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# THE ON GUARD

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NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD

August 2000

## Guard marches in to battle wildfires

■ *'The conditions are as bad or worse than they were in 1910'*

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

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

From Montana to California, where black helicopters have been painted with hot-pink racing stripes to make them easier to see in smoky, mountainous terrain, Army and Air Guard troops who live out West have once again returned to fighting wildfires during the summer. It is a sort of cottage industry for civilian pilots who also fly aircraft that can haul water and chemical retardant.

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

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

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

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

"We've been out for two weeks, and there's no end in sight," said California CWO4 Don Knutson, a 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Chinook pilot out of Stockton. He then lifted off with a 1,300-gallon Bambi bucket to douse hotspots near the



Photo by SSgt. Jack Holt

**FIRE BRIGADE** — Montana Army Guard SFC Eddy White (above) leads a fire crew off the line. A California Guard Chinook (right) gets water to dump on a forest fire.

Sequoia National Forest at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Nearly 73,000 acres of that forest had been ravaged.

■ See WILDFIRES, page 5



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking





# COMMENTARY

## Readers Return Fire

### ABOUT the PAPER

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Send on disc (with clean copy) or e-mail your stories to us by the 20th of each month. We prefer that photos (B&W or color print) be mailed.

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### GUARD MAIL

#### Good Neighbor

I found Canadian Gordon Sinclair's commentary about America being 'the Good Neighbor' a refreshing change of pace; particularly since he's not an American.

I am, like Mr. Sinclair, unaccustomed to positive commentary from any quarter of the global press where the United States is concerned. Of course, what could be expected when our own president apologizes to foreign governments with regularity for our successes. The self deprecating, apologist, stance embraced by the current administration only lends credence to those who would detract from all the good that America represents.

Thank you Mr. Sinclair.

Michael Phillips  
St. Charles, Ill.

#### Recruiting Support

I have just saw your cartoon in *The On Guard*. I do not quite understand the point that you are trying to make with it. I have been a field recruiter for three years, and have never pulled a stunt like what you are showing ... a Guard recruiter attempting to enlist a seal into the Navy S.E.A.L.S.

Have you ever been a recruiter? Have you ever asked a recruiter what it is like to be a recruiter? I think if you ask anyone in the recruiting command what we go through, then you might

understand our life and realize that not all of us do those kinds of things.

The larger part of the recruiting force makes it by hard work, integrity and honesty. We are out there every single day fighting for our respect, and the future of the National Guard ... And then to see someone in our own paper disrespect us. How am I to take that?

You should not degrade us. How about just saying thank you.

SSgt. Jeffrey V. White  
Illinois National Guard

#### Sealing the Deal

I am writing in response to the June 'Guardtoons.' I have been an Army National Guard recruiter for the past 10 years. I found the cartoon very offensive.

I am sure that somewhere there are recruiters who would stoop to this kind of recruiting tactic -- enlisting a seal into the Navy S.E.A.L.S.

However, in my tenure, I have never seen this happen. Most, if not all of my counterparts that I have worked with or come in contact with from various states, do not practice business this way. We take pride in the fact that we are up front and honest with our soldiers.

This cartoon does not shed a good light on our profession. It is a smear to those of us who take our jobs seriously. I am proud of the fact that I have been given the responsibility to shape the face of the future for the Army National Guard.

The *On Guard* and the cartoonist owe all of the professional recruiters for the

National Guard an apology. If there are recruiters out there who attempt to recruit people through false pretenses, they will not be recruiters very long.

Honesty provides longevity in this job.

SFC David Novak  
Pennsylvania National Guard

*Editor's Note: We sincerely apologize to those recruiters offended by the suggestion that those in their business would attempt to enlist a seal into that elite Naval unit.*

#### Reclaiming Carson

A short comment regarding a Nebraskans claim that Johnny Carson hailed from the Cornhusker State.

The writer should not take every article to heart in regard to Johnny Carson being from Nebraska. Although Johnny Carson was raised in Norfolk, Neb., he was born in Corning, Iowa. So technically speaking, Johnny Carson is from Iowa.

James Hayworth  
Iowa National Guard

#### LETTERS POLICY:

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

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## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"'100-Hour War' my Aunt Fannie! It was darn near five days."





# IN THE NEWS

■ Twister Assisters ■ Armory Additions ■ Degree Deals

## Minnesotans restore calm after tornado

■ **Twister Assisters:** *Nearly 150 soldiers called up to help prevent looting, clean-up Granite Falls*

By Spc. Anna Lewicki  
Minnesota National Guard

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

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

"It was very gratifying to be able to help."

