuity and courage. I would like to express my gratitude," Avola said.

Manto, who retired after 20 years with Jersey's 50th Support Battalion in Teaneck, and who directs security and maintenance for Elizabeth, N.J., municipal libraries, was obviously pleased with the attention.

"To be one of only four people picked for this honor is more than flattering," said Manto.

Manto is credited with the daring rescue of two stranded police officers caught in raging floodwaters that swept through New Jersey after heavy rains caused by Hurricane Floyd. Avola and another officer had previously recovered a drowning victim and had just rescued a woman from a flooded home. However, the person panicked and the patrol officer's small rowboat capsized, dumping the three people in the swift current.

The woman swam to safety, but the police officers could only cling to a submerged traffic sign, where they were rapidly losing strength due to the cold water and 30 mph current.

Manto, who was his unit's mess section chief transporting people out of the flood zone in a two-and-a-half-ton truck, recognized there would be no easy way to rescue the stranded men who were more than 150 feet away.

Manto then grabbed an aluminum ladder, and in the late hours of the night, leapt across four buildings using the ladder as a makeshift bridge as raging floodwaters swirled between the buildings 20 feet below.

Finally near enough to Avola and his partner, another citizen-soldier and civilian volunteer lowered Manto down the ladder from an open apartment-building window using a rope. Manto then shinned down the ladder, where he was able to throw the police officers a rope.

Up to that point, Manto said, the rescue had been easy. He then had to struggle, pulling both men through the roaring waters and back to the safety of the apartment building.

INSIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Dealing with DIVERSITY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Gregory Galloway was but 9-years-old on a hot summer's day in Chicago when he first encountered the racism that divided America. It was 1964.

An African-American man tried to buy a hamburger in a fast-food diner where the Galloway family had stopped to eat.

"We don't serve coloreds" the owner tersely told the black man, recalled Galloway. He vividly remembers what happened next.

The man left the diner to rejoin his family waiting in their car. Gregory bought a hamburger with his own money and gave it to the black man in the parking lot. The owner charged out of the diner and went ballistic at the young man. Gregory's father hastened to defend his son and exchanged heated words with the owner. Then, Mr. Galloway quickly got his family out of there.

"That was the first day I was ever scared as a kid. And I was scared to death," Galloway recalled 36 years later. "But I just knew that what that owner did to that man was just not right."

At 45, Gregory Galloway is a master sergeant permanently assigned to the North Carolina Army Guard. He spends every working day monitoring and mentoring military people in the cause of equality. He has been the equal opportunity advisor for the National Guard's Professional Education Center at Camp Robinson, Ark., since July 1997.

The incident at the Chicago diner when he was a

boy remains a spike in his consciousness. That was clear in Orlando, Fla., during the U.S. Army's third worldwide Equal Opportunity Training Conference.

"Complexities of Diversity: Analyzing the depth and breadth of Equal Opportunity Issues" was the theme for the conference that mirrored the modern Army. It catered to 249 active duty advocates serving from Kansas to Korea, to 108 members of the Army Guard, and to 79 Army Reserve soldiers.

They spent four days focusing on better ways to enforce the equal opportunity policy. Galloway was one of 14 facilitators. He helped Army Guard Lt. Col. G.G. Spearman conduct workshops in the complexities of sustaining an effective equal opportunity program. Spearman is deputy chief of the National Guard Bureau's Directorate for Equal Opportunity.

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, National Guard Bureau chief, was among the speakers who stressed the importance of sustaining that spirit so that every soldier has an equal chance to train, attend schools and earn promotions.

"We owe them the opportunity to compete in a fair environment," said Davis. "It's about making it a better Army, so the Army can get the most from its soldiers, and so soldiers can get the most from their Army."

"Equal opportunity and diversity training should be an integral part of the training that every Guard soldier receives," insisted Galloway. "It's just as important as weapons qualification, the Army's physical fitness test, or common task training."

