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# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXIV, No. 7

NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD

June 2000

## New Mexicans called to tame wildfires

■ *'I didn't think I was going to make it. The forest sounded like very loud popcorn'*

By MSgt. Reggie Saville  
New Mexico National Guard

After raging wild fires swept through Los Alamos, N.M., charring 47,650 acres and leaving 405 families homeless, more than 1,000 Army and Air Guardmembers were called upon to help the Land of Enchantment recover.

The largest state activation in more than 30 years saw Guard men and women help battle fires in Los Alamos, Manuelito, Ruidoso and Cloudcroft, where an estimated \$100 million of damage was wrought to an area slightly larger than the District of Columbia.

"It was absolute firestorm, with hundreds of houses burning at once," reported 1st Sgt. Jason Riley. "There were houses burned right down to the foundation; not even the bathtubs survived."

The blaze began on National Park Service land May 4 when high winds caused a prescribed burn to get out of control. Gov. Gary Johnson called out the Guard four days later to help evacuate 25,000 Los Alamos residents and to assist in controlling the fire.

Nearly 40 law enforcers with the Air Guard 150th Fighter Wing's Security Forces Squadron, led by commander Maj.

Richard Almeter, were part of the first wave of responders. According to Almeter, his security team spent nine days, working 12-hour shifts, assisting the Los Alamos Police Department.

Ironically, the Albuquerque-based squadron had spent the previous drill weekend practicing their response to wild land fire fighting.

"It was very satisfying to be where we were really needed," said Almeter, a 26-year Guard veteran who spent six-months commanding the squadron during the Persian Gulf War. "We could see where all the training paid off."

The New Mexico Guard also were part of a high-profile escort mission, reported Capt. Kim Lalley, state Guard spokesperson.

"When Los Alamos was closed to the public, victims of the fire wanted to survey the damage," she explained. "Due to safety concerns, the Guard secured 31 school buses and set up an operation in Santa Fe where victims whose homes had been destroyed could meet with insurance adjusters, grief counselors and the Red Cross."

With a grief counselor aboard each bus, Air Guard volunteers made the four-hour trek with their displaced neighbors to view the fire's aftermath, and in some cases, retrieve valuables.

"The victims of the fire and Guardsmen really bonded," Lalley added. "Many folks hugged Air Guardsmen and thanked them for being there."

By the time Los Alamos was declared



Photo SMSgt. James F. Davis

**LAI'D TO RUIN** — A New Mexico Air Guard security policeman with the 150th Fighter Wing surveys the damage done to a car after fires destroyed nearly 48,000 acres.

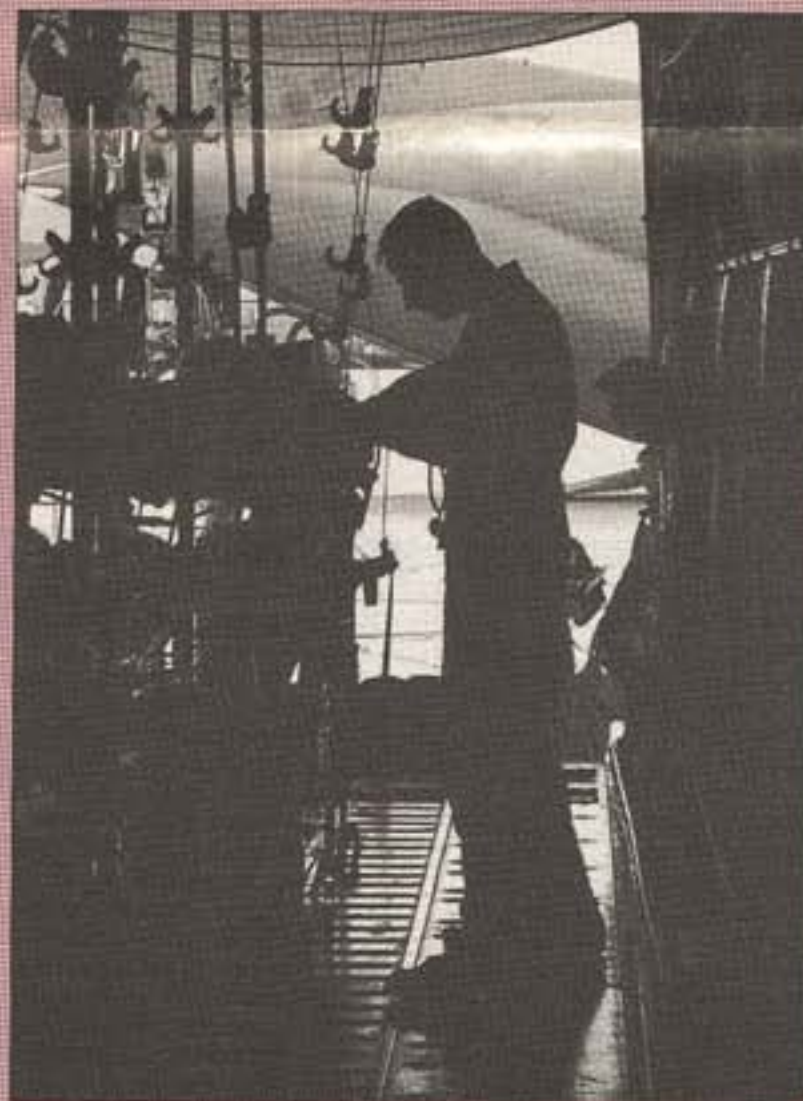


Photo by Maj. Mike Pitzer

## 'RODEO' ROUNDUP

West Virginia Air Guard TSgt. David Martz, a member of the 167th Aero-medical Squadron, checks medical equipment on a C-130 during Rodeo 2000 at Pope AFB, N.C. See related story, photos on page 13.

■ See FIRE, page 5





## COMMENTARY

## Readers Return Fire

## ABOUT the PAPER

The *On Guard* is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 by the Command Information Branch of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The 50,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

## Submission Requirements:

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## GUARD MAIL

## Damn Engineers

*I am troubled by an error in a recent issue that stated, "...each combat arms branch (infantry, field artillery, air defense, armor and aviation)..." It did not include each combat arm.*

Your writer omitted the special forces and the engineers, both are combat arms branches.

The engineers do have a regimental affiliation. However, you are not the first to make this error. Many in the maneuver community have been conveniently forgetting the combat engineers lately. All too often, it seems that the engineer is the last one to be considered in their plans and tactics, but we are the first ones they call on when they are no longer able to maneuver.

They boast of their success in Iraq, but forget that engineers had to lay it on the line for the initial breach of the enemy obstacles.

Please, do not forget "The Damn Engineers!"

Capt. Clyde E. Brown III  
Pennsylvania National Guard

## Tuning In

*I don't have access to The On Guard all the time, but I really enjoy the paper when I can get my hands on it. I was interested in the article about James Rogers in your February issue.*

Would you know where I could get a tape of the song "I Guard America." I

would like to get it for my husband who has been in the Maryland Guard for many years.

JoAnn Snead  
Maryland resident

*Editor's Note: According to Maj. Kevin Little, with the National Guard Bureau's Strategic Initiatives Group, the "I Guard America" song can be accessed through the public domain Air National Guard website: <http://www.ang.af.mil>; or directly accessed to: <http://www.ang.af.mil/ngbsong/newsong.htm>.*

## Red, White and Dated

*I trust you're aware that the commentary by Canadian Gordon Sinclair praising the United States and its helpful efforts around the globe was originally released in the early 1970s?*

As a teenager I had a 45/rpm record of it. And as you read the text, you'll note that it isn't very contemporary.

But I'm grateful you printed it. First, because it's still true, and second, because I have been looking for a copy of it, but I could not remember the name of the fellow who wrote it.

Maybe someone should write an updated version of it.

TSgt. Bill Campbell  
Washington National Guard

## Where Credit is Due

*The artwork of 1st Lt. Thomas E. Williams, the Air Guard's first African-American pilot, that appeared in your February issue's history section was*

created by New Jersey Air Guard MSgt. Don Taggart, a member of the 177th Fighter Wing's visual information division.

Furthermore, the research and the initial article about Williams, which appeared in the 177th's base newspaper *The Contrail*, was done by the 177th's Maj. Roger Pharo, SSgt. Stephan Clanton and TSgt. John Carothers.

If one of your historians is going to do an article and use the information collected and written by others, it is only appropriate that you give credit to them, especially when no further research is done, only a rewrite.

