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# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXIV, No. 8

NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD

July 2000

## Air Guard declares war on recruiting

**'Meeting end strength is singly our greatest need and our highest priority'**

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**S**ome people would call it beating the bushes. Others are calling it going to war.

That's what members of the Air National Guard are being urged to do to bring 2,500 men and women into the fold by Sept. 30. The goal is to reach its full, authorized strength of 106,678 people by the end of this fiscal year.

"We're declaring all-out war on personnel shortages and taking no prisoners," Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., the Air National Guard's director, told 275 of the nation's Air Guard leaders during a recruiting and retention conference at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

"Meeting end strength is singly our greatest need and our highest priority," Weaver urged wing and detachment commanders and command chief master sergeants, the leaders of the enlisted force, at the Officers Club.

"Both the active and reserve components are facing our greatest recruiting and retention challenges in recent years. Recruiting productivity is on a decline while attrition rates are increasing," added Weaver into his third year as Air Guard director.

Toward that end, the Air Guard is preparing a \$13 million advertising campaign and is reinforcing its recruiting and retention staffs across the country to spread that word. It is targeting young people between 17 and 23 to sign up. It is making a concerted effort to keep enlisted people and officers in uniform.

It is also making recruiting and retention everybody's business.

"Recruiting and retaining quality people need to become an integral part of the mission with officers and noncommissioned officers alike," Weaver stressed.

Achieving and maintaining full strength is critical, personnel officials have pointed



Photo by SMSgt. Bill Nicoletti

**RECRUITING EFFORT** — California Air Guard Col. 'Putt' Richards, 163rd Air Refueling Wing commander, spent his lunch hour recently speaking to students at Redlands High School. "If we can educate even one of them on the opportunities we have in the Guard, I feel it is worth it," he said.

out, because the Air Guard will be authorized another 1,300 people due to programmed growth in 2001.

"Our units are being tasked very heavily today, so it's critical that we have enough people with the right skills," explained

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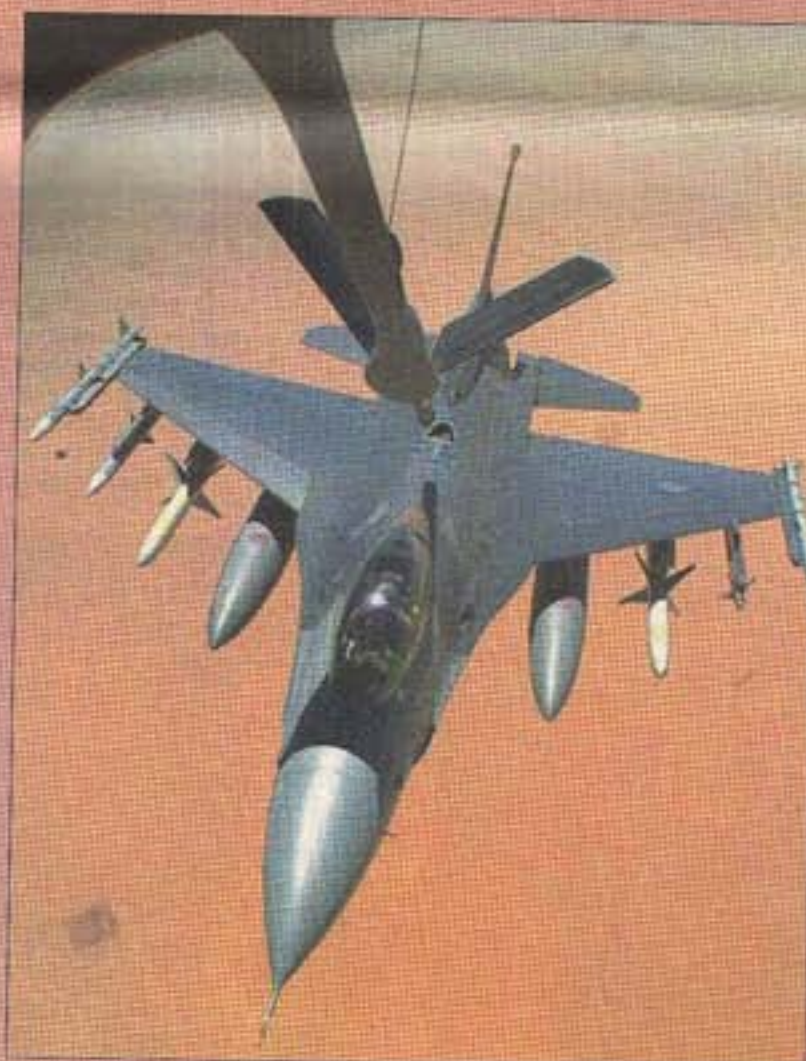


Photo by MSgt. Ken Scarborough

## OVER IRAQ

An F-16 pilot with the California Air Guard's 144th Fighter Wing gets fuel over the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq. Nearly 300 airmen and women with the Fresno-based wing recently deployed to Southwest Asia as part of the Air Force's Aerospace Expeditionary Force supporting Operation Southern Watch.





## 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.

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## GUARD MAIL

## Taking Offense

I am writing to respond to the letter a major sent regarding her offense over your January issue.

I, like the major, am also completing a 22-year career in the National Guard. I also saw the January issue, but did not get the same impression that she did, or draw the same conclusions. It seems almost impossible to publish anything that does not offend someone.

This new age of political correctness threatens to extinguish all of our individual differences, and homogenize our society. I believe in equal opportunity for people of all races, religion and gender, and have let this value serve as a guide throughout my career.

I can only conclude that she has a chip on her shoulder and is out on a witch hunt.

Sgt. Scott A. Evans  
New Mexico National Guard

## Disaster Deeds

Your story of the Army Guard units assisting the people of Venezuela omitted a deed by an Air Guard unit that I wish to bring to light.

The 105th Airlift Wing, a C-5 unit based in Newburgh, N.Y., was tasked to deliver a Puerto Rico Army Guard water purification unit into Venezuela.

After delivering its cargo, the aircraft had broken down and was unable to depart. Four 105th security force

members and two crew chiefs stayed with this aircraft for nearly a week, spending the holiday away from their families in a country that had been devastated.

The 105th airmen worked 24-hour shifts, and only showered and slept in a real bed every other day.

Despite being stranded during the holiday, these New York Air Guardmembers displayed exceptional pride and honor in assisting a nation during its time of uncertainty, while making the best of a difficult situation.

SSgt. John Cronin  
New York National Guard

## Glassy Eyed

I'm writing regarding the February issue that featured a picture on your front page of an individual wearing mirrored sunglasses while attending the Minnesota National Guard's winter warfare school at Camp Ripley.

Why do we do this to ourselves? We try so hard to ensure that our Guardmembers, both Air and Army, follow the proper dress and personal appearance standards — yet you put something like this on the front cover.

Where do we draw the line? If I was the editor, and knew this individual was out of uniform, it would have never made it into the newspaper.

As a Air National Guard first sergeant, I try very hard to discourage the wear of inappropriate eyewear. Mirrored sunglasses are prohibited in the Air Guard, and I am sure it's the same in the Army Guard.

Let's focus on running photographs

of Guardmembers that meet the standards versus those who do not.

MSgt. Bryan J. Bell  
Arizona National Guard

## Low Light?

I recently read one of your articles about the performance of the District of Columbia National Guard in conjunction with the demonstrations in Washington D.C.

The article deemed the performance as "one of the National Guard's finest hours on the domestic front." I would not call it one of our finest hours, unless you get a great feeling from being ready to beat the crap out of some demonstrators?

Is it such a great thing to support a totally underpaid police force, while taking jobs away from police officers that would have been hired if the Guard weren't there?

The fact we were there as Guardmembers is something that should be supported and reported, but not as one of our "finest hours."

Phillip S. Schwarzkopf  
Spartanburg, S.C.

## LETTERS POLICY:

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

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## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

Comments or ideas: lfarquhar@mostj.ang.af.mil



"Now you've done it, Private! You know the 'regs' against body piercing."





## IN THE NEWS

■ Vaccine Shortage ■ Florida Fires ■ Franklin Mourned

## Some deploying troops affected by anthrax vaccine shortage

■ Guard WMD teams will continue to receive shots

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

National Guard troops have bared an arm and looked away from the needle nearly 109,000 times while getting well over half of the anthrax shots given to members of all seven reserve components during the first two years of the Defense Department's immunization program.

That was the shot record reported by the Pentagon when the program was slowed down during July's second week, because of a shortage of tested and safe anthrax vaccine. Defense Secretary William Cohen announced on July 10 that only those troops serving in Southwest Asia and Korea for more than 30 days will continue to be vaccinated during the next few months until the supply is replenished.

One notable exception to the 30-day edict includes members of the National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction teams. Cohen added that WMD experts from California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington will continue their inoculations.

"We will make every effort to continue vaccinating those of you who are serving in the high-threat areas," Cohen promised the nation's 2.4 million service members. "And as soon as a sufficient and safe supply of

vaccine is available, we will expand the program, ultimately vaccinating all members of the active and reserve force."

Defense officials maintained they have enough vaccine to protect all of the people on the ground serving in those theaters. However, those members of the Army and Air Guard deploying to the area for less than 30 days will do so without the full complement of shots.

"There is not a policy that says how many [shots] they have to get, but once a person is assigned, we begin their shot protocols as soon as we can," said Marine Maj. Gen. Randy West, senior advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Protection.

Although the six shots are administered over 18 months, the first three shots are given during the first four weeks.

Defense officials also indicated that those who have received two or more of the six shots in the inoculation series would not have to start the process all over again. They will simply resume the series when more vaccine is available.

Guardmembers have already faced the needle many times since May 1998 when Cohen mandated that all of the nation's military personnel be inoculated against anthrax, a biological weapon that is considered 99 percent lethal to unprotected, untreated individuals who inhale the spores.

