



Over Iraq

Lone Star State F-16 fighters join New Jersey and Vermont Air Guard pilots to patrol no-fly zone in support of Operation Southern Watch



Missile Men

Ohio Army Guard Stinger and Avenger crews show their mettle during a Roving Sands exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas



Friday, January 19, 2001

Newsline

News Money Sports Life

Honoring employers

Employers across the nation who support their workers who belong to the National Guard will be recognized during the "Year of the Employers," the theme for 2001, Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, announced in November. The Army and Air National Guard are taking part. Members of both organizations will strive to give employers increased recognition and reinforce an active partnership with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR).

A multitude of activities and events are planned for the coming year, including a strong public information effort aimed at educating and "reconnecting" with communities where National Guard units are located. Activities will include highlighting the varied missions and roles of state Guard units, arranging employers' visits to Guard operational facilities and training missions, expanding employer support recognition, and educating Guard members and employers about their responsibilities to one another.

Executive Director Bryan Sharratt said "the NCESGR plans to address employers' issues by improving communications between the employers and their employees in the Guard and Reserve."

Guard states partner with foreign nations

The Vermont Air National Guard in 2000 spearheaded a new twist to the State Partnership Program that became one of the National Guard Bureau's most successful international initiatives in central Europe and Central and South America during the 1990s.

The civil engineering squadron from Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing led a joint task force that spent May and June in Macedonia renovating two clinics, a community center and two schools in neighboring towns on the Vardar River. Vermont is affiliated with Macedonia in the State Partnership Program. It was the first time that National Guard troops helped rebuild communities in the Balkans where Guard members have been contributing to the peacekeeping mission that began in Bosnia since December 1995.

The buildings were not damaged from acts of war. They just needed to be remodeled. And everyone involved agreed that it is better to build than to bomb.

Gaining strength through diversity

The chief of the National Guard Bureau has already begun preparing people for the National Guard's next major theme year, "The Year of Diversity," which members of the Army and Air National Guard will salute in 2002.

The Guard's diversity is its greatest strength, Lt. Gen. Russell Davis told an Equal Employment Opportunity Conference in San Antonio, Texas, last August.

Fortunately, both the Army and Air Guard are manned with an extremely diverse force: geographically, racially, culturally, ethnically, and religiously diverse," Davis said. "It is imperative that we as leaders in the Guard give all of our soldiers, airmen and women a fair shot at success. We owe it to them."

As of Sept. 30, 1999, 11 percent of the National Guard's force was women. Its total membership, stretching from Puerto Rico to Guam, belonged to six different wide-ranging racial groups.

"It is precisely this diversity that is a 'combat multiplier' for the Guard," Davis said. "It makes us better, tougher, and stronger." The military, he added, "is of society. It must reflect our society. If that is true, then we must be inclusive and recruit from 100 percent of our population."

Quadrennial Defense Review addressed

National Guard leaders will again get the chance to state their cases about the Army and Air National Guard's roles in the National Defense Strategy during the next Quadrennial Defense Review that must be submitted to the Secretary of Defense by Sept. 30, 2001.

They will again make it clear that the nation's 458,000 Army and Air Guard members are primed to serve their states in time of emergencies and the Army and the Air Force when they are needed for overseas missions. Strategy alternatives have been offered in a QDR report recently issued by the National Defense University. Shape, Respond, Prepare Now is the current scheme, the report states.

Some questions that the report suggests the new administration must consider will be of particular interest to the National Guard. They are: "What are the appropriate uses of the U.S. military short of major war? How much and what kind of military involvement should there be in other contingencies and in peacetime engagement activities?"

USA TODAY Snapshot



Global Guard 'busier than ever'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The National Guard celebrated its 364th birthday on Dec. 13. If that seems to be a rather obscure milestone as anniversaries go, consider the number 10. That has a more significant ring to it. December 2000 marked the 10th anniversary of the National Guard's operational tempo as we know it today.

The Guard's pace has quickened in many ways since 70,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard were mobilized for Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and '91 to help drive the Iraqi army out

of Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War.

Unlike previous wars, the pace for the National Guard and the other reserve components since Desert Storm has become more and more demanding.

"We used to think we were busy when we contributed a million duty days a year to the national defense," said Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau since August 1998. "That was nothing. Our Guard soldiers and airmen are busier than ever."

"Ten years ago, when we had 300,000 more people in our seven reserve components, we were contributing one million duty days a year to the active

components," Charles Cragin has told nearly every audience he has addressed as the principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs.

"Now, with 300,000 fewer people, we are performing 13 million duty days a year, roughly the equivalent of adding 35,000 men and women to the active components," Cragin added. "They can no longer function without us."

For many years before 1990, most National Guard troops found satisfaction in serving their states and their country for one drill weekend a month and for 15 days of annual training a year. That changed for many citizen-sol-

diers and airmen who were suddenly mobilized for Desert Shield and then Desert Storm beginning in August 1990.

Now the 458,000-member Global National Guard, 52 percent of the nation's total reserve force, is constantly sending combat soldiers, maintenance and medical people, and pilots and navigators around the world.

They are engaged in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo and they are going to Southwest Asia to patrol no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq because of an unprecedented

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Home at last: After serving an eight-month peacekeeping deployment to Bosnia, a Texas Army National Guard soldier shares a tearful embrace with his wife upon his return home in October. More than 750 members of the Lone Star State's 49th Armored Division had commanded the American sector in Bosnia, which included 11 nations, since last March.

Cover story

Texas Army Guard returns home after commanding historic peacekeeping mission in Bosnia

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Seven hundred-fifty citizen-soldiers from Texas wrote a new chapter for the modern Army National Guard while directing an incident-free peacekeeping mission in central Europe during 2000.

The members of the 49th Armored Division returned to their homes in October after successfully commanding the American sector's multinational force, including soldiers in the active Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, for seven months in Bosnia.

It was the first time since the Korean War that a Guard division had led active troops in a foreign theater. It was another indication of how the 352,000-soldier Army National Guard has come of age and become an integral part of the total force Army.

Job well done, praised Lt. Gen. Leon LaPorte, the Army's III Corps commander who oversaw this Army Guard mission. "I think it will have a tremendously positive impact," said LaPorte of the effect the Army Guard-commanded rotation will have on the integration of reserve and active-duty forces.

That beat is going on. Some 350 citizen-soldiers from North Carolina, Oklahoma and Arizona in October became the first Guard troops during the five-year peacekeeping mission to take on ground patrol duties and a combat posture formerly delegated to active troops in the American sector.

Come next October, Virginia's 29th Infantry Division will take charge and the Army Guard will surpass 10,000 soldiers who have pulled peacekeeping tours in Bosnia.

