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# THE ON GUARD

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## Texas takes charge in Bosnia

**Led by Lone Stars:**  
*'The 49th Armored Division  
... is ready to do this job'*

**T**he Texas Army Guard's 49th Armored Division assumed command and control of Multinational Division-North and Task Force Eagle March 7 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Officials from the 49th, commanded by Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, and the unit they're replacing, the 10th Mountain Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. James L. Campbell, gathered in the Eagle Sports Complex at Eagle Base in Tuzla for their formal Transfer of Authority ceremony.

The transfer of authority is especially significant in that it is the first time a National Guard division headquarters has assumed the command and control of MND-N and Task Force Eagle since its inception in December 1995.

"They are writing another page in the history of the National Guard as they are deploying to Bosnia," observed Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in Washington, D.C. "This is a huge responsibility for the men and women from Texas and Maryland who have left families and employers behind."

"The force we are sending into harm's way includes lawyers, ranchers, parents-to-be, twin brothers, and three sets of fathers and sons," Davis added. "This is not the first time, nor will it be the last time, that we have sent our people on such a mission. We have done it with success for over 363 years."

In Bosnia, Halverson spoke confidently as he assumed leadership of the Stabilization Force troops in MND-N, assuring those gathered that his command is ready for the job ahead.

"To those who would oppose peace and progress [in Bosnia and Herzegovina],

I can assure you that the 49th Armored Division and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment are trained and ready to do this job," Halverson declared.

Those present included Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas; Rep. John M. McHugh, R-N.Y.; U.S. Ambassador Robert W. Farrand, Breco supervisor; Lt. Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, III Armored Corps commander and Lt. Gen. Ronald E. Adams, Stabilization Force commander.

Among the National Guard dignitaries present were Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, and CSM John Leonard Jr., the Army National Guard's command sergeant major.

Halverson made particular note of the multinational flavor of MND-N's composite structure, and pledged dedication to the "one team" concept.

Allies in MND-N include the Nordic-Polish Battle Group, the Turkish Brigade and the First Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade. Add to these the armed forces of the formerly-warring factions, elected officials, and organizations throughout the international community. All of whom, Halverson said, work closely together to maintain peace and stability within the MND-N area of responsibility.

"We are honored to join this team and continue this noble work," he said.

To the departing 10th Mountain Division soldiers, Halverson offered his congratulations for a job well done.

"I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Maj. Gen. Campbell and the 10th Mountain Division for representing the United States in such a professional and dedicated manner. You have clearly set the standard," Halverson said.

He ended his remarks with the unit mottoes of the 10th, 49th and the 3rd -- "Climb to Glory, Lone Star, Brave Rifles!"

**Editor's Note:** MSgt. Bob Haskell contributed to this *Army News Service* story.



Photo courtesy of the Texas National Guard

**FLAG WAVER** -- The son of a Texas Army Guard citizen-soldier waves a U.S. and Texas flag at a farewell ceremony for 700 Guard men and women with the 49th 'Lone Star' Armored Division headed for Bosnia.





## COMMENTARY

■ Canadian Takes issue with those who oppose America

## ABOUT the PAPER

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# Siding with Americans

By Gordon Sinclair  
Canadian TV Commentator

**T**his Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth.

Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When the franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own

airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas 10? If so, why don't they fly them?

Why do all the International lines except Russia fly American planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon -- not once, but several times and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced

to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake. Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around.

They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those.

Stand proud, Americans.

*Editor's Note: Widespread, but only partial news coverage, was given recently to an editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. The preceding was the full text of his remarks as printed in the Congressional Record.*

## LETTERS POLICY:

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## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"Congratulations, Captain. Your idea has reduced mobility processing time by 92 percent."





## IN THE NEWS

■ High Quality H2O ■ Night Rescuers ■ Credit Card Required

## Venezuela disaster gets Guard lift

■ **High Quality H2O:** *Guard units purify much needed water to country ravaged by floods, mud slides*

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Pedro, a wiry, weary man in Venezuela, had not shaved for nearly a week because his wife and four children and his parents needed every drop of the precious water for drinking and cooking he could collect in plastic jugs from an Army National Guard purification unit.

"Without this water, we would die. These American soldiers are saving our lives. God will bless them all," said the thirty-something man in early February. He got the water on that sun-baked afternoon beside a gritty stream bed nearly two months after a deadly avalanche of mud had tore out of the nearby mountains and through coastal Caraballeda.

National Guard soldiers have encountered many people like Pedro, at home and in foreign lands, during the decade they have frequently deployed with their truck-sized reverse osmosis water purification units to transform swamp water and sea water into the liquid of life for those in need.

Some of them also encountered retired major-league



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**PURE DEED** — North Dakota Army National Guard Sgt. Curtis Mack checks the chlorine level of water being purified for flood-stricken Venezuelans in Caraballeda.

pitcher Dennis Martinez, who visited Venezuela and U.S. Ambassador John Maisto, asking how to keep the clean water flowing after the American soldiers left in late February.

Guard teams from Puerto Rico and then Florida and North Dakota left their families and civilian jobs to join Joint Task Force Fundamental Response that was organized in Maiquetia soon after floods and mud slides

■ See VENEZUELA, page 13

## Air Guard units practice night rescue over Arizona

By Maj Eric Schnaible  
U.S. Air Force

X-File fans may be disappointed to learn that those weren't UFOs lighting up the Tucson and Phoenix night skies recently. Future downed aircrews will not.

Air National Guard A-10 and HH-60 units were conducting night illumination combat search and rescue (CSAR) missions March 6-10 at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, one of the few locations in the country where the training can be safely conducted.

Once "popping" its component of LUU-2 ("Lou-two") flares — each gives off 2 million candlepowers of light — the helicopters and A-10s are able to observe and react to activities on the ground as they conduct rescue training of simulated downed aircrews.

In past years, when atmospheric conditions were ideal, the illumina-

tion flares used by units undergoing similar training were visible from the Phoenix metropolitan area. They prompted frantic calls to both the Luke and Davis-Monthan AFB public affairs offices to report UFO sightings.

This year, officials with the Arizona Air Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing coordinated and released a news advisory to better inform the public. Four Phoenix network TV affiliates also covered the story.

That story involved the efforts of A-10 crews from Michigan's 172nd Fighter Squadron (part of the 110th Fighter Wing) in Battle Creek, and the HH-60 Nighthawk helicopter Air Guard crews from the 129th Air Rescue Wing, Calif., and the 106th Rescue Wing, N.Y.

The training was made possible through the Air Guard's Operation Snowbird program, where units based in colder U.S. climates train in Arizona, where it is much warmer.

According to Lt. Col. Chuck Roque, 162nd Fighter Wing spokesperson, an A-10 can carry up to eight LUU-2 flares. The flares are normally deployed at an altitude of 10,000 feet. Once deployed, they illuminate for five minutes, and burn out before hitting the ground.

As seen from the ground, the flares appear to be hanging motionless in the air. Additionally, the aircraft used covert navigation lighting, rendering them nearly invisible to the naked eye. The aircraft, however, are visible to other air crews through the use of infra-red night vision goggles.

"For U.S. forces who deploy to dangerous global locales to fly and fight, it's no conspiracy that the Total Force maintains a capability to extract them from behind enemy lines at night," noted one observer.

**Editor's Note:** Schnaible is the chief of the 355th Wing's public affairs office at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Unique masters degree in Civil-Military Relations offered

Army National Guard officers have a unique opportunity to participate in an International Security and Civil-Military Masters Degree Program at the Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

According to Maj. Federico Waldron with the National Guard Bureau's International Affairs Office, attendance at the school addressed a need.

"The continually increasing international involvement of the National Guard required a core of highly-trained and highly-educated leaders to achieve all tenets of the National Security Strategy," he explained.

The Monterey course, Waldron noted, focuses on analysis of civil-military relations, peace and humanitarian operations, consolidation of democratic rule, resource allocation, international law and coalition warfare.

The program is currently available to Army Guard officers in the ranks of first lieutenant to major. Lieutenant colonels and warrant officers will be allowed to submit their packages on a by-exception basis.

Graduates will incur a three-year service obligation, Waldron added.

For more information call Waldron at DSN 327-1749 or (703) 607-1749. His e-mail address is: waldronf@ngb.army.mil

### Government credit card now mandatory for travel

As of Feb. 29, all federal employees (to include military personnel) must use the government travel charge card for all expenses arising from official government travel, unless otherwise exempted.

The revised policies were dictated by the Travel and Transportation Reform Act (TTRA) of 1998.

Other provisions of the act include:

- Requires federal agencies to pay interest to travelers when the agencies do not pay travel settlements within 30 days of receipt from the traveler.

- Authorizes agencies to garnish wages from personnel who are delinquent in their payments to the travel card contractor.

The full Department of Defense policy statement can be viewed on the internet at <http://www.dtic.mil/comptroller/travel.html>



# Terrorism responders tested in Boston

By 1st Lt. Brad Leighton  
Massachusetts National Guard

It has yet to happen, but the Massachusetts National Guard is preparing for the worst.

The 1st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team joined with Boston firefighters, rescue workers, and police officers to test the local response to domestic terrorism, Feb. 27. The "incident" took place in a Boston subway station on what was otherwise a quiet Sunday morning.

It was the first time that the 22-member Guard unit trained with the Boston authorities. They have, however, trained with police and fire from several other communities, including Providence, R.I., Portland, Maine and Worcester, Mass., said Lt. Col. Jay Daley, unit commander.

The stakes were high in Boston. The unit was under the close scrutiny of 1st Army evaluators from the 3rd Training Brigade on Fort Devens, and the results of the test went to Congress. Maj. Gen. Alan D. Johnson, the deputy commanding general of the First Army (North) was on hand to review the units performance personally, as was Brig. Gen. George W. Keefe, the adjutant general of Massachusetts.