All told, 31,419 Army and Air Guardmembers have received 108,693 shots. That accounts for a large major-

ity of the 55,353 reserve component troops who have been inoculated 190,070 times.

By July, 24,716 members of the nation's Air Guard had

"We believe the program is a resounding victory for force health protection of the individual service member"

■ See ANTHRAX, Page 4

## Floridians fighting more than 4,000 wildfires

More than 300 Florida National Guard troops have been placed on active duty to help the state's Division of Forestry (DOF) combat wildfires that continue to burn.

According to Florida National Guard officials, the main effort remains mopping up fires located in the Suwannee, Jacksonville, Lakeland and Withlacoochee fire districts, where new fires were reported.

Guard men and women have been used for ground and air firefighting missions, where more than 4,000 fires have burned an estimated 140,000 acres statewide.

Almost half the soldiers on duty are trained firefighters and it is an-

anticipated that 40 more will be trained upon the DOF's request.

Guard firefighters working ground missions have "mopped up" more than 60 fires in the four fire districts.

The state's air firefighting effort has been served by several helicopter crews from Company D, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation, based in Lakeland. The crews -- logging over 340 flight hours -- have dropped in excess of 2.5 million gallons of water on more than 40 fires.

The combined efforts of the Florida



Photo by Spc. Thomas Kleibassa  
**MOP UP -- Florida National Guard firefighters hose down a hot spot where a dry marshland area had caught fire.**

National Guard and the Division of Forestry have saved nearly 1,100 homes and numerous other structures.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Former D.C. adjutant dies

Calvin G. Franklin, 71, a retired Army Guard major general who as commander of the District of Columbia National Guard oversaw the mobilization of its units during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield, died at the home of his son in San Diego.

Franklin had served at various commands and staff positions in the California Army National Guard when President Ronald Reagan appointed him commander of the D.C. Guard in 1981.

In that capacity, he commanded more than 4,000 Guardmembers and managed a budget of more than \$800 million.

He enlisted in the California National Guard in 1948 and served with the 1402nd Engineer Battalion during the Korean War. Upon his release from active duty, he returned to the California Guard, where he was commissioned a second lieutenant. After retiring from the military in 1991, he founded Engineering Systems Consultants Inc. He was the company's president and chief executive officer until his death.

The general is survived by his wife, Betty, and their three children, Steven, Kevin and Gail.

### Husband, wife promoted to colonel simultaneously

Air National Guard husband-and-wife Allison and Robert Hickey were promoted to colonel simultaneously recently.

Robert, the commander of the Maryland Air Guard 175th Airlift Wing's logistics group, and Allison, chief of National Guard Bureau's Strategies Initiatives Group, pinned on their eagles at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Andrews AFB, Md.

Besides being promoted simultaneously, the Hickey's also are U.S. Air Force Academy graduates, he in 1978, and she in 1980. They have both served as pilots, she on KC-135 and KC-10 air-to-air refueling aircraft, and he on T-37 trainers and later on A-10 "Warthog" close-support aircraft.

The Hickey's three children, Tyler, 12, Chelsea, 10, and Michael, 4, attended the ceremony.

Robert, an American Airlines pilot, said he and his wife's promotion applications had been submitted separately through each of their respective Air Guard organizations.

"We had nothing to do with it," he said of the coincidence. "It just wound up that way when the federal recognition board results came out."



## IN THE NEWS

## ANTHRAX

FROM PAGE 3

received at least one anthrax vaccination and 22,084 had been given three shots. In all, 86,222 shots had been administered to Air Guard personnel.

More Air Guard people have gotten the anthrax shots than members of the six other reserve components because of their deployments to Southwest Asia.

That region and Korea are considered the most likely to be attacked by anthrax-carrying weapons produced by rogue governments or terrorists.

A total of 22,471 shots had been given to Army Guard soldiers, according to a July 5 report that indicated 6,703 citizen-soldiers had received their first shots and that 5,385 had gotten three shots.

In all, 455,378 active and reserve troops had taken at least one anthrax shot in the arm, and more than 1.8 million shots had been administered.

"We believe the program is a resounding victory for health protection of the individual service member," said a Defense Department official.

Only 351 people — less than one percent — have refused to take the shots and have been disciplined or released from service, West told reporters. Just 848 people have reported adverse reactions to the shots.

The Center for Disease Control has stated people do not need to re-start the whole series, pointed out Dr. J. Jarrett Clinton, first assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

"Rather, you just pick up where you were," Clinton said. "So, indeed, if an individual had two shots, didn't have access to the third and waited six months, then they would start [with] the third and go right back on schedule again."

"Of course," Secretary Cohen stated, "the rest of our force health protection package, such as detectors in the field and full supplies of antibiotics, are going to remain in place while we await more vaccine."

## Ecuador school named for fallen major

By Lt. Col. Phil Miller  
Kentucky National Guard

It has been nearly two years since Kentucky Army Guard Maj. Robert Hacker died in Ecuador. However, one look into the eyes of the children who attend the school in Esmeraldas that bears his name, and you know his spirit lives.

An 18-year veteran of the Guard, Hacker was in charge of operations for a humanitarian relief mission when he died in a vehicle accident on July 8, 1998, just three days before he was to return home to his wife and young son.

Hacker's assignment had been to direct the work of more than 1,300 U.S. soldiers and airmen participating in a five-month effort in the impoverished coastal province, building schools and clinics and providing medical care.

Shortly after his death, Hacker's family and friends established a memorial fund that collected nearly \$4,000 to purchase school supplies to further aid the children Hacker had traveled to Ecuador to help.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito also got involved, with Cultural Affairs Attache Susan Crystal working with Peace Corps volunteer Julie Smithwick in Esmeraldas to find a school in need.

Having worked with the people of the coastal city for three years, Smithwick had little difficulty identifying a needy school in the city's poverty-stricken El Neuvo Palmar barrio. But Smithwick went a step further by working with local leaders to have the school named for Hacker.

Esmeraldas school officials agreed, and in April, a small delegation led by Kentucky Adjutant General Russ Groves went back to Ecuador for the official dedica-



Photos by Lt. Col. Phil Miller

tion of "Escuela Robert S. Hacker."

Situated near the Pacific Ocean on Ecuador's north coast, Palmar barrio is a maze of ramshackle wood and concrete block buildings. Deeply rutted dirt roads narrow to less than a vehicle's width in some places, providing a thorough-

fare for the scores of adults and barefoot children who live there.

A crowd of 200 parents, students and Ecuadorian military gathered at the school, where three buildings house 65 students in grades one through six.

Ecuadorian officials started the ceremony by formally welcoming the U.S. delegation. Groves, speaking in Spanish, described Hacker, whom none of the Ecuadorians had ever met, but whose name is known throughout the barrio.

"Today we come together in the true spirit of partnership that Robert Hacker supported," Groves said. "More than just a collection of concrete blocks and textbooks, this school, filled with the voices

**FITTING LEGACY** — Children of Ecuador's Palmar barrio sit at the new desks and chairs purchased for them through the Robert S. Hacker (inset) Memorial Fund.

of children and their hopes for the future, is a symbol of his legacy."

School principal Xiomara Angulo, her voice breaking with emotion, repeatedly told the Kentucky delegation, "Mil Gracias! Mil gracias!" (a thousand thank-yous) for the gift of badly needed school supplies. She also accepted from Groves a U.S. flag and a framed photograph of Hacker to place on the wall of the school.

Rev. Ivano Zanovello, an Italian-born Catholic priest who emigrated to South America 37 years ago, left the Kentuckians with an impassioned plea.

"Tell the people of your country how much we thank them for their generosity," he began. "Tell them, 'thank you for the love your soldiers have shown our children and our country.' And above all, tell them, 'thank you, thank you for Major Robert Hacker!'"



Photo by SSgt. Deborah L. Welch

## PLANE PULL

One of the 30 teams that participated in the Delaware National Guard's 'Plane Pull 2000' tries to pull a 100,000-pound, C-130 aircraft 12 feet in the fastest time. In its sixth year at the 166th Airlift Wing in Newark, the event raised a record \$18,000 for the Special Olympics.



## ■ Best in Blue: Marklevits, Gonzales, Charity and Means

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Being a quality leader, a role model for her troops, has long been high on Lizbeth Means' list of priorities. Now, she knows, the heat is on.

"A lot more people will be looking to me to be a good leader after all of this," the staff sergeant in the Arizona Air National Guard candidly observed while visiting the Pentagon on June 14, Flag Day.

Means came to Washington, D.C., during June's middle week with her husband Joe, who is also an Air Guard staff sergeant, and 11-year-old daughter Melanie, because she is the Air Guard's noncommissioned officer of the year.

She also was in the company of two other NCOs and one airman who have also been named the Air Guard's top enlisted people for 2000. The foursome got the VIP treatment during the week that the National Guard sets aside each year to honor its premier people who wear the stripes.

They were hailed as "twice the citizens" because they lead full civilian lives while serving their country in the Air and Army Guard.

Means, who lived for 16 years in Chihuahua, Mexico, with her grandparents before moving with them to California in 1982, packs a lot of punch. Just five-feet-tall, she is clearly in charge of every encounter. She began her military career in the active Army after graduating from San Jose High School in 1985. Now she is very much at home in the Arizona Air Guard that she joined in 1995.

She is a full-time supervisor with the Arizona Guard's Joint Counter-Narcotics Task Force in Phoenix. Four Army Guard people work for her. In her part-time Guard capacity, Means is a personnel journeyman in the 161st Military Personnel Flight, responsible for the enlistments, discharges and retirements for more than a thousand people at Arizona's state headquarters, also in Phoenix.

She became a United States citizen in 1994. She also is pursuing a degree in criminal justice. Means said she hopes to study law, claiming "I want [Attorney General] Janet Reno's job one day."