Meanwhile, back at home, domestic duties in 2000 tested Guard troops including 43 District of Columbia military police soldiers during a rainy, bone-chilling Monday in April on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The platoon from the 260th Military Police Command stood shoulder-to-shoulder with a couple of hundred civilian police officers and persistently and peacefully helped hold the line against a few thousand ranting, singing protesters bent on disrupting a meeting of world finance ministers.

Nearly 700 D.C. Guard members were called to active duty to help city and federal authorities keep demonstrations against the World Bank and International

Monetary Fund from getting out of control.

However, it was the platoon of 43 citizen-soldiers bearing riot batons and wearing protective gear that drew special praise in the nation's capital.

"The Guard gave us the additional resources we needed. Had they not been here, we'd have lost the line, and the outcome would have been quite different," praised Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey.

It was one of the National Guard's finest hours during a year when Guard soldiers the length and breadth of this land frequently demonstrated their depth of commitment to this country as it proceeds into the 21st century as the world's reigning super power.

Other significant Army Guard accomplishments at home and abroad included fighting wildfires across the West during a long, hot summer; briefly replacing striking prison guards in Rhode Island; building seven schools in Belize and providing clean drinking water for mud-avalanche refugees in Venezuela.

South Carolina State Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III became the Army Guard's enlisted leader in November, succeeding Command Sgt. Maj. John Leonard Jr. After nearly four years as the Army Guard's command sergeant major, Leonard has gone to work for the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs as the senior enlisted advisor for all seven reserve components.

Next June 14, the Army's 226th birthday, Army Guard soldiers will put on new black berets along with most other active Army and Army Reserve troops as a symbol of Total Force unity directed by Gen. Eric Shinseki, the Army's chief of staff.

There are other signs that the Army National Guard has already become an integral part of what Shinseki calls "The Army."

Vermont Lt. Col. Ernest Audino last January became the first Army Guard officer to ever take command of an active Army battalion. Audino's armor battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash., belongs to one of the first two brigades that will be equipped with faster wheeled vehicles as the first step in Shinseki's plan to forge a more mobile, leaner and lethal Army.

Furthermore, all of the Guard's eight combat divisions and its 15 enhanced separate brigades will be teamed with divisions throughout the Army's four warfighting corps to improve the Guard's prospects for training and resources.

"It's about readiness," Shinseki told some 3,000 officers and defense industry representatives during the National Guard Association of the United States' September conference in Atlantic City, N.J.

The teaming between the 1st Cavalry Division and the 49th's Texans went so well that "we are going to expand that experiment," Shinseki said. "Those align-

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Equipped to protect from above

By SFC Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

Maj. Carl Jones was once again patrolling the hostile skies over Iraq. A decade ago, he did so as a Marine during the Persian Gulf War. This time, he was strapped into an F-16 Fighting Falcon jet as a pilot with the Alabama Air National Guard.

He's not alone. Three Air Guard F-16 fighter wings recently returned from Incirlik, Turkey, after taking their turn patrolling the Northern Iraq "no-fly zone" as part of the new Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. Air Guard pilots have flown over unfriendly skies in support of Operation Northern Watch since 1991.

Along with Air Guard fighter wings from Indiana (the 181st FW) and Colorado (140th FW), Alabama 187th Fighter Wing crews voluntarily served as part of a 90-day AEF deployment to enforce the no-fly zone over Iraq that began last September.

Air Guard leaders say the AEF program is succeeding, because it allows units the predictability and flexibility to schedule their own troop rotations, while accommodating their families and employers.

"The whole system is set up to give units latitude about how to fill their 30-day block of the 90-day AEF rotation," said Indiana Air Guard Col. Kent Waggoner, deputy commander for the 181st Fighter Wing in Terre Haute.

At the same time, the increased participation by the Air National Guard in real-world missions around the globe reduces the burden of the active-duty Air Force. It also provides the force with seasoned, war-tested pilots and crews.

"The Guard can get spun up pretty quickly," Jones assured. "The pilots in the Air National Guard are tremendous. Transitioning from civilian careers to a fighter pilot is certainly achievable with the right training."

Family members and employers also like the predictability the AEF's regularly-scheduled deployments offer, reports Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, director of the 109,000 men and women who comprise the Air Guard. Prior to AEF, he added, many citizen-airmen risked being pulled away from their families and jobs for weeks at a time with little or no notice, especially during unforeseen conflicts like the Kosovo air war.

Still, no amount of training or advanced notice can allay the fears many Air Guard family members feel knowing their spouse or parent is flying over a hostile area. However, a critical piece of equipment may help—a laser targeting pod that turns the F-16 from a smart airplane with dumb bombs into a smart airplane with smart bombs.

The recent Northern Watch deployments marked the first time Air Guard fighter jets were equipped with "Litening II" advanced-targeting pods. In short, the pods allow pilots to fly outside the range of enemy ground fire while launching precision-guided munitions, or "smart bombs."

"It was a lot different than the Persian Gulf War," Jones recalled. "The aircraft and systems we have now are a whole lot better. I felt as safe as I was going to feel in that environment."

While most in Air Guard's F-16 community have had limited exposure to the pods, the recent 90-day Northern Watch rotation allowed the Alabama, Colorado and Indiana units to share aircraft that were equipped with some of the Air Guard's first eight Litening II pods.

"Right now we're sharing a lot of the high-tech assets to get our air crews trained and ready to perform that mission," Waggoner said. "All of the CINCs (Commanders-in-Chief) want units that are capable of firing PGM (precision guided munitions), because they don't want airplanes dropping dumb, iron bombs on targets incorrectly."

Illinois Air Guard Maj. Rich Neely, a member of the

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Setting her Sights: Hawaii Army Guard Pvt. Lorinda Billesteros, a medical technician with the 29th Infantry Brigade, eyes the target during recent training on the island of Oahu.

Guard 'busier than ever'

Continued from page 1

three separate presidential reserve call-ups.

That's in addition to New Horizons humanitarian missions in Central and South America that have become routine since the 1980s. Now, Guard soldiers are engaged in an Alaskan road-building project on rugged, remote Annette Island.

"When do we go?" has become an often-asked National Guard question. The answer is a lot. That is brought home in the National Guard's new official song, "I Guard America," written by country singer, songwriter and former Tennessee Army Guard artillery soldier James Rogers.

Come next October, more than 10,000 Army Guard soldiers will have gone to Bosnia during more than five years of peacekeeping duty.

Air Guard units have become an integral part of the Air Force's Aerospace Expeditionary Force that is into its second year of deploying personnel and planes overseas on a sustained, regular, and predictable schedule.

Meanwhile, the Guard's cargo planes, helicopters, five-ton trucks, Humvees and the people to operate them are in nearly constant demand to help civil authorities on the domestic front deal with emergencies such as western wildfires and northeastern ice storms.