The full-time unit, hand-picked from the best and brightest, proved effective under fire.

"Jay, your team did a great job," said Johnson. Coordination with civilian authorities is key, and the civil support team showed that they can work effectively with firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians.

But Johnson warned the team to remain flexible. "Don't get hung up on one scenario. You just don't know what you may have to deal with."

The Civil Support Team (CST) is one



Photo by Sgt. Jordan St. John

of 10 in the country, with 17 more expected to be fielded this year. The teams were established to help civilian authorities mitigate the effects of a terrorist act involving nuclear, biological, and/or chemical weapons.

Each CST has five sections: the command section, as well as survey, logistics, medical, and communications teams. Its job is to help firefighters, policemen and emergency medical services to assess, advise and facilitate further action when they are faced with a nuclear, biological, or chemical hazard.

In other words, the team helps the incident commander, usually a local fire chief, by telling him the exact kind of agent he is dealing with and how best to respond to that hazard. Then they help him respond. The CST remains under the incident commander's authority throughout the emergency.

"The National Guard people know their job well," said Boston Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Dunbar, the incident commander of the exercise. "It's nice to see the kind of assets they have available if we need them. Training with these different agencies is so important."

Sgt. Paul MacMillan of the subway police agreed.

"We have to know how to handle any situation," he said. "Communication with the National Guard and other agencies is vital. These exercises help iron out the wrinkles before they cost lives."

Sometimes those "wrinkles" occur at just the wrong time. Just as Cpl. Adam Snow of Marlboro was evaluating a mock "chemical agent," the regulator broke on his gas-suit breathing apparatus.

In such a situation, the results of good training come to the fore. Snow did everything right, according to 1st Lt. Col-

**TALKING TERRORISM** -- Massachusetts Army Guard Lt. Col. Jay Daley (right) briefs Boston fire and rescue officials during a recent domestic terrorism exercise in Boston.

leen Hill of Fitchburg, his section leader.

"Obviously, if it was a real chemical agent he couldn't just take the suit off," Hill said. "Instead of panicking, he did everything by the book and remained calm."

By taking shallow breaths and performing emergency maintenance procedures on the suit, Snow was able to coax his equipment into working for another 45 minutes; long enough to determine that they were dealing with a nerve agent, and get safely out of the area.

The CST team has a mobile analysis lab that helps them determine types of chemical and biological hazards, but if the lab breaks down there's also Snow.

"He took it upon himself to memorize all the different properties of these agents. If something ever goes wrong with the lab, we can turn to him," Hill said.

When several different incidents occur at the same time, a 22-soldier unit can get stretched thin quickly, according to Daley. "We all rely on each other to complete the mission."

Each soldier in the unit requires seven to eight months of initial schooling. Then each day, five days a week, the training continues. The physical fitness of the soldiers is top-notch, Daley said.

The unit has jelled into a team, noted Daley. This is important because the unit trains in a "fish bowl." Several network Boston television news crews covered the training, as did both major Boston newspapers, *The Boston Globe* and *The Boston Herald*.

## NIGHT FIGHT

Members of the Kentucky Army Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 138th Field Artillery in Lexington lit up the Blue Grass night during a recent training exercise.



Photo by Sgt. Judy Woods





# PEOPLE

YEAR of the FAMILY: ■ Dellmans of Dakota ■ O.K. Commanders

## The Dakota DELLMANs

For 50 years the South Dakota Air Guard has been well served well by one family

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**B**eth Dellman has a couple of reasons for relishing her unique status on the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science faculty, which trains new officers in Knoxville, Tenn.

At 30, she is a technical sergeant and one of just two enlisted people among the 14 who spend six weeks at a time teaching officer candidates how to be second lieutenants. Dellman's AMS title is training and education manager. She works with a dozen officers, and she expects to be promoted to master sergeant in mid-April.

Then there is her remarkable family in South Dakota. Few families are so well connected to the National Guard. Seven Dellmans, including Beth's father and five of her brothers and sisters, have been part of the South Dakota Air National Guard for nearly 50 years. Five are still serving.

All seven were members of the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls for a couple of years in the early 90s. All seven are satisfied to serve in the enlisted ranks. All seven, Dellman recently speculated, will probably put in at least 20 years as traditional or full-time Guard members.

"My father did not try to influence us, but joining the Air Guard seemed to be the logical thing to do," said



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**FAMILY FIRST** — TSgt. Beth Dellman proudly displays a photo of her family, many of them members of the South Dakota Air Guard.

Dellman who enlisted on May 31, 1988, the day she graduated from Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls.

Six of the eight children raised by Carl Jr. and Mary Dellman have followed their father's footsteps into the Air Guard. It's not hard to figure out the subject that dominates the conversations when the Dellmans gather for Thanksgiving or family reunions.

"I was quite proud that they joined," said the father who has kept as busy as he wants to be with hunting and fishing during the seven years he's been retired. "The kids keep me up to speed about the Guard," he added.

"My dad told us the Air Guard had been a good career for him, but that we would have to make our own decisions about what would be good for us," said Beth Dellman whose midwestern family was influenced by some strong, admirable values.

"My mother and father have been married for 45 years," said Beth. "My father is a very strong person who

stands by his word. He does not falter, no matter who he talks to."

Carl Jr. enlisted in September 1952 and spent 40 years as a full-time federal technician in supply and then civil engineering in Sioux Falls before retiring as a senior master sergeant in December 1992.

David Dellman, who enlisted in January 1977, is a full-time senior master sergeant in communications. Cheryl (Dellman) Gillen retired as a senior master sergeant after 21 years last December.

Michael Dellman enlisted in September 1987, eight months before Beth, and has been a full-timer since 1990.

Kathleen (Dellman) Metzger signed up in January 1990 and is a traditional master sergeant in the education office at Sioux Falls.

Son Carl Dellman joined the Air Guard family in January 1991. The seven Dellmans served together for nearly two years, and Carl became a full-timer in July 1995.

Beth left the nest in 1997 to join the staff of the L.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center, that includes AMS, in eastern Tennessee. She became the AMS training and education manager nearly a year ago.

"I like this academy because it's very structured," Dellman explained. "I like teaching and working with the students."

"You can't sit in the weeds here," she added. "At first it felt different to be working with so many officers. But I'm an extrovert, so I picked myself up and went forward with this job."

Working in the same place seems to be a family trait among the Dellman siblings, Beth explained.

"Six of us worked part-time in the same grocery store at different times while we were growing up," she said. Then she laughed. "You hire one Dellman, you'll get at least five more."

That is certainly how it worked out for the South Dakota Air National Guard.

## Led by Brays

By 2nd Lt. Scarlett Tyler  
Oklahoma National Guard

**I**f you are, or were, a member of the Oklahoma Army Guard's 45th Field Artillery Brigade, chances are you were led by a Bray brother.

The third Bray brother, Col. Gary D. Bray officially assumed command of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade during a change of command ceremony in Enid, Okla., Feb. 6.

Col. Larry Haub was the outgoing commander.

More than 250 visitors, including Bray family members from three states, attended the historic ceremony.

The Bray family has a distinguished history of military service. Not only have four of five of the Bray sons served in the Oklahoma Army Guard, two (Lonnie and Kenneth, both retired colonels) have commanded the brigade their brother recently took over.

Lonnie Bray, the eldest brother, commanded the 45th from 1976-77. He retired in 1985



**The BRAY WAY** — Col. Gary Bray (center) poses with brothers Kenneth (left) and Lonnie, both retired colonels. Each has commanded the 45th Field Artillery Brigade.

after 38 years of service. It was during his time as a battery commander with the 1st Battalion, 189th Field Artillery in Tonkawa that Lonnie encouraged

his brothers to enlist. Three of his brothers did so, two of them were later commissioned.

Kenneth Bray commanded the brigade from 1991-92. He retired with 32 years of service in 1992.

Like his brothers, Col. Gary Bray began his Guard career as an enlisted soldier, serving in several gun section positions during his 12 years wearing stripes.

In 1976, Bray graduated from the Sooner State's officer academy as its distinguished grad. That led to several leadership positions, including a stint as

commander of 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery.

Over the past three decades, the three Bray brothers have witnessed continuous changes in weaponry systems within the 45th brigade. During Lonnie's command, his soldiers fired eight-inch, self-propelled tube artillery and the Honest John Rocket System.

"The rate of change has been faster in the past 10 years," noted his brother Kenneth, who oversaw the brigade's transition from tube to rocket artillery. The 1-158th Field Artillery was the first Guard unit to field the Multiple Launch Rocket System.

Now it's up to Gary to lead the 45th into the new millennium.





**GRASPING the SITUATION**  
D.C. Air Guard SrA. Brent Nelson Jr., (above, left) the crew chief, and Maj. Bill Shelton, the pilot, grasp hands at the end of a Coronet Nighthawk counter-drug flight -- Nelson's first career scramble.

Air Guard fighter pilots, crews are keeping an eye on the drug traffic over Curacao

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**B**rent Nelson Jr. discovered what all of the training's for and what all of the excitement's about at 2:05 p.m. in early February.