Two of the Guard soldiers who work for her full-time traveled to Washington as a sign of their respect.

The four Air Guard winners, including two veterans of the active Air Force, are assigned to units from Maryland to Washington State. The three others are:

■ **MSgt. Jim Marklevits**, Kansas, Senior NCO of the Year: He is the fuels compliance and environmental supervisor for the 184th Bomb Wing's logistics squadron in Wichita.

He joined the active Air Force in 1983, served in New Mexico and Alaska, and was twice recognized as airman of the month. Marklevits joined the Kansas Air Guard in 1988, took a position at Wisconsin's Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center in 1993, and returned to the Kansas Air Guard in 1996.

■ **SMSgt. Richard Gonzales**, Washington state, First Sergeant of the Year: He is the First Sergeant assigned to the Western Air Defense Sector, McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma.

Gonzales enlisted in the active Air Force in September 1978 and was named Outstanding NCO of the Year while performing the additional duty of First Sergeant in Okinawa. He joined the Washington state Air Guard after leaving active duty in April 1997.

■ **Senior Airman Cyril Charity**, District of Columbia, Airman of the Year: He is a security specialist in the D.C. Air Guard's 113th Security Police Squadron based at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. He also has been named one of the entire Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"I'm kind of still in disbelief," he said.

Charity joined the Air Guard in October 1995 and has served on a security forces squadron at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. He also belongs to the

■ See **AIRMEN**, Page 13

## Airmen, Soldiers of Year Selected



Airmen of the Year:  
Means (left), Charity,  
Marklevits and  
Gonzales.



Soldiers of the Year:  
Komperud (left),  
Wright, Frey, Nelson,  
Irizarry and  
Cruz.

## ■ Great in Green: Nelson, Wright, Frey, Cruz, Komperud and Irizarry

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The 26.2 miles that he ran in 2 hours, 38 seconds in West Palm Beach, Fla., a year ago May was one sign of Jesse Nelson's resolve.

That gave him a seventh-place finish in the small-college, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' national track and field meet marathon during his senior spring at South Dakota's Mount Marty College.

Qualifying for that race, along with his 3.5 grade point average, secured Nelson's status as a three-time Academic All-American and as one of this country's premier young citizen-soldiers.

Fact is, artillery Sgt. Jesse Nelson is one of the Army National Guard's six outstanding soldiers and noncommissioned officers for 2000. He is the top Guard soldier for the 5th U.S. Army that encompasses the 22 continental states west of the Mississippi River.

Nelson, 23, now teaches biology and coaches three sports at Red Wing High School in Minnesota. He is still a fire direction specialist in the South Dakota Army Guard's multiple launch rocket systems battery in Yankton, 350 miles and a five-hour drive to the west. He also runs with the South Dakota National Guard's marathon team.

"If you're going to do something, you might as well do your best at it -- in school, in running, and in the Guard," observed Nelson. He was honored in Washington, D.C., with the five other winners when the U.S. Army celebrated its 225th birthday on June 14.

That, Nelson added, is why he remained focused throughout the 15-month selection process that earned him and his fiancée, Tara Sterling, a trip to the nation's capital this June. The final hurdle was a 10-minute interview before the 5th Army's selection board of five sergeants major last March in Colorado.

"I tried to stay relaxed," explained Nelson who was born in Sioux Falls, S.D., and who joined the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery with his younger brother Craig in December 1995. "I wanted to do my best for South Dakota."

Doing their best is what the six Army Guard soldiers, who live and serve from Florida to Guam, are all about. Two of them are veterans of the 1990-91 Persian Gulf campaign.

"These are the Army National Guard's top soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the United States' two continental armies and from the Pacific region for 2000. They have met extremely rigorous standards and have been endorsed by many selection boards to achieve this honor," said CSM John Leonard Jr., head of the Army National Guard's nearly 320,000 enlisted soldiers.

Leonard hosted the five men and one woman who spent much of the June week learning about National Guard policies and visiting such landmarks as Arlington National Cemetery, the Air and Space Museum and the White House. They were honored, with the Air National Guard's four Airmen of the Year, during a June 15 banquet at Bolling Air Force Base.

Other Army Guard winners are:

■ **First U.S. Army Spc. Jason Wright**, Massachusetts, Soldier of the Year; and **SSgt. Jennifer Komperud**, Florida, NCO of the Year.

Wright served on active duty at Fort Benning, Ga., and belongs to C Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry, in Cambridge, Mass.

The Minuteman replicas that the 10 outstanding soldiers and airmen received during the banquet reminded Wright of the original Minuteman statue that stands in his hometown of Arlington, Mass., next to Lexington where colonial militiamen faced British troops in 1775.

Komperud, who took part in the 1990-91 Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations while on active duty at Fort Lewis, Wash., now serves in the Florida Army Guard's 260th Military Intelligence Battalion.

■ **Fifth U.S. Army Sgt. Eric Frey**, Oregon, NCO of the Year.

■ See **SOLDIERS**, Page 13



LT. COL. MARK BORRESON

Three National Guard officers are working unique jobs in our Nation's capital

# Soldiers in SUITS

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

A year ago, Army National Guard officer Mark Borreson figured he had a pretty good grip on how Congress works.

He had, after all, mastered his high school and college civics and history lessons in his native state of Washington. He had earned a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He had dealt with congressional inquiries about military matters while serving at the National Guard Bureau.

Congress? That couldn't be too hard. Or so he thought.

Then, last January, Mark Borreson went to work for Patty Murray, the second-term, junior U.S. senator from Washington state. He was a new Army Congressional Fellow -- Murray's adviser for military and veterans issues. He discovered he had much to learn about how things really work on Capitol Hill.

So it has gone this year for the 39-year-old lieutenant colonel who has expanded his horizons far beyond the boundaries of the Guard Bureau and the Pentagon.

"I thought it would be interesting and exciting, working in the halls of Congress for an entire session," Borreson remarked on a late-May day in the library-quiet Russell Senate Office Building beside the nation's capitol. "It has been far more educational and enlightening than I would ever have imagined."

It was the day the House of Representatives passed the bill advocated by President William Clinton to establish permanent normal trade relations with China. It was another historic, business-as-usual day in Washington.

The work behind the scenes did not stop for Mark Borreson. Several pieces of proposed legislation had to be evaluated, including legislation authorizing additional full-time positions for Army and Air Guard units. And the new wing commander at Washington's Fairchild Air



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Force Base paid a courtesy call on the senator.

Borreson is one of this year's National Guard soldiers in suits who are learning what can best be described as the *D.C. Dance*--the art of pushing legislation and getting things done with patience and persuasion.

"It's a corporate sales job every day," explained Borreson who looked very much the executive in a gray suit, red print tie, white shirt and black, wing-tip shoes.

"You have to be ready to sell someone on a bill your boss is pushing or help organize a group to serve the mutual needs of several senators," Borreson added. "Dealing with other congressional staff members requires interpersonal skills that are different from those you normally use in a military environment. Over here, personal relationships count for everything."

Other Army Guard officers are learning similar lessons inside the Beltway.

Maj. Tom Leonard is the liaison officer to the National Domestic Preparedness Office at FBI headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Maj. Hunt Kerrigan is an executive assistant for Thomas Donohue, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's president and chief executive officer.

Two Air Guard members, Maj. Sandye Blalock and civilian Ruth Lodder, are pulling Air Force Fellowship tours, similar to Borreson's, with Vermont Sen. James Jeffords and New Jersey's Frank Lautenberg.

**TAKING the 'HILL'** -- Lt. Col. Mark Borreson (right) discusses issues affecting Guardmembers with Washington Sen. Patty Murray.

talk to it is extremely valuable," Murray said.

Borreson quickly jumped from the frying pan into the fire.

Just days after reporting to Murray's office last January, he drafted a letter to Defense Secretary William Cohen's office, on behalf of the senator. The letter asked about reductions to the new Basic Allowance for Housing stipends at the same time that Congress had approved pay raises for all military people. In many cases, the decreases in housing allowances canceled out the pay raises.

Murray had learned that the new allowances provided less money for off-base housing while visiting the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. The letter asked for "a thorough report" on the impact of the housing allowance "on service members at Washington state military installations" and for "greater clarification on the methodology used to determine BAH rates in general."

Borreson faxed it to Cohen's office at 4 p.m. on the Friday before the three-day holiday weekend honoring the late Martin Luther King Jr.

He knew from his previous experience that some action officer in the Pentagon would probably spend that weekend preparing a response.

"I have to admit it felt much better to be at the starting end of the process," Borreson acknowledged. "We really did have a serious constituency problem, and we needed to get our hands on an explanation."

It seemed that he had come a long way indeed since 1988 when Borreson, then an Army captain, stood beside a sign in West Germany warning U.S. personnel not to proceed "without authority" to the Czechoslovakian border one kilometer away.

That moment is captured in a photo on his desk in the Senate office where he has seen first-hand how much power people like Patty Murray really have.

Defense officials studied the housing allowance problem with several members of the Washington state congressional delegation and pumped \$27 million into the program. Another \$160 million for housing allowances has been included in the 2001 defense budget to reduce out of pocket expenses for service members, he explained.

The letter to Cohen started the ball rolling. The work of many congressional staff members helped persuade the Defense Department to review and change the program, Borreson said.

"People were just furious because the housing allowance had changed," recalled Murray, who discovered that Borreson was a quick study. "One of Mark's first tasks was to figure out what happened and help me get through that one."



# SOLDIERS IN SUITS

## MAJ. TOM LEONARD

# Working the other Bureau

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Saying that Tom Leonard is serious about soldiering is like saying that the sun rises in the east.

At 36, his very persona, his regard for the profession of arms, is dedicated and direct, even when he is not wearing an Army uniform.