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

"We got there about three hours after it happened," Simmons said. "The community was very gracious when we showed up, especially the emergency disaster relief folks. They remembered the flood of '97 when the National Guard played a huge part in helping the community."



Photo by Spc. Anna Lewicki

**CLEAN UP** — Sgt. Michael Hauth, a member of the Minnesota Army Guard's Company C, 682nd Engineer Battalion, loads fallen tree limbs into the back of a SEE vehicle.

"They were happy we were there again," he added.

Working side-by-side with civilian volunteers, 682nd engineers made use of two Small Excavation Equipment vehicles to haul the branches and other debris.

"When we first got there I could see things like checkbooks, insurance forms, bank statements and tax permits scattered across town. Insulation was everywhere," reported the 682nd's Sgt. Andrew Nielsen. "You could see how everything had been turned upside down."

Those outside the clean-up area peered through the military police barricades to see if their houses were still

■ See TORNADO, Page 4

## Full-time manning beefed up at Army Guard armories

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

More Army National Guard armories across America will be open for business every working day and will be better staffed after the 2001 defense authorization bill is signed into law now that the U.S. Senate has accepted an amendment to beef up full-time manning.

Nevada Sen. Richard Bryan delivered the news of the amendment's success to delighted National Guard leaders recently during a Twilight Tattoo reception at the Fort McNair Officers Club in Washington, D.C.

"That amendment is going to be accepted on the Department of Defense Authorization Bill which [Virginia] Sen. [John] Warner is shepherding through the Senate this very evening," Bryan promised.

Bryan is co-chairman of the

Senate's National Guard Caucus with Missouri Sen. Christopher Bond.

Both endorsed the amendment that would allocate \$38 million to provide an additional 526 Active Guard and Reserve soldiers and 771 technicians to the Army Guard's full-time staff.

"The hard-working men and women of our National Guard who run our armories and support and train members of the Guard are critical to overall unit readiness and quality of life," they stated in a recent letter to Senate colleagues.

"The increased operating tempo of recent years, coupled with increased reliance on the Guard, is having a debilitating affect on morale and unit readiness," the letter added. "Support for full-time manning sends the strong and unequivocal message that readiness remains a top priority."

Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, Army

Guard director, has frequently expressed concern that the Army Guard does not have enough full-time, active-duty soldiers to keep all of the nation's armories open every day.

The amendment, according to the senators' letter, will reinforce the Army Guard's efforts to achieve a total full-time force of 23,500 Active Guard and Reserve soldiers and 25,500 technicians.

"The families of these full-time employees will be experiencing less stress because of the tremendous work load that would be occurring in those facilities," retired Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander, executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States, told Bryan.

"The readiness will be improved tremendously because of your efforts in placing us on an upward ramp in the area of full-time manning in our armories," Alexander added.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### DoD expands dental plan to include Guard families

Guardmembers and their families will soon be eligible for the Defense Department's new TRICARE Dental Program, which also will feature lower premiums, expanded services and cost ceilings.

DOD has awarded a five-year \$1.8 billion contract to United Concordia Companies Inc., the current TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan administrator. Changes will take effect Feb. 1, 2001.

During the first two years of the contract, premiums for active-duty family members will drop from current levels. The \$8.53 single and \$21.33 family rates will drop to \$7.63 and \$19.08 respectively during the first year and remain below current levels even during the second year. Premiums for Guardmembers on extended active duty will mirror those of active-duty members.

For more information, beneficiaries can call United Concordia's toll-free customer service line at 1 (800) 866-8499 or visit the company's Web site at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com).

### Masters degree offered in civil-military relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information visit NGB-IA's web page at: <http://www.ang.af.mil/ngbia>



## TORNADO

FROM PAGE 3

standing amidst the rubble.

In one of the neighborhoods that had been evacuated, the Dinesen family of five sat huddled on their porch.

They had returned home during the night, but 12-year-old Matt and his brother Ryan, 9, were home alone when the sirens had sounded.

"Afterward, when I came out of the basement and looked into the back yard, I was horrified," Matt recalled.

The Dineson family was fortunate. Aside from a few broken windows and shingles, their home was intact. Surrounding them, however, was evidence of mass destruction.

"It's hard to feel lucky, or be happy, when some of our neighbors have nothing left," said Terri Dinesen, wiping her eyes.

Many families in Granite Falls didn't have a home to return to.