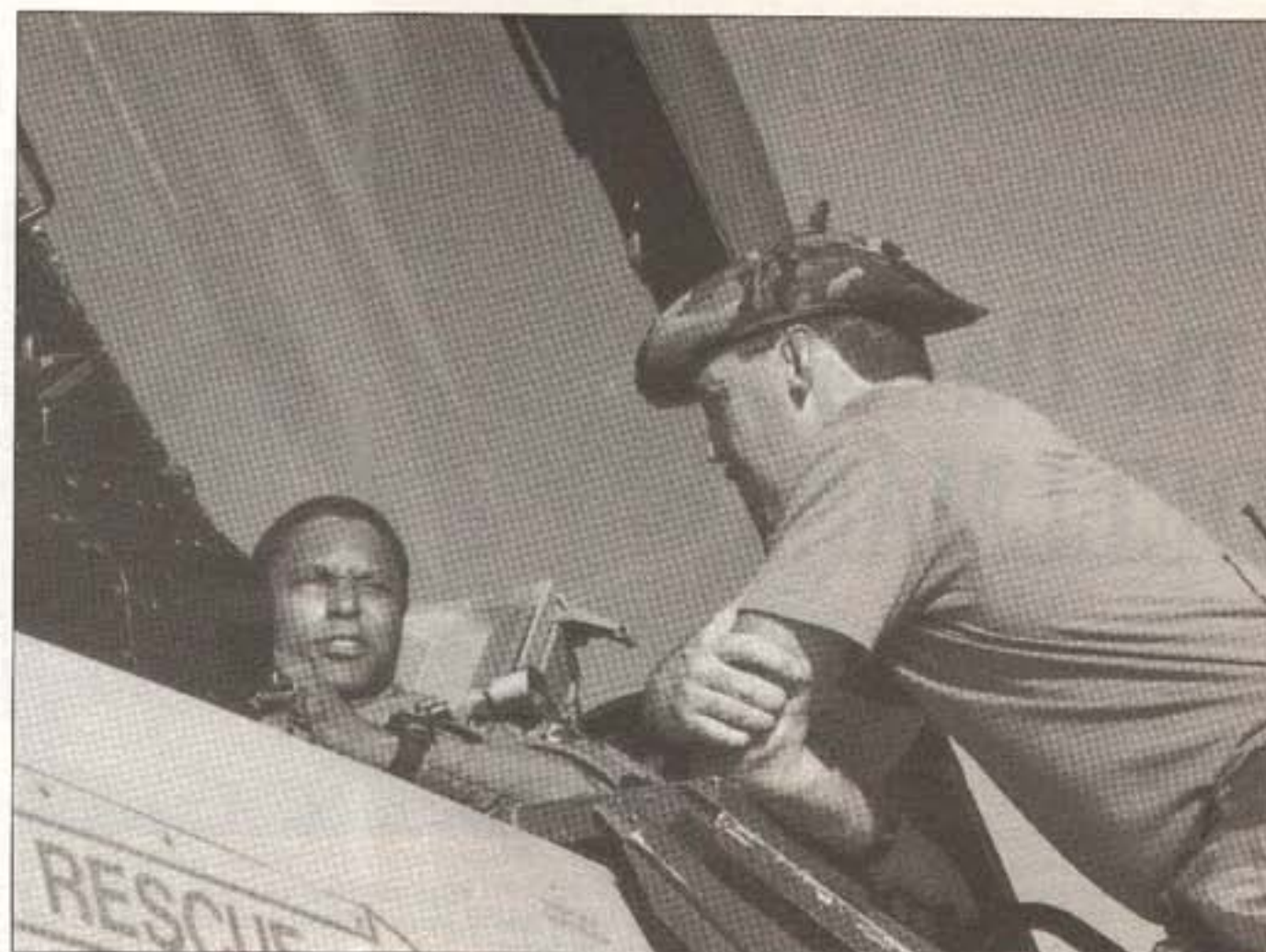
It was his first duty day on the tropical island of Curacao, a sliver of land off the northern coast of South America, and the afternoon's pace quickened considerably when the senior airman got to scramble an F-16 jet fighter for the first time.

Nelson, 24, is a crew chief in the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Wing. His plane, piloted by Maj. Bill Shelton, had the lead in a flight of two F-16s that took off to track an aircraft suspected of carrying illegal drugs across the Caribbean Sea.

The two pilots and their crew chiefs had 15 minutes to launch the pair of unarmed fighters from the moment they got the call to check out the suspect airplane. After 11 carefully choreographed minutes between pilot and crew chief, SrA. Nelson saluted smartly and Maj. Shelton taxied away on another Coronet Nighthawk counter-drug mission.

"Man, this makes all of those early mornings on the flight line and all of the wrench-turning worthwhile," said Nelson who had trained for three years for the moment he could send a jet fighter screaming into the sky on short notice for a live mission.

It was a heart-pounding start to his two weeks of active duty in a part of the world where U.S. and allied military forces work with civilian law people, such as U.S.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**SCRAMBLE SUCCESS**—D.C. Air Guard Maj. Mical Bruce (above, left) relaxes in the cockpit and reviews a Coronet Nighthawk counterdrug scramble with TSgt. Steve Willis, the crew chief, on the South American island of Curacao.

## Drawing a line in the CLOUDS

Customs and the Drug Enforcement Agency, to keep drugs from reaching American shores and ruining innocent lives.

Coronet Nighthawk is the Air National Guard's piece of the action for the United States Southern Command and 12th Air Force until next August when an active Air Force wing from Utah will pick up the mission for 90 days.

Up to 100 Air Guardmembers spend two weeks at a time flying and maintaining six jet fighters at the Hato International Airport on Curacao's northern shore. The District of Columbia had the mission for six weeks in January and February. Colorado had it before that. North Dakota had it after them.

The planes are not armed with ammunition or live missiles, but their speed and sophisticated radar systems make them a valuable part of an extensive land and sea, military and civilian counter-drug operation, explained Air Guard Lt. Col. Lanny McNeely, the Coronet Nighthawk commander.

The six jets are the only fast-burners in

that counter-drug operation.

"We can get from here to there in a hurry," said McNeely of the light, agile fighters that can fly at twice the speed of sound at high altitudes. "Sometimes we're the first ones to get a look at suspicious aircraft."

"We do not blow things up. We do not shoot people down. We don't do any of that Tom Clancy stuff," added the Texas-born McNeely, an Air Force Academy graduate who has logged 4,500 hours in military jets.

"We gather information and pass it on to the appropriate civilian authorities. We monitor and report on planes and ships suspected of carrying drugs. We try not to let them know we are watching them."

"Nighthawk" is the key word because the suspected drug planes generally fly north out of South America so they can reach their drop points after dark, when they are more difficult to detect, explained U.S. officials. They return to their home bases under the cover of darkness.

The Guard fighters are the nighthawks who, like birds of prey, watch where the

suspect planes go and when they return. They track the planes over open water, not over other countries or islands, McNeely stressed.

"If we can build a chain of evidence because of our observations, if we can follow a plane to a drop zone and watch it return, the police in that country can confiscate the plane or even shoot it down," said McNeely. "This is serious business."

Originally based at Howard Air Base in Panama, Coronet Nighthawk moved to Curacao, one of the Netherlands Antilles, last May.

The operation in Curacao is not yet as robust as it was in Panama, McNeely said, because the new facility is far smaller. The ramp and maintenance area where the jets are parked and worked on sits beside the civilian airport. A compact village of 12 canvas, air-conditioned tents, shaped like Quonset huts, serve as the headquarters and the haven for the eight-member alert crews.

The mission, however, is considered as critical as it was in Panama. The aircraft have to be ready to fly training sorties most afternoons and evenings. They have to be "hot-cocked" for the alerts that can come in the dead of night -- so they can take off without a moment lost.



**“We do not blow things up. We do not shoot people down. We don’t do any of that Tom Clancy stuff”**

**LT. COL. LANNY McNEELY**  
Coronet Nighthawk Commander

The crew chiefs hose the aircraft down every day or two and lubricate the landing gear and other exposed parts because the Caribbean is just across the runway from the ramp and salt from the sea water can quickly corrode everything.

“The salt and corrosion are big concerns,” said AIC Dave Linder. “We have to stay on top of it to keep things safe for the pilots.”

Trying to stop the flow of heroine, cocaine and other deadly drugs to their homeland makes the Curacao mission worth the effort, claim the aviators.

“Drugs affect more people than just the users,” said Maj. Mical Bruce following a recent flight. “They destroy people’s futures and entire families. Anything we can do to stop the use and flow of these drugs is worth doing.”

Everyone shares in the satisfaction. The officers may do the flying, but the enlisted people take pains to ensure the planes are primed to do the pilots’ bidding.

TSgt. Steve Willis was the crew chief for the F-16 that Bruce flew that day. The radar was ready. The radios worked. The engine roared to life. The fighter shot down the runway on full afterburner and then straight up into the sky. The hunt for the suspect drug plane was on.

Willis has sent many jet fighters on their way, including a fully-armed plane that scrambled out of Iceland looking for a Russian bomber during a memorable morning more than 10 years ago. The action still gives him a rush.

“When you see your plane going down that runway with 30 feet of flame coming out of its tail,” Willis marveled, “there is absolutely nothing like it.”

**UNARMED and READY** — TSgt. Paul Sullivan (right) fine tunes an unarmed AIM-9 missile, carried as a training aid, on a District of Columbia Air National Guard F-16 in Curacao for Coronet Nighthawk counterdrug duty.





## EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

A National Guard soldier coming back from Bosnia was told his civilian job at a fast-food restaurant would not be waiting for him. An officer who returned from overseas was reassigned to an administrative job with few responsibilities at a community hospital after someone else had taken over the supervisory position he had held.

Those members of this country's reserve military force found a friend in Mark Shelley when they returned from a few months of active duty only to discover that their civilian lives were not quite the same.

Shelley is a Naval Reserve lieutenant commander from Maryland and an ombudsman at the national headquarters of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in Arlington, Va.

Since last November he has been going to bat for National Guard and Reserve people anxious to resume their civilian careers after serving in Europe or South Asia.

Three full-time ombudsmen, plus a part-timer, form the ESGR headquarters team that deals with issues involving reservists and civilian employers. The crew led by California Army Guard Lt. Col. Jess Soto Jr. works to resolve issues long before the parties have to go to litigation.

The ombudsmen, in effect, form the national committee's labor relations department. Their biggest job, Shelley explained, involves explaining and interpreting the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) to reservists and civilian employers who contact the ESGR office.