SSgt. Mark Olsen  
New Jersey National Guard

## Where's Johnny

*I writing regarding the article entitled "Corn Field Connection" that appeared in your February issue. Johnny Carson from Norfolk, Nebraska and not Iowa.*

Iowa is the home of the Kevin Costner baseball movie "Field of Dreams," which was filmed in Dyersville, Iowa.

Clifford Thelen  
Nebraska National Guard

## LETTERS POLICY:

'Letters to the Editor' are subject to editing for space and style considerations.

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## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"Let me get this straight, once I sign this I'll be part of the NAVY S.E.A.L.S."





## IN THE NEWS

■ Two-Star Salute ■ Lawmaker Retires ■ Bureau Brass

## Army Guard pins first woman two-star

■ **Milestone: Army's Deputy Surgeon General becomes 12th woman major general currently serving**

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

An accomplished nurse who is focusing her considerable energies on caring for older soldiers has become the first woman in the Army National Guard to be promoted to major general.

Marianne Mathewson-Chapman, from the Florida Army National Guard, received her second star May 15 in a Pentagon room dressed with the portraits of such five-star Army luminaries as Dwight Eisenhower, George Marshall and Douglas MacArthur.

The Desert Storm veteran, who has staked her military and civilian career on the idea that every soldier counts, was clearly the center of some high-powered attention.

Lt. Gen. Ronald Blanck, the Army Surgeon General, and Army Guard Director Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, pinned her new stars on Mathewson-Chapman. Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, National Guard Bureau Chief, attended the ceremony, as did two women generals, Air Guard Maj. Gen. Irene Trowell-Harris and Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Donna Barbisch.

"She is a super clinician, a wonderful leader, a mentor

and a terrific person," praised Blanck of the 12th woman major general serving Army-wide.

"It is an honor to serve with this soldier," said Schultz. They know her well. Mathewson-Chapman, who holds a doctorate in nursing, is the Army's Deputy Surgeon General to Blanck and a special assistant to Schultz.

She is also a medical consultant to Maj. Gen. Ronald Harrison, the adjutant general for Florida, where Mathewson-Chapman is the civilian director for the Federal Strategic Health Alliance at the Veterans Health System in Bay Pines, near St. Petersburg.

She links Defense Department and Veterans Administration health care assets with members of reserve components in Florida, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.

"The Guard is a healthy force, better than society in general," observed Mathewson-Chapman, who specializes in chronic illness.

"Men between 40 and 60 need a lot of health education, because they tend not to take very good care of themselves and delay seeking medical care," she added.

"That's why I advocate watching your diet, exercising regularly, controlling your blood pressure and stopping smoking."

The reputation she has acquired since 1975 while serving with Army Guard armor troops in California and with artillery citizen-soldiers in Pennsylvania and Florida preceded her to the Pentagon ceremony.

This was the nurse who used to peer into tanks at the National Training Center in California to make sure Guard soldiers were wearing their hearing protection. This was the innovative nurse who set up lemonade

"She put her foot down and let it be known that soldiers counted"



■ See TWO-STAR LADY, Page 4

## Congressman Clement retires from Tennessee Guard

By Maj. Lee Packnett  
National Guard Bureau

Before he became a U.S. Congressman, Bob Clement was a lieutenant colonel in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

It was a message the 30-year Guard veteran made certain to share with those who attended his Guard retirement ceremony on Capitol Hill.

Clement's April 5 retirement leaves just two traditional Guardmembers serving in Congress; Rep. John Tanner (D-Tenn.), an Army Guard lieutenant colonel; and Rep. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), an Air Guard lieutenant colonel.



Col. Clement

maker, who retired as a colonel.

He began his military career as a Reserve Officer Training Program cadet at the University of Tennessee.

"I joined the ROTC because I knew where I was going with a draft lottery number of 40," said Clement before reflecting on three decades as

The event, hosted by National Guard Bureau Chief Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, honored the Volunteer State Democratic lawmaker.

an active-duty, Reserve and Guard Adjutant General Corps officer. After a two-year active duty stint, Clement joined the Tennessee Army Guard in 1971.

Davis called the seven-term Congressman a "very powerful influence" on everyone in uniform.

"Bob Clement has been a champion and an advocate for the reserve components. His record of achievement is long and broad," he said.

Davis said Clement would not rest on his laurels.

"As he concludes his military career," the general predicted, "we know he will continue his work in other quarters."

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

**Gardner selected to Guard Bureau's top civilian post**

Christopher D. Gardner was picked to serve as the National Guard Bureau's next Director of the Joint Staff and Administrative Assistant to the Chief and the Vice Chief.

He replaced Thomas Link who retired last September.

The native of the District of Columbia and 23-year retired veteran of the Air Force and Air National Guard, will become the highest ranking civilian working at the Arlington, Va.-based Bureau.

Gardner, who will oversee the welfare of nearly 1,000 NGB civilians, was based at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., where he served as the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command's (AMC) Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA). He has held that position since January 1993.

Born on May 18, 1952, in Washington, D.C., Gardner entered the Air Force in 1971 and served tours in Southeast Asia and in the states. He was discharged in 1974 and joined the D.C. Air Guard shortly thereafter.

The 48-year-old worked as an aircraft crew chief and senior production controller for the District Guard until transferring in his civilian capacity to the AMC in 1979. He has since served in numerous logistics positions within the supply and maintenance fields.

In 1986, Gardner became the Chief of Mobilization and Reserve Component Support, where he directed the AMC's overall mobilization planning. He was the LOGSA's transition team chief at the end of Desert Shield/Storm.

**Kosovo ribbon approved**

President Bill Clinton has approved establishment and award of the Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM) and campaign streamers to recognize the accomplishments of military men and women who participated in or were in direct support of the Kosovo operations within established areas of eligibility.

Individuals authorized the KCM must have participated in or served in direct support of one or more of the following Kosovo operations: Allied Force, Joint Guardian, Allied Harbor, Sustain Hope/Shining Hope, Noble Anvil, or Kosovo Task Force Hawk, Task Force Saber, or Task Force Hunter within the Kosovo Air Campaign or Kosovo Defense Campaign area of eligibility.

The Kosovo Air Campaign began on March 24, 1999, and ended on June 10, 1999. The Kosovo Defense Campaign began on June 11, 1999, and will end on a date to be determined.



## IN THE NEWS

## TWO-STAR LADY

FROM PAGE 1

stands outside Mojave Desert briefing tents to ensure soldiers had plenty to drink.

"She put her foot down and let it be known that soldiers counted," recalled Army Guard Medical Service Corps Maj. Darlene McCurdy, who served close to Mathewson-Chapman on a wind-swept sheep pasture in southwestern Turkey during a three-week training exercise in September 1989.

When she went to war nearly 10 years ago with the Florida Guard's 202nd Medical Group during Desert Storm, the general became deputy chief nurse for the 3rd Medical Command in Saudi Arabia. She helped establish 44 active and reserve component hospitals in five Southwest Asian countries.

Caring for people in uniform was a natural calling for the Kansas-born Mathewson-Chapman who began her military nursing career in 1970 as an ensign.

Her mother, Jeanne Mathewson, was a Navy nurse in California and Florida during WWII. Her father, Marine Capt. Robert Mathewson, was a WWII fighter pilot and a helicopter pilot who was rescued after getting shot down during the Korean War.

Her father is deceased, but Mathewson-Chapman's mother attended the two-star promotion ceremony that was hailed as a milestone for Total Force integration and for the National Guard's medical community.

Mathewson-Chapman's husband Robert and youngest daughter Heather, a high school cadet at the Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, Fla., were also there. So was the general's younger sister, Alaska Air Guard Maj. Judy Mathewson.

An older daughter, Helena, is an Army ROTC cadet at Florida Southern College and is studying in Spain.

Other family ties also bind Mathewson-Chapman to the National Guard. Her older brother Joseph is a retired colonel from the California Army Guard, and her sister-in-law, Sheila Dominguez, is a lieutenant colonel.

## Kentucky crew helps rescue downed pilot

By 1st Lt. Dale Greer  
Kentucky National Guard

**A**n aircrew from the Kentucky Air Guard 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 of Seattle, was not harmed in the crash but could have sustained severe injuries because of exposure to the 50-degree water. At such temperatures, death from hypothermia can occur within a few hours.