Twenty-seven states have full-time civil support teams trained or in training to support emergency responders for threats posed by weapons of mass destruction. Five more state teams have been authorized by this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

And all of this country's 54 states and territories have robust Guard counterdrug operations. They are educating young people about the dangers of illegal drugs, flying reconnaissance missions for federal, state and local agencies, seizing cocaine at ports of entry, and destroying millions of dollars worth of marijuana plants.

All of this activity has benefitted the National Guard in other ways. The 2001 defense act earmarked \$309.9 billion, including a 3.7 percent January pay raise, for the reserve forces.

That act signed by President Clinton on Oct. 30 enables part-time Guard and Reserve members to earn 90 retirement points each year, instead of 75, for attending weekend drills and for completing correspondence courses. It also provides for another pay raise on July 1 for people in the pay grades of E-5 through E-7 because of the increased responsibility being placed on mid-grade enlisted leaders.

Meanwhile, family support programs have become critical command initiatives in every state.

"Desert Storm was our baptism under fire. It validated everything I had been preaching about caring for our families since 1984," said Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, Family Program chief for the National Guard Bureau.

Now she is striving to give Guard kids their say.

"It's time we started listening to the children of our deployed Guard members. They serve, too," Ogilvy-Lee said last summer during the National Guard's Year of the Family. She announced a symposium for Guard kids during next summer's annual Family Program workshop in Washington, D.C.

The increased tempo also has forced commanders to pay more attention to civilian employers because Guard people want to return to their jobs. Bryan Sharatt, the new executive director of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, is determined to improve relations and communications with civilian employers. He is asking them how the system can be improved so that workers critical to their companies are not taken from their jobs any more than necessary as the reserve components, including the National Guard, keep on going and growing.



Photo by Sgt. Roy Henry

Getting ready: A Georgia Army Guard infantryman trains for an upcoming deployment to Bosnia.



Photo by SFC, Ronald Boushey

Landing at sea: A Texas Army Guard Black Hawk pilot landed aboard the USS Constellation during a recent joint service training mission. It was the first time in the state's history that an aviation unit landed onto a Navy carrier.

Counted on at home, abroad

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Cover story

It's also about credibility, stressed Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz who has devoted his two-and-a-half years as the Army Guard's director to fostering closer ties with the active Army and Army Reserve.

"Having our eight combat divisions and our enhanced brigades assigned to the Army's four war-fighting corps gives the Army National Guard the credibility we have been striving to achieve for the past 10 years -- since Desert Storm," said Schultz. "We are indeed gratified that the Army's chief of staff has expressed this level of confidence in our citizen-soldiers to take such an active role in his vision of The Army. We welcome the opportunity."

Shinseki also indicated that 122 Black Hawk utility helicopters and 68 Apache attack helicopters will be transferred from the active Army to the Guard in 2002 to replace older, Vietnam-era helicopters and spur on the Guard's aviation modernization program.

Shinseki said he is now exploring the possibility of factoring Guard elements into the Army's war-fighting plans, according to the *National Guard* magazine.

The Army has submitted a request to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to coordinate with regional commanders in chief on writing the Guard divisions into the war plans. Gen. John Keane, the vice chief of staff, reported. The final document will be completed sometime in January, Keane said. Final approval will rest with the next secretary of defense, he added.

"General Shinseki wants the National Guard's divisions to be missioned," Keane explained. "I'm optimistic about it myself."

Officials also have good reason to be optimistic about the status of the Army Guard that is frequently taxed for domestic as well as foreign duties. While more than 1,000 troops, including nearly 500 in Montana, were pressed into action to help fight wildfires that scorched a dozen western states last summer, membership in the Army Guard continues. Near the end of September, the Army Guard's strength was 351,864. That was 1,864 more than the objective set for 2000. The recruiting goal of 54,034 was exceeded by about 6,000 new troops. Half of the new faces had served in uniform before.

Those numbers are encouraging because it is no longer a secret that an Army Guard commitment can involve much more than one drill weekend a month and 15 days of annual training a year.

And there are many satisfactions. Texas Army Guard intelligence Sgt. Jon Copple, for example, believed that serving in Bosnia was important because 8,000 families returned to their pre-war homes during the Texans' tour.

"A lot of displaced people returned to their homes while we were there," Copple said. "That made our duty there worthwhile."

ments are going to bring us to a level of readiness we've always talked about getting to."

Marching in to battle wildfires

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

Armed with shovels, yellow hard-hats and fire-resistant jackets, National Guard troops from several western states marched off to help battle the nation's worst wildfires in more than a decade.

From Montana to California, where black helicopters were painted with pink racing stripes to make them easier to see in smoky, mountainous terrain, Army and Air Guard troops who live out West have once again returned to fighting wildfires during the summer.

There was a lot more of that work last summer because the fires began burning at a record pace about a month early and because the two hottest and driest months, August and September, had just begun. It is said to be the summer of the perfect storm for wildfires.

By August's second week, nearly 1,000 Army Guard soldiers and more than 200 Air Guard members were reinforcing exhausted civilian firefighters and federal and state resources with shovels and helicopters and six C-130 chemical dispersing planes in 10 states. Nearly 500 were on duty in Montana.

"The conditions are as bad or worse than they were in 1910," said Fred Naeher, spokesman for Montana's Disaster and Emergency Services. "We are looking at a catastrophic situation."

Sixty-five major fires were burning in 11 states on Aug. 7. The 3.9 million acres, an area larger than Connecticut, which had been scorched across the nation had easily surpassed the 10-year average of 2 million burned acres for that time of year, reported the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

"We've been out for two weeks, and there's no end in sight," said California CWO4 Don Knutson, a 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Chinook pilot out of Stockton. He then lifted off with a 1,300-gallon Bambi bucket to douse hotspots near the Sequoia National Forest at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Nearly 73,000 acres of that forest had been ravaged.

"The idea is to dump the water from 50 feet at 50 knots for the greatest effect," said Knutson.

Battalion officials said their six utility Black Hawk helicopters and four heavy-hauling Chinooks had dropped 821,000 gallons directly onto flames or in front of ground crews working eight major fires and many smaller blazes from the Oregon border to south of Los Angeles.

Black Hawk crews carried 660-gallon buckets and flew hundreds of firefighters from base camps to the edge of the fires at altitudes up to 9,300



Photo by SFC Jack Holt

Hot duty: National Guard men and women by the thousands were called upon by their states to help douse the wildfires last summer.

supplies and helped law enforcers control traffic in a fire belt that stretched from Canada to Mexico.

"It's been all right, but it's pretty treacherous on these mountains with the loose rocks. So you have to be careful," said Montana's 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry SPC, Brandon Garneau, while enduring choking smoke and high heat and humidity in the Helena National Forest.

The dirty mop-up job involved snuffing out hotspots with shovels and digging out smoldering tree trunks to keep the fire from flaring up again.

"The Guard's leadership and discipline were there from the beginning, so they caught on pretty quickly to the fire-fighting tactics," said Forest Service strike team leader Matt Butler.