Most days he does not, although he is a major in the Army National Guard. This soldier in a suit is right at home in the Washington, D.C., building renowned for its serious, no-nonsense workers thanks to the image forged by actors Efrem Zimbalist Jr. and Jimmy Stewart, by author Tom Clancy, and by the man for whom it is named — J. Edgar Hoover.

Tom Leonard works at the Federal Bureau of Investigation — the FBI.

He has been the National Guard's liaison officer to the National Domestic Preparedness Office on the 11th floor since January 1999. He expects to be there for another couple of years.

"This is really a great group of folks," the man from Massachusetts explained during an afternoon in early June. "They are not nearly as secretive or as mysterious as most people think they are. But they do have a deep-rooted commitment to doing what they're supposed to be doing."

For most, that means "putting bad people in jail," Leonard explained. His commitment is considerably different — helping state and local emergency officials prepare to deal with terrorists and weapons of mass destruction.

What to do should a renegade bomber target their town or chlorine gas poison the air or some biological agent make people deathly ill is what that federal office has been all about since Attorney General Janet Reno ordered its formation in October 1998.

It is "a one-stop shopping center," Leonard explained, where a police captain in Nevada or an emergency medical technician in North Carolina can get help and training from such federal agencies as Health and Human Services, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency,



**BUREAU MAN** -- Maj. Tom Leonard, an Army Guard infantry officer, spends his days working with the FBI's National Domestic Preparedness office on how to deal with terrorists.

and the Departments of Energy, Justice and Defense.

Maj. Tom Leonard is the man from Defense — the resident expert on how and when National Guard troops and resources can be used during a community crisis such as the Oklahoma City bombing.

A yellow, over-sized sniper tab above his desk speaks of his 16-year, Army Guard background. He has been on active duty for 11 years. He is an infantry officer who has gone to airborne school, trained in mountain warfare, and run a sniper school in Massachusetts for troops who served during the Persian Gulf War.

He has shown up at some remarkable places — on the 1996 Olympics Joint Task Force in Atlanta and the 1997 Armed Forces Inaugural Committee in Washington. He has been a featured speaker at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and at the National Defense University.

It is, Leonard acknowledged, soldiering at a higher level.

"Of course I miss wearing my camouflage uniforms and face paint," he explained. "But you can't be a snake-eater forever. Now I can take advantage of my other abilities in a different venue. Now I can have a major impact on developing policies that will help influence the National Guard's future."

He is, in a word, comfortable at the FBI.

"I have the opportunity to learn all kinds of things about this agency that very few people ever get close to," said Leonard who is surrounded by kindred spirits. "Once you get inside and start talking with these people," he added, "you discover that an operator is an operator is an operator."

# SOLDIERS IN SUITS

## MAJ. HUNT KERRIGAN

# Worldwide WEBSTER

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The Daniel Webster Room, where financial power-brokers and other foreign and domestic dignitaries frequently meet, is a special place for Army National Guard Maj. Hunt Kerrigan.

It is located in the United States Chamber of Commerce Building, H Street, Washington, D.C. An imposing portrait of Webster, one of 19th century America's most influential orators and statesmen, accounts for much of the room's historical atmosphere.

Webster, states *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*, was an "advocate of business interests during Jacksonian agrarianism." That means that Webster was an advocate for the American industrial revolution that established this country as a world power in manufacturing as well as agriculture.

Kerrigan has visited the Webster Room often this year because he is working for Thomas Donohue, president and chief executive officer of the Chamber of Commerce. The Maryland Guard officer takes special pride in pointing out that Daniel Webster is one of the prominent people in his family tree.

The name is, after all, Hunt Webster Kerrigan.

Kerrigan, 38, is a Norwich University graduate and a former enlisted Army cavalry scout who patrolled the East German border in the mid-80s. For now, he is a National Guard soldier in a suit.

He is serving as the traveling executive assistant and press secretary to the dynamic, globe-trotting Donohue who has been credited with reviving the nation's largest business affiliation into one

of the most aggressive lobbying forces on Capitol Hill.

"It's been an amazing year, because Mr. Donohue flies all over the world promoting American business interests and raising money for the Chamber of Commerce," Kerrigan explained. "I get to tell captains of industry about all the great things the National Guard is doing."

His travels have included a trip to Seattle, Wash., late last year for the World Trade Organization conference, which was disrupted by headline-grabbing protests, and to Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum attended by President William Clinton and other heads of state.

In Seattle, Kerrigan went head-to-head with a few protesters trying to interfere with Donohue's schedule. In Switzerland, Kerrigan coordinated coverage of Donohue's visit with Reuters news service and CNN.

"Hunt's military expertise and international experience are key to his job," Donohue observed.

Donohue is clearly an advocate of former President Calvin Coolidge's pronouncement that "the chief business of the American people is business."

He supported the legislation that the U.S. House of Representatives passed to normalize America's trade relations with China.

Although he never served in uniform himself, Donohue strongly supports the reserve components' integration into the total military force — provided it does not create undue

hardships for business people who rely on a stable work force.

"The increasing use of National Guard and Reserve military personnel is exacerbating an already critical worker shortage, especially for small businesses," wrote Donohue in June's Chamber of Commerce publication *uschamber.com*.

"America's military can always count on the support of business," he added. "All we ask is that our government demonstrate a similar commitment to business by keeping disruptions to a minimum."

Thanks to his duties with Donohue this year, Maj. Hunt Kerrigan is gaining plenty of insight into why it is critical and how it is possible for business people and for America's citizen-soldiers to get along and work together.



Maj. Hunt Webster Kerrigan with kin, Daniel Webster.



## OPERATION CORNERSTONE 2000

With donated equipment, Vermont Air Guard engineers teamed with Marines to build a playground in Macedonia

## Courting Goodwill

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**A** tall, spindly Macedonian lad named Ristof is a Los Angeles Lakers basketball fan. His jersey sporting the team's distinctive yellow and purple colors makes that very clear.

A stocky Marine Corps Reserve major named John Church is a life-long Detroit Tigers baseball fanatic. If you doubt that, ask him -- he'll make it very clear.

One other thing was clear. Thanks to Church and a host of other American military people, and the family that owns the Tigers, Ristof and his friends began playing basketball, on a new, smooth concrete court in the Republic of Macedonia on June 19.

Constructing that court is the kind of goodwill gesture many hope will promote peace in the Balkans for many years to come.

The court, complete with white backboards and orange hoops, is in Negotino, a southern Macedonia community beside the Vardar River. It takes up one half of an acre-sized playground that Air Guard civil engineers from Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing, Marine Reserve combat engineers, Navy Seabees and Macedonian soldiers and civilian contractors built with about \$25,000 of privately-donated equipment.

Church, the ranking Marine on the joint military staff, obtained \$20,000 of that from Michael and Marian Ilitch, who own the Tigers. The Ilitch family, he knew, came from Macedonia. Mike Ilitch is a former Marine.

Church's family is from Detroit. He followed the Tigers as they beat San Diego in five games to win the World Series in 1984, the year he entered the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., to earn a political science degree and a Marine Corps commission.

He now teaches media ethics at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and commands Company C in the Marine Reserves' 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, based in Lynchburg, Va.

"It has restored my faith in humanity," Church told *The Washington Post* after getting an unexpectedly generous response to a letter asking for help that he wrote to Mike Ilitch a few weeks earlier.

Marian Ilitch called Church with an offer he could not believe. "This sounds like a good idea," she said. "How much do you need?"

The military people were engaged for two months in Operation Cornerstone 2000-3, remodeling two schools, two medical clinics and a community center in nearby Krivolak and Pepeliste. The project concluded June 23. Vermont is affiliated with Macedonia through the Guard's State Partnership Program.

They took on the playground project in a field choked with weeds and surrounded by a rundown chain-link fence as a gift to the people of Macedonia, explained Vermont MSgt. Dwight Harrington.

Local contractors poured the concrete court and walkways, hauled in crushed rock and erected a new fence around the rejuvenated play area. The Vermont Guard



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**HOOP DREAMS** -- Vermont TSgt. Patrick O'Brien (right) works with Marine Reserve Sgt. Christopher Labonne to erect a basketball hoop for kids in Negotino.

people purchased a new slide, a swing set, six park benches and spring mounted rides for the town's children to play on.

By June's third Monday morning, the playground was nearly complete and dozens of youngsters were having a ball.

"These kids are really awesome. They really want to play on this equipment, but they've been real patient," marveled Marine Reserve Sgt. Christopher Labonne as he helped erect a backboard.

Once completed, Ristof and his friends began showing their stuff on the new basketball court.

"This is better. It is very good," praised Ristof in respectable English. "More kids, more friends, will come here to play basketball. We are very happy."

**BUILDING BLOCKS** -- Vermont Air Guard TSgt. Patrick Searles places a tile on a medical clinic being repaired in Krivolak.



## Better to build than to BOMB

Vermont Air Guard takes charge of Republic of Macedonia make over

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**D**wight Harrington considered his answer with a diplomat's care.

In what kind of shape, he was asked early into June's third week, was this building when this project began?

"It was in definite need of updating," replied the veteran Air National Guard master sergeant from Vermont about a medical clinic and community center that civil engineers had gutted and nearly finished rebuilding in the town of Krivolak toward the southern side of central Europe's Republic of Macedonia.

Harrington had worked on enough international projects in the past to learn that the words you use are just as important as the deeds you do. He was not about to say anything that might offend his Macedonian hosts and dampen the two months of goodwill that Operation Cornerstone 2000-3 had generated between the United States and the Balkan nation.

"This is the best kind deployment," said Harrington who took 10 weeks off from his civilian job as a senior engineering technician in Williston, Vt., to help oversee the mission in Macedonia. "It's fun to

work on the Air Force bases. But it's much better to come to places like this where people really need the help."

Long-lasting friendships with the people in the newly independent country that was formerly part of communist Yugoslavia and that may soon ask to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was the most important aspect of this military engineering exercise that ended with closing ceremonies on June 23.