"Most people are looking for basic information about the rights and obligations of the reserve members and employers. We clear off 90 percent of our cases before they have to go to the Veterans Employment and Training Service at the U.S. Department of Labor," said Shelley who helps field the 30 to 50 calls the ombudsman section receives most working days.

About 75 percent of the inquiries come from reserve members, explained Soto who joined the ESGR staff in July 1998.

But the ombudsmen welcome the chance to deal with the employers, Shelley said, because the information can benefit many reservists who may work for the same company or industry.

It also helps, he added, that representatives of the major airlines meet periodically with leaders of the seven reserve components -- the Army and Air National Guard, and the Army, Navy, Marine

Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard Reserves -- to iron out issues concerning the aviation community.

"That gives us a chance to develop points of contact and to network. We don't get quite as many calls from the airline people," said Shelley who has taken a leave of absence from aircraft giant Lockheed Martin in Gaithersburg, Md., to spend three years at ESGR.

"I wish we could develop the same kind of relationships with police and firefighters and with teachers," he added.

The ombudsman service's foursome does not work alone. More than 240 volunteer ombudsmen are on call across the country to deal with issues at the state level. The national team frequently refers inquiries to the people more familiar with business people and practices in the 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia, said Soto.

Business has been brisk. ESGR ombudsmen dealt with some 4,900 cases in 1998 and nearly 7,200 cases last year, Soto explained. He projected this year's total could surpass 10,000 cases.

Why the significant increase? It's due to the increased use of reserve forces, improved reporting procedures, and because more people have heard about Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Soto speculated.

"We are now a better known entity," he said.

Although all inquiries are dealt with as quickly as possible, word that a reservist has been fired because of military duty is considered a crisis situation for the ombudsmen.

Shelley has known life in the trenches as a Naval Reservist. He rose to chief petty officer before earning his commission. He served an eight-month Joint Endeavor peacekeeping tour in Croatia in 1996-97.

That's why he wasted little time getting involved with the Guard soldier who wanted to return to a fast-food restaurant and with the officer who wanted to return to his former duties as a hospital administrator.

It took only a couple of hours to resolve the first issue, said Shelley, after the reemployment law was explained to the restaurant owner. The young citizen-soldier was asked to return as soon as possible.

Getting the community hospital to restore the officer to the same level of civilian responsibility he had before leaving may take some time, Shelley added, even though that is the intent of the reemployment statutes.

But Lt. Cdr. Mark Shelley is the sort who believes it will be worked out.

ESGR experts suggest  
that your bosses know  
when your deploying

## Returning to your Old Job

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Bound for Bosnia? Or Kosovo? Or Saudi Arabia or Kuwait? Will peacekeeping be your primary concern for a few months within the next year or so? Then talk to your civilian bosses as soon as you can so you can reclaim your jobs after you come marching home again.

That's the best advice that national advocates for reemployment rights can offer members of the seven National Guard and Reserve components, and their commanders, who learn they will wear the uniform in the country's interests.

The advocates are assigned to the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Ken Jordan is the executive director.

"Making Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve part of the command philosophy is the best way the National Guard and Reserve can help their own people and ESGR," explained Army Lt. Col. Michael Edrington, spokesman for the committee based in Arlington, Va.

These are challenging times for the program chartered by the Defense Department in 1972, said Edrington, because so many of the country's 1.4 million reserve military people are being factored into the military's long-range plans.

For example, 1,746 members of the Army National Guard were on duty in Europe and Southwest Asia in early March, taking part in an unprecedented three simultaneous presidential call-ups to stabilize Bosnia and Kosovo and secure the no-fly zones over Iraq.

Another 1,682 Army Guard soldiers have been alerted to begin

training for deployments to those three theaters.

March was a landmark month for the Army Guard because about 800 citizen-soldiers, led by the 49th Armored Division from Texas, assumed command and control of the U.S. sector's multinational division that includes active U.S. Army soldiers in Bosnia for the first time.

Come October 2001, the Army Guard's Virginia-based 29th Infantry Division will take on the same job. But the total Guard commitment could reach 2,000 troops because the 29th Division headquarters unit will command Army Guard maneuver units, according to the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

That means more people will be leaving civilian jobs as teachers and car makers, fully expecting to resume those careers a few months later. That means more people, reservists and civilian employers, are paying attention to the ESGR's national committee and more than 4,500 volunteers across the country and to the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

After nearly three decades, ESGR has become an overnight success.

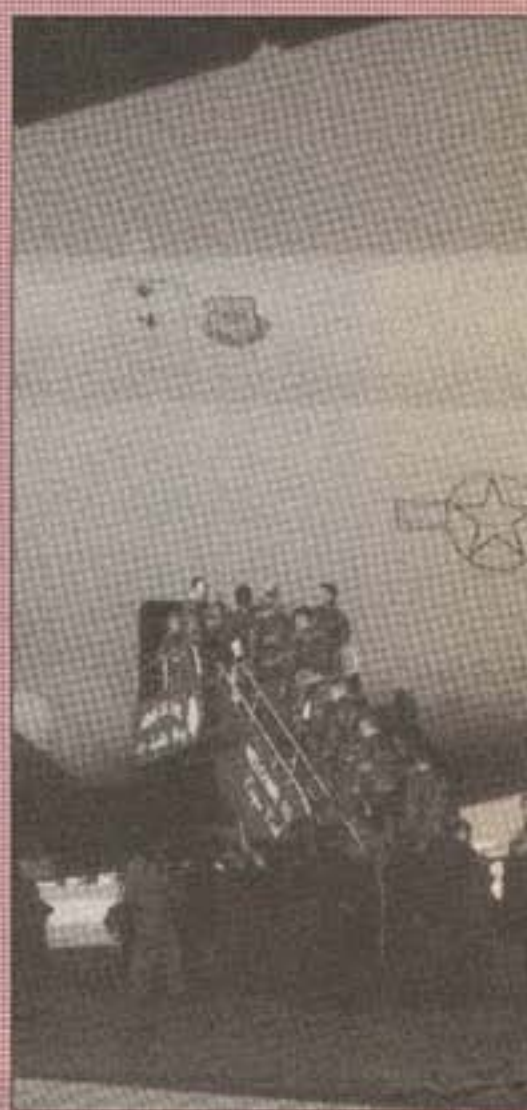






Photo courtesy of the Massachusetts National Guard

**ON the MOVE** -- More and more frequently Army and Air Guard men and women are being deployed overseas for extended periods. To help safeguard their civilian jobs upon returning, ESGR officials advise informing employers as soon as Guardmembers know they are deploying.

■ In most cases, the total period of service must not exceed five years.

■ They must be released from service under honorable or general conditions.

■ They must report back to work or apply for reemployment within the period prescribed by law. That includes the next regularly-scheduled shift following safe travel home and eight hours of rest after up to 30 days of duty; within 14 days after service of 31 to 180 days; within 90 days after duty of 181 days.

"Employees returning from military service must be re-employed in the job they would have attained had they not been absent for military service," the law states, "and with the same seniority, status and pay, as well as other rights and benefits determined by seniority."

Benefits include pensions, health-care and insurance coverage, and any training necessary for resuming the old job.

"Employers must also make reasonable efforts to accommodate people who were disabled or whose previous disability was aggravated by the military service," the law states.

That means people with medical conditions are protected from being discharged, except for cause, for 180 days if they served from 31-180 days and for one year if they served for more than 180 days.

By most accounts, the USERRA is generous indeed to the reservists who leave civilian jobs to serve in uniform, provided they keep their bosses informed and follow the basic guidelines.

Employer-Support of the Guard and Reserve officials, therefore, make every effort to convince, rather than coerce, civilian employers to support their workers with Reserve military obligations before they get called up.

Defense officials understand that many employers question (1) why anyone wants to voluntarily serve part-time in the Guard and Reserve during this era when there is no draft and (2) what all of the peacekeeping fuss is about considering places like Bosnia and Kuwait rarely make the headlines.

People like Charles Cragin, acting

undersecretary of defense for reserve affairs, make no bones about the fact that the Pentagon cannot meet its worldwide commitments without help from the civilian sector.

"Increasingly, reservists are serving extended tours away from their homes, families and jobs," Cragin wrote in a guest column for *The Bangor Daily News* (Maine) last May.

"These absences place great strains on the relationships between employers and their employees who serve our nation in uniform," Cragin added. "The Department of Defense continues to seek new ways to reach out to employers and is working hard to minimize the disruptions and hardships associated with reserve service."

Proactive ESGR programs include

■ "Mission One" that places a volunteer in each National Guard and Reserve training center or armory to provide information and assistance should employer problems develop.

■ "Breakfast with the Boss" and other forums for exchanging information and resolving employer concerns or problems, and "Bosslifts" that take civilian employers, such as Bill Madan, to the military places, such as the Army's National Training Center in California, where their workers actually serve.

■ An ombudsman program based in the ESGR's national headquarters in Arlington, Va., which provides information about federal and state reemployment statutes and deals with specific problems involving civilian supervisors and their reservist workers.

■ Statements of Support certificates that individual companies and chambers of commerce are asked to sign, post and publicize as their pledge to allow employees the necessary time off for National Guard and Reserve training without endangering civilian careers.

■ Awards and recognition programs, such as "My Boss is a Patriot," which reward civilian employers at the state and national levels.

Further information about ESGR programs and policies is available by calling, toll-free, 1(800) 336-4590.

Defense officials such as Cragin make it clear they appreciate the cooperation of civilian employers to keep the nation's military wheels turning.

"At a time when we are calling reservists to active duty," Cragin stated last May, "we should all be grateful for the patriotism and support shown by their civilian employers."

"The level of awareness has gone up considerably," said Edrington. Last year's 265,000 inquiries on the ESGR web site, for example, was five times higher than the 53,000 recorded in 1998, he said.