"They free up our regular firefighters to move on to other high priority fires," explained Naeher. "I find these National Guard troops to be highly energized, professional and a joy to work with."

"These are our neighbors going out there saving our lives, saving our land and saving the state of Montana," praised Lt. Gov. Judy Martz.

For most, it goes with the territory of belonging to the Guard.

"It's a busy time of year at the ice cream plant where I work, but my employers said 'Go ahead and be safe.' I guess duty calls," shrugged SPC Wayne Hard, a medic whose infantry outfit had recently finished its two weeks of annual training.

Duty kept calling during a summer of hot wildfires.

"Guardmembers continued to call in to volunteer," said Montana Army Guard Maj. Joe Foster. "The list grew by the hour."



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking

feet, said SFC J.J. Moore, who was directing flight operations from the mountain resort town of Kernville.

"The fires crawl up the side of a ridge until they reach the crest, then they get a fresh source of oxygen and explode like an atomic bomb," Moore marveled. "They even produce a mushroom cloud."

The number of acres burned and the tons of water and flame retardant flown into the domestic combat missions were almost impossible to count.

"It grew by the hour," said Naeher. So did the National Guard's resolve. The force ranges from Vietnam veterans such as a California CWO2 Randy Weatherhead, a Black Hawk pilot who flew Hueys in Vietnam 30



Photo by SFC Jack Holt

years ago, to SPC Paul Benedick, 26, a crew chief who went into Bosnia with the first wave of U.S. peace-keeping troops in December 1995.

Benedick was sworn in for his second two-year hitch in the California Guard on Aug. 6 while on duty in Kernville, a few miles from the Sequoia fire.

The aviators are both casual and cautious about what they do.

"It's hazardous because you're operating at maximum gross weight all of the time," said Weatherhead, the 126th Medical Company's aviation safety officer in Sacramento. "It's hazardous because you're operating in the fire and smoke, because you're flying all the time so you get fatigued, and because there's so much air traffic around the fires."

"No one is shooting at you, but it's still a lot like combat," added Weatherhead during his third fire-fighting season. "Every fire has its moments."

Two hundred ground grunts were pressed into mop-up duty in western Montana. They got two days of rigorous training by U.S. Forest Service instructors at Fort Harrison near Helena and joined a fire-fighting force of 4,600.

Other Guard soldiers set up base camps, transported equipment and

Protection from above

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Springfield-based 183rd Fighter Wing, said his unit deployed to Turkey last year without the pods, and were relegated to supporting fighters with more high-tech equipment.

"If you don't have the PGM capability, you're not going to be invited to dinner," he said. "The PGM capability puts us in position to get into the fight. We need to be relevant."

As one-third of the Air Force's total F-16 fleet, Air Guard leaders insist its F-16 force is poised to do even more to relieve the operational tempo placed on its active-duty counterparts. However, without the pods, it is forced to warm the bench.

"I would certainly endorse the need for more pods," Jones maintained. "The Air National Guard is a tremendous asset that brings a lot of experience with it. But we can't

help without the right equipment."

Only through innovative logistical management and sharing, have Air Guard pilots and maintainers been able to establish themselves as key players in enforcing the no-fly zones over Iraq. Combined with active Air Force and Air Force reserve crews, they have flown nearly 250,000 sorties over that region in the last decade without losing a single pilot. Many pundits attribute that success to the Air Force's heavy reliance on its Guard and reserve fleet of veteran pilots and crews.

Gen. Weaver said of the Air Guard's F-16 arsenal has received many upgrades, however, more are needed. "We have significantly improved our F-16 fleet," the general said. "But we still need 81 more pods to fill our one-for-one requirement. Our focus in the future is to significantly extend the service life of this airplane."

Meanwhile, Neely said, he and others will do what the Guard does best: "Making due with what we have and getting the mission accomplished."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean M. Worrell

Equipped to protect: A New Jersey Air Guard F-16, piloted by a Texas citizen-airman, patrols the no-fly zone over Iraq in support of Operation Northern Watch.

PROFILES FROM ACROSS THE USA

A sampling of Army and Air Guard members making a difference in your neighborhoods and abroad



Richard Gonzales
Senior Master Sergeant
Washington National Guard

Assigned to the Western Air Defense Sector on McChord AFB, he was named the Air Guard's First Sergeant of the Year. Gonzales enlisted in the active Air Force in September 1978 and was named Outstanding NCO of the Year while performing the additional duty of First Sergeant in Okinawa. He joined the Washington state Air Guard after leaving active duty in April 1997.



Cyril Charity
Senior Airman
D.C. National Guard

Selected as one of the Air Force's Outstanding Airmen of the Year, Charity is a security specialist in the 113th Security Police Squadron based at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. He joined the Air Guard in October 1995 and has served in a security forces squadron at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. He also belongs to the 113th Wing's Honor Guard.



Major General Marianne Mathewson-Chapman
Florida National Guard

An accomplished nurse, she recently became the first woman in the Army National Guard to be promoted to major general. She holds a doctorate in nursing and is the Army's Deputy Surgeon General. In civilian life, the general is the civilian director for the Federal Strategic Health Alliance at the Veterans Health System in Bay Pines, near St. Petersburg.



Jesse Nelson
Specialist
S.D. National Guard

As a member of the Guard's marathon team, he's run a 26.2 mile race in just over two hours and 30 minutes. A three-time Academic All-American who teaches biology and coaches three high school sports, Nelson was named the 5th U.S. Army's Soldier of the Year. He's currently a fire direction specialist with a multiple launch rocket systems unit in Yankton.



Tommy Hill
Guard civilian
National Guard Bureau

At 81, the man considered a living legend has worked at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., since Oct. 25, 1948--with-out missing a day for illness. The Army Guard's civilian deputy chief of training has accumulated over 100 workweeks--of unused sick leave. He is also considered the patriarch of the Army Guard's state officers training programs. He has served under 10 presidents



Beth Dellman
Master Sergeant
Tenn. National Guard

The 30-year-old relishes her unique status as one of just two enlisted people helping to teach officer candidates at the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tenn. She also is one of seven Dellmans to join the National Guard. For a couple of years in the early 90s, she, her father and five brothers were members of the Sioux Falls-based 114th Fighter Wing.

Stateline

Twister Assisters: Shortly after a tornado claimed a life and damaged more than 350 homes in Granite Falls, Minn., 1st Sgt. Lee Simmons, no stranger to disaster relief, surveyed the sobering aftermath.



"It was really sad to see people standing in front of their homes crying," said Simmons, the top enlisted man for the Redwood-based Company C, 682nd Engineer Battalion. "They had lost everything. It was very gratifying to be able to help."

Simmons was one of nearly 150 Gopher State Army Guard troops from the 682nd and the Rosemount-based 34th Military Police Company called-up by Gov. Jesse Ventura to provide security, traffic control and clean-up debris, after a funnel cloud touched down shortly after 6 p.m., July 18, damaging a 40-block area.