Nearly 500 American and Macedonian military people, including Harrington, and civilian workers did everything possible to reinforce this partnership for peace. The Vermont Air National Guard led this part of the five-year-old effort to stabilize the Balkans because of the Green Mountain State's National Guard State Partnership relationship with Macedonia.

Specifically, the 158th Fighter Wing's civil engineer squadron in Burlington was the lead agency for a joint task force that spent May and June renovating two clinics, the community center and two schools in the neighboring towns of Pepeliste and Krivolak on the banks of the Vardar River. The force also fashioned a children's playground from an overgrown lot in nearby





Negotino thanks to \$25,000 in privately donated funds.

National Guard people have been directing New Horizons humanitarian missions in Latin America for many years. Leading this Cornerstone operation in Europe was another step in the Guard's Total Force integration.

Villages of red-tile roofed homes and green vineyards flourishing in the summer sun punctuate the mountainous Macedonian countryside where horse-drawn wagons still share the roads with trucks and automobiles and where donkeys as well as tractors are used to till the fields.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell



**BALTIC BONDING** -- Vermont Spc. Erin Elliott, a public affairs soldier, jokes with Macedonian children.

Into this European setting came a total of 209 Air National Guard civil engineers from Vermont, Indiana and Oregon, 100 Marine Reserve combat engineers from Baltimore, Md., and from Lynchburg and Roanoke, Va., and 50 active duty and reserve Navy Seabees out of Rota, Spain, and Fort Belvoir, Va. They

were commanded by Idaho Air Guard Col. Clayton Anderson, an Army veteran of Vietnam who has been a civil engineer for 25 years.

That American force, split into four rotations, served for the two months with 100 or so Macedonian soldiers and civilian workers led by Col. Trajce Jakimoski, who on Sept. 1 will conclude a 32-year career in the armies of the Yugoslav Republic and Macedonia.

"The number one mission is good will. Number two is the building," maintained Anderson. "If we didn't want to build good relationships, we

could have sent the money and had this work done. As engineers, we can leave behind a byproduct of our efforts. This is a way to take a positive step for peace.

"Besides," he added, "these joint task forces are the way our forces will deploy in the future. Members of our different services have to learn how to communicate with each other

and to understand that the Finns, the Bosnians, the Macedonians do things differently from the way we work in the United States. We have to be able to understand the different customs and cultures of the places where we may go."

Two granite cornerstones from Vermont, imprinted with Macedonian and U.S. flags, will be placed at the clinics and will represent a new foundation of respect between the two countries, predicted Jakimoski.

The Macedonian troops improved their construction skills and their English by working on the same school or clinic project for the entire two months, he observed.

"We are working on schools and medical facilities that will be used for many years," he said. "Everything we've done so far is a new experience for our soldiers. This is a chance to see the United States' standards and way of building things; to meet new people and to find new friends. Before, we were two different militaries. Now we are working together like two units. I

hope we have a lot of these kind of exercises in the future."

The young Marine reservists and more seasoned Air National Guard troops made many friends among the 20-year-old Macedonian soldiers who were spending their mandatory nine months in uniform. Most everyone spent as much time learning one another's language as they spent mixing mortar, laying cement blocks and installing electrical and heating systems.

Macedonia's Cornerstone crew included the country's junior handball champion, a European boxing titlist, and the owner of a small company that manufactures jeans.

"Our preconceived, Cold-War notions of this area are completely false," said well-traveled Vermont TSgt. Patrick Searles as he placed tile squares in the Krivolak clinic's hallway. "These are the most friendly people I've met in all of the deployments I've been on."

Those feelings were mutual.

"I have very good impressions of American soldiers. I have joked with them and worked hard with them," said Marian Kuzmanovski, a Macedonian private, nine days before his enlistment ended. "I had never worked with mortar or cement or plywood before. I have been in school all of my life, and in the combat engineers we trained mostly with mines and explosives."

The overriding feeling among those engaged in the Cornerstone project in Macedonia, however, was that blowing things up is not the way to promote peace among people. Everyone agreed that it is far better to build than to bomb.

**MACEDONIA MAKE OVER** -- Vermont SSgt. Clem Devlin (far left photo) operates a front-end loader as Marine Reserve Cpl. Mitchell Ferguson helps him guide dirt used as fill for a 15,000-gallon fuel tank. TSgt. Jeff Winchester (right) observes Macedonian Cpl. Trajce Kolarouski connect pipes to a heater at a community center in Krivolak.





## SPORTS

■ Good Fortuna in England ■ Setting Sights on Sydney

## SPORTS SHORTS

**Guard marksmen on target in England**

The United States National Guard All-Guard International Combat Team defeated the English Territorial Army Team to win the Fortuna trophy at the Territorial Army Skill at Arms Meeting in Bisley, England June 29-30.

The all-Guard team won with a score of 4,861 over the Territorial Army's 4,779. It was the fourth year in a row that the trophy returned to the team's home at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center in Little Rock, Ark.

The Fortuna was first awarded in 1882 for a match between the British Territorial Army and American Volunteers at Creedmoor Ranges on Long Island, N.Y. The actual trophy was then held at a personal residence until it was presented to the British National Rifle Association in 1932. In 1990 the competition between the British Territorial Army and the National Guard resumed, with the Fortuna Trophy as the prize.

The actual Fortuna competition consists of two days of grueling events that include three rifle matches and one pistol match in full military gear.

In individual competition, Wisconsin Army Guard Capt. J.R. Trehanne earned 644 points to win the Astor Challenge Cup for the highest individual aggregate score during the Fortuna competition. Trehanne's efforts also won him the Noble and Mullens trophies.

"The Fortuna competition is stiff," said Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Charles Cox. "It's a great experience, but it is the best of the best and you can't make a mistake."

*Reported by Arkansas Army Guard Spc. Micah Grant.*

## ■ Headed for Olympics:

*Unique gunsmith background earns ticket to games*

By Sgt. Roy Henry  
Georgia National Guard

When the men and women of the United States shooting team aim for an Olympic medal in Sydney, Australia, this September, they will trust the maintenance of the specialized weapons they fire to Scott Pilkington.

Pilkington, 36, is a Georgia Army Guard chief warrant officer who works as an armament repair technician with the Department of Logistics at Headquarters, State Area Command, based at Fort Oglethorpe in Atlanta.

Pilkington said his selection as the U.S. shooting team's gunsmith requires him to possess knowledge on unique firearms and airguns. These specially-made match firearms, manufactured in German, Austria and Italy, have little use to anyone but Olympic marksmen. Because of their design, only a few people are qualified to work on them, Pilkington said.

Pilkington was notified of his selection by the U.S. Olympic Committee in March. He called his selection an honor.

"Getting the opportunity to work with firearms and individuals of this kind is something I really look forward to doing," Pilkington said smiling.

During the games, Pilkington will be responsible for ensuring everything from the team's double-barreled shotguns to its .177 caliber air rifles and pistols, is in top working order.

"The shotguns and rifles are more reliable and need only fine tuning based on the individual athlete's preferences in trigger pull, sighting and handling," Pilkington said.

Marksmen, he said, rely heavily on their gunsmith to ensure the firearm they use in competition functions flawlessly. The difference between winning an event and losing one can be because a weapon is not at its best, Pilkington added.

"In the world of Olympic shooting there is no such thing as second guessing how a particular firearm may perform," he said. "It has to work the first time, and it must give the athlete the edge he needs to



Photo courtesy of CWO Scott Pilkington

be the one wearing Olympic gold."

Pilkington first became involved in gunsmithing for firearms competitions with the All-Guard small bore rifle and pistol teams in 1986. By 1990, he was accompanying the team to international competitions.

In 1995 he went with the U.S. shooting team to the Pan American Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in 1998 to the World Championships in Barcelona, Spain.

More recently, Pilkington gunsmithed for the first and final Olympic selection matches in April and July at Fort Benning, Ga., and the Tom Lowe shooting grounds in Atlanta. Those events determined which marksmen would represent the U.S. in Sydney.

Pilkington began his military career as a member of the Tennessee National Guard's 181st Field Artillery in Chattanooga. He joined the Georgia National Guard in 1998.

Pilkington credits much of what he has

**ON TARGET -- Georgia Army Guard CWO Scott Pilkington, selected as the U.S. Olympic shooting team's gunsmith, fine tunes a rifle for competition.**

learned about over the years to his association with fellow gunsmiths CWO Dave Mattice and SFC Joe Chambers. They sparked his interest in becoming involved in shooting competitions.

"I learned quite a lot, especially from Chief Mattice, because of his having been the gunsmith for the 1984 and 1988 Olympic shooting teams," he said.

As the Olympic games draws near, Pilkington said the excitement of the being part of the team grows.

"I have always supported the Olympic idea and goals, as well as the men and women who take part, in one way or another," he said. "To be going with them, and to be a part of their dreams for Olympic gold, is something I will always remember."



# Hero's Welcome

Oregon Army Guard engineers help Czech Republic celebrate 55 years of freedom

By SFC Eric Wedeking  
National Guard Bureau

Spec. Joseph Gassner has never been asked to sign an autograph. That all changed in the historic Czech Republic town of Pilsen.

Gassner, one of 60 Oregon Army Guard citizen-soldiers with the 1249th Engineer Battalion who marched down Pilsen's main Vinohradska Street, helped that country celebrate its 55th anniversary of liberation, and the end of World War II in Europe.

An estimated 400,000 people attended the celebration in the country's western Bohemian region. The Beaver State troops were treated to an enthusiastic returning hero's welcome.

"What an amazing feeling to be welcomed the way we were," said Gassner, a combat engineer with the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Salem. "People were asking for our autographs, little kids were taking our pictures. One kid even walked up to me and asked how he could join the Army. It was cool."