Sixteen percent of the Army Guard's 352,000 citizen-soldiers are African-Americans, 7 percent are Hispanic and 3.6 percent are members of other minorities, according to the *National Guard Almanac*. Eleven percent are women.

"Guard troops from all kinds of backgrounds are deployed in all corners of the world," Galloway said. "They can find themselves in high-stress situa-

tions. They have to be able to get along."

He learned that lesson during a year of Desert Storm duty in Saudi Arabia, where he directed military traffic for the North Carolina Army Guard's 121st Transportation Detachment. He has since earned a dual master's in human resource development and public administration. He now teaches a Vincennes University course, "Experiencing Race, Class and Gender."

The 293 Army Guard and 280 Air Guard advisors also help commanders deal with complaints that predominately involve racial and gender issues, said Jack Broderick, the Bureau's equal opportunity directorate chief.

That 18-person staff deals with about 200 formal complaints each year that cannot be resolved at the state levels, Broderick explained.

"The sexual harassment complaints are going down," said the former Army artillery officer, "but there are still dumb people out there doing dumb things."

Galloway handles his share of complaints for the full-time staff and the 22,000 military members and civilians who attend the Guard's national education center every year.

Many Guardmembers do not understand the Army's

equal opportunity, he acknowledged.

"If they work for IBM, they probably are tuned in to equal opportunity, but if they work in a 12-man engine shop, they may not be as sensitive."

Most of the issues stem from not realizing how the things that people say and do affect members of the opposite sex and people from different cultures, Galloway explained.

Taking the time to train military people in those fundamental differences, he believes, will do much to eliminate uncomfortable, even ugly, situations like the one he encountered outside a Chicago diner when he was a boy. Then, Guardmembers will be able to serve with everyone when the heat is on.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

SHOP TALK — Lt. Col. G.G. Spearman discusses sustainment of an effective EO program with participants.

TUSKEGEE

FROM PAGE 3

was a culture shock for many of us," recalled Wilson Eagleson, 81, who came from Indiana. "There were water fountains for whites and blacks and separate bathrooms. When we went to a nearby restaurant to eat, we had to get our food at the back door."

"The Tuskegee experience was supposed to fail," recalled Norris Washington, who signed up when he was 15 and who remained in the Army before retiring as a major with 300 parachute jumps. "We decided we had a job to do. We were all Americans, and we did the best we could with what we had."

The black man's brain, said

spokesman Leonard Hunter, was thought to be too small and the aviators would black out if they flew too high. The Tuskegee pilots blew that notion out of the air along with many German airplanes.

Some 970 black aviators trained at the remote base and at Tuskegee Institute starting in July 1941, before Pearl Harbor, and 450 of those fighter pilots flew combat patrols over North Africa, Sicily and Germany beginning in July 1943.

They completed 1,578 missions by war's end. They shot down 111 German aircraft and destroyed or damaged another 298 on the ground. They sank an enemy destroyer with machine-gun fire. They lost not one friendly bomber to enemy aircraft while escorting some 200 missions. Sixty-six pilots were

killed in combat, and 32 were taken prisoners of war.

Eagleson said he shot down two enemy planes and had two more probable kills in the air. He strafed and destroyed 17 planes, two locomotives and many other ground targets.

The Germans called them "Schwartz Vögel" (Black Birdmen). White American bomber crews, who initially refused to have black men flying fighter support, came to know them as "The Redtail Angels," because of the signature red markings on their fighters. Those included long-range P-51s that escorted bombers to their targets and back.

Douglas, the Air Guard communications sergeant, was struck by the Tuskegee men's humility and patriotism.

"You could tell they were

proud of what they did, but they didn't go into how great they were. Everything they said was pretty positive," said Douglas, who became a civilian corporate recruiter in Pennsylvania after spending five years in the Air Force. He is now studying electrical engineering at Temple University. He also pulled a 90-day Air Guard peacekeeping watch at Aviano, Italy, in 1999.