"It really hit us this morning when we saw it," said Vern Schewe as he stood on his lawn staring at his living room. Only one wall, partially standing, made it through the storm.

Schewe and his wife, Donna, took shelter in their basement during the tornado.

"It sounded terrible. We could hear glass breaking, lumber cracking and the roof leaving. Then we could hear the sides of the house coming off," he said.

In another area of town, Todd Reishus was in his basement when his house was lifted off the foundation and set back down again.

"You could just feel the suction in the house. It made my ears pop," he said. "The noise was worse than any train."

The sight of Minnesota Guardmembers at work, however, sounded a return to a more serene time. Their contributions, noted Lt. Col. Gary Sigfrinius, director of the state's military support, were not lost on residents of Granite Falls.

"It was obvious the soldiers were a huge help. I heard a number of people commenting on that," Sigfrinius said. "One lady brought out homemade cookies and coffee and put it on the hood of a 'Humvee' with a little note that said, 'Thanks for coming.'"

"That kind of reception," he added, "makes it all worthwhile."

## Academy unveils statue amid change

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The guest of honor did not have to say a word because many others said lots of good things about the Minuteman, the symbol of the National Guard and one of this country's enduring military icons, in Knoxville, Tenn.

A 6-foot Minuteman statue, resolutely grasping his musket and walking away from his plow, was dedicated to all past and future Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduates during a significant morning at the I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center.

The center's NCO Academy also got a new commandant, CMSgt. Arthur Hafner III, and bid a tearful farewell to his predecessor, CMSgt. Jenny Smith, who retired after more than 24 years in uniform.

Michigan Air Guard TSgt. Jeffrey Badalow became the 1,000th student to graduate from the NCO Academy's satellite program that makes it possible for students to do most of the four-month program's course work at their home units across the country thanks to a sophisticated satellite communications system.

In all, 93 Air Guard and 12 Air Force Reserve mid-level NCOs graduated from the 15th class that has been taught via satellite. It is the Air Force's first satellite-delivered professional military education course.

The day, however, belonged to the Minuteman, the education center's new

silent sentinel that now looks across the education center's campus from a pedestal next to the administration building.

"It is enduring as a symbol because of the National Guard people it represents," stated Brig. Gen. Paul Kimmel, the 107,000-member Air Guard's chief operating officer.

"You have a heritage to live up to," he told the NCO Academy graduates. "You have taken a sacred oath, and you have an obligation to lead. Those of us who wear the stars and the eagles understand one



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**ACADEMY ADDITIONS**—CMSgt. Arthur Hafner III (left) recently became the Air Guard NCO Academy's commandant. The 6-foot Minuteman statue overlooks the center's campus.

thing as we get older. The NCOs run the Air Force."

The bronze-colored statue is made of fiberglass and cost \$6,500. It is a gift from the Air Guard's NCO Academy Graduate Association that raised the money from private donations, explained a spokesperson for the center.

Col. Richard Burris, the training and education center's commander, thanked the association for its gift to the Air Guard installation that began training noncommissioned officers in July 1968 and that has trained officers since 1971.

"This statue is famous because it represents the original militiamen who first raised the call for liberty at Lexington and Concord," Burris observed. "It is a heroic sculpture, for it is an ordinary subject, a common citizen, about to take on a heroic task."

"For your part in the continuing struggle for freedom; for your sacrifice," he added, "we dedicate this statue."

Smith relinquished the flag as the NCO Academy's commandant to Hafner during an emotional ceremony later in the morning and retired after serving in the Air Force and Air Guard since December 1975.

Smith joined the training and education center's staff in Knoxville in November 1992 and has directed the satellite NCO course. She has been the commandant since last November.

Hafner, a Vietnam veteran who originally joined the Army in 1966, is the academy's ninth commandant. He

is 54. He joined the Tennessee Air Guard in 1977 and won the academic achievement and honor graduate awards at the NCO Academy's resident course in 1982.

Hafner has served at the Air Guard's Readiness Center at Andrews AFB, Md., since March 1991, and was chief of the Personnel and Training Directorate's Education Branch for more than seven years.

"I will do my best to live up to the legacy forged at this academy by all of the commandants from Chief Paul Lankford [the first commandant] to Chief Smith," Hafner promised.

## HISTORY LESSON

Capt. Les' Melnyk, National Guard Bureau historian, leads a group of military historians on a study of the Civil War battle at Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, Mo. The historians were participating in a U.S. Army Forces Command-run Military History Detachment workshop. Of the 22 Army MHDs, five exist in the Guard.