"It was obvious the soldiers were a huge help. I heard a number of people commenting on that," reported Lt. Col. Gary Sigfrinius. "One lady brought out homemade cookies and coffee and put it on the hood of a 'Humvee' with a little note that said, 'Thanks for coming.' That kind of reception," he added, "makes it all worthwhile."

Finding their Sea Legs: Flying military aircraft requires high-octane confidence. Landing one on a heaving steel flight deck as it rides the ocean's waves takes guts.

Once the private domain of Navy and Marine Corps aviators, the challenging world of aircraft carriers is rapidly becoming an environment Army pilots must learn to negotiate. Black Hawk pilots and crew members from the Texas Army Guard recently experienced first-hand the basics of carrier landings and the special challenges of life aboard the USS Constellation during a Joint Shipboard Helicopter Integration Process, or JSHIP, test off the coast of California.

The Texas soldiers trained for two weeks under the guidance of Navy and Army aviators and program evaluators.



Courageous Crew: An aircrew from the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing helped rescue a civilian pilot May 17 after his aircraft plunged into the chilly Atlantic 360 miles off the coast of Portugal.

The pilot, 35-year-old Alex Haynes, was not harmed in the crash, but could have sustained severe injuries because of exposure to the 50-degree water. Fortunately, a Louisville C-130 crew heard Haynes' distress calls and diverted to the crash site with survival gear.

After dropping dye to mark his position, loadmasters MSgt. David Riedley and SSgt. Randall Hood fabricated a system for deploying a sea kit, which included a life raft and mittens. The kit landed just 50 feet from Haynes, who swam over, inflated the raft and crawled inside. A Turkish fishing trawler picked him up a short time later.

Haynes expressed his gratitude during a phone call to the crew. "I can't thank you guys enough," Haynes said. "I'll be eternally grateful."

Sighted in Sydney: The men and women of the United States shooting team that medaled at the Summer Games in Sydney, Australia, have Georgia Army Guard Chief Warrant Officer Scott Pilkington to thank for ensuring their specialized weapons fired without incident.

The 36-year-old who works as an armament repair technician with the Department of Logistics at Headquarters, State Area Command, based at Fort Oglethorpe in Atlanta, was selected as the U.S. shooting team's gunsmith. During the games, Pilkington was responsible for ensuring everything from the team's double-barreled shotguns to its .177 caliber air rifles and pistols, were in top working order.

"In the world of Olympic shooting there is no such thing as second guessing how a particular firearm may perform," he said. "It has to work the first time. It must give the athlete the edge he or she needs to be the one wearing Olympic gold." Pilkington treasured his role during the games. "To be a part of their dreams for Olympic gold," he said, "is something I will always remember."

Building relations: Joint Task Force Pelican, a New Horizons 2000 project that was directed by the Louisiana Army Guard around the coastal city of Dangriga, Belize, saw nearly 3,000 troops build seven schools, dig four wells and provide basic medical care for nearly 10,000 people over a four month period.

The task force was commanded by Louisiana Army Guard Lt. Col. Terry Hammett, who commanded one of the two-week rotational units that helped build schools and clinics in Belize in 1997. Part-time National Guard soldiers who served two-week tours included construction engineers from Mississippi, military police from Illinois, and medical people from Maryland.

Missouri, Oklahoma, Georgia, Rhode Island, Virginia, Iowa, North Dakota, New Hampshire and Vermont Guard troops also helped.

Champ in, out of ring:

With a strong left hook to his opponent's temple at 2 minutes and 17 seconds into the second round, Jose' Luis Rivera-Morales, a New York Army Guard specialist, became the new International Boxing Federation Light Heavyweight champion.

By scoring that knock out over Montel Griffin in London, England, Morales improved his professional record to 36-0. A member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic boxing team, Morales won the World Boxing Organization's middleweight title and the World Boxing Congress's light heavyweight belt.

However, the Bronx-raised fighter, has also distinguished himself outside the ring. A trained respiratory technician, he assisted a heart attack victim on an aircraft that he and fellow Guard members were on as they returned from annual training in Germany. When the woman collapsed, Morales used the aircraft's emergency automated defibrillator to stabilize the woman until the pilot could complete an emergency landing in London.

Last spring, Morales witnessed the collision of a heavily damaged sedan and a sports utility vehicle. Risking his life, he freed the injured victims from both smoking wrecks. At one point, Morales literally lifted the SUV off a child who had been thrown from the vehicle and pinned when the overturned wreck fell on top of him.

He has used his fame to deliver anti-violence and drug messages. He also has participated in school programs by substance abuse counselors and educators.



Jose' Luis Rivera-Morales

Across the USA

News from every State

Alabama: The Army Guard's 128th Medical Company provided ground ambulance support and the 1302nd Engineer Detachment, a five-man terrain analysis team, deployed to Bosnia. Infantrymen participated in Rescuer '99, a joint service exercise in Romania. The Air Guard's 187th Fighter Wing deployed to Turkey for 30 days for Operation Northern Watch. Army Guard trucks hauled nearly 1,000 loads of hay to south Alabama farmers after a summer drought forced them to use their winter supply.

Alaska: The Frontier State's Army Guard conducted 55 Search and Rescue/Medical evacuation missions, participated in five Innovative Readiness Training operations and deployed troops to the National Training Center, Belize and Korea. The Army Guard also stood up the 103rd Military Support Detachment in support of the Guard's role in the fight against weapons of mass destruction. Guard members played an active role in disaster assistance, sponsorship of at-risk youth and community volunteerism.

Arizona: The Grand Canyon State's Army Guard provided people and equipment to support several wild land fire suppression missions, and assisted the medically underserved community of El Pueblo in Tucson through the Innovative Readiness Training program. In addition to serving their communities, the Army Guard served in every major conflict and made continual deployments to worldwide operations.

Arkansas: The 39th Infantry Brigade mobilized three infantry companies for a Presidential call-up to Southwest Asia. Each company consisted of 136 soldiers. Infantrymen with three 153rd Infantry battalions served in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Twenty-two soldiers from the 87th Troop Command's Company D, 114th Aviation served in Bosnia nine months. The 142nd Field Artillery's 51st Battalion became fully certified on the Multiple Launch Rocket System. The 188th Fighter Wing performed combined fighter training with U.S. Navy F-18s in Gulfport, Miss.

California: Nearly 2,000 Golden State Army and Air Guardsmen were activated for Y2K. In February, the 129th Rescue Group, assisted in the search for Alaska Airline Flight 261 crash victims. The 69th Press Camp Headquarters returned from a nine-month tour in Bosnia in May, while target acquisition troops with Battery F, 144th Field Artillery prepared for its second deployment to the Balkans in two years—this time to Kosovo. The Air Guard's 144th Fighter Wing returned from Operation Southern Watch in Saudi Arabia in May. The state called on its Guard during the summer to battle the most devastating fires in its history.