Those options were not available to the Tuskegee Airmen after World War II. They could not, for example, get jobs as commercial airline pilots. Eagleson joined the Air Force as an enlisted man and retired in 1972.

"They came home in 1945 not as heroes, but as black men," said Hunter who struck a chord with the 15 Vietnam veterans in the audience. Both groups, he

said, came home to a country that did not care.

CMSgt. Arthur Hafner III, commandant of the NCO Academy in Knoxville, knows that feeling. He served two tours in Vietnam as an Army combat engineer in the 1960s.

"When I returned from my first tour for 30 days of leave, I could not leave Travis Air Force Base in California in uniform," Hafner recalled. "I was advised that it would not be a good idea to identify myself as a soldier."

Honoring America's warriors has become far more fashionable during the decade since Operation Desert Storm. That helps explain why the Tuskegee Airmen can tell their stories and take their bows in the United States more than 50 years after becoming American heroes in the deadly skies over Europe.



STATES

■ Amos' Able Advice ■ For Quake's Sake ■ Horses of a Different Color

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

Actor John Amos brought the crowd to its feet recently when he spoke to a graduating class of young men and women who completed the five-month, military-style ChalleNGe program at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The 500-seat base auditorium was filled to capacity with people standing in the aisles. Many of them were parents who came to witness the transformation of their once at-risk teens into disciplined, respectful young adults.

Amos, a former New Jersey Army Guardsman, said his part-time job as a radio operator in the 199th Regiment, 50th Armor Division, was his first introduction to communications.

For Amos' family, the Guard provided other benefits.

"I could go away for two weeks and she [his mother] didn't have to feed me," he said. "She saw that as a big savings."

The National Guard showed the TV and movie star a whole world he didn't know existed. It also shaped his character in ways he would never forget. One of his sergeants had a lasting impact.

"Sgt. Catana adjusted my uniform and my attitude," Amos said.

Amos challenged each of the recent graduates to take their own Sgt. Catana with them.

"Walk the walk and talk the talk that leads to success," he said.

ILLINOIS

TRAINED for DISASTERS

A member of the Prairie State Guard's 5th Weapons of Mass Destruction civil support detachment checks for contaminants during a recent training exercise with state emergency responders. The Guard currently has 10 WMD teams across the country.



Photo by Maj. Tim Franklin

HAWAII

KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft crews from the Aloha State's 203rd Air Refueling Squadron based at Hickam AFB, recently assisted with the U.S. Department of Defense humanitarian aid airlift to earthquake-stricken India.

An earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale struck India on Jan. 26.

A 203rd KC-135 tanker took off from Hickam to refuel the first India-bound C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft laden with relief supplies. The U.S. Air Force C-5 aircraft had departed Travis AFB, Calif., loaded with heavy equipment and other relief supplies needed in the disaster areas.

By refueling in mid-air over the Pacific Ocean, the C-5 did not have to land in Hawaii and could continue on its way to Asia with only a short stop in Guam.

Another KC-135 Stratotanker from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, that had been deployed to Thailand, provided the air refueling requirements as the C-5 approached India.

Equipment being flown to India included a 2 1/2-ton truck, two 400-gallon water trailers and two rough-terrain forklifts.

The U.S. Air Force also flew large tents and approximately 10,000 blankets and 1,500 sleeping bags to the earthquake-damaged region.

MONTANA

By SFC Greg Fox

Montana National Guard

The Big Sky State National Guard recently achieved a nationally-unique status as the only state with Army Guard "Black Horse" and Air Guard "RED HORSE" units as part of its stable.

Womack Armory at Fort William Henry Harrison near Helena is home to Troop E, 163rd Armored Cavalry of the fabled 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR).

The 11th ACR currently serves as the Army's opposing force at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., where it trains U.S. Army and Army Guard brigades.

"Because we're a Cav unit, we're our own micro-army," noted Sgt. Anthony Faught, a gunner on an M1A1 "Abrams" tank, and a student of philosophy

at the University of Montana. "We have our own armor, our own infantry, cooks, medics and mechanics, and the 11th ACR is really fun to be with."