Most employers, Edrington added, support their reserve workers, and 98 percent of the concerns brought to ESGR's attention are resolved before the Department of Labor has to consider getting involved.

"By and large, the employers are supporting this mission," observed Maj. Gen. Robert Halverson, the 49th Division's commander, after he and his unit commanders had sent several hundred letters to Texas business people last year explaining what the Long Star State's citizen-soldiers would be doing in Bosnia.

Their military background gives reservists a certain appeal to civilian bosses who lose their services for at least two AT weeks each year.

"They have a much better sense of responsibility, especially for their age," said 13-year Navy veteran Bill Madan of the two Army Guard soldiers who have worked for his small electric and motor company in Nevada. "I can depend on them day to day, even when they're not feeling

well. They're more willing to do the work, and they don't question the authority."

Still, ESGR representatives speak with their own voice of authority.

Eleven pages of this year's 248-page National Guard Almanac are devoted to civilian employment rights and the National Committee for Employer-Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"ESGR is not an enforcement agency and does not offer legal counsel or advice," the almanac points out.

But Guard officials have detailed the ways in which federal law protects members of the Reserve forces who are called up for extended federal military and who want to step back into their civilian jobs after they take off their uniforms.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) states, in a nutshell, that most people can expect to resume their civilian careers as if they had never left provided they meet five guidelines:

■ They must have left a full-time civilian job.

■ They must have given notice that they were leaving to perform military service.





## SPORTS

■ Nebraskan Domination ■ Biathlon Championships

## SPORTS SHORTS

## Guard marathoners making national news

A team of four Kansas Guardsmen ran away with the military championship division title at the 17th Annual Navy Blue Angels Marathon in Pensacola, Fla.

The team -- Lt. Col. Jim Paddock, Maj. Barry Taylor, Maj. Tim Senecaut and MSgt. Greg Hennes -- fought humid conditions along the 26.2 mile route on their way to the title.

Paddock and Hennes are members of the 184th Bomb Wing in Topeka. Taylor and Senecaut are members of the Army Guard with HHD, State Area Command, also in Topeka.

In related Guard marathon news, Louisiana Army Guard Capt. Ross Shales finished first in his age group and fifth overall at the Mardi Gras marathon (Feb. 6) in New Orleans, La., with a time of 2:39:55.

He was not the only Guard distance runner making news. Oregon Army Guard SSgt. Timothy Vandervliet finished second at the Frostbite Series half marathon in St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 5, with a time of 1:13:29.

## World Class athletes offered opportunity

There are currently 80 active Army, Guard and Reserve military athletes training full-time in 12 separate Summer and Winter Olympic events.

Each has the Army's World Class Athlete Program to thank -- a program that helps nationally-ranked soldier-athletes to succeed in international competitions, while pursuing military careers.

Interested Guardsmen can contact the National Guard's Competitive Sports Office at (703) 607-5999. Their address is: 1411 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 10300, Arlington, VA 22202-3259.



Photos by SSgt. Shannon Nielson



**ARMED and READY** -- Nebraska Army National Guard Maj. Dave Seybold loads an M-16 magazine with ammunition during a recent match at Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico.

## Cornhusker marksmen on target in Puerto Rico

■ Loaded with Talent:  
*Bruce McCauley claims seven individual titles*

By 2nd Lt. Kevin Hynes  
*Nebraska National Guard*

Nebraska's mid-winter marksmanship training in Puerto Rico produced some big-time results.

Competing at the annual Puerto Rico National Guard Club de Tiro Millennium Match Y2K, Nebraska shooters produced a near-sweep of the awards.

"We dominated," said Maj. Steve Sargent, new state marksmanship coordinator for Nebraska. "In just about every event, it was Nebraska and then everyone else."

Leading the Nebraska charge at the

Jan. 14-16 competition held at Camp Santiago was Sgt. Bruce McCauley of Headquarters, State Area Command, who claimed seven individual titles including the Champion High Master Rifle and Overall Rifle Champion.

"I thought I would do fairly well," said McCauley, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln architecture student who joined the Nebraska Army Guard in 1997. "I won it two years ago, but I hadn't trained for this type of match since."

Unlike the traditional combat-oriented matches the team normally competes in, the Puerto Rican match was a National Rifle Association National Match.

"Combat marksmanship matches normally consists of running and timed shooting... things that a soldier would need to be able to do in combat," said McCauley. "National Matches focus more on precision, long-range shooting."

According to Sgt. Derek Whisenhunt, operations sergeant for the Deputy Chief





**EYEING the BULL** — Nebraska TSgt. Michelle Smith (opposite) takes aim. Cornhusker State Army Guard Sgt. Robert Schwanz (above) uses a mental exercise to prepare for a rifle competition. He placed first in the 200-yard Rifle Slow Fire Match.

of Staff for Operations office, the competition typically serves as a winter tuneup for the team.

"This helps the shooters keep their skills sharp," said Whisenhunt. "It also allows them to take some of the newer shooters and get them prepared for future matches."

One of the Nebraska shooters trying her hand at a national-level match for the first time was TSgt. Michelle Smith, an accounting technician with the Air National Guard Financial Office.

"Initially it was intimidating," Smith said. "There were some extremely good and wellknown shooters out there and here I am, standing on the same firing lane as them."

"I was really nervous."

Smith credited McCauley with helping calm her nerves.

"He just reminded me to calm down and relax... to aim and pull the trigger without moving the rifle. He kept me focused both on my rifle and on the target," she said.

According to McCauley, the ability to train new shooters is invaluable.

"Marksmanship is a perishable skill," he said. "This allows people to practice in an environment that's a lot less harsh than those we normally encounter in Nebraska this time of year."

"This also allows us to focus on a person's ability to develop a good sight picture with their rifle and create a good trigger pull," McCauley added. "If a person doesn't have those two skills, they're not going to have it when we start mixing in the combat skills."

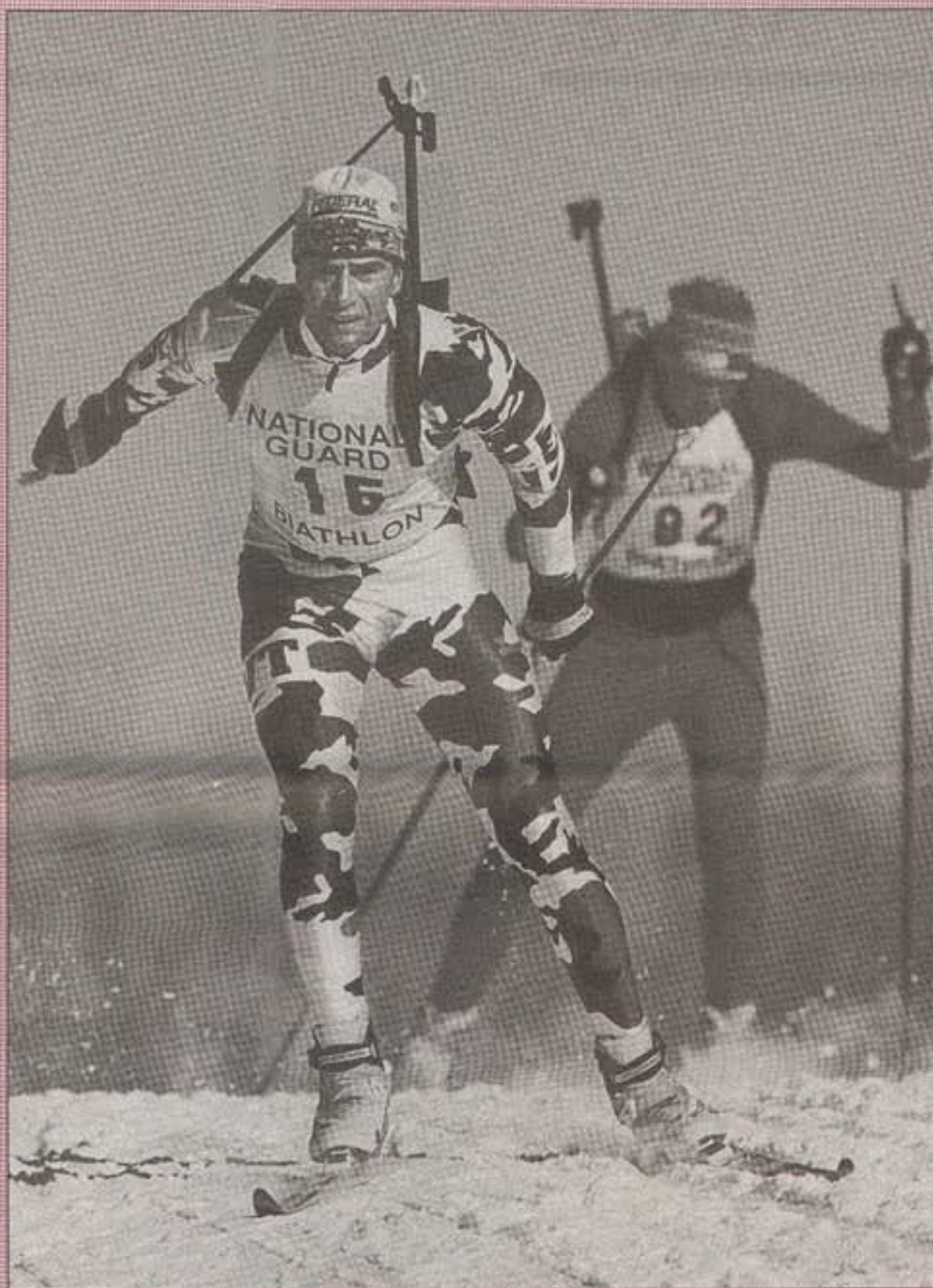


Photo by SSgt. Robert Trubie

## EYE on the OLYMPICS

Vermont Army Guard Sgt. Dan Westover eyes the finish line at the recent 25th Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, Minn. The week-long competition, which combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship, boasted 125 male and 27 female biathletes from 25 states. Historically, many of the members of the U.S. Winter Olympic biathlon team have come from the National Guard.