The Oregonians were invited by the Czech Army to join in the liberation parade. They also were asked to play a soccer game. At the war's end 55 years ago, Czech Army troops took on soldiers with the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry, 97th Infantry and 16th Armored divisions.

Like their counterparts decades before them, the inexperienced U.S. soccer players lost their match, 7-1. Fifty-five years earlier, American GIs were trounced 11-1.

Following the drubbing, Oregon soccer players exchanged handshakes, hugs and jerseys with their gracious friends. Late in the game, the Czechs purposely let up on defense to allow the Guardsmen to score their lone goal in the spirit of "upholding the tradition."

For many Czechs, it was their first time meeting Americans.

"It's good to find out about your habits and learn about your culture. I have the feeling your soldiers are very proud and very friendly," said Czech Army Capt. George Hrazdil, a tank company commander. "The National Guard people I have met are very nice."

"The Americans made us a very free people 55 years ago," he added, "and I think it's important for them to be here to be a part of history."

The celebration required the 1249th engineers to take a break from their annual training at the



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking

Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany.

"We were more than willing to do it," said Maj. William Schutz, 1249th battalion commander. "Everybody was really looking forward to it."

Prior to venturing to the Czech Republic, the Salem-based unit secured donations of soccer uniforms, shoes and soccer balls from Oregon-based Nike. After the game, those items were given to the Czechs as a symbol of friendship.

U.S. Army officials, representing European Command and the 7th Army Training Center, said the National Guard's participation in Pilsen not only marked the return of U.S. forces to the Czech Republic, but signified the Guard's increasing role in European affairs. The Czech Republic, linked with the Texas National Guard through the Guard's State Partnership Program, became a member of

NATO last year.

"They are ambassadors for the entire United States Army, not just Oregon and the National Guard," observed Michigan Army Guard Lt. Col. Bob Williams, a plans and operations officer serving at the 7th Army Training Center in Grafenwohr.

Robert Gilbert marched through the streets of Pilsen 55 years ago when he was a private with the 2nd Division's Company F, 38th Infantry Regiment. As one of more than 300 division veterans in attendance, he said the 1249th's participation in the parade reminded him of his march through the city streets decades ago.

"When we first got here back in 1945, you couldn't walk anywhere without someone touching you," Gilbert recalled. "The Czech people are still very friendly and hospitable."

After the parade, 1249th citizen-soldiers returned to

**WELCOMED** -- Oregon Army Guard engineers joined World War II veterans during a parade in the Czech Republic.

Hohenfels to begin packing for home. Many said they would vividly remember their historic, three-day visit to Pilsen.

"It was really great to see so many people who appreciated our presence. I got really choked up a couple of times because of all of the applause people gave us," said Spec. Charles Furrey, a surveyor at the Salem-based headquarters. "Both the old and young Czech people were supportive of us being there. It was really emotional for me."

The Guardsmen also left a lasting impression on their Czech Army hosts.

"We made a good team," said Czech Lt. Col. Pospisil Jaroslav to a formation of 1249th troops. "I hope we will meet again."

## RECRUITING

FROM PAGE 1

Lt. Col. Marilyn Rios, the Air Guard's chief of recruiting and retention. "Plus, we want to remain mission-ready as we expand and take on new roles and missions."

The Air Guard can no longer maintain its credibility in the all-volunteer military force by hovering at 98 percent of its authorized strength, Weaver explained.

"I understand that it's been our culture in the past to get the work done with (fewer) people than we'd like," the two-star general observed. "But our increased tempo no longer allows this. My most pressing concern is with the kids we've hired who are hanging it up. They're saying they don't have enough time with their families and it's causing too much disruption with their employers."

"Without our officers and our enlisted noncommissioned officer core, to whom do we plan to pass the torch?"

Weaver challenged his audience. "The time to turn the corner is now. We are at a critical crossroad. It is imperative to make the improvement in this fiscal year to stay viable."

The informational arsenal will include:

- A \$13 million advertising campaign using television and radio spots and billboards in 20 to 30 market areas by next fall. One-third of that money will be distributed to field units to spread the word as quickly as possible.

- An additional 27 recruiters this year to persuade high school students to serve their country by joining the Air National Guard.

- An additional 38 recruiters between 2001 and 2003 to help spread the word.

Among the messages:

- The Air Guard has a lot to offer -- educational benefits, as well as opportunities for growth and

income

- It is possible to serve in the Air National Guard and still maintain your lifestyle at home.

- The Air Guard is no longer America's best-kept military secret for serving your community, your state and your nation.

"This advertising campaign is the first of its kind for the Air Guard," said CMSgt. Jim Hitchell, the Air Guard's enlisted leader for recruiting operations. "It will make the public more aware of what the Air Guard has to offer. We have been the best-kept secret in the United States. We can no longer survive by keeping that secret."

Spreading the word means hitting the streets and the schools, pointed out Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Broadbent, who advises Weaver on policies and issues affecting the Air Guard's enlisted force.

"We can't wait for the people to come to us," he said. "The Air Guard has to connect with young people. Our recruiters have to be out of the office all of the time, to get young people wherever they are."



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

**Laura Strange and Lois Schmidt made Georgia National Guard history** by being the first women in the Peach State's 200 year existence to be promoted to colonel.

Strange, a 26-year military veteran, is currently the Chief Nurse of Headquarters, State Area Command (STARC) in Atlanta, where she oversees all nursing activities for the 9,000-member Georgia Army Guard.

Schmidt is the 116th Bomber Wing's Support Group commander based at Warner Robins. She commands more than 250 Guard men and women in the areas of civil engineering, security police, personnel and communications.

Strange received a direct appointment in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps Candidate Program in September 1973 following two years of enlisted service in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. She joined the Georgia Army National Guard in May 1980. Currently, Strange is a PhD student in nursing at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University. She is a registered nurse in both Georgia and Texas and has served in a variety of research, clinical and management positions.

Schmidt enlisted in the Air Force in 1976. In 1982, she was commissioned through officer training school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and later trained as a missile launch officer. She served as missile launch commander at the 381st Strategic Missile Wing at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. She was later assigned to the United States Air Force Academy as a behavioral science instructor and counselor.

In 1987 Schmidt left active duty and joined the Georgia Air National Guard. She served as a social actions officer and military personnel management officer before being appointed as the State Headquarters Executive Support Officer.

"Being a woman, there has been a different standard, I'll admit," said Schmidt. "But you just try extra hard, do your best and don't ask for any special favors."

**The National Guard Bureau announced the selection of MSgt. Kevin Uthe, a member of the South Dakota Air Guard's 114th Maintenance Squadron in Sioux Falls, as the Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association's Outstanding Graduate of the Year.**

Selection for this award is made by the graduate association based on submissions from the 104 chapters nationwide. Uthe was recognized at the association's seminar July 24th in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**The Hawaii Army Guard's environmental branch was recognized recently for having the best natural resources conservation (for a small installation) program among all branches in the U.S. military.**

The program established innovative field protocols for soldiers and interagency partnerships to help protect 33 species of rare and endangered plants, mammals and insects on nearly 10,000 acres of Guard training area across five islands.



Air Guard Col. Lois Schmidt (left) and Army Guard Col. Laura Strange recently made Georgia history.



New York TSgt. Scott Green (left) looks on as his civilian boss, Joe Priest, receives a 'My Boss is a Patriot Award' from his military boss.



An appreciative Rochelle Park Mayor Joseph Scarpa (fourth from left) presents plaques to New Jersey Army Guard Col. John Dwyer (left), 1st Lt. Brian Thompson, Capt. Eric Shuler and Capt. John Sharpe James for their unit's help during last year's hurricane-induced floods.

**Joe Priest, an Amherst, N.Y., businessman,** received a "My Boss is a Patriot Award" for his company's support of its employees who are members of the National Guard.

Priest, president and chief operating officer of AirSep, a 400 employee company that manufactures oxygen equipment for people with respiratory medical diseases, was nominated by TSgt. Scott Green, an AirSep employee and member of the 107th Air Refueling Wing based in Niagara Falls.

"I don't think there's anything that gives as much credit to AirSep than the people in our organization who perform civic duties — whether it be donating time to needy causes, or national security," Priest said. "It's part and parcel to being a good corporate citizen."

Although Green is currently the only AirSep employee in the Guard, Priest said he would welcome more.

"I can tell the people at AirSep who've been in the military," he said. "They handle things with style and professionalism."

**The citizens of Rochelle Park, N.J., turned out to honor their state's National Guard and others who helped them after floods caused by Hurricane Floyd devastated their town.**

The New Jersey National Guard received plaques from Mayor Joseph Scarpa and the Rochelle Park Police Department for their efforts last September.

Members of the Garden State Army Guard's 50th Support Battalion in Teaneck and the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry from Riverdale deployed companies to Rochelle Park to evacuate citizens from their homes, provide security, traffic control, and to assist police and emergency operators.

**Six Army Guard captains were recognized recently for their outstanding leadership skills when they received the 1999 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.**

The award is given annually to Army lieutenants and captains who exhibit extraordinary leadership abilities and embody the ideals espoused by Gen. Douglas MacArthur of "Duty, Honor, Country."

They are:

■ Iowa Capt. Gary D. Lewis, commander of Company A, 234th Signal Battalion in Cedar Rapids.

■ Georgia Capt. Spencer T. Price, battalion surgeon for 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry in Albany.

■ Florida Capt. Brian D. Ray, an Officer Candidate School senior instructor assigned to 2nd Battalion, 211th Regiment in Starke.

■ Louisiana Capt. Damian K. Waddell, commander of Company B, 1088th Engineer Battalion in New Roads.

■ Nevada Capt. Daniel R. Waters, commander for the 717th Medical Company in Reno.

■ District of Columbia Capt. Enrique J. Young, a physical security officer for D.C.'s Headquarters Detachment.