"We're the Army's sparring partner," he added. "If they can defeat us, they're ready for war because we're the best."

Visitors to the Air Guard's 219th RED HORSE Flight stationed on Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls are greeted by a statue of a red horse rearing mightily outside the unit's operations building.

RED HORSE is an acronym for "Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineer."

These squadrons provide the Air Force with highly mobile, rapidly deployable, self-sustaining heavy construction and repair units with a worldwide projection capability.

The RED HORSE force structure is unique and

represents a "first" in the Air Force, because one-third of a RED HORSE squadron is composed of Air Guardmembers. They deploy often.

SSgt. Tiffany Gherkiere is in charge of the 219th's orderly room.

"During the week, I'm here at my desk," she said, "but on deployment I can be on a five-ton dump truck or a '10k' forklift. I could be pouring concrete. We do it all."

On recent deployments, the 219th has built schools in Guatemala and Honduras.

"We built the schools from the bottom up," Gherkiere recalled. "The whole time little kids were running around. They knew we were there to help them."

"We couldn't really communicate because they couldn't speak English," she added, "but we built a bond."



HISTORY

■ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

More than 12,000 Air Guardsmen and women were federalized over 10 years ago for Desert Shield, Storm

Good in the Gulf

After Kuwait was seized by Iraq in a blitzkrieg-style attack Aug. 2, 1990, the lives of more than a quarter of a million Guardsmembers and Reservists were forever altered.

Of that number, nearly 116,000 troops served in theater in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Altogether, 12,404 citizen-airmen entered federal service during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Of that number, 5,240 deployed to Southwest Asia while another 6,264 served in the continental U.S. The remaining 900 were assigned to Europe and other overseas locations.

The day Kuwait was seized, Maj. Gen. Phil Killey, the Air Guard director, formed an ad hoc contingency response planning cell in the Pentagon to coordinate with the Air Force operations center. Its main job was to formulate an Air Guard game plan for dealing with the crisis. Prior to any Air Force request, the staff had begun surveying ANG resources that might be available to assist in a possible move of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf. It prioritized which flying units could be used first in each mission area and began working to see who would be available either with volunteers or in a mobilization.

On Aug. 7, the President ordered the deployment of American military forces to Saudi Arabia. Killey responded by activating a Contingency Support Staff at Andrews AFB, Md., to facilitate coordination between the National Guard Bureau, Air Force headquarters, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), and the major commands (MAJCOMS), as well as the states and individual ANG units.

The Air Guard did not limit itself to passive data gathering and preliminary planning in the early days of the crisis. As veterans of the Vietnam War and active participants in the ongoing process of recasting the post Cold War U.S. military establishment, its senior leaders were keenly aware that a great deal was at stake in the unfolding Persian Gulf drama. They were determined that the Air Guard would be as deeply involved as possible if the U.S. chose to intervene militarily.

Air Guardsmembers were well prepared to perform their missions alongside their active force counterparts without delay. Unlike most of the Air Guard's previous mobilizations, they had not required additional training

or new equipment. Once on active duty, Air Guard units performed well during the Persian Gulf crisis. Although the ANG in effect had to reinvent itself through an unprecedented level of volunteerism and tailored unit type codes (UTCs) as Desert Shield unfolded, its units entered federal service and were rapidly deployed where needed.

Altogether, Air Guard crews flew 1,045 tactical reconnaissance missions during Shield and Storm, including 350 in combat. The Air Guard participated in the air campaign from the first day. By the time the war ended, the ANG's F-16s had flown 3,645 missions and dropped 3,500 tons of ordnance without losing a single aircraft to enemy fire. They staged a variety of daylight attacks on targets in Kuwait and Iraq. Those included missile sites, airfields, bridges, and the Republican Guard.

In the special operations arena, Air Guard EC-130 crews flew nearly 2,000 missions, logging 8,000 hours.