Fortunately, a C-130 crew from the 123rd Airlift Wing, based in Louisville, Ky., heard Haynes' distress calls and diverted to the crash site with survival gear.

"We were flying from the Azores to Pisa, Italy, to pick up some Army National Guard soldiers," explained Capt. Todd Lally, aircraft commander. "About an hour after takeoff, we heard an air traffic controller say, 'Who's declaring a Mayday?' That really got our attention."

Haynes, who was flying a single-engine Cessna, responded by saying he was having engine trouble and that he expected to impact the water in eight minutes.

"There was a hush that fell over the cockpit," Lally recalled. "We knew it was a very serious situation."

Lally asked his navigator, Maj. Jason Arnold, to compute how long their C-130 could stay over the crash and still have enough fuel to reach land. In the meantime, Haynes made his final radio transmission before going down.

"The last call I remember distinctly," said MSgt. Scott Davis, a flight engineer in Kentucky's 165th Airlift Squadron. "His altitude was about 300 feet, and the very last thing he did before he hit was spout out his coordinates. It was pretty chilling to hear his voice, because you could tell he was really in trouble."

Lally, who was about an hour from Haynes' location, contacted the nearest air traffic controller to offer assistance, but was told repeatedly to stand by.

"They didn't realize I was trying to help," Lally said. "They thought I was trying to make my hourly position report like everybody else. Finally, after they told me to stand by twice, I said, 'We can help you. Give us the opportunity.'"

"That's when they sent me to another frequency," he added, "so we could talk on a channel that wasn't so congested."

The Kentucky crew was told to divert to the crash site and render whatever assistance they could. In the meantime, a Portuguese P-3 Orion rescue aircraft and an Egyptian C-130 also were en route.



Photo by TSgt. Michael Cook

**LIFE SAVERS** -- Kentucky Air Guard SSgt. Randall Hood (above) writes a message onto a life preserver sent to a fallen pilot. The crew (front row, left): Arnold, Hood, Riedley and Bauer; (standing) Davis, Cook, Velandier and Lally.



Photo by TSgt. Bill Lewis

The Egyptian C-130 arrived within 36 minutes of the crash and reported seeing Haynes in an orange dinghy. The Egyptians then departed the scene because they were running low on fuel.

About 20 minutes later, the Kentucky crew arrived on scene and began making passes over the crash site at about 300 feet. They were unable to see the dinghy. Instead, Haynes seemed to be clinging to a partially inflated life jacket.

"There was one distinct pass when we could tell he was swimming in the water," Lally said. "That's when we decided we needed to get this guy a life raft."

The C-130's two loadmasters, MSgt. David Riedley and SSgt. Randall Hood, first dropped some sea dye to mark Haynes' position. They then began fabricating a system for deploying a sea kit, which includes a life raft and mittens.

"Our concern was that it might not float," Hood explained, noting that the kit is normally worn as part of the survival gear attached to a parachute.

"Sgt. Riedley and I were basically making it up as we went along, so we hooked the sea kit to one of our life

preservers and threw it out of the aircraft."

The gambit worked. The kit landed just 50 feet from Haynes, who swam over, inflated the raft and crawled inside.

"That was the last thing we saw before we bugged out," Hood said. It was not, however, the last word. Hood had scrawled a note on Haynes' life preserver with a grease pencil, telling the downed pilot that he would be picked up by a Turkish fishing trawler in about five hours.

As the Kentucky C-130 departed, its fuel reserves now almost depleted from loitering over the crash site for 75 minutes, the Portuguese P-3 arrived to watch over Haynes until he could be picked up by the surface vessel.

Lally said he was pleased by the ingenuity his crew displayed during the crisis. Also involved in the rescue were Capt. Doug Velandier, SSgt. Brian Bauer and TSgt. Michael Cook.

"We were performing a mission that we're not really trained to do, so we had to improvise as we went along," Lally said. "I was really proud of the teamwork our guys showed in dealing with this situation. I think it probably had a lot to do with saving that guy's life."

Haynes expressed his gratitude during a phone call to Velandier after returning to the United States the following week.

"I can't thank you guys enough," Haynes said. "I'll be eternally grateful."



# New Yorkers airlift aid to victims of mudslide

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
New York National Guard

New York Army Guard air crews helped a community recover from the affects of a destructive mudslide.

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew with the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation responded to a call from Gov. George Pataki over the Memorial Day weekend to airlift thousands of pounds of civilian engineer equipment into the damaged area.

New York Army Guard air and ground crew members conducted seven separate sling loads of equipment and supplies to enable civilian engineers to perform work at the scene. The operation lasted about an hour.

Heavy rains in New York's capital district in May led to a landslide in the Albany County town of Delmar, causing the loss of at least one building and damage to an adjacent highway. New York State Department of Transportation geologists, working to mitigate the disaster and prevent further damage, needed help in positioning a 5,000 pound drill

rig and its related equipment near the damaged area to obtain deep soil samples. In order to reopen the highway, geologists needed the samples to measure the likelihood of further landslides and to help them plan an ultimate solution to stop the damage.

The rugged terrain, the steep slope and the presence of the nearby Normanskill Creek, where flood waters swept over the stream's banks, made it impossible for the rig to be brought in by ground vehicle or crane. State leaders determined that the mission could only be accomplished by members of the National Guard.

"This was fantastic and very impressive," said Paula Kelley, a spokesperson for New York's Department of Transportation.

She watched as the Blackhawk gently lowered a load at the base of the mud slide slope about 300 feet above and away from the stream bed, and 100 feet below the sharp cliff carved out by the slide. Dozens of local residents, concerned for the security of their homes and businesses, also lined up behind safety barriers



Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning

**GETTING A LIFT** — A New York Black Hawk crew airlifts equipment for engineers trying to solve a recent mudslide.

to watch the action.

"Now we will be able to get the answers we need to come with a resolution," Kelly said.

Geologists were seeking to know exactly where the underlying clay failed and how deep the failure occurred.

"The National Guard has helped us save a lot of time," Kelly said. "In the process, their help will help to prevent more damage, because we can get the information we need and come up with a working solution much sooner. The Guard has saved us months here."

Over the last few years, 142nd crews have performed a number of missions as part of "guard-HELP" — a program where the Guard provides peacetime community support while training for its federal mission.

Since the program's launch in 1998, 142nd crews have airlifted abandoned cars from environmentally-sensitive preserves at various locations around the state, fought wildfires and performed other related airlift missions. The unit also deployed to Honduras last year as part of an exercise to help with Hurricane Mitch recovery efforts.

## FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

safe enough for residents to return, citizen-aiemen and women had helped more than 2,000 fire victims.

Ensuring the safety of their neighbors was not the only concern of the Guard's response force. New Mexico Guardmembers, performed air and ground medical evacuations, removed downed power lines, provided food for those left homeless and hauled water.

Getting water to those fighting the fires was a life-threatening ordeal, according to Sgt. Domaciano Gutierrez, a member of the Army Guard's Headquarters Battery, 11th Air Defense Artillery.

"At one point, I didn't think I was going to make it," he recalled. "The forest sounded like very loud popcorn. You could hear live ammunition going off, propane tanks blowing up, and tree branches crackling from the intense heat."

Fighting fires, the first time the state Guard has been activated for such duty, proved an round-the-clock job for Pvt. Beau Saler, a member of the state's 1st Battalion, 200th Air Defense Artillery and a volunteer fireman for the Happy Valley Fire Department near Carlsbad.

After returning to his home about midnight May 9, having spent the previous 12 hours battling a 12-acre



Photo by SMSgt. James F. Davis

**READY TO GO** — Members of the New Mexico Air Guard 150th Fighter Wing's Security Forces Squadron were among the first to respond to their Governor's call.

brush fire in Carlsbad, Saler was ordered to deploy with his unit to Scott Able, where 80 dwellings had been claimed.

"I was ready to go," Saler said.

However, it is unlikely he was prepared for what occurred atop a mountain while battling the 21,000-acre Scott Able blaze.

"I got pinked," noted Saler of the like-colored substance, called slurry, dropped from planes to put out fires. "I was sitting in my hummer and I stepped

out to watch the slurry plane. It dropped the stuff a hundred feet above me before I had a chance to move.

"The hummer was pink and I was pink," he added, smiling. "I took about an hour to wash off."

Showers of praise were what Air Guard MSgt. Philip Archuleta, MSgt. Manuel Sedillos and TSgt. Tim Aplin received after helping to avert the loss of another home to fire.