Colorado: More than 300 Army and Air Guard personnel were called upon to assist in putting out fires by providing qualified firefighters, security and transportation. The 220th Military Police Battalion returned 135 troops from six months of peacekeeping duty in Taser, Hungary. Army Aviation pilots with the High Altitude Training Site performed 30 search and rescue missions.

Connecticut: Four citizen-soldiers from the 65th Press Camp Headquarters returned from peacekeeping duty in Bosnia after serving there nearly six months. The 169th Leadership Regiment's Noncommissioned Officers Academy received its accreditation from the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. Fort Bliss, Texas. For the second year in a row, a Nutmeg State Air Guardsman received the prestigious National Image, Inc. Meritorious Service Award presented by the Department of Defense.

Delaware: The First State's training site at Bethany Beach saw its highest use in history. Last January, its Army National Guard began the design of a new 54,000-square-foot readiness center to be located in the town of Smyrna. It will house a total of 148 soldiers, and will serve as both a military training center and a community center.

District of Columbia: The D.C. National Guard supported federal and District agencies in a variety of contingencies. Citizen-soldiers were on the streets New Year's Eve to facilitate a smooth Y2K transition. In April, more than 1,000 Guard members assisted the Metropolitan Police during the International Monetary Fund/World Bank demonstrations.

Florida: The Sunshine State's Army Guard was called out four times last year to assist law enforcement and emergency management agencies with hurricanes and wildfires that threatened local citizens. Citizen-soldiers also contributed significantly to ongoing military and humanitarian operations overseas in Venezuela, Kuwait, Germany and Korea. Its Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program continued to impact thousands of state youths.

Georgia: More than 1,200 soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade made preparations for their March 2001 deployment to Bosnia, the largest in the history of the Balkan conflict. The 75th Engineering Detachment assisted in the construction of schoolhouses in Kosrae, Micronesia. CH-47 aviators helped combat wildfires in south Georgia and Florida. The 116th Bomb Wing and 165th Airlift Wing completed 90-day rotations as part of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force. Physicians with the 165th Medical Squadron deployed to the mountains of Peru to provide routine medical care.

Guam: The Chamorro Army Guard kicked off the year with intense preparation for the Y2K rollover. Guam was the first U.S. possession to hold systems compatible with mainland U.S. and Hawaii. In the area of training, it was the first year in the territory's Army Guard history that every war fighting unit deployed off-island.

Hawaii: The Aloha State Guard enjoyed a banner year in the areas of recruitment and received national recognition for its supply and environmental efforts. The supply sections from Company B, 193rd Aviation and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery won two of the nine Chief of Staff of the Army Supply in Excellence awards.

Idaho: The Gem State's Army Guard trained in locations such as Germany, El Salvador and Kuwait. Citizen-soldiers provided three months of logistical support to over 2,000 active duty soldiers and Marines who arrived in Idaho to combat wildfires. Guard members continued to support countless community events.

Illinois: The Prairie State's Army Guard supported many overseas missions in locations such as Asia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In addition to the mobilizations, units of the 232nd Support Battalion deployed to Korea in support of three separate exercises. Other Guard members supported missions in Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Belize and Honduras.

Indiana: The 76th Infantry Brigade completed the most successful rotation of any Guard unit at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Ft. Polk, La. The state's Army Guard was involved in the largest deployment by barge in history. Black Hawk crews helped fight wildfires at home and in Montana. Soldiers from the 138th Finance Battalion served in Bosnia and Macedonia. Air Traffic Controllers from Company G, 238th Aviation supported Army aviation units in Kuwait. The 122nd Fighter Wing mobilized to the Persian Gulf region as part of the first Air Guard Aerospace Expeditionary Force.

Iowa: The 132nd Fighter Wing completed its fourth deployment in 44 months to enforce the no-fly zones over Iraq in April. The 185th Fighter Wing deployed to the Dutch Antilles to support counterdrug operations. Air and Army Guard medical teams provided care to civilians in Guatemala, Belize and Honduras. Company A, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry soldiers deployed to the Persian Gulf region to support peacekeeping operations. Army Guardsmen deployed to Montana and Texas to assist in forest and wildfire fighting efforts. The Hawkeye State Guard completed another exchange visit with military leaders in Russia to foster better relations.

Kansas: Sunflower State Guard members were called out to respond to tornadoes in Parsons and Tonganoxie. Over 300 citizen-soldiers and the public celebrated for the first time the organization of the Kansas National Guard, which occurred 145 years ago. Members of 1st Battalion, 635th Armor received upgraded M1A1 tanks. Battery E, 161st Field Artillery was called to Kosovo for peacekeeping duty. Airmen with the 190th Air Refueling Wing deployed to France as part of Operation Deliberate Forge, an operation that provides support for NATO peacekeeping in Bosnia.

Kentucky: Using a combination of air power and troop muscle, Bluegrass State Army Guard soldiers battled forest fires, both on the ground and from the air. Citizen-soldiers also began training for mobilization and deployment to Bosnia as part of the Stabilization Force's Rotation #9. Soldiers supporting the Governor's Marijuana Strike Force helped eradicate nearly 400,000 marijuana plants with a street value of \$987 million.

Louisiana: Task Force Pelican took citizen-soldiers to Belize where they helped construct schools, provide medical care, dig wells and work hand-in-hand with local citizens in support of the New Horizons humanitarian mission. The four-month project was led by an Army Guard lieutenant colonel. After a dry summer caused forest fires, nearly 100 Army Guard members were called-up to contain the blazes.

Maine: Seventy-four members of the 112th Medical Company returned from a nine month peacekeeping tour in Bosnia. The unit gained high praise after using its UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to rescue two Russian soldiers who had wrecked their vehicle in a ravine. Engineers from Company B, 133rd Engineer Battalion supported Task Force Grizzly, a operation dedicated to constructing a fence and all-weather road along the entire length of the 147-mile California and Mexico border.

Maryland: Preparation for potential emergencies caused by Y2K and support to the state during a winter storm offered challenges early in the year. Free State soldiers deployed to Bosnia in support of a Stabilization Forces mission, while engineers trained in Estonia. One Army Guard unit continued preparation for an upcoming mission in Bosnia.

Massachusetts: The 65th Press Camp Headquarters deployed to Germany in support of Operation Joint Forge. The 104th Fighter Wing deployed overseas in support of Operation Northern Watch, while the 102nd Fighter Wing patrolled the skies over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch. The state's Civil Support Team participated in the national weapons of mass destruction "Topoff" exercise in New Hampshire.