The Air Guard's largest contributions were concentrated in a wide range of support missions. The Guard's aerial tankers pumped over 250 million pounds of fuel into more than 18,000 aircraft. The Guard's airlifters flew some 40,000 hours, transporting 55,000 people and 115,000 tons of cargo. Without those and similar air mobility contributions from the Air Force Reserve, the



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

FUELING SUPPORT — Air Guard KC-135 crews, like Kansas's 190th Air Refueling Group, pumped more than 250 million pounds of fuel into over 18,000 aircraft during Operations Desert Shield, Storm.

American military response to the Persian Gulf crisis might have been dramatically altered.

Like its medics, Air Guard firefighters performed ably as CONUS backfill for the active force. Mobilized security policeman and aerial port squadrons also filled in effectively where needed. Combat communications was the biggest problem area from the Air Guard perspective. It was used sparingly. Instead of deploying as integral units or prepackaged UTCs, Air Guard communications assets were deployed as small tailored packages of volunteers or mobilized Guardsmen. A great deal of its equipment was loaned to active duty Air Force units.



GUARD HISTORY

By Charles J. Gross, PhD
Air Guard Historian

The Air Guard validated its approach to the total force policy during the Persian Gulf crisis. Units were well equipped and well trained. As planned, they were able to respond much more rapidly and effectively than in previous call-ups. They were integrated into operations with their active duty and reserve counterparts with minimum disruption or delay. In most areas, Air Force leaders showed no reluctance to call on the Air Guard. In the fighter arena, the availability of adequate active duty resources limited the ANG's participation in the Gulf War. In at least two areas — airlift and aerial refueling — the contribution of the Air Guard and the Air Force Reserve were absolutely essential to the speed and the scope of the American military intervention in the Persian Gulf.

In the process of responding to the Persian Gulf crisis, the Air Guard redefined itself for a new era. Despite some misgivings because of the impact on unit morale and cohesion, it was prepared to tailor its responses to fit the situation and serve the needs of the active duty Air Force. Mobilizing entire flying units and maintaining their integrity while in federal service, although desirable, would no longer be the only acceptable approach to supporting the Air Force in a crisis. Instead, the Air Guard would be prepared to custom tailor its response to fit the situation. That could involve individual volunteers, tailored UTCs of volunteers or mobilized Guardsmen developed in response to specific contingencies, and mobilizing entire units that could operate as stand-alone units on austere bases.

The Gulf crisis also highlighted the fact that the force structure of the ANG had changed enormously in recent decades. At its inception as a separate reserve component of the Air Force after World War II, the Air Guard's force structure had been overwhelmingly composed of combat flying units. That had begun to change gradually in the 1950s. During previous mobilizations, most of the Air Guardsmen called into federal service had belonged to combat units. All that changed dramatically in 1990-1991. The overwhelming majority of Air Guardsmen mobilized during Desert Shield had not belonged to combat units. Indeed, most of them had not been part of flying units, the traditional heart of the Air Guard.