Their brush with the red menace occurred during an escort mission, when a resident on the bus noticed smoke coming from the backyard of a home that wasn't destroyed. Aplin and Archuleta jumped from the bus to discover a fire that had been ignited by dry needles. As they attacked the fire with a garden hose, Sedillos used a pickax to extinguish the flames.

The three, members of the 150th Fighter Wing's maintenance and logistics squadrons, received a round of applause when they returned to the bus.

"It was touching to see the community happy for their neighbors whose homes had been spared," Aplin said.

*Editor's Note: New Mexico Army Guard's Capt. Herman Garcia and SSgt. Steven Stotts contributed to this story.*





Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**OFFICIAL PHOTO** -- Heather Hicks, 12, holds her cousin, 18-month-old Eric Gladia, while waiting to have their 'official' photos taken in battle dress uniforms at the Joint Service Open House.

The 50th anniversary of Armed Forces Day revealed many pleasant surprises

# PRIDE on Display

By SSgt Andrew Hughan  
California National Guard

As Alexis Mitchell, 17, stood ramrod straight in a formation with 19 other students, her stepfather Michael Morris, couldn't contain a prideful smile.

That smile wasn't there a year ago.

That was before his District of Columbia-raised stepdaughter became a member of Maryland National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program, where at-risk high school drop outs are immersed in a five-month, in-residence, quasi-military course aimed at giving them a second chance.

"I see a self pride in her I have not seen before. She walks taller and smiles," said



Photo by SSgt. Andrew Hughan

Morris, smiling. "I don't see the same person I saw a year ago. She is now a young woman who has her pride and confidence back. I'm very proud of her."

"I believe in my heart," he added, "the ChalleNGe program helped save her life."

Ms. Mitchell's metamorphosis and smile were on display at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., as part of the Joint Service Open House, May 20. The three-day event, that featured the Army's Golden Knights parachute team, the Navy's Blue Angels and the Air Force's Thunderbirds, celebrated the 50th anni-

versary of Armed Forces Day.

While Army and Air National Guard men and women showed off tanks, trucks, helicopters and airplanes in and around Andrews Hanger 4, Mitchell and 120 Youth ChalleNGe cadets from four states delighted visitors with their precision marching.

Alexis stood in the back row, her blue uniform neat and pressed, her beret straight on her head, with her determined eyes fixed front. On command, she and her drill team marched with pride and accuracy around the hangar's parade area,



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**STANDING TALL** -- Alexis Mitchell (left) performs precision marching drills as a member of the Maryland National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. District of Columbia Army Guard SSgt. Anna Wood (above) belts out a tune with fellow members of the 257th Army Band at the Joint Service Open House.

each in step and enthusiastically shouting cadence along the way.

Sitting in the front row of seats was a 40-something couple watching every step of the young woman in the back row. Venita and Michael Morris sat proudly, but nervously, as they watched their daughter perform.

They smiled and applauded at the end of the demonstration, happy to see Alexis achieving so much after nearly three years of heartache and frustration.

Like thousands of other freshmen, Alexis went to her first day of high school with hopes, dreams and aspirations. She was enrolled at a Magna School for academically talented and gifted students in Maryland's Prince George's County. But soon peer pressure exerted its powers, and she started to cut classes and spend more time with her friends than she did at school.

The academic wheels had fallen off. Two months before the end of the school year Alexis' mother withdrew her from school. She was 13.

"High school is a difficult time for young people. Their evaluations of themselves are so low, and they can fall in with the wrong people very easily," said Venita.

That's what happened to Alexis, repeatedly, until November 1999, she explained. Just weeks before Alexis was going to start yet another school, her mother discovered the Youth ChalleNGe program on the Internet. Venita immediately thought it was a sign, something that could help her troubled teen. Alexis





Photo by SSgt. Andrew Hughan

**FUTURE AVIATORS? — A West Virginia Air Guard C-130 model cargo aircraft drew the attention from visitors of all ages.**

**“I believe in my heart the ChalleNGe program helped save her life”**

here?” she wondered.

Her days begin at 5:30 a.m. with running and calisthenics. Physical fitness is a big part of ChalleNGe. Classes in academics fill the rest of the day. Alexis, and the 72 other students left from 120 that started in February, expect to receive their high school diplomas after completing the 22-week week program.

“It was hard at first, but the time goes by very fast,” Alexis recalled. “You learn to wear a uniform and get along with all kinds of different people.”

Now, more than half way through the ChalleNGe program, Alexis is on her way to graduating from high school, just a month after the class she started with four years ago.

The future also looks bright for Alexis Mitchell. She wants to join the military, although she hasn’t decided which branch.

“I’m proud of myself,” she said as she looked at her mother. “That’s the first time I have ever said that.”

was accepted into the National Guard-run ChalleNGe program and stepped into a new world Feb. 13th.

She experienced the same emotions that millions of men and women have known in basic training: “What am I doing

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Some people consider 50 years a long time. National Guard icon Tommy Hill considers it a career.

A half-century’s worth of American military hardware, memories and progress were put on public display for more than a half-million visitors to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland for the 50th anniversary of Armed Forces Day during May’s third weekend.

Tommy Hill did not attend.

He and Olga, his wife of 57 years, spent a quiet weekend at their Arlington, Va., home where a big maple tree in the front yard and a giant oak out back are alive with memories of the daughter and two sons they raised there.

But everyone at Andrews who knows what the Guard has accomplished as part of the Total Force during the past 50 years knew his name.

“Tommy Hill is a National Guard living legend,” said Air Guard historian Dr. Charles Gross, author of the 1995 book *The Air National Guard and the American Military Tradition*.

That’s because Thomas Anthony Hill, 81, has been working for the National Guard Bureau for all 51 years that Armed Forces Day has been on this country’s calendars. He is, among other things, the patriarch of the Army Guard’s state officers training programs. His influence reaches to Capitol Hill and the White House.

Many may call him Mr. Hill, but within the entire National Guard there is but one “Tommy.”

Hill is the Army National Guard’s civilian deputy chief of training at the Readiness Center in Arlington. In fact, he’s been working for the Guard Bureau for nearly 52 years — since Oct. 25, 1948. He has never missed a day for illness. He has accumulated 5,625 hours — over 140 work weeks — of unused sick leave.

“In 1950, President Harry Truman opened up the bases and let people in,” explained former Marine fighter pilot and astronaut and retired Ohio Sen. John Glenn Jr. during the Friday morning opening ceremonies addressed by President William Clinton. “More important than seeing the hardware is seeing the people,” Glenn added.

The people would love Tommy Hill.

He is a distinguished, 6-foot-3, gentleman. His wit is razor sharp. His memory is as clear as his blue eyes that can still focus on the names in a telephone directory without the help of glasses.

His second-floor office is a treasure-trove of his years in federal service that reach back to 1938 when the young man from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., joined the Depression-era’s Civilian Conservation Corps for a dollar a day.

The five years he spent in the Army after signing up on

## INSIDE THE OPEN HOUSE

At 81, Bureau icon Tommy Hill — the ‘father’ of the Guard’s OCS program — hasn’t taken a sick day in 50 years

# Hardly over the HILL



Photos courtesy of Mr. Tommy Hill

Tommy Hill, today, and as warrant officer in 1946.

training officers in the 54 states and territories honoring him as the “father” of the officer candidate schools that have produced tens of thousands of Guard officers.

“Only four states had officers programs when I got here,” Hill related. “Men could get direct commissions by coming from the Army into the National Guard until 1957. Then we stopped giving those direct commissions.”

“We have established officers schools in every one of our states and territories since then,” he added.

There also are many stories. A favorite is how a White House poker game got him to the Guard Bureau in the first place in 1948.

An old friend, Col. Ed Condon, chief of the Guard Bureau’s Administrative Office, played poker at the White House nearly every month. He and President Truman were friends, because Condon had belonged to Battery D, 129th Field Artillery that Truman had commanded as a National Guard officer during World War I.

Condon wondered if a civilian General Services 8 position could be established for the Guard Bureau’s newly created military education office. Gen. Lesley Groves, who had directed the Manhattan Project, said it could be done. Tommy Hill got the job.

He has served America’s citizen-soldiers ever since, under 10 presidents and 12 chiefs of the National Guard Bureau.

He has never seriously considered taking another job or retiring.