**PARTNERED** — Rough and Ready co-directors, Maj. Gen. O.M. Yevdin (right) and Brig. Gen. David Hudlet, confer.



## ROUGH AND READY

California teams with its Ukrainian partners to practice their response to disasters

By Lt. Col. Doug Hart  
California National Guard

A catastrophic flood has permanently altered Ukraine's landscape. Thousands from the former Soviet republic are dead or injured; even more are left homeless. The raging waters also have left millions of dollars in damage in its wake.

The Ukrainian civilian medical community, although supported by its military, is overwhelmed. A call is made to the United States.

A team consisting of nearly 170 members from the California National Guard, Coast Guard, California Emergency Medical Services Authority, California Department of Public Health and the U.S. Depart-

ment of Transportation respond. Flood response was just one of the scenarios that made up *Rough and Ready 2000*, a State Partnership Program-sponsored workshop held in Kharkiv, Ukraine, for nine days in May.

The exercise allowed American civilian and military emergency response teams to share civil emergency planning, medical disaster response and public health techniques and procedures with their Ukrainian counterparts.

Maj. Gen. Daniel Gibson, California Air Guard commander, said the workshop was mutually beneficial.

"The military and civilian sectors of each of our nations will be better prepared to help and protect our fellow citizens," he said.

According to Maj. Steve Goff, a California National Guard international affairs officer, this year's *Rough and Ready* workshop differed from others.

"The more of these hands-on workshops we do the better we will get," he explained. "This featured the largest U.S. mili-

tary group assembled so close to the Russian border since the breakup of the Soviet Union."

Goff added that Russian observers attended the workshop.

Of the nearly 170 people on the U.S. assistance team, 128 of them were members of the California National Guard. Each Air Guard unit in the Golden State — the 129th Rescue Wing, 144th Fighter Wing, 146th Airlift Wing, 163rd Air Refueling Wing, 162nd Combat Communications Group and State Headquarters — was represented.

Army Guard citizen-soldiers with the state's headquarters staff also participated.

Aside from practicing their response to natural disasters, participants tested their ability to respond to an aircraft accident. Another scenario required Guardmembers to medically

evacuate victims by air from a building that had collapsed. The dwelling also included hazardous materials.

*Rough and Ready* was co-directed by Ukrainian Maj. Gen. O.M. Yevdin, chief of planning for its Ministry of Emergencies, and California Air Guard Brig. Gen. David Hudlet, the state's assistant adjutant general for air.

Hudlet said it was the first time Ukrainian and U.S. civilians medical experts were used as major contributors.

Other partnerships may grow from 'Ready's' success, said Dan Smiley, California Emergency Medical Services Authority's chief deputy director.

"I have already been invited back to Kiev to speak on Emergency Medical Services system development and to review *Rough and Ready 2000* at the



Photos by Lt. Col. Doug Hart

**TEAM EFFORT** — Military and civilian Ukrainians and Americans carry a patient to a waiting C-130.

upcoming American International Health Alliance (AIHA) meeting," he explained.

California has been partnered with Ukraine since August 1993 through the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

Gen. Yevdin said much has been learned from the numerous exchanges over the years.

"As we spend more time together," he observed, "I see that our people are more alike than they are different."

Gen. Gibson hopes others will follow their lead.

"This is an example to all nations that through cooperation, the world is a better place for all," he said.

## AIRMEN

FROM PAGE 5

113th Wing's Honor Guard. He was named an outstanding performer during a 1997 operational readiness inspection in Michigan.

"These four have met extremely rigorous standards and have been endorsed by many panels of their peers to achieve this honor," said CMSgt. Gary Broadbent, the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Air Guard's more than 92,000 enlisted men and women.

"Yes, we have our chains of command. Yes, we follow orders," added Broadbent. "But we are successful because we are trained to be independent thinkers. These

four individuals are outstanding examples of people who have taken that training seriously."

"I see so many spectacular enlisted people in the National Guard and other reserve components who I visit every weekend," observed Charles Cragin, the acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "When you are selected by your peers as the best of the best, that is a real accomplishment."

Her five years in the active Army, combined with nearly four years in the Arizona Army Guard and five years in the Air Guard, have given Lizdeth Means an accomplished military background.

Being named one of the Air Guard's top enlisted people for this year, she indicated, will make her work that much harder to be the quality leader that others believe she has already become.

## SOLDIERS

FROM PAGE 5

He is assigned to the Army Recruiting and Retention Command in Dallas, Ore., and has been a rifleman and emergency medical technician in the Sinai. He also belongs to the state honor guard and has trained with members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) in Arlington, Va.

■ U.S. Army Pacific PFC Vincent Cruz, Guam, Soldier of the Year; and Sgt. Edwin Irizarry, Alaska, NCO of the Year.

Cruz is a vehicle driver assigned to Headquarters, Guam Area Command in Fort Juan Muna and has an associate's

degree in marketing.

Irizarry joined the Alaska Army Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry as a scout in December 1998 after 14 years in the active Army, including duty with the 82nd Airborne Division and a Gulf War tour with the 6th Cavalry Regiment.

He was a coxswain for an Army boat ferrying troops, supplies and equipment from Ketchikan to a National Guard road-building project on the island of Metlakatla when he fell in love with Alaska and Shari Williams. They were married in June 1999, and they live in Ketchikan.

Mike Cline, a retired Army Guard master sergeant and executive director of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, had some advice for the Army Guard's top troops.

"Keep doing what you're doing," he said, "because you're doing it right."





## STATES

■ 'Bama Builders ■ Bomber Boost ■ Haitian Helpers

## ALABAMA

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has an upgraded contractor trailer parking area, thanks to 30 members from the Air Guard's 117th Civil Engineer Squadron based in Birmingham.

The group deployed to the Ohio base from June 10-24 to improve the utilities to a trailer park near Gate 22B.

The traditional Guardmembers ran water, electricity, sewer and communications access to the site, and poured 16 concrete slabs where long-term contractors in the base's Area B can park their mobile offices.

"This project has been planned for several years, but lacked manpower availability. This is a 'win-win,' since they (the Guardmembers) gained the experience and Wright-Patterson obtained the required utility upgrade," said Jim Smith, project manager for the 88th Civil Engineer Squadron at the base.

Smith said having the Alabama Air National Guard do the construction saved the Air Force \$200,000 in labor.

A majority of the crew worked 11 days — only missing one day of work because of heavy rains.

"We kept trying to figure out the weather day-to-day," said SSgt. Michael Bell. "We kept right on going, rain or shine, and with lots of mud."

HAWAII  
IMPROVED ISLAND

Hawaii Army Guard Spc. Kealii Le, a carpenter with the 298th Engineer Detachment, helps put together a frame of a hooch being built on the Keaukaha Military Reservation. The KMR is in Hilo, Hawaii, the Aloha State's biggest island. The engineers recently spent their annual training renovating and constructing buildings on KMR, a staging point for units training in Hilo.



Photo by Sgt. Wendy M. Hirasaka

## KANSAS

The 184th Bomb Wing unveiled its newly modernized B-1s to the public at the McConnell AFB Open House, June 16-18.

Equipped with 24 all-weather precision guided Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM), the Air Guard unit now possesses one of the most lethal aircraft in the world. The JDAM was exclusively used by the B-2 Bomber, where it demonstrated impressive accuracy during the 1999 Kosovo conflict.

Air Guard B-1s recently completed a 70-day modernization process at Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, where they were upgraded with Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers and new wiring that will allow it to communicate to all 24 weapons carried in its massive bomb bays. These revolutionary new weapons enable a single B-1 to strike 24 separate targets during a bomb run.

This new capability increases the effectiveness of B-1s by over 2,000 percent compared to dropping unguided bombs. A full-scale replica of the JDAM was on display near the B-1 for inspection by the general public.

Each JDAM carries a 2,000-pound warhead and can be expected to destroy or disable military targets within a 40-foot radius of its point of impact. It usually strikes within 20 feet of the intended target.

## ILLINOIS

By Capt. William Soddy  
Illinois National Guard

Members of the Peoria-based 182nd Airlift Wing teamed with local charity organizations to process and palletize nearly 81,500 pounds of relief and educational supplies for airlift to Haiti and Romania recently.

The airlift to Haiti was coordinated with the Apostolic Christian World Relief Center and included more than 78,000 pounds of relief supplies — the approximate weight of 26 mid-sized cars. Items included medical supplies, non-perishable food, clothing, school kits, air conditioners, a fire truck and a farm tractor.

These supplies were secured through commercial and private donations to help the people of Haiti in the struggling development of their country. Ap-

proximately 75 percent of the population there lives in extreme poverty.

"Knowing where these pallets are going, gives me a lot of pride," said SrA. Don Reay. "I saw the pallets as I drove on base today, but had no idea that I would get to use my Guard skills to help get them to needy people."

In addition to the relief supplies processed for shipment to Haiti that weekend, 182nd Airlift Wing personnel also palletized and loaded more than 3,500 pounds of books that were airlifted to Romania.

This effort was initiated by Clare Grap of the Peoria Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, who strictly by chance, learned of the need for books in a small high school in Romania.

In May 1998, Grap attended a local rotary club meeting where Bradley University students were

presenting class projects. One student, Anna Clark, mentioned in her report that she was signing up for a Peace Corps tour after graduation.

A former Peace Corps volunteer himself, Grap was eager to talk to Clark after the presentations. Grap encouraged Clark to contact him if she ever needed anything.

To his surprise, Grap received a letter from Clark about six months later. She ended up in Romania teaching English at a small high school as part of her Peace Corps assignment. In the correspondence that followed, she communicated the desperate need for English books in their school library.

Without hesitation, Grap began coordinating with local school districts and city organizations to secure book donations. His efforts proved fruitful. In all, more than 3,500 pounds of books were donated.