Michigan: Wolverine State Army Guard units deployed overseas and outside state boundaries last year. Many soldiers established an Intermediate Staging Base at the Joint Readiness Training Center, where they provided life support to over 4,500 soldiers. Other citizen-soldiers represented the Army Guard in Cooperative Banner, a 19-nation partnership for peace exercise conducted in Norway.

Minnesota: More than 150 soldiers from the Army Guard deployed to Granite Falls to help the community with clean-up and security after parts of the town were devastated by a tornado in July. Father's Day had a special meaning for 40 soldiers with Battery E, 151st Field Artillery, when they came home after spending seven months in Kosovo as part of the United Nation's task force. For the first time, the 133rd Airlift Wing worked side-by-side with Air Force active and reserve components to fly more than 1,250 tons of supplies to the Balkans as part of a Aerospace Expeditionary Force.

Mississippi: As a result of aggressive recruiting and retention efforts, the Magnolia State's Army Guard significantly increased its strength last fiscal year. Soldiers saw numerous overseas deployments in areas such as Belize, Germany, Kuwait and Bosnia. Its Army Guard also continued its force modernization with the acquisition of the Sentinel Air Defense Radar System.

Missouri: When flash floods devastated the town of Union in early May, military police and engineers from the state's Army Guard provided security and emergency road repairs. Citizen-soldiers participated in training and humanitarian missions in Belize, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. In addition, two classes completed Show-Me Challenge, an at-risk youth program.

Montana: Over 1,800 citizen-soldiers helped combat the state's worst wildfires in 100 years. It the only state to serve on the front line nationally, deploying over 600 soldiers and airmen trained as fire crews. The 219th RED HORSE Flight became the first associate unit to the Air Force to be deemed "excellent" in an organizational readiness inspection. The Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation completed a nation-building deployment to El Salvador, and is currently conducting peacekeeping operations in southwest Asia.

Nebraska: Retired Air Guard Col. Roger P. Lemple was named the 30th Adjutant General in state's history. The Hastings Training Site was renamed the "Francis S. Greenleaf Nebraska Army National Guard Training Site." The 3,211-acre training site has been under the control of the National Guard for the past 34 years. The 155th Air Refueling Wing completed its nearly five-month long conversion to the Pacer CRAG (Compass, Radar and Global Positioning) system on its KC-135R Stratotanker fleet in August.

Nevada: The Sagebrush State's Army Guard supported communities during Y2K operations and participated in several state firefighting missions. They also completed several overseas deployments to Iceland and Italy. Its citizen-soldiers deployed six times to the National Training Center to complete tank gunnery and live fire exercises, where they served as an opposing force.

New Hampshire: The Granite State's Army Guard deployed units to Europe, Canada and within the United States for training. Under its Partnerships for Peace program, Guard members hosted military leaders from El Salvador and taught combat skills. Its citizen-soldiers continued to conduct a highly successful counter drug mission.

New Jersey: About 200 Garden State airmen with the 177th Fighter Wing deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Southern Watch to help enforce the no-fly zone over Iraq in November. The unit just completed their transition from a strictly air defense unit to a general purpose flying unit in October.

New Mexico: More than 1,000 Guard men and women participated in the largest state activation in 30 years when they helped battle fires in Los Alamos, Manuella, Ruidoso and Cloudcroft, where an estimated \$100 million of damage was wrought to an area slightly larger than the District of Columbia. The Guard helped evacuate the town of Los Alamos and provided special equipment—such as helicopters and tractors—to assist with controlling the fires. The Guard helped evacuate 18,000 people in six hours.

New York: The nation's best state-sponsored Guard benefits program got even better in 2000. In June, Gov. George Pataki announced an improved version of the New York National Guard Tuition Incentive Program. Now, those who join the Guard in the Empire State become immediately eligible for tuition support, instead of having to wait up to two years to complete basic and advanced individual training. First launched in 1997, the program provides 100 percent tuition support. The Army Guard rocketed from worst to first in strength that year.

North Carolina: The 30th Heavy Separate Brigade deployed 165 soldiers to Bosnia for peacekeeping duty with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division. The two combat companies are the first National Guard armored and mechanized forces to serve in the region. More than 800 Guard men and women were called upon to fight fires in Colorado, Texas, Tennessee and at home. The 505th Engineer Battalion and 105th Engineer Group sent 200 troops to participate in Cornerstone 2000 in Moldova, a former Soviet Republic. The Guardsmen constructed a medical clinic at an orphanage that's home to 700 children.

North Dakota: The 142nd Engineer Battalion sent 155 soldiers to support American peacekeeping forces in Kosovo. Members of Company B, and a detachment of the Headquarters Company, took part in construction and road improvement projects in and around Camp Bondsteel. The unit also collected and delivered several tons of supplies to local Kosovar schools. In August, Guard members removed over 400 truck loads of storm debris from the city of Devils Lake, after severe winds brought down trees and damaged buildings.

Ohio: Nearly 100 members of the 123rd Air Control Squadron returned from Kuwait in April after a four-month deployment in support of Operation Southern Watch. Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade conducted several road upgrades and bridge construction projects around Eagle Pass, Texas, to improve pursuit routes for U.S. Border Patrol agents. Guard members were called to state active duty to help Xenia's citizens recover from a deadly September tornado, and to aid the Ohio Department of Health in vaccinating the raccoon population against rabies.

Oklahoma: Sooner State Army Guard units deployed to annual training sites in Germany and Belize. Army Guard companies prepared for deployment to support Operation Just Cause in Bosnia. The 22-member Civil Support Team began extensive weapons of mass destruction training that will lead to operational certification.

Oregon: The Beaver State's Army Guard mobilized three infantry companies for duty in Southwest Asia, an air ambulance company for duty in Bosnia, and a Testing, Maintenance and Diagnostic Element for duty in Kosovo and Bosnia. Last September, 800 citizen-soldiers trained in firefighting techniques to respond to wildfires that plagued the state.

Pennsylvania: The Keystone State's Army Guard mobilized two units for peacekeeping duty in Bosnia last year. To enhance the readiness of the entire force, major training and humanitarian deployments took other units to Germany, Italy, Korea, Nicaragua and numerous active-duty posts in the U.S. With a respite from natural disasters this year, domestic support focused on emergency preparedness.

Puerto Rico: The territory's Army Guard provided disaster relief in Venezuela after devastating floods. More than 110 citizen-soldiers also served in Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo. Its citizen-soldiers provided law and order, preventive patrolling and security support after Hurricanes Jose and Lenny. Guard members provided medical services to low-income neighborhoods.

Rhode Island: The Ocean State's Army Guard participated in several major events, including deployments to the Balkans and Germany. Citizen-soldiers also responded to the search and rescue mission for Egypt Air Flight 990. The Drug Demand Reduction Program continued to promote drug education and awareness in local communities.

South Carolina: The Palmetto State's Army Guard enjoyed a successful rotation at the National Training Center. Citizen-soldiers also cleared trees and installed drainage ditches for an entrance road at the Congaree Swamp National Monument, and built roads and bridges during a six-week exercise at Jocassee Georges. The Drug Demand Reduction Program reached 42,831 people through various community events.