“The bureau is a friendly place to work,” reasoned Hill. “The people are always interesting, and there’s always something going on.”

“I enjoy going to work and coming home,” he added. “You can’t ask for any more from life than that.”

May 21, 1941 — 59 years before May’s Armed Forces Day celebration — are part of Tommy Hill’s legacy.

“Everyone was expected to do it. The entire world was mobilizing for World War II,” he explained. “Everyone knew that if we were building tanks, we would be using them.”

His mementos include a Legion of Merit medal and citation that he received as a warrant officer (junior grade) for his World War II supervision of the Army’s education program in Washington, D.C., at General Headquarters — since renamed Fort McNair.

There is an original copy of General Order No. 1, dated April 1, 1941, that established the National Guard Bureau.

There are pictures of Tommy with his beloved Olga, who he drives to Mass at St. Agnes Catholic Church every morning.

There is a 1998 plaque from the Army Guard’s plans, operations and



## COMMEMORATING THE KOREAN WAR

Unlike like the previous two world wars, Guardsmen and their units were not fully mobilized for the Korean War

# Limited WAR

By Renee Hylton  
Army Guard Historian

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when Communist North Koreans stormed across the 38th Parallel of latitude that divided it from South Korea, an American ally.

Within days, President (and former Missouri Guardsman) Harry Truman made the decision to send U.S. combat troops (later joined by United Nations troops from a dozen other countries) to defend South Korea.

Truman's announcement prompted an almost immediate plan to mobilize the Reserve Components. However, unlike the previous two world wars where Guardsmen and their units were fully mobilized, the Guard's involvement during the Korean War would be limited.

Many military and political strategists feared that Korea was part of a global Communist plot: the North Korean (and later, the Chinese) attack in Korea was designed to draw U.S. military resources away from Europe, leaving it ripe for Soviet attack and takeover. This possibility meant that no matter what happened in Korea, the majority of the Guard's units would stay home, in case they were needed elsewhere.

Thus only one-third of the Army National Guard was mobilized for Korea, but those 138,600 men still represent the Army Guard's largest mobilization of the last half-century. Between Aug. 14, 1950 and Feb. 15, 1952, eight infantry divisions (two of which were sent to Europe), three Regimental Combat Teams and 714 company-sized units reported for active duty.

Forty-one Army Guard units, including two infantry divisions, served

in Korea itself. Thousands of individual Guardsmen, especially the WWII veterans who were highly valued for their combat experience, were sent to Korea as replacements in Regular Army units.

When the first Army Guard units began arriving in Korea in January 1951, the fighting had already raged from one end of the peninsula to the other during the most dramatic six months in American military history.

The first U.S. troops, rushed from occupation duty in Japan within days of the North Korean invasion, suffered disastrous defeats before establishing a perimeter around the port city of Pusan. As reinforcements poured in, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, hero of the Pacific theater in WWII, planned a daring amphibious assault hundreds of miles up the Korean coast at Inchon.

The landings there succeeded brilliantly, and U.S. and U.N. troops were driving through North Korea toward the Manchurian border when China entered the war with an overwhelming numerical superiority.

After the longest retreat in U.S. military history, the U.N. Command established a winter line below the South Korean capital, Seoul, and it was there that Army National Guard units began joining them.

U.N. forces mounted their own offensive in the spring of 1951, using U.S. artillery as the main weapon against the terrifying "human wave" attacks, where the Chinese attempted to overwhelm their enemy through sheer numbers. Three Army Guard artillery battalions, the 196th (Tennessee) and 937th (Arkansas) Field Artillery, and the 300th Armored Field Artillery (Wyoming) won Presidential Unit Citations for supporting U.S. Army and Marine divisions during the late spring and summer of 1951.

As their company and battalion-sized counterparts arrived in South Korea to join the fighting, the Army National Guard's 40th (California) and 45th (Oklahoma) Infantry Divisions were training in Japan. While there had been talk of leaving the two divisions there and sending their troops to Korea as individual replacements, the decision was made in November 1951 for a "swap in place" between the two Guard divisions and the 1st Cavalry and 24th Infantry Divisions.

In December 1951, the lead elements of Oklahoma's 45th Division

arrived in South Korea, and in January, the 40th followed.

By this time, U.N. and Communist forces were settled on either side of the 38th Parallel, and the drama had shifted from the battlefield to the truce negotiations. The U.S. aim was not victory, but a negotiated settlement (President Truman had fired Gen. MacArthur when the general had been unable to accept the idea of a "limited" war). The military goal was to maintain the status quo in order to force the enemy to the peace table. Thus, the two Guard divisions found themselves in a static combat of entrenched positions and frequent patrols, with occasional small-unit actions.

Combat operations intensified once again in the spring of 1953, as both sides jockeyed for territory before a final border settlement. Both the 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions were still occupying their positions when the signing of an armistice at Panmunjon finally ended the fighting on July 23, 1953.



**OFF to WAR** — Nearly one-third of the Army National Guard was mobilized for the Korean War. Many, (like the Guardsmen right), left their families behind. Guardsmen (above) hook up communications in Korea in March 1952.







**GUARDIANS** -- Mud-died soldiers (top photo) of the Indiana Army Guard's 28th Infantry Division march back to the barracks after training at Camp Atterbury in May 1951. California Army Guard 143rd Field Artillery Battalion troops (above) patrol Korea in March 1952. Guardsmen (left) with the 196th Field Artillery Battalion fire a round at Communist Chinese during the war.

Photos courtesy of NGB Historical Services





## SPORTS

National Guard Marathoners Go Distance in Nebraska

## SPORTS SHORTS

## Marathon workshop long on ideas

Usually when 200 Guard members gather it is to offer aid after a natural disaster, or to help others in need.

This time, however, the Guard decided to help itself.

In a first of its kind recruiting workshop for marathoners, Guard distance runners met in Lincoln, Neb., May 6-7 to learn how to use their talents as runners to recruit other talented athletes.

The two-day workshop taught runners advanced techniques, overall wellness, and basic eligibility requirements for new Guard enlistees. At the end of the classroom phase, runners put their skills to work by participating in the 23rd annual Lincoln Marathon.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, Guard Bureau Vice Chief, said the Guard is undergoing a dramatic transformation in its role as U.S. citizens.

"Every time they've raised the bar, we've responded magnificently," Rees said. "As a result, I see more than ever the professionalism of the Guard and the need for people to be physically fit and ready."

Rees also thanked runners for participating in this year's workshop and acknowledged the marathon program would continue to receive support from all levels of the Guard.

"You demonstrate to other members of the National Guard what commitment is all about," the Vice Chief added. "You're a very fine example for all of our people, and all of our organization, and that is one of the main reasons that you're going to find that the bureau is going to have a great commitment to you and to the marathon."

Reported by Nebraska National Guard 2nd Lt. Rick Breitenfeldt.

## Rogers claims first marathon victory

By PFC Bill Schneider  
Nebraska National Guard

After 41 tries, SSgt. Curt Rogers earned sweet redemption on a muggy morning at the 17th Annual National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb.

"It's great to win this, finally," Rogers said of his multiple attempts to win a 26.2 mile race.

Rogers, a digital computer mechanic with the Kansas Air Guard's 184th Bomber Wing, won his first marathon on May 7 with a time of 2 hours, 34 minutes, 23 seconds.

This was Roger's 41st marathon since he ran his first in 1986. He said he'd been a contender at other races, but had never clenched a first-place trophy.

"I was pleased considering the conditions," said Rogers, who also placed second overall in the Lincoln Marathon, which ran in conjunction with the Guard's marathon.

Rogers, who has been in 11 consecutive Lincoln marathons, said the weather could have been worse. Last year, due to the rain, he slipped at the starting line and got stepped on.

Even though Rogers admitted that he wasn't feeling as strong as he would have liked, being in a pack of frontrunners gave him the hope that he might win.

"Knowing I was in contention," Rogers said, "was very exciting."

Delaware Army Guard Capt. Holly Scott, commander of the 262nd Maintenance Company, earned first place in the women's division, running 3:29:30.

In the master's category, Puerto Rico Army Guard 1st Lt. Victor Cuevas came in first with a time of 2:44:15.

After two years of Indiana rule, the favored Puerto Rico marathon squad reclaimed the team title, winning the competition with a combined time of 8:09:50.

Sp. Jose Perez, a member of the first place Puerto Rican team, said the key to their success was putting the fastest guys on the same team.