# HISTORY

■ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

An unprepared Air Guard learned many important lessons during the Korean War

## The Turning POINT

When North Korean forces attacked their southern neighbor on June 25, 1950, in an effort to reunify the peninsula under communist leadership, the United States was caught by surprise. The ensuing war also exposed the glaring weaknesses of the active duty military establishment and its reserve components, to include a woefully unprepared Air National Guard (ANG).

Members of the ANG were far from ready to play its intended combat role, given that most of the fighter aircraft they flew were obsolete propeller-driven F-47s and F-51s. Driven by low budgets, as well as Air Force neglect, its training was grossly inadequate.

Compounding the problem, Air Force leaders could see no compelling military need for state-controlled Air Guard organizations. After World War II, they tried to seize control of the Air Guard and combine it with the Air Force Reserve as a strictly federal force. Those futile efforts created high levels of acrimony, distrust and political controversy between the two forces.

However, the Korean War proved to be a turning point in the troubled relationship between the Air Guard and the Air Force, as more than 45,000 Air Guardsmen — nearly 80 percent of the organization — were mobilized.

In October 1950, 15 Air Guard flying squadrons and numerous support units were mobilized. The Air Force deemed that move as only a temporary means to an end. However, massive Chinese communist intervention in the war in late October destroyed that assumption. Korea became the Air Guard's largest war. Eventually, 67 of its 84 flying squadrons, most of its aircraft control and warning (AC&W) units, along with many support organizations, were called up.

Once mobilized, they proved to be almost totally unprepared for combat. Guard units were assigned almost at random to various major air commands regardless of their previous training and equipment. Many key Air Guardsmen were stripped away from their units and used as individual fillers elsewhere in the Air Force.

It took three to six months for some ANG units to become combat ready. Some never did. Eventually, the mess was sorted out, but not before the mobilization of all the U.S. reserve components had created a tremendous political uproar.

The difficulties encountered in mobilizing the Air Guard were part of the much larger problem: How to provide manpower for a limited war in an equitable manner within the confines of a Department of Defense system designed for total global war.

Despite the initial problems, Air Guard units and individuals made significant contributions to the Air Force. Six ANG fighter squadrons, equipped with F-84s, flew combat in Korea — mostly highly dangerous ground support missions. Air Guardsmen flew 39,530 combat sorties and destroyed 39 enemy aircraft. But, the Air Guard paid a high price in Korea as 101 of its members were either killed or declared missing in action.

In 1952, Air Force and Air Guard fighter squadrons in the Far East also participated in an historic experiment. As part of Operation "High Tide," they performed some of the Air Force's earliest air refuelings during combat.

During the war, Air Guardsmen made some of their most dramatic contributions as individuals rather than members of Guard units. Four of them achieved the coveted status of aces (five kills) while flying F-86s in Air Force units. They were Capt. Clifford Jolley (Utah), Robert Love (California), and Robinson Risner (Oklahoma), and Maj. James Hagerstrom (Texas).

President Truman's administration was especially concerned that the Soviet Union might launch an attack on Western Europe while the U.S. was preoccupied militarily in Asia. To counter that larger threat, it accelerated plans to build-up NATO's conventional military strength by sending additional American forces to the continent. Ten Air Guard combat flying units were dispatched to



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

**FIRST KILL** — 1st Lt. Arthur Olliger (left) and Capt. Harry Underwood demonstrate how they teamed up to shoot down an enemy MIG-15 over North Korea June 26, 1951. It was the first kill registered by Air Guard unit pilots.

Europe and the United Kingdom as part of NATO's expansion.

While some ANG units and members distinguished themselves abroad, 51 of the 67 Air Guard flying units mobilized during the Korean conflict remained in the U.S. to help the Air Force expand for the feared global confrontation with the Soviet Union. Progress in training Air Guard units was extremely slow. Shortages of aircraft, spare parts and supplies, as well as excessive personnel turnover, exacerbated their problems. Unit cohesion, and the distinctive Air Guard character of those organizations, was undetermined.

Although flying squadrons garnered the lion's share of attention, almost all of the Air Guard's AC&W units were called into federal service. Nearly 11,000 of the approximately 45,000 Air Guardsmen mobilized were



### GUARD HISTORY

By Charles J. Gross, PhD  
Air Guard Historian

from those units. Many individuals were transferred from them to Air Force organizations around the globe. Most of the Guard's AC&W units were assigned to strengthen air defenses stateside. Several were sent to overseas locations, including Libya, Newfoundland, Labrador, French Morocco and Germany.

The Korean War mobilization fiasco forced the Air Force to thoroughly revamp its reserve system. Starting during the conflict itself, the Air Guard helped pioneer new approaches to reserve training and management within the Air Force. Blessed with innovative leaders like Maj. Gen. Winston "Wimpy" Wilson, plus a strong political base, the Guard traded some of its autonomy as a state-run force for closer integration with the active duty force.

Wilson recognized that the Air Guard faced a dim future unless it became a thoroughly professional organization. For him, that meant that the ANG had to acquire definite wartime missions. It also had to be integrated into Air Force planning, budgeting, exercises, and operational missions on a regular basis. To increase flight safety, he persuaded the Defense Department to authorize an additional 36 flight training periods each year for its aircrews beyond their monthly drill and 15-day annual training requirements. The four mandatory ANG unit training drills, at the time held one per week, were concentrated on one weekend each month. Additionally, the Air Guard added more full-time technicians.

Wilson also worked to acquire modern aircraft and facilities. At installations that could not adapt to jet fighters, the Air Guard began forming special operations squadrons in 1955. Later that decade, it traded some vintage fighters for transports configured for aeromedical airlift missions. By 1960, C-97 strategic airlifters had begun to enter the Guard's inventory.

Above all, Wilson was determined to ensure that the Air Guard met the same tough professional training standards as the active force.

In 1951, the Air Force established specific mobilization requirements for the Air Guard in its war plans for the first time. Air Guardsmen proposed an air defense runway alert program as a way to combine realistic training and support of a significant operational mission in peacetime.

Beginning on an experimental basis in March 1953, units at Syracuse, N.Y., and Hayward, Calif., began standing alert from an hour before sunrise to an hour after sunset. Each site maintained two F-51s on five-minute alert. Air Guardsmen conducted periodic scrambles to test the concept. Despite Air Staff doubts and initial resistance, the experiment was a success. By 1961, it had expanded into a permanent, round-the-clock program that included 25 ANG fighter squadrons.

The runway alert program was the first broad effort to integrate reserve units into the regular peacetime operating structure of the American armed forces on a continuing basis. It was the genesis of the total force approach to reserve components' training and utilization.

The Korean conflict was a crucial turning point in the history of the modern Air Guard. It reversed the downward slide of the Guard's relationship with the Air Force and marked the beginning of the Air Guard's evolution into an effective reserve component.





# TRAINING

More than 5,000 Indiana Army Guardmembers go to war at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center

## BATTLE in the BAYOU

By Spc. Amy Bombassaro  
Indiana National Guard

**N**ext to war, observed Indiana Army Guard Brig. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Fort Polk's formidable Joint Readiness Training Center "is the most challenging event the Army can give to an infantry brigade."

As commander of the 76th Separate Infantry Brigade he should know, particularly after he and 5,000 Hoosier citizen-soldiers warred on the Louisiana swamp land for nine days in May.

After three years of training, to include

higher level of training. Thus, soldiers are exposed to combat scenarios, while also having to deal with such things as the presence of media on the battlefield.

To ensure Indiana troops heeded each lesson, expert observers from Polk, the Indiana Guard and the First Army evaluated the soldier's every step; sometimes calling a pause in the action to reflect on mistakes or to emphasize points.

SFC Willis Cotton, an observer, controller based at Polk, said he helped soldiers use the new Single-channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, called SINGARS, radios.

"We coach, teach and mentor," Cotton said. "We went into the teach mode to help them get the SINGARS straight. They listened and it worked."

Indiana Capt. Brent Bohl, an instructor at the Indiana Military Academy at Camp Atterbury who watched 3rd platoon soldiers with Company C, 151st Infantry, said observers learned as well.

"You can stand back and think about what you would do in situations," he noted, "without feeling stressed out from being in the heat of the battle."

Besides Indiana, units from 14 other states participated in the exercise. This made standardized training doubly important to tankers like Georgia Spc. David Anderson, a member of Troop E, 108th Cavalry.

"You're putting groups of people together that have never seen each other before, and we're working so well together," he said. "The one guy we have from the Indiana Guard [PFC Richard Benavides] is on the Bradley that I'm in. He has been highly motivated and willing to get out there and do his job."

Umbarger said the high-level training helps bring active Army and National Guard troops closer together.

"It's just a great learning environment for us," noted the general. "There is really no longer a National Guard and Army, it's just one Army. We just happen to be on the reserve component side of it."

With the JRTC behind them, 76th Brigade infantrymen can now focus on their upcoming peacekeeping mission to Bosnia in April 2002.

Well, except maybe Spc. Tony Simms. After two weeks of intense physical and mental stress, the 2nd Battalion, 293rd Infantry man has more immediate plans.

"I'm going to take a day and do absolutely nothing," he said happily, "except maybe take a shower and sit on the couch."



Photos by Spc. Amy Bombassaro

**WAR GAME** -- Spc. Jason Hildenbrand (left) calls in a report from his Humvee. An Indiana troop (above) eyes the enemy.

an intensive rehearsal last year, 76th infantrymen earned admiration from their active-duty counterparts for their efforts.

"The 76th brigade has really done their homework," said Col. Richard Kuechenmeister, a National Guard liaison officer at the JRTC. "They completed 80 percent of their training before they got here. Now what they're doing is the icing on the cake."

The icing wasn't always sweet for Indiana's ground pounders, who had to contend with civilian refugees, enemy attacks both day and night and searing temperatures, while defending the fictional country of Cortina.

The goal of the JRTC, noted Kuechenmeister, is for units to leave at a much