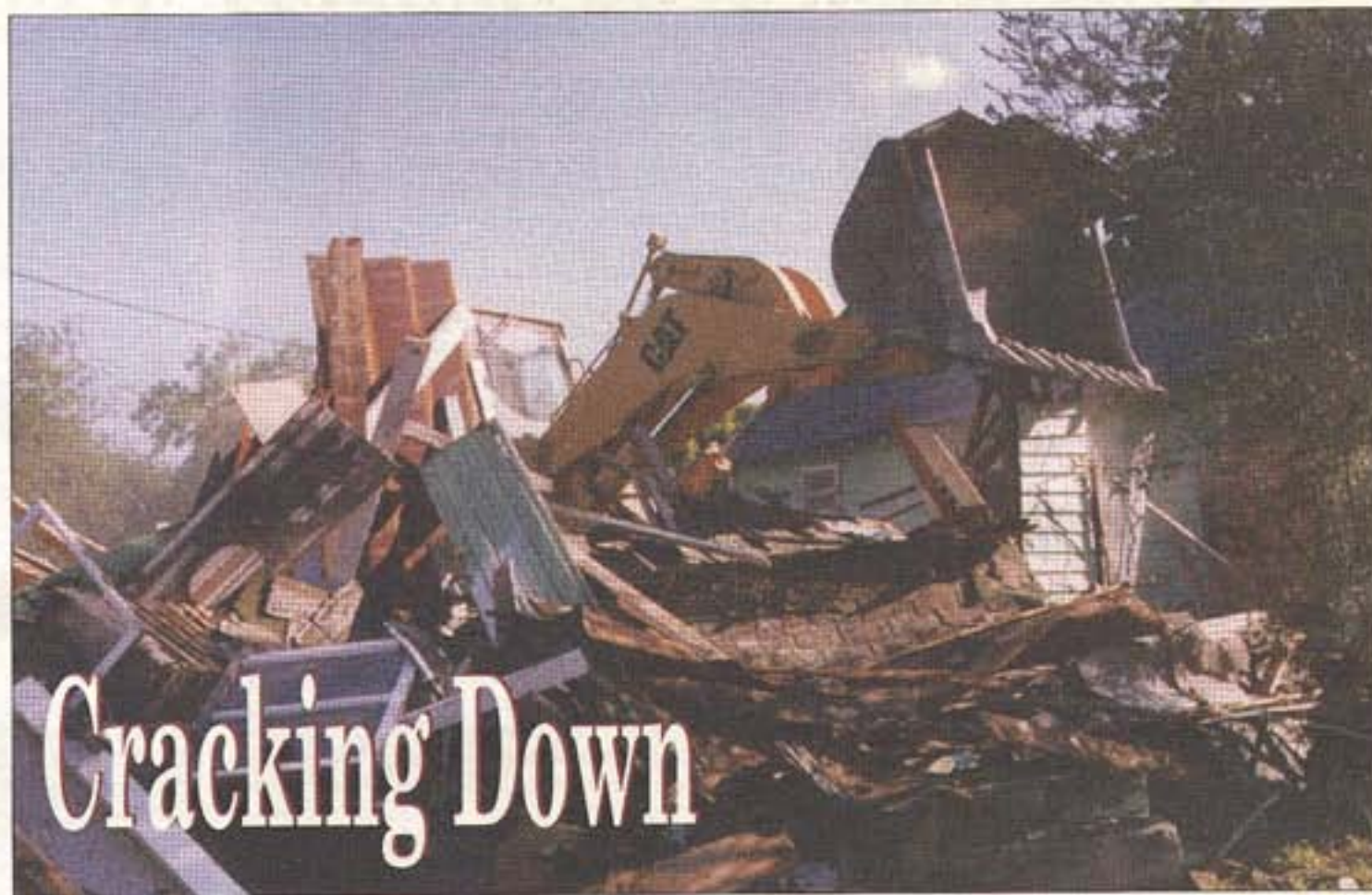
The Persian Gulf crisis was surprising in at least one major respect. Many in the Guard and Reserve community have long believed that President Lyndon Johnson's failure to call for a massive mobilization of the reserve components in Vietnam to be a major policy error. Many felt that such a call-up would have stimulated grass roots support for American military participation in that conflict. However, political scientist John Mueller observed in his book, *Policy and Opinion In The Gulf War*, that the approach of the Gulf War became particularly contentious. The public rallied to President George Bush's support in August, but by October there was a substantial increase in the number of people who thought involvement in the Gulf was a mistake. During the Gulf crisis, there was no correlation between the Guard and Reserve mobilization and public support for the President's policies. Only the start of the war itself re-energized public support for Bush.



TRAINING



CLEANING UP — Texas Army Guard Cpl. Richard Tuttle (above) gets set to bring down an abandoned crack house (right). Tuttle is a heavy equipment operator with the Kingsville-based Company A, 386th Engineer Battalion.