"All the team members had better preparation," said Perez, a military policeman with the 770th Military Police



Photos by PFC Bill Schneider

Company, finished second in 2:35:16. "We put it all together and got these results."

Indiana's team, who held the title for the past two years, succumbed to injury and illness during the training season. SFC Trent Sinnett with the 2nd Brigade, 38th Infantry Division, said the team will be back to reclaim its title next year.

"All three members are recovering from injuries," said Sinnett who finished the race in 2:50:42. "If we stay healthy for the



**A LONG HAUL** -- Kansas Air Guard SSgt. Curt Rogers (left) and Capt. Holly Scott (above) were the Guard's fastest man and woman marathoners.

rest of the year, I think we have a good shot. You never know what Puerto Rico will do."

This year's times were slower than previous years because of high humidity, which hovered near 100 percent.

"The humidity was hard to deal with. I never felt good the entire race," said Oregon Army Guard SFC Tim Vandervlugt, a readiness sergeant with Company A, 1249th Engineer Battalion.

"It was like you were running in a steam room," added Vandervlugt, who finished third with a time of 2:40:20.

Perez, who improved his time over last year by six minutes, said this year's climate was better than last year's rain and cooler temperatures.

"The humidity was an advantage for us," he said, likening it to the weather his fellow Puerto Ricans train in back home.





## In the footsteps of their ancestors

By Sgt. Clinton Wood  
Minnesota National Guard

Mike Jacobs made himself and every combat veteran proud recently.

Not only was this Minnesota Army Guard specialist one of the nearly 200 soldiers to take on the 25-mile 3rd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March in Brainerd, Minn., he endured the course to honor the veterans before him.

"I competed to help commemorate them (Bataan Death March survivors)," Jacobs said, tapping his hand to his chest. "(to honor) the living and the ones that have passed away."

Even as he left the Brainerd National Guard Armory where the march started, Jacobs stopped to shake hands and thank a veteran of the 94th Tank Regiment.

The event was a memorial to the soldiers and civilians who were forced to march from the Bataan Peninsula to Camp O'Donnell on the island of Luzon in the Philippines in 1942. Of the 78,000 individuals who were forced to complete the 55-mile march, only 66,000 survived.

The April 15 event was hosted by members of Minnesota's 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry, a unit that traces its history to Brainerd's Company A, 34th Tank Battalion. That battalion, one of the first Guard units to deploy overseas, were forced to surrender at Bataan.

After surrendering, the American and Filipino soldiers

were forced to march to Camp O'Donnell without food and water for nearly five days. Of the 64 soldiers from Brainerd's National Guard unit who served in the Philippines in 1941-42, half died.

Three of those Brainerd soldiers, Walt Straka, Henry Peck and Russell Swearingen, live near Brainerd.

Other march survivors like Ken Porwoll of St. Paul and Arthur "Bud" Campbell of Campbell, Calif., also attended the event. Swearingen, 85, was the oldest.

For Campbell, a 1939 Washington High School graduate, it was his first time back to Brainerd in 15 years.

Despite 30-degree temperatures, Campbell walked -- he described it as *gimped* -- the first three blocks with the marchers.

"I must have been young like that once before, but I can't remember," he commented. "But it's a wonderful reception. I'm so happy I took the trouble to come."

For Jacobs, the march didn't seem to be "trouble."

A cook for the 134th Forward Support Battalion in Minneapolis, Jacobs finished first in the individual lightweight division (wearing a cartridge belt, suspenders and two 1-quart canteens with covers) in a time of 4:34.31.

Jacobs and Spc. Shaun Anderson actually crossed the line at the same time. Anderson, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry, paced the individual heavy division wearing a 35-pound rucksack.

Anderson, who scored an adjusted 333 (300 is the maximum) on his Army Physical Fitness Test at Fort



Photos by Sgt. Clinton Wood

**HONORING VETS** -- Bataan survivors, Walt Straka (above, left), Ken Porwoll, Bud Thomas and Henry Peck marched a short distance with members of the Minnesota Army Guard's 1-194th Infantry. Spc. Shaun Anderson (right) shares a laugh with fellow march winner Spc. Mike Jacobs.

Benning, Ga., caught up to Jacobs at the 20-mile mark. The two agreed to walk in together. Before the meeting, Anderson said he had run the entire distance.

"He (Jacobs) was going like hell," said Anderson, an armor crewman. Jacobs even helped Anderson to his feet after that latter had fallen.

Jacobs, who runs 30 to 40 miles a week, also finished first in the light division last year. He said the memory of the sacrifice Bataan veterans endured helped keep him going.

"I was like, 'Come on, one more step, let me finish, let me finish.'"

This year there was no stopping Anderson, a 1997 Brainerd High School graduate who competed in cross country skiing and swimming. Last year, he completed the march in seven-and-a-half hours.

He said the hardest part of the march was chasing down Jacobs. Within earshot, Jacobs fired back, "(the) hardest part was wondering how far back you were."

Anderson, who runs six to 10 miles a day and races mountain bikes, said he prevented blisters by applying a "tub" of vaseline between his toes. He also wore nylons.

In the individual heavy division, Spc. Chris Kasal finished second (5:16:28), while David Pederson of the 434th Chemical Company took third with a time of 8:08:05.

Following Jacobs in the individual lightweight division was Jeremiah Beutz (5:05:40) and Tom Carson (5:11:45).



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

*The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing* in Louisville was honored with its 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The unit is now tied with the Georgia Air Guard's 116th Bomb Wing and the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing as the most decorated units in the Air Guard.

The award is given annually to the top 10 percent of Air Force units. It recognizes the 123rd's accomplishments for the period of Aug. 31, 1997 to Aug. 10, 1999.

During those two years the wing answered the call for real-world missions like Operation Southern Watch, in which the unit delivered around-the-clock airlift services for multinational forces enforcing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. Aircrews also supported Operation Joint Forge, the multinational peacekeeping effort in Bosnia.

The airmen and women of the 123rd also helped improve living conditions for the impoverished residents of Ecuador during Operation Nuevos Horizontes, the largest-ever U.S. joint training exercise in South America.

"From extensive airlift operations throughout the world, to providing quality-of-life improvements in third world countries, the 123rd Airlift Wing is consistently at the forefront of world and national events," said Maj. Gen. John R. Groves Jr., Kentucky's adjutant general.

*Alabama Army Guard SSgt. Lewis Hood* is \$2,500 richer thanks to an idea that could ultimately save the U.S. government more than \$2.3 million.

Hood, a CH-47D helicopter electronics mechanic at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Birmingham, received the check for his suggestion on how to make one control panel on the CH-47D helicopter's night vision goggle compatible.

The lighting on the advanced flight control system panel of the CH-47D helicopters was not night vision goggle compatible and replacement panels cost \$5,326 each. Hood devised a method of replacing 14 red light filters in each panel at a cost of \$9 each. This made the panel compatible at a cost of \$126 per panel, plus one man-hour per panel for installation.

With approximately 466 CH-47D helicopters currently in service, his idea generated a cost savings of more than \$5,000 per panel.

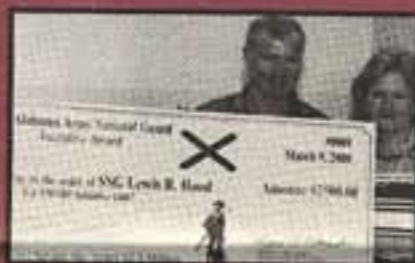
Hood perfected his simple revision after watching a visiting technical maintenance team under Army contract make similar modifications to other panels in the helicopters. The advanced flight control system panel was not modified.

"I thought, if just changing filters on the other panels made them compatible, it should work on the APCS panel," Hood said. "I worked with it for a while and found that by changing only the filters, the panel became NVG compatible. I thought to myself, 'this is too easy. Why weren't we doing it already?'"

Hood forwarded his suggestion to the Army Guard Suggestion Program at the National Guard Bureau. A review team visited the Birmingham



Col. Bill Leslie (right), 123rd Airlift Wing commander, attaches another 'Outstanding Unit' streamer.



Alabama Army Guard SSgt. Lewis Hood, with wife Patti, is rewarded for an idea.



Delaware Army Guard Spc. Ronika Smith, a cook with the 262nd Maintenance Company, warms apple pies during a 'Connelly' competition.

facility where Hood demonstrated the simple procedure to them. After a full evaluation of the procedure, the team suggested implementation of the procedure for all CH-47D helicopters, and that recommendation was approved by the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command.