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services





Photo by SSgt. Jack Holt

## WILDFIRES

FROM PAGE 1

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

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

Black Hawk crews carried 660-gallon buckets and flew hundreds of firefighters from base camps to the edge of the fires at altitudes up to 9,300 feet, said SFC J.J. Moore, who was directing flight operations from the mountain resort town of Kernville.

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

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

"It grows by the hour," said Naeher. So does the National Guard's resolve.

The force ranges from Vietnam veterans such as a California CWO2 Randy Weatherhead, a Black Hawk pilot who flew Hueys in Vietnam 30 years ago, to Spc. Paul Benedick, 26, a crew chief who went into Bosnia with the first wave of U.S. peacekeeping troops in December 1995.

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

The aviators are both casual

**ON DUTY** — Montana Army Guard Spc. Robert Houston feels for a hotspot left by a wildfire in the Helena National Forest.

and cautious about what they do.

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

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

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

Other Guard soldiers set up base camps, transported equipment and supplies and helped law enforcers control traffic in the fire belt that stretches from Canada to Mexico.

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

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

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

## INSIDE THE WILDFIRES

# Getting a fix on the FIRES

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

A flight safety message out of Fort Rucker, Ala., on Aug. 3rd did not make California Army Guard Maj. Robert Spano's day.

Spano commands the 126th Medical Company in Sacramento, and six of his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters had been bombing California's wildfires with 660-gallon water buckets for a week.

Ground every UH-60 "Black Hawk" helicopter in the Army, the message ordered, and check out the beveled gears inside the input modules at the base of the main rotor shafts. Check the maintenance records to find out when and where those modules had last been overhauled. Replace the ones that had fewer than 30 hours of flight time.

Given that these utility helicopters were dropping water and flying firefighters to the lines from the Oregon border to Los Angeles, there was no time for this. However, safety messages are not to be ignored.

So the company's maintenance people went to work, checking the modules that transfer power from the turbine engines to the main transmission.

All six helicopters were back on the ground at their base camps, ready to be checked out, within 45 minutes. Five of them were back in action two hours later.

Only two of the helicopters needed fixing, Spano said. One of them was repaired with a gear taken from another helicopter that was undergoing an exacting, 100-hour inspection and was not part of the fire-fighting fleet.

By August's first weekend, six of the company's Black Hawks were helping federal and state firefighters battle this country's worst wildfires in more than a decade.

strike team leader Matt Butler.

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

"These are our neighbors going out there saving our lives,

saving our land and saving the state of Montana," praised Lt. Gov. Judy Martz.

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

"It's a busy time of year at the ice cream plant where I work, but my employers said 'Go ahead and be safe.' I guess duty calls," shrugged Spc. Wayne Hard, a

"These people busted their tails to get these Hawks flying again," said SFC William Smith, the 126th's full-time floor supervisor at the Mather Air Field flight facility in Sacramento. "Thank God for our computer records."

"They worked with the same sense of urgency as if we had a patient on board who was bleeding," said Spano.

There were a couple of reasons for that. The California Forestry Department's 11 aging UH-1 "Huey" helicopters had been taken out of service after cracks had been discovered in main rotor masts, explained Spano, a full-time aviation safety officer with the state's transportation department.

"It was up to the Guard this year to keep California from burning," said Spano of the state's aviation assets. The helicopter fleet was reduced to four heavy-hauling CH-47 "Chinook" twin-rotor helicopters while the Black Hawks were grounded.

The 126th's maintenance team, furthermore, is operating at half strength with 17 full-time technicians and 19 part-time soldiers, Smith explained. Ten full-timers have recently left for other jobs. The workload is enormous during this fire season.



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking

**HAWK HELP** — A mechanic from the California Army Guard's 126th Medical Company checks a Black Hawk prior to a fire mission.

"We've had to work 14 to 16-hour days to keep these birds up," said SSgt. James Bryson, one of the remaining full-timers.

The work has included painting hot-pink "racing stripes" on the blades and fuselages so the dark-green helicopters can be more easily seen through the hazy smoke, and washing ash out of the engines.

The last thing anyone needed was that message to check the beveled gears in those input modules. But the citizen-soldiers got the Hawks flying again a lot sooner than people dared hope.

"Under the circumstances," said Spano, "I was amazed that they pulled it off."

medic whose infantry outfit had recently finished its two weeks of annual training.

Duty kept calling into August of this hot wildfire summer.

"Guardmembers continue to call in to volunteer," said Montana Army Guard Maj. Joe Foster. "The list is growing every hour."