South Dakota: About 285 Guard members supported federal and state firefighters during three major fires in the Black Hills. The state's Guard hosted its 16th annual Golden Coyote exercise that involved 2,500 soldiers from 46 units and 11 states. The 147th Artillery's 1st and 2nd battalions completed the conversion to the Multiple Launch Rocket System. The 114th Fighter Wing participated in Operation Nighthawk on the island of Curacao.

Tennessee: The Volunteer State's Army Guard supported Operation Grizzly Road in California and performed engineer support operations in Haiti, Germany and Bosnia. As tornadoes swept through Jackson and Clarksville, Guard volunteers assisted in rescue and recovery operations. Guard members also assisted North Carolina with recovery operations following Hurricane Floyd.

Texas: The Lone Star State Army Guard's 49th Armored Division assumed command of Task Force Eagle in Bosnia. The deployment marked the first time since the Korean War that a Guard division headquarters commanded active duty troops in a real-world mission. Its Army Guard members performed 81 continuous days of state active duty in support of the Texas Forest Service fighting fires that burned more than 129,000 acres.

Utah: The 151st Air Refueling Wing deployed over 300 members to Istres, France, from May to July to help enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia. Members of Company D, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation were deployed to Kuwait. Three linguists with the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion returned home in August after an eight-month deployment to Macedonia.

Vermont: Members of the 158th Fighter Wing participated in Cornerstone 2000 in Macedonia, a humanitarian civic assistance engineering project. The 1st Battalion, 172nd Armor became the first unit ever to fire Tank Table Twelve at Fort Drum, N.Y. The entire Green Mountain State National Guard mustered for the second time since the end of the Civil War on Aug. 12. The 158th Fighter Wing patrolled the southern no-fly zone over Iraq.

Virginia: Training and logistical preparation continued for the Bosnian Stabilization Forces' Headquarters mission in 2001, while the manning and equipping of the Old Dominion State's new Civil Support Team provided its Army Guard significant challenges. Training exercises at the National Training Center and at home presented opportunities for members to sharpen war-fighting skills.

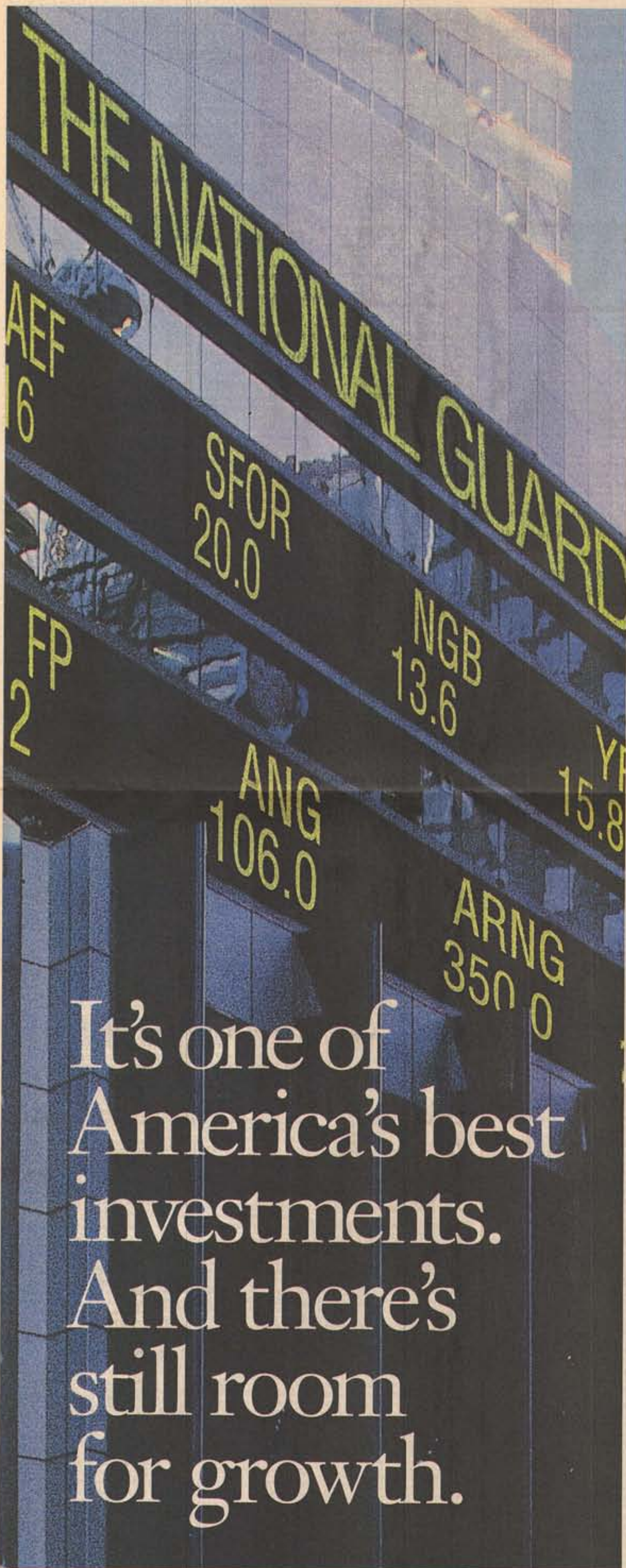
Virgin Islands: The island's Army Guard trained in Alabama, Europe, South America and Puerto Rico last year. Units at home trained on tasks related to emergency disaster response, preparation for federal and territorial mobilization, and the sustainment and improvement of tactical and technical skills. The highlight was a water purification detachment's deployment to South America in support of a humanitarian relief effort.

Washington: Evergreen State soldiers returned from peacekeeping missions in the Balkans, and conducted annual training at Yakima Training Center and in other locations around the world.

West Virginia: The state's Air Guard took home four of seven trophies at the Rodeo 2000 worldwide competition, while also logging more than 7,000 C-130 flying hours in over 24 countries. Members of 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces supported operations in Kosovo. Its Partnership Program with Peru continued with senior leadership exchanges. Members of the 157th Military Police Company deployed to Honduras.

Wisconsin: Badger State Army Guard soldiers from seven units trained in Nicaragua, Germany, Japan and Korea last year. Men and women from 12 units trained at eight out-of-state locations.

Wyoming: Six Army Guard UH-60 crews spent time in Montana supporting U.S. Army and Forest Service firefighting crews. Air Guard C-130 crews flew 250 sorties and dropped 750,000 pounds of fire retardant over fires in five western states. In February, the Air Guard's 187th Airlift Squadron became the first C-130 unit in the country to fly regularly scheduled medical missions. Camp Gurnsey served as a training ground for 5,104 troops from 15 states.



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