Prior to Hood's modification being adopted, CH-47D pilots had to turn out all instrument panel lights when wearing night vision goggles and use a filtered flashlight to read the instruments in the cockpit.

In drill status, Hood is a member of Company F, 131st Aviation Battalion in Birmingham, where he is assigned as a CH-47D crew chief.

*With the scent of warm apple pie wafting from a Mobile Kitchen Trailer*, six cooks with the Delaware Army Guard's 262nd Maintenance Company participated in the prestigious Philip A. Connelly Award Program for Excellence in Army Food Service. The cooks competed in the field kitchen category.

Capt. Holly J. Scott, 262nd commander, accepted a plaque and certificate naming the team as the state's representative in the multi-state regional competition.

Judging was based on food preparation procedures, meal rosters, serving size, disposal of waste, cleanliness of food and equipment, personal sanitation, record keeping, meal presentation and even scheduling of preparation times for operational efficiency.

"Our team is best in the Delaware National Guard, but that's not enough. Now we're here to learn how to be even better," said Spc. Ronika Smith, a unit cook.

*The Georgia Air Guard's 116th Bomb Wing* made history again as it was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in a ceremony at Robins Air Force Base.

It is the unit's 10th such award.

Col. Tom Lynn, commander of the 1,100-member unit, accepted the award.

The award was given to the wing in recognition of its successful transition from the F-15 Eagle fighter to the B-1B Lancer bomber, and the unit's relocation from Dobbins Air Reserve base near Atlanta, to Robins Air Force Base. The 116th was cited for maintaining a "maximum degree of war readiness" during the three years the unit took to convert to bombers.

At the award ceremonies, Gen. Walter Corish Jr., commander of the Georgia Air National Guard, encouraged new wing members to observe the examples set by unit members responsible for the 116th's success.

The move from Dobbins to Robins, and the transition from fighter to strategic bombers, represented the largest unit transition in National Guard history. In spite of the challenges presented by the move, unit members met the U.S. Air Force's initial operational capability date in December 1997. The move of the unit to Robins also ushered in a \$100 million military construction project scheduled for completion in 2001.





## Hauling Home the Hareware

West Virginia Air Guard takes home four 'Rodeo' trophies

By Maj. Mike Pitzer  
West Virginia National Guard

West Virginia Air Guard units won four first place trophies at the Air Mobility Command's (AMC) Airlift Rodeo 2000 competition held at Pope AFB, N.C., May 6-13.

"I am very proud of our West Virginia teams, I know how hard they worked in preparing for this competition" stated Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, adjutant general.

The AMC's Rodeo is a competition that focuses on demonstrating air mobility core competencies.

The 167th Airlift Wing based in Martinsburg, won first place in Security Forces Combat Tactics, Aircraft Maintenance C-130 Preflight and Aeromedical Evacuation Equipment Preflight.

The Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing team won first place in the Engine Running Off-load.

"We are pleased with the performance of our teams" said Lt. Col. Bill Gain, 167th team chief. "Of the seven first place trophies won by the Air National Guard, West Virginia won four."

North Carolina's 145th Airlift Wing, based in Charlotte, took home two first place trophies as the competition's best



**OFF LOAD** -- A 130th Airlift Wing team loads equipment during Rodeo competition.

Aeromedical Evacuation Team and C-130 Aeromedical Evacuation Team. New Hampshire's 157th Air Refueling Wing, based at Pease Air National Guard Base, was the selected the best Aerial Refueling Team.

Rodeo 2000 involved 80 aircraft representing more than 100 teams from 17 countries. More than 3,500 competitors vied for recognition as the best in airlift.



**RODEO** -- Members of the 167th Airlift Wing's maintenance team (top photo) get their C-130 ready. 1st Lt. Krista Jenkins (above) treats a simulated patient. TSgt. Kevin Knotts (below) prepares his C-130 for patients.



Photos by Maj. Mike Pitzer





# STATES

■ Back from Bosnia ■ New Copperhead Home ■ Buckeye Black Hawks

## NEW YORK

Nearly 150 members of the 105th Military Police Company returned home from NATO peacekeeping duty in Bosnia.

The unit, based in Buffalo and Rochester, with soldiers in Utica, the Hudson Valley and New York City, spent nine months supporting Operation Joint Forge.

The troops, deployed last year to work with elements of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, patrolled and secured the countryside and nearby military bases.

While there, the troops adopted and supported Bosnian elementary and high school students, and aided the children in their efforts to grow up in the war-torn region.

"We are very proud of the men and women of the 105th Military Police Company who deployed in the name of peace for this mission and served their nation so well," said Gov. George Pataki.

For many members of the 105th, the deployment marked their second National Guard federal activation. They were activated in 1990 for the Persian Gulf War as members of the former 206th Military Police Company in Buffalo.

The 105th are not the only Empire Staters involved abroad. A team from the Latham-based 138th Public Affairs Detachment recently deployed to Germany for nine-months.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### TARHEEL TALKER

Tarheel State Army Guard Sgt. Edward Buckley, a member of the Sanford-based Company B, 252nd Armor, calls in support during a mock peacekeeping training exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga., in June. The unit is preparing for its deployment to Bosnia this September.



Photo by SSgt. Bob Jordan

## ARIZONA

With a history stretching nearly 54 years, the "Copperheads" of the 161st Air Refueling Wing dedicated their new grounds and facilities in a ceremony April 8.

The Phoenix-based unit, which has been flying since late 1946, has been relocating into the new copper-domed buildings of its new base for about the past year. The wing made it official during a flag raising ceremony that featured an all-Arizona fly-by of a KC-135 and two F-16s from the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson.

"This base will serve our Arizona Air National Guard for many years to come," said Col. John Rix, 161st wing commander. "This is a top-drawer facility that provides the perfect home for our highly-decorated unit."

After the ceremony, the wing promoted the "Year of the Family" by hosting its annual Family Day. Centered around children, the day featured fingerprinting, facepainting and a carnival-like atmosphere.

About a decade ago, Phoenix officials began plans to expand the city's Sky Harbor Airport to answer increasing flight demands of the rapidly growing city. The planners found a need to build an additional runway -- which ran right through the heart of the refuelers' base at that time. The city ponied up about \$65 million to move the 161st into its new home.

## OHIO

By SSgt. Diane Farrow  
Ohio National Guard

*They sling-load up to 8,000 pounds of cargo, travel just over 200 miles an hour, wear an armor of kevlar and are valued at approximately \$11 million.*

While the "Black Hawk" (UH-60) is the standard utility helicopter in the active Army, it is a new force to be reckoned with in the Ohio Army Guard, as 12 of these high-tech airframes are expected to replace the 15 UH-1H "Huey" helicopters by December.

Those Hueys are assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation, located at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) #2 at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus.

Though its equipment will change, the unit's mission will not.

"Whether you ride a thoroughbred (UH-60) or a Clydesdale (UH-1H), the air assault mission remains the same," said Lt. Col. Rick Hall, 1-137th battalion commander and AASF #2 facility commander. Hall said the primary objective of an aviation assault company is to insert or extract troops and/or equipment into or out of a designated landing zone at the precise time the ground commander needs them.

Since its inception in 1996, Co. A has been tasked to support the Indiana Army Guard's 38th Infantry Division. In late 1998, the unit was given an additional mission: augment 5th Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

This "dual mission" made it necessary for the unit to modernize with Black Hawks.

According to Company A Commander Capt. Wayne Thomas, the Black Hawk has several ad-

vantages over the Huey -- including improvements in speed and cargo lift capability.

"It cruises at about 50 knots faster than the Huey," he explained. "Its payload capacity is also considerably higher."

"It will lift a humvee, with armor and crew, and run with it," affirmed CWO Brad Anspaugh, a full-time flight instructor at AASF #2, who was one of the first pilots in the battalion to complete the Black Hawk initial qualification and instructor pilot course.

He also said that the UH-60 is spacious enough to transport 11 soldiers and four air crew.

Thomas expects that by Oct. 1, 60 percent of his enlisted soldiers and 40 percent of his pilots will be qualified on the UH-60. By Oct. 1, 2001, the captain predicts the qualification level of the entire unit will be 95 percent.