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

*Superman may be an appropriate title for* Texas Army Guard SFC Pablo V. Escalante, a member of the 111th Area Support Medical Battalion in San Antonio. He was one of four soldiers who received the second annual Forces Command (FORSCOM) Heroes Award.

The award recognizes soldiers from the Army National Guard, Reserve and active-component who help others in need.

The 37-year-old father of five was honored for his efforts toward his family, unit, church and community.

Escalante volunteers as a mentor at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, helps build homes for low-income families through the Habitat for Humanity Program, teaches Sunday school and bible study classes at his church and volunteers at Providence Children's Home working with children who have AIDS.

"The most rewarding experiences are those you don't get paid for," Escalante said.

"My wife and I work at the Providence Home together, and we realized after our training that we weren't there for the kids, they were there for us," he added. "These kids are being robbed of people hugging and loving them because of ignorance about AIDS. They are remarkable and it's a wonderful feeling to help them."

The personnel sergeant is just as excited about his job as he is about his volunteer work. He spent many hours conceiving and formulating the Army Family Team Building Program (AFTB) for his unit. It was adopted by the entire Texas National Guard in general. He also helped write the AFTB standard operating procedures, and helped develop a training program for unit-level volunteers.

"Family care equals readiness," Escalante said. "The AFTB has changed my perspective of the Army, because it shows how the families are integrated into what we do."

Escalante has volunteered to help train 18,000 soldiers and their families in 88 units across Texas.

"We train family members in dealing with separation, post deployment, what benefits are available to them, and what's coming in the future," he said. "The Army trains to prepare their soldiers for battle, then we have to train their families, too."

What about Escalante's own family?

"My wife is totally supportive of everything I do," he said. "We get the kids involved. They understand what you're doing when you're gone."

*As if he wasn't fast enough already, track star* Carl Lewis picked up even more speed recently when he flew an F-16 orientation flight as the guest of the Texas Air National Guard.

Lewis, a nine-time Olympic gold medalist, visited the 149th Fighter Wing Feb. 24 as part of Kelly AFB's African-American Heritage Month activities.

Lewis's flight took place in an F-16D of the wing's 182nd Fighter Squadron. The mission of



SFC Pablo Escalante, a FORSCOM hero.



Nine-time gold medalist Carl Lewis had a need for speed.



Texas adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, holds up a street sign named in his father's honor.

the 149th, which is attached to Air Education and Training Command, is to train F-16 pilots for active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units.

"It's such a unique opportunity to get to do this, I feel very privileged," said an enthused, flight-suited Lewis as he stood in front of an F-16 embellished with his name and the winged foot of Mercury. "It's also great to spend some time with kids from the local area and celebrate our heritage during African-American Heritage Month."

After attending emergency egress training and pre-flight briefings, Lewis filmed public service announcements for the Air Force and Air National Guard. He then took time to visit with athletes from several local high schools, where he passed out advice on getting ahead in life as well as on the playing field.

"I don't preach the difference between right and wrong - you all understand that," Lewis told the students. "Your success will be dictated by the choices you make. It's really simple. You can choose to be successful through what you learn in school and through athletics, or you can choose not to take advantage of the opportunities."

"An educated person will always have doors open for them, but the person without education will find the same doors closed," Lewis continued. "That's an absolute guarantee."

Lewis said he definitely feels that the Air Force is one of the right choices any young person should consider.

"It's absolutely a great choice, for several reasons," he said. "First, the training you receive is valuable in itself, plus the Air Force offers help in continuing your education. And, in my short time here, I've already seen how important teamwork is in a military unit like this one," Lewis said. "It's important for everyone to learn to believe in others and have them believe in you as a fellow team member."

"That's why people who have military experience usually do so well in life," Lewis concluded. "The discipline, focus and service to our country, by definition, make you a success."

*In an emotional ceremony, more than 350* family, friends and admirers witnessed the dedication of a street on Kelly AFB named in honor of the late Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr., the Air Force's first African-American four-star general.

The honor at the San Antonio base was especially significant given that James's son, Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, is the current adjutant general of the Texas National Guard.

"There are other streets on other Air Force installations named for my father, but this is the most important, the most special, because it runs in front of my old headquarters," James said.

The Lone Star State's adjutant said the street was important for another reason.

"By honoring my father's legacy, you honor not only my family, but the legacy of all African-Americans who have served in uniform, who fought in this country's wars with distinction."



Massachusetts Army Guard first sergeant is also his town's Chief of Police

## Leading those in Green and Blue

By 1st Lt. Brad Leighton  
Massachusetts National Guard

On drill weekends he's called "Top," but during the week you can call him "Chief."

Such is the life of Massachusetts Army Guard 1st Sgt. Robert Harrington, the "first shirt" for Company A, 118th Medical Support Battalion, who was recently hired as the chief of police of Winchendon, a town of 10,000 people in north central Massachusetts.

Harrington, formerly a patrolman, bypassed three police sergeants to get the job -- a fact he attributes to experience he gained in the National Guard.

"The leadership training I got in the Guard really helped propel me to the top of the list."

Harrington, 37, has several other military courses under his

belt, but he says it is the leadership courses that have helped him the most when he is wearing his Chief of Police badge.

"The military training was particularly helpful because it taught me to lead. Once you've learned to lead, it doesn't matter what situation you're in, whether it is with police officers or soldiers -- you can lead almost anyone."

Whether he is investigating armed robberies or supervising medics, Harrington knows how to put the mission first.

"There can be a lot of pressure as the chief of police or as a police officer, but my military experience has taught me how to react well under pressure."

He leads a police force of 30 officers, half of them full-time. In the National Guard he leads 98 soldiers.

Of course, his civilian educa-



Photo courtesy of the Massachusetts National Guard

**TOP and CHIEF** -- 1st Sgt. Robert Harrington is also his town's Chief of Police.

tion helps as well. He holds a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Western New England College. He received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Westfield State College. Both institutions are in Massachusetts.

He used National Guard education assistance programs to pay for both degrees as well as two associate degrees.

"There are plenty of military programs to help you get through college. You just have to take advantage of them. I used the Montgomery G.I. Bill to help pay for Western New England and the state's free tuition program to pay for the state schools."

Harrington said. He has been a police officer for six years and has taught for the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council for the last seven years. He has been in the National Guard for 18 years, starting with the 181st Infantry, before moving on to medical units. He is also certified emergency medical technician.

"I really can't say enough about how the National Guard has helped me, both professionally and personally," he said.

## VENEZUELA

FROM PAGE 3

triggered by torrential rains killed tens of thousands and wiped out countless homes 10 days before Christmas.

"It wasn't easy leaving during Christmas, but the best gift we can give these people now is our help," Puerto Rican Spc. Carlos Colon told a U.S. Army reporter after members of the 219th Quartermaster Detachment landed in Venezuela on Dec. 23 and set up four water purification sites.

By Feb. 10, 45 Army Guard soldiers, including six from the Virgin Islands, were on duty with the task force that had brought more than 350 U.S. service members to South America's northern shore. The task force was commanded by Air Force Col. William Osborne.

Based at an airport in Maiquetia, a few miles north of Caracas, task force helicopter crews had also airlifted some 6,000 passengers and moved 1.3 million pounds of supplies during nearly 600 hours of flight time.

Twenty-one recent arrivals from North Dakota's 138th Quartermaster Battalion were filtering and "making water" clean enough to make *The Waterboy* movie star



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**MAKING a PITCH** -- Florida Army National Guard SFC Melvin Larkins (right) with Spc. Eric Weaver point out December's damage along coastal Venezuela to retired major-league pitcher Dennis Martinez in the town of Caraballeda.

Adam Sandler sit up and take notice. The Peace Garden State volunteers had been given two weeks to get to Venezuela by Feb. 4.

"Sometimes you just have to accept that," Maj. Gen. Keith Bjerke, North Dakota's adjutant general, told *The Bismarck Tribune*. "This equipment does not care for itself. It requires skilled technicians to operate it properly."

The average daily production of 90,000

gallons was pushing the total output toward two million gallons. Nearly 90 percent was being given away, explained CW01 Shane Arlien, the North Dakota team's commander.

"The only thing cleaner is distilled water," said Sgt. Douglas Nowatzki in Catia La Mar, where 11 North Dakota Guard soldiers were cleansing and chlorinating contaminated salt water drawn from the Caribbean Sea every night so it could be drawn from large rubber storage bladders every morning.

"People here say this is the cleanest water they've ever drunk," he added.

The operation clearly impressed retired major-league pitcher Dennis Martinez, who flew into Caraballeda by helicopter to assess the situation for a Florida-based outfit called Millennium 2100.

"This has made me realize that this could happen anywhere," said Martinez whose native Nicaragua, in Central America, was devastated by Hurricane

Mitch in October 1998 and helped by a National Guard task force of 3,000 troops last summer.

"I have been lucky to be able to play professional baseball and have everything I ever wanted," added Martinez, 45, who retired in February 1999 after 22 seasons. His 245 career victories, including a perfect game, is a major-league record for Latin American pitchers.

"This is not fair to these people," added Martinez while exploring the remains of a community where houses are filled with mud or buried up their roofs. "I want to help anyway I can. These people will need water for a long time."

Other relief agencies, including OXFAM from Oxford, England, purified water in addition to the National Guard troops and gave it to Venezuelan men and women who hauled it away in tank trucks and five-gallon bottles.

"This is our job," said SFC Melvin Larkins, a civilian road construction worker and member of the Florida Army Guard's 53rd Support Battalion, during that dry, dusty day beside the ravaged community in Caraballeda. "When you see the worst of the worst, you appreciate what you have, and it makes you feel good to help these people."