Photos by SSgt. Len Butler

A Texas Guard operation destroyed 27 crack houses in three weeks

By SSgt. Len Butler
Texas National Guard

For three weeks residents in one sleepy neighborhood after another repeatedly had their morning solitude interrupted by the crash of a house being torn apart.

As they peered out of their windows and then made their way onto their porches, they noticed a massive Caterpillar track loader delivering a thundering eviction notice to gang-bangers and drug addicts.

The notice was served by Operation Crackdown, a joint project of the Texas National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, the City of Corpus Christi and community leaders recently.

Upon its completion, 27 houses that were connected to drug activity were destroyed.

With the Cat Model 973 track

loader, weighing more than 27 tons, Guard combat engineers literally pulled the structures from their foundations, until nothing was left but a heap of rubble to be scooped up and hauled away.

By the time the operation's participants had left, nothing but an empty lot remained.

One Cat operator, Cpl. Richard Tuttle Jr., said this serves as a reminder that neighborhoods and local civic leaders will not tolerate the crime and health risks associated with drug abuse.

"We're helping to improve the future for children and adults alike by getting rid of drug-infested houses," said Tuttle, a member of the Kingsville, Texas-based Company A, 386th Engineer Battalion. "Kids will have a better place to live, play and grow up."

Air Guard MSgt. Valerie Benner, drug demand reduction coordinator with the Texas National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, said Operation Crackdown has been a popular and effective weapon in the war on drugs.

By the time the operation concluded, 414 structures had

been torn down statewide since 1993.

Benner said it's important for ordinary citizens to see what the National Guard is doing.

"Programs such as this one enable the Guard to get out in the communities and at the same time enable the communities to see us," Benner said. "We connect with these communities by reaching out and helping to rid neighborhoods of gangs, drugs and the activity associated with them."

Tuttle, who operates heavy equipment for the Texas Department of Transportation in his civilian career, has been involved in the program since its beginning. A seasoned professional, he can tear down a structure with near-surgical precision.

"Before I attack a house, I have to determine which way it will fall when I hit it," he said. "But it's a team effort. I've got some really good guides on the ground helping me."

Corpus Christi Mayor Loyd Neal said Operation Crackdown is a "win-win" program between a community and the Guard's counterdrug program.

"The Texas Guard has been

an excellent partner in our efforts," he said. "Corpus Christi is striving to improve itself. And with the manpower the Guard provides, this is one way we can rid ourselves of what has become a real blight on our city."

The weathered timbers crashing to the ground mark only the final chapter of a crackdown mission. The steps required to have a structure destroyed can take up to a year before it falls before Tuttle's machinery.

Corpus Christi Police Sgt. Henry Mangum said the process often begins with a simple complaint from neighbors.

"We first have to identify a drug connection," Mangum said. "From there, the complaint clears levels of local government. The owner is sought out and has to give permission before we go in."

Most of the structures that fall are dilapidated beyond repair. Drug paraphernalia, empty spray paint cans, trash and excrement litter the interiors.

One property owner, Marvin Leary, said he was happy to finally see his condemned building taken down.

"I've been here before to

check on my property and found people doing drugs, having sex, drinking beer and even sleeping," he said. "It seems that every time I have to clean up, it's about three trash cans worth."

While the presence of the huge Cats attracted attention, local residents rarely ventured from their homes. Operation Crackdown organizers say response from the neighbors has been positive, but few would dare lend their support publicly.

One neighbor, Frank Escobido, said many local residents fear reprisals from the addicts and gangs the houses attract.

"We are all happy to see those people go," Escobido said. "But when the National Guard and police are gone, we have to remain here. We don't know what will happen to us if we applaud what the National Guard and police are doing."

But Escobido, a 72 year-old former Marine Corps drill instructor, said the National Guard and their heavy equipment is always a welcome sight.

"There is an elementary school a few blocks from here," he said. "Those kids will be better off now."