## HISTORY

## ■ The Air Guard and its Special Operations Mission

When the Air Force dropped its 'Special Ops' mission, Air Guard fliers helped the CIA conduct unconventional warfare

# Clandestine CREWS

When most think of the "Cold War," their minds conjure up images of the Berlin Wall and foreign spies in trench coats. Few, however, would link members of the Air Guard into this mysterious and shadowy mix.

That introduction into the world of clandestine missions began in 1954 when Air Force leaders decided to phase out its *special operations* units. However, given the turbulent times, there was still a need to maintain a small number of air crews and aircraft to support unconventional warfare missions for the armed forces and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

After lengthy negotiations, a decision was made in 1955 to establish four special operations units in the Air National Guard (ANG). Since their actual mission was classified, they were called *Air Resupply Squadrons*, or ARS. The first units were the 129th ARS, Calif., the 130th ARS, W. Va., the 135th ARS, Md., and the 143rd ARS, R.I.

Originally, all four Air Guard units were equipped with C-46 "Commandos," but in January 1956 they were supplemented by SA-16 "Albatross" amphibians. The standardized aircraft allowed squadrons to simplify operational and maintenance programs, and train for their new mission.

"It didn't take a genius to figure out that the SA-16 Albatross wasn't an ordinary type of troop carrier," said retired Brig. Gen. Victor Kilowski, former Maryland adjutant general for Air. "It was extremely slow and small to load anything other than a team of passengers."

"To top it all off," he added, "the Albatross was an amphibian, specifically suited for inserting or extracting people stealthily by water from hostile environments. The type of aircraft we flew was a giveaway for the special kinds of operations we would perform."

Training also became a great hurdle, recalled retired Col. Don "Watermelon" Utermahlen, former 135th ARS commander, since there were no formal schools that specialized in flying psychological warfare missions.

"At first we trained on the C-46 Commando. It was difficult to get used to because it sat very high above runway," Utermahlen said. "Our best instructor was Capt. Herb Cromwell, who had flown hundreds of combat hours in the European Theater."

"I never had a problem handling the C-46 after Herb

instructed us," he added.

After the Albatrosses completely replaced the C-46s in late 1958, each unit was redesignated as a *troop carrier squadron*, retaining their classified special operations mission.

The training that ensued in the Grumman SA-16 was quite different. The aircraft, which first flew in 1947, had been used by the Air Rescue Service to perform sea rescues. In addition to a crew of six, it could airlift 10 passengers with equipment.

Kilowski said training for water landings with the Albatross was extremely hazardous.

"Maj. Sam Souders, the first commander of the 135th Troop Carrier Squadron, was killed along with two other aircrew, Capt. Paul Shelton and Amn. Louis Florey during water flying training in May 1956," he recalled solemnly. "They were landing on water under hazy skies, which made it very difficult to judge the distance the aircraft was above the water's surface."

Kilowski believes the aircraft landed at too high a speed, causing the fuselage to split open.

To make training matters worse, special operations doctrine required pilots to land their SA-16s on water, at night, with no landing lights.

"Night water maneuvers were done at the Patuxent



**SPECIAL UNIT** — A Maryland 135th Air Resupply Squadron crew, and their SA-16, practice an extraction mission in the late 1950s.

River Naval Air Station," Utermahlen recalled. "The Navy operations office there provided a crash boat, and friendly advice ... that landing on water in the dark was a really bad idea."

After several 135th pilots became night-qualified, the squadron participated in a large European military exercise where the aircrews demonstrated their ability to deliver and extract troops from lakes at night.

"The German Special Forces personnel who were there thought it couldn't be done," said Utermahlen.

These special ops flying units continued their training, which required them to fly long distances over open water at low altitudes, throughout the 1950s. To practice



**GUARD HISTORY**

By Gary Gault  
Air Guard Historian

inserting Special Forces soldiers into potential hot spots for clandestine missions, SA-16 crews completed over-water navigation training flights to Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico. Crews also flew to the Panama Canal Zone, Alaska and Newfoundland, to experience flying in different geographic and weather conditions.

Given the stealthy nature of the mission, and its perilous piloting requirements, Maryland air crews experienced hardship. April 15, 1959 is etched into the memory of retired Col. Alfred Cramer, a former 135th pilot — a day when six aircrew were claimed when their SA-16 crashed into Colgate Creek, Md.

"They were making a nighttime take-off, followed by a left turn as they climbed out of Harbor Field," Cramer said. "The aircraft then nosed-over and crashed."

"The cause of the accident was never determined," he added, "but the dangerous nature of this type of flying was again made obvious."

Exercise Swamp Rat, a typical training mission flown in October 1959, saw nine Maryland SA-16s fly to Fort Bragg, N.C., to work with soldiers from the 77th Special Forces Group. 77th paratroopers and their equipment were loaded aboard the SA-16s and dropped into small zones near the swamps on Fort Stewart, Ga. The 135th crew would then fly resupply missions for the troops living in the field. When the mission was completed, the special operators would be extracted.

One can only assume that such training missions mirrored the real world ones flown by Air Guardsmen. Since all Air Guard special operators are sworn to secrecy about their involvement in actual operations, none can be mentioned here.

In 1963, each ANG special ops unit was redesignated as an *air commando squadron* following the revival of an active duty Air Force air commando squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla. These units, in keeping with the Kennedy administration's emphasis on "unconventional warfare," helped to combat communist-inspired "wars of national liberation" in third world nations.

About five years later, their designation would change to *special operations squadrons*.

During the mid-1970s, the three ANG special operations units in West Virginia, Rhode Island and Maryland, converted to airlift units. On May 3, 1975, California's mission also changed, becoming the 129th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

On Sept. 17, 1967, the special operations mission for the Air Guard became the sole responsibility of Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Squadron.

"The unit has been involved in all of the major and minor contingency operations around the world since the end of the 1960s," said retired MSgt. John Hoffman, a former special ops specialist. "Unlike the four original Air Guard special operations units, the 193rd concentrated on broadcasting radio and television messages to foreign populations."

More than three decades later, the Harrisburg-based unit remains the ANG's lone special operations force as we enter into an uncertain and fragmented 21st century.





# TRAINING

**URBAN WARRIORS** — A student (right) attending Camp Ripley's Military Police school takes a quick peek while entering a building at the MOUT site. Students (middle) learn the importance of a one-man unsupported lift while going through a window. A student (far right) strains to climb a rope during a grapple hook entry class. A fire team (below) assaults a building at Camp Ripley's MOUT site.



Photos by Sgt. Clinton Wood



Ripley's MP school is preparing reserve law enforcers for overseas duty

## Captivated COPS

By Sgt. Clinton Wood  
Minnesota National Guard

**A**s lyricist Bob Dylan once noted in song: *The times, they are a changin'.*

Fellow Minnesotan Bob Kroll, who has spent the last five years teaching military police the ins-and-outs of land navigation, map reading and urban terrain tactics, has seen the differences through his students.

These days, observed the Gopher State Army Guard sergeant first class, the Army/Marine Reserve and Army Guard cops that attend Camp Ripley's U.S. Army Reserve Military Police School, appear more interested.

With nearly 1,700 Army Guard soldiers slated for overseas peacekeeping duty this year, the increased interest is understandable. According to MSgt.

James Bruce, the course manager for the school's Basic NCO and Advanced NCO courses, more than 30 percent of the forces activated worldwide are military policemen and women.

"We're addressing those needs," Bruce said.

Along with the BNOC and ANOC courses, a phase-two Military Occupation Specialty reclassification course is taught for MPs that have transferred from another specialties.

Soldiers and Marines from as far as Puerto Rico and Alaska have attended the course that includes tactical vehicle training, enemy prisoner of war processing and a field training exercise at Ripley's Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) site.

SGM Duane Fredrickson, the battalion's chief instructor who has observed similar training at a number of Army posts, said the Ripley MP school is hard to beat.

"Undoubtedly, it's the best kept secret in CONUS," he said, citing the state-of-the-art MOUT site, classroom facilities and Ripley's staff.

"It's like comparing a Chevy just about ready to die in a junkyard to a brand new Cadillac," Fredrickson insisted.

The sergeant major added that many MPs also look forward to testing their ability to control a riotous crowd or take over and secure a town.

Just minutes after learning MOUT tactics included two-man supported lifts and clearing a building as fire teams, Michigan SSgt. William Krieger — a member of the 144th MP Company and former 10-year Navy veteran — was enthused.

"This is exactly what I joined for," he said.