Ironically, the Florida purification team comes from Clearwater.





# STATES

■ Palmetto Protection ■ Historic 'Heels ■ Hangar Overhaul

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Forty-four members of the Palmetto State Army and Air National Guard will be part of a nationwide team of highly-trained specialists whose mission will be to fight terrorists in the United States by late next year.

The units, comprised of Guardmembers, will be known as the Weapons of Mass Destruction Support for Civil Authorities Teams.

"They will be in training for about 18 months, beginning this summer," National Guard spokesman Maj. Pete Brooks said recently.

The time required to train the Guard's counterterrorist teams indicates just how seriously the military considers the threat. Eighteen months is roughly the time it takes to train a jet fighter pilot, and Brooks could think of no other military job that requires more initial training.

South Carolina will be one of 27 states to organize the teams, which will be able to cross state lines to fight terrorism.

Brooks said the 44 Palmetto State Guardmembers will be divided into two teams of 22. One team will be filled with full-time Guard people, while the other will be traditional Guardmembers. All will receive a form of core training, he said, followed by instruction in various specialties.

## MINNESOTA

### Bright IDEA

Minnesota Air Guard TSgt. Rich Johnson, a member of the 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul, uses a new auto-darkening welding helmet. The helmet visor lens automatically darkens when a welder strikes an arc and returns to clear vision when the torch is not in use. This eliminates the need to flip the visor up and down to see.



Photo by TSgt. Doug Oswald

## KANSAS

Topeka's 190th Air Refueling Wing has embarked on the largest single construction project in the unit's 43 year history, a \$10.5 million overhaul of its largest asset, Hangar number 662.

Shortly before a ceremonial wall breaking on Jan. 14, the 190th's commander said the project's outcome will not only improve the working conditions for more than half of the wing's people, but ensure the unit's future.

"We're maintaining a viable presence in Topeka and northeast Kansas and this project is why we go through these initiatives in upgrading, it is a quality of life issue," said Col. Rufus L. Forrest, Jr., 190th commander.

In the next two years all aircraft maintenance functions will be housed under the hangar that is the largest hangar of any Air Guard KC-135 unit. This consolidation means many of the 24 different organizations currently housed under the nearly three-acre complex will have to be relocated.

The last major renovation of the hangar occurred in 1978. This project is expected to last at least 20-25 years. Actual construction will take about two years.

Even at \$10.5 million, officials agree it is cheaper than a new one, estimated at nearly \$30 million. The unit spent \$35 million on improvements the past five years.

## NORTH CAROLINA

By Maj. Robert Jones  
North Carolina National Guard

The crack of rifle fire pierced the early morning silence once again at the Army's Home of the Infantry. "Sniper three o'clock," shouted SSgt. David Lowe, a squad leader in North Carolina Army Guard's Company A, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry. His squad hit the dirt as they followed the battle drill rehearsed the day before at Fort Benning's Individual Readiness Training Lanes.

It's training that may prove useful to the Tarheel State infantrymen earmarked for historic duty this October in war-torn Bosnia. Along with members of Company B, 1-252nd Armor, a 196-person contingent of citizen-soldiers will report to Tuzla, Bosnia, becoming the first National Guard combat arms companies to deploy to that region.

Before deploying, Lowe and a group of 106 Guardmembers from Company A and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-120th Infantry, were sent to Georgia for a three-day training program required of all U.S. peacekeepers deploying to Bosnia.

The training at Benning culminated with a *force protection lane*, or scenario, on the final day. Each squad encountered sniper fire, negotiated minefields and booby traps, had to medically evacuate a minefield casualty, and execute tactical proficiency in a hostile environment. They were also required to deal with civilians on the battlefield.

"This is the most fun I've had since leaving active duty," said Spc. Emanuel Williams. Williams, originally a personnel specialist, joined the National Guard after active duty and retrained as an infantryman. Like many others, he volunteered

to deploy with the task force. Williams is expected to work at the headquarters for Company A, 1-120th at Camp Dobol.

The North Carolina companies will be assigned to the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, who will command the task force for six months starting this October. The companies will be assigned to U.S. base camps, where they will perform *presence* patrols, checkpoint operations and base camp force protection missions, among others.

Both companies completed the three-day training at Fort Benning in February. Over the next several months the infantrymen will hone their combat skills by conducting squad and platoon lanes training during their drills at Fort Bragg, N.C. Those skills will be tested this summer during a Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center on Fort Polk, La.





# HISTORY

■ Col. Alexander W. Doniphan and the 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers

Led by an unorthodox lawyer, a group of Missouri volunteers trekked 3,000 miles to defeat the Mexicans

## Doniphan's Epic March

After a grueling 18-mile march, Col. Alexander Doniphan sat down with some of the 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers he commanded to celebrate Christmas Day, 1846, by playing a few hands of cards. Suddenly, scouts arrived with urgent news that a Mexican army was fast approaching. Doniphan calmly stood up, dropped his cards, and announced the game would be finished later.

Thus began the first of two battles the Doniphan-led 1st Missouri engaged in during the Mexican War (1846-1848).

It was mid-afternoon when the Mexican force of some 1,300 men arrived to attack the Missourians, some 500-strong, near an arm of the Rio Grande River called Brazito.

Under the command of Col. Antonio Ponce de Leon, the Mexican army from Chihuahua (many of whom were regulars) deployed to attack. de Leon was confident that his splendidly-dressed regular lancers, along with El Paso militiamen, would easily sweep away the cursed American invaders.

Momentarily rushed, the Missouri volunteers fell into ranks as Doniphan coolly developed his defensive plan. He opted to fight dismounted and with no artillery -- a contest of volley fire.

Doniphan ordered some of his men to lie down and wait until the Mexicans were within 100 yards, before engaging them with their long-range rifles -- a strategy that would prove devastating at short range. A Mexican officer, carrying a pendant with skull and cross bones (a message denoting certain death), rode forward to offer the Americans surrender terms.

Those terms were ignored.

The Mexicans fired first with their artillery, missing completely. de Leon then ordered his infantry to fire volleys with their archaic "Brown Bess" muskets at ranges of 300, and then 200 yards, with no effect.

When the Mexican line closed within 100 yards, Doniphan ordered his men lying prone to open fire. Equipped with modern Hall Breech-loading carbines, the Missourians wounded or killed scores of Mexicans. The Mexican cavalry tried an attack, but were repulsed.

The final blow came when Capt. John Reid, leading only 14 mounted soldiers, counter-attacked, capturing several artillery pieces and forcing the Mexicans into retreat. Some 60 dead and 150 wounded Mexicans laid upon the desert sand, while only seven Missourians were wounded.

The Battle of Brazito, fought on Christmas Day in 1846, was over, and Doniphan had staked his first victory -- an amazing feat, by an amazing leader, who was commanding an unusual regiment of citizen-soldiers.

In the spring of 1846, when the Mexican War broke out, hundreds of Missourians volunteered for service at Fort Leavenworth in future Kansas. Among them was Pvt. Alexander William Doniphan -- a lawyer, businessman, slave-owner and militia brigadier general from nearby Liberty, Mo.

Doniphan was a man of great moral character, a rare combination of frontier toughness and intelligence with a keen sense of honor.

In 1838, during a near-civil war with the Mormon people in Missouri, he refused a direct order from his superior to execute Mormon leaders. During the Civil War his love of Union would not allow him to fight for the Confederacy; but, his adherence to slavery would not allow him to fight against the South either. His stature was also legendary; during a visit to the White House he stood heel-to-heel with Abraham Lincoln and proved to be a half-inch taller.

Pvt. Doniphan was soon elected colonel of the newly organized 856-strong, 1st Regiment of Missouri Mounted Volunteers, mostly consisting of wild Missouri frontiersmen, traders and farmers.

The 1st Missouri served under Col. (later brigadier general) Stephen W. Kearny and the Army of the West. Kearny's mission was to invade and take the Mexican provinces of New Mexico, and if time and season permitted, "Upper" California. Leaving Fort Leavenworth in June 1846, the main body of the Army of the West made a quick, but tiresome march along the Santa Fe Trail to Bent's Fort. They captured Santa Fe with-

out firing a shot.

Kearny established military and civil control and government over New Mexico as a new American possession. He turned to Doniphan for legal advice to write a code of laws.

With New Mexico under Doniphan as military commander and Charles Bent as civil governor, Kearny departed for his conquest of California. Kearny had directed Doniphan to establish peace and protect private property, then march south to join Gen. John Wool's Army of the Center in Chihuahua, Mexico. By early December 1846, the regiment headed south to join Wool.

After winning the Battle of Brazito, Doniphan and his indefatigable 1st Missouri departed El Paso on Feb. 5,



GUARD HISTORY

By Maj. Sherman Fleck  
Army Guard Historian

1847, to begin their long, hard conquest of Chihuahua. He now had Maj. Meriwether Lewis Clark's artillery battalion attached to his regiment, along with several hundred Santa Fe-Chihuahua traders and teamsters and more than 300 wagons stuffed with supplies.

To enforce military discipline and control along the march, he organized these irregulars into a quasi-military battalion of volunteers. Doniphan was now completely alone, isolated from his base of operation in Santa Fe and from his lines of supply and communications. The 1st Missouri were engaged in the most incredible, dangerous and longest march of the Mexican War.

Just north of Chihuahua City, Doniphan and his volunteers used unconventional tactics to win a seemingly

hopeless battle against a much larger and entrenched Mexican force.

On Feb. 28, 1847, Mexican Gen. Garcia Conde, and a force of 1,200 cavalry, 1,500 infantry and over 100 artillerymen, awaited Doniphan's approach. Having developed a masterful defensive plan, Conde climbed over 60-foot cliffs to position himself on a plateau that the main road crossed. The road then ran south toward Rancho Sacramento. There, he placed three artillery batteries across the road and deployed his infantry in strong entrenchments parallel to the road. Conde then positioned his cavalry forward for reconnaissance.