Texas Black Hawk crew  
lands aboard the USS  
*Constellation*

## Finding their SEA LEGS

By SFC Brenda Benner  
*Texas National Guard*

**F**lying military aircraft requires high-octane confidence; a confidence that outsiders sometimes mistake for cockiness. Even among the close fraternity of aviators who wage war from the sky, there's a subtle rivalry.

But the one thing most pilots will admit, whether their wings are Army silver or Navy gold, is that it takes guts to land military aircraft on a heaving steel flight deck as it rides the ocean's waves.

Once the private domain of Navy and Marine Corps aviators, the challenging world of aircraft carriers is rapidly becoming an environment Army pilots must learn to negotiate.

Black Hawk pilots and crew members from the Texas Army Guard recently experienced first-hand the basics of carrier landings and the special challenges of life aboard the USS *Constellation* during a Joint Shipboard Helicopter Integration Process, or JSHIP, test off the coast of California.

The Texas soldiers trained for two weeks under the guidance of Navy and Army aviators and program evaluators -- and under the curious, watchful eyes of the carrier's crew.

The Guard soldiers "flew" simulators, practiced water-survival skills in a swimming pool, and became comfortable landing on *Constellation's* moving target of a deck -- even in darkness.

Recent U. S. joint and combined operations, including those under the auspices of the United Nations and NATO, have demonstrated an increased dependency on U.S. Navy vessels, and Army

CWO3 Philippe A. Catoire, who evaluates joint operations training, said that missions are becoming more complex.

"Unified commands have multifaceted missions, not just Army, Navy or Air Force operations," Catoire said. "That means all forces must be capable of working together."

But considering the enormous variety of high-tech military equipment, procedures, tactics -- and branch-specific jargon -- operational deficiencies are likely to exist.

The Department of Defense is exploring a new approach to this challenge with JSHIP.

Created in the summer of 1998, the four-year-long Joint Test and Evaluation Force program will study the interoperability of all branches of service as they interact with naval operations. While crews from across the active and reserve components of all the services are participating, Army Guard units are often more likely to be available or in close geographical proximity for the tests.

The program evaluates safety and compatibility of helicopters with ships, and

provides all-inclusive procedures and training for both the embarking units and the host ship's crew. Lessons learned will drive the rewriting of field manuals and related publications concerning training and doctrine.

A major goal is to increase operational readiness and operational flexibility within joint service missions.

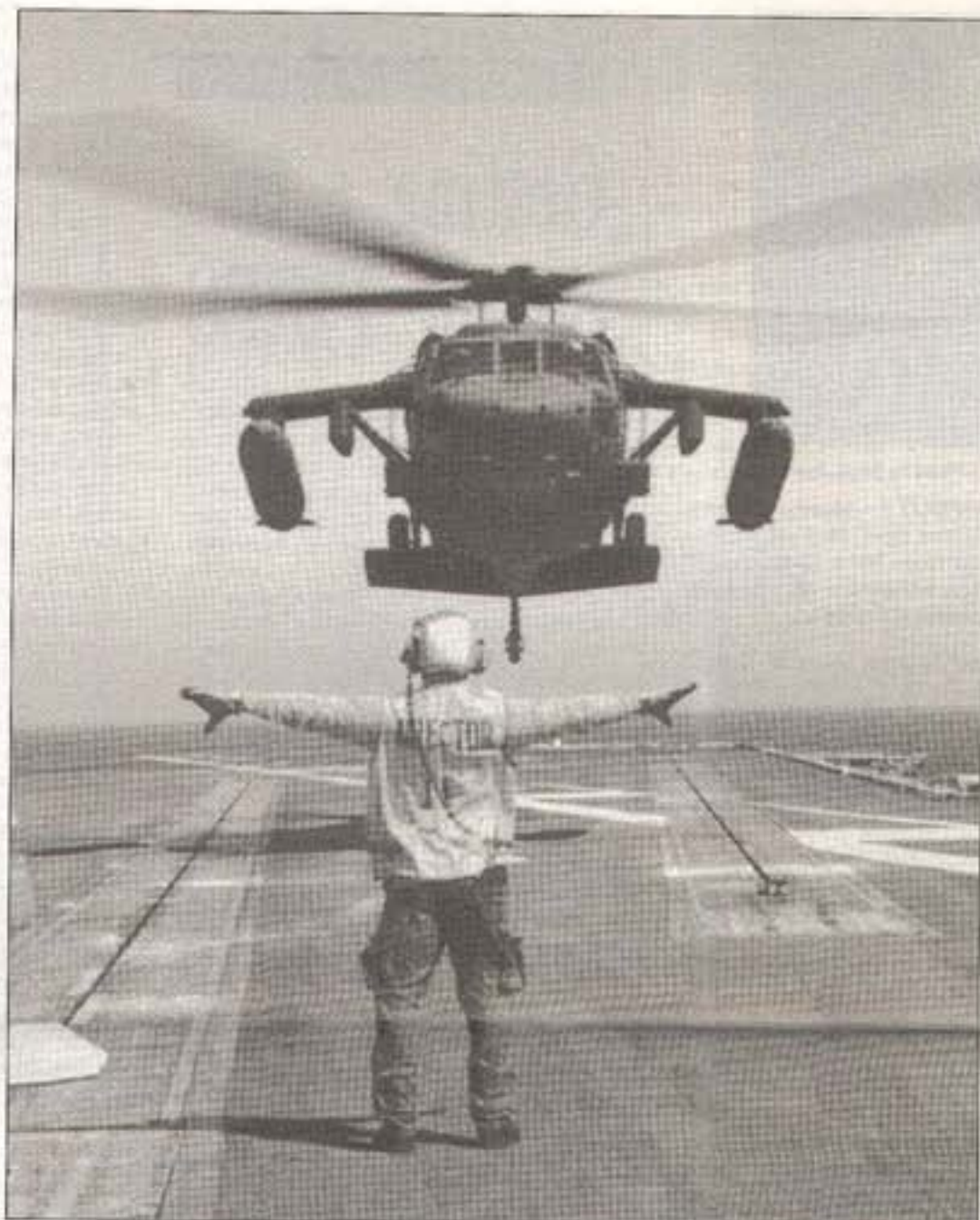
Catoire, the JSHIP program's compatibility division chief, not only shares his knowledge of shipboard operations with Army pilots and crews, but also encourages feedback from everyone involved.