Arriving with less than 1,000 men, Doniphan was too clever to fall for the trap that was set for him. He decided to sweep wide around the main road to the west -- no easy task considering the men, animals and wagons full of trade goods needed to be dragged over the steep embankments and cliffs through gullies and cuts. He arranged the wagons in four parallel columns and placed his infantry and the artillery between the columns of wagons. He then moved forward with his own mounted Missourians to lead the charge.

By the time Conde realized what had happened, it was too late. Conde threw his cavalry at the Americans, but Doniphan's artillery drove them off. Doniphan then attacked the southern flank of the fortified positions by first blasting it with his artillery, then charging with dismounted infantry. The battle raged as the Missourians assaulted the Mexicans lines, engaging in brutal, hand-to-hand combat.

The smaller American force of only a regiment and supporting battalions, routed the Mexican army. The Missourians captured all of the Mexican's artillery and trains, while killing 300 and wounding 300 more. Only two Americans were killed and seven wounded.

Taking Chihuahua, the Missouri regiment then marched south to Buena Vista, the site of an earlier victory by Gen. Zachary Taylor. There, Doniphan and his threadbare, rough-set, unpaid and non-uniformed Missourians reported to Gens. Taylor and Wool. With their one-year enlistment nearly up, the 1st Missouri were ordered to march to the Rio Grande, where they were shipped to New Orleans.

They were discharged by mid-June 1847. It ended an amazing and glorious march of more than 3,000 miles, by an exceptional and unconventional man and his all-Missouri command of volunteers.



Col. Alexander W.  
Doniphan in 1847.

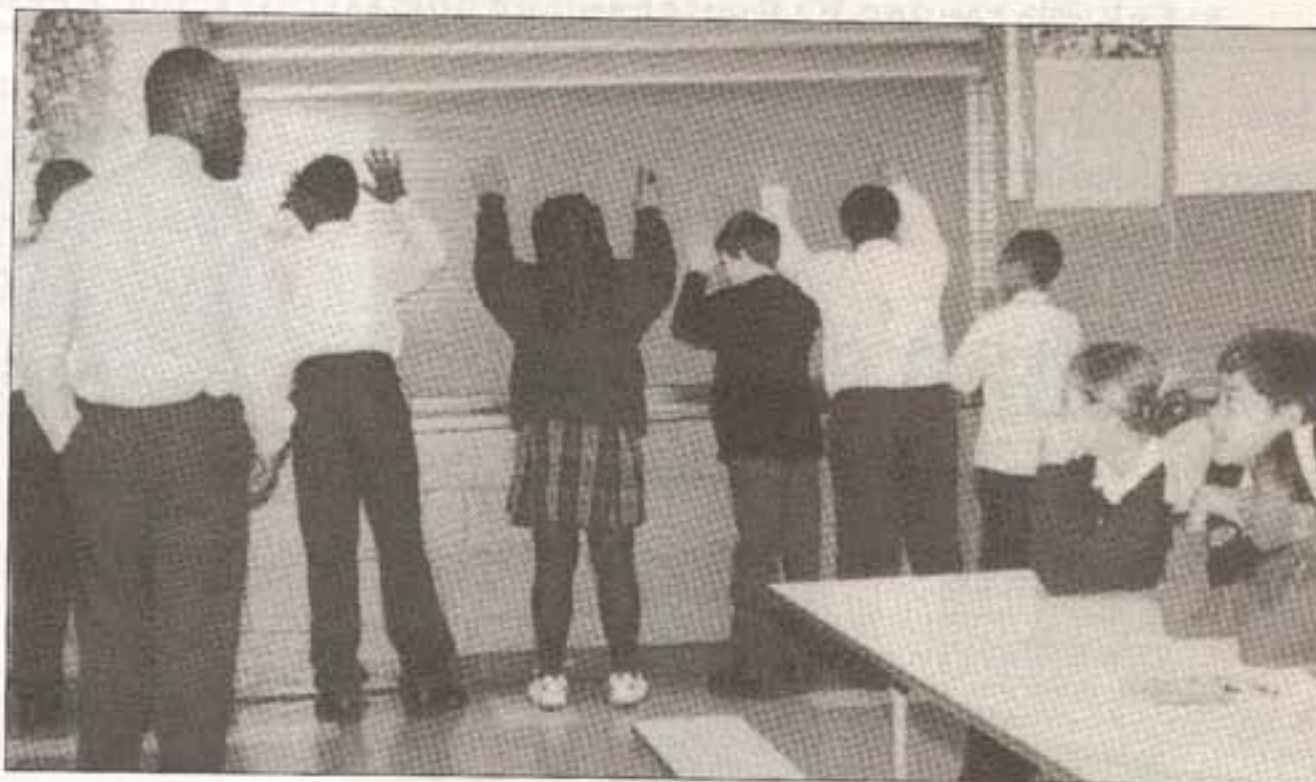




# TRAINING



**LIFE LESSONS** -- Sgt. Trinette Zizzo (above) teaches Long Island grade schoolers about the perils of drug use. Spc. Thomas Williams (right) puts Bronx school kids through a simulated arrest as part of a role-playing exercise.



Photos by Walt Wheeler and MSgt. Jeannine Mannarino

Painful personal stories help keep kids away from drugs

## Class Program

By MSgt. Jeannine Mannarino and Walt Wheeler  
New York National Guard

Over the past few years Sgt. Trinette Zizzo has helped her New York neighbors recover from devastating blizzards, wild fires and storms. However, she believes her work in stemming the tide of drug use among youths is where she's made the most difference.

You can't prevent natural disasters, she observed, "but maybe one of these kids will remember these classes when somebody tries to get them to try drugs."

"If they resist," she added, "I've accomplished my mission."

As a member of the Empire State National Guard's counterdrug program, Zizzo has logged hundreds of miles travelling to schools on Long Island warning fourth and fifth graders about the dangers of substance and drug use.

"I think too many people sit back and let somebody else take care of it," Zizzo noted. "But this is our country. We've got to take care of our kids."

Fellow counterdrug comrade Spc. Steven Watt knows firsthand about the perils of drug use. He shared with an enthralled group of Bronx grade schoolers his father's addiction to heroin, subse-

quent switch to crack and repeated visits to jail. He also confessed to joining a gang to escape.

New York Spc. Robert Burgos talked about how his brother was shot by a so-called friend under the influence of cocaine. Spc. Thomas Williams, the third member of the team, told kids how he had lost both of his parents as a child; his father to alcoholism and his mom to heroin addiction.

The fourth graders at the Oyster Ponds school, on the eastern tip of Long Island, were clearly happy to see Zizzo again.

*Brainstorm*, the program she teaches, is organized into four, one-hour classes. Zizzo had been to Ann Bender's class three times before.

She's given the class two concentrated hours of what amounted to a physiology course, explaining how nerves and neurons and synapses interact. The third hour explored the differences between prescription and "street" drugs.

The final hour was reserved for review, numerous questions and a repeat of a test she gave the class in the first hour. Informed of the quiz, the kids collectively groan in mock dismay.

But first, there's much to go over.

"What are the three stages of...?" Before Zizzo can complete the question, hands are waving.

"Tolerance, dependence and addi... addiction," responded a child selected from the group.

The answers don't often come back in textbook form, but it was clear the students understood the dangers of drugs.

Quickly, the hour is up. Zizzo leaves with Bender's tacit approval and to a

chorus of "thank yous" from an appreciative class.

She repeated the class in Greenport, to equally enthusiastic students. And there, teachers like Lois McCafferty welcome the knowledge that "we didn't have when we were young."

Another teacher in the room, Nancy Kabat, offered a similar assessment. She said Zizzo's class is important, because kids barely older than their own pupils are confronted by choices about drugs. It's a choice that comes early in Greenport, a gritty summer tourist town that has seen its fishing and farming industries decimated.

Despite that, Greenport is a utopia compared to the Bronx, where drugs and gangs litter the street's landscape. Home to Yankee Stadium, the Bronx is one of five counties that make up New York City.

Alma Alonzo, a substance abuse counselor working for New York City's Board of Education, observed a spinoff of *Brainstorm* at Public School 33. It's designed for schools that can't schedule four hours of outside instruction.

She's opened doors for Watt, Burgos and Williams to tell their stories to her schools. Nearly one hundred 10 to 14-year-olds at St. John Vianny got their turn recently.

"These young children deal with many things at home," began Alonzo. "Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, crack dealers and drug money."

"Just the other day, I was talking with first graders about substance abuse. One of them watched me holding up a marijuana stick and told me 'that's the kind my mom and dad make at home.'"

The soldiers also use tangible items to make their presentation compelling.

At one point, they handed out \$20 bills, beepers and cell phones. Each item makes a small point in the formal presentation. The bigger points are made when the lecture ends and the soldiers and children role-play.

"If you took something from one of these men -- then on your feet and get up here," commanded Williams, lining up the kids against a wall with their hands up and feet spread for a mock search.

Watt explained to the students that "even if you're just holding something for somebody else, you can get arrested."

The St. John Vianny children listened intently, participated vigorously and raised dozens of questions.

One particular question, posed by sixth grader Edrige Belfort, struck a personal note: "What would you do differently if you could turn back time?"

The answer seemed to stick in Burgos's throat.

"My brother called me the night he got shot," he said. "Maybe if I had gone to him, instead of hanging out ... maybe he wouldn't have been shot."

The soldier's candor and delivery also resonated with Alonzo.

"I believe you can't talk about pain unless you've been there, and that is what these fine soldiers bring," she said. "We've had them go to Blessed Sacrament, St. Philips and St. James schools and the principals and teachers alike want this program to continue."

Speaking for his colleagues, Watt offered, "If I can save one kid by telling my life story, then so be it."