"There are many unique dangers with landing on a floating airport, especially when it doesn't have normal airport rules or procedures," he said. "Non-Navy pilots must also get accustomed to the severe wind turbulence coming off these superstructures -- it's difficult for even seasoned pilots to master."

Catoire said one of JSHIP's goals is not only to determine what it takes for another service's aircraft to land on a vessel, but also what it takes to maintain the aircraft and conduct operations.

Cdr. Bret Gary, JSHIP's Navy deputy

**ROCKIN' the BOAT** -- A Navy aircraft director (left) guides a Texas Army Guard Black Hawk onto the deck of the USS *Constellation*. CWO5 Terry Kennemer (opposite) inspects a Black Hawk in *Constellation's* hanger bay.



Photos by SFC Brenda Benner

test director from Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Md., said that the need for the JSHIP program grew out of experiences in Haiti, Grenada, Panama and Somalia.

One of JSHIP's goals, he said, is to document lessons and make them available to the war fighters for use in crisis situations.

"We had Air Force and Army special operations helicopters deployed from our ships in the past," said Gary. "We found that it was not as easy as just landing on the ships. The Navy uses different equipment for refueling and maintenance, different procedures and lingo, and the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, for example, were not designed for sea operations."

"Once we solve the interservice compatibility shortcomings, it will become much easier for joint services to go to sea and fight those battles," Gary added.

Fighting those battles demands different kinds of aviation assets than the Navy possesses.

"There are not enough Navy helicopters to perform large-scale combat assaults," said Col. James Looney, the Texas National Guard's state aviation officer.

"We are writing tactics to get all of our modernized helicopters -- including Apaches, Chinooks and, eventually, Comanches -- onto the smaller amphibious carriers as well. That's the way we're going to get to the fight."

Many Army aviators will eventually have aircraft carrier landing bragging rights, but until then the CH-47 pilots and crewmembers from the Texas Guard's Company G, 149th Aviation, can claim to be among the first.

The Chinook crews experienced their own JSHIP training off the Virginia coast aboard the USS *Saipan* last November.

SSgt. Lisa Webb, a crew chief for Company A, 449th Aviation Battalion, said she knows of few Army aviators who get this kind of opportunity. Webb has twice the bragging rights -- she landed on an aircraft carrier years ago while flying with the 228th Aviation Battalion in Panama.

"I feel special, in a way, because we're paving a new road for joint services to work together," she said. "We're setting the standards and modifying the way we operate aboard ships."

Webb guided the maintenance crews





**SEA SPRAY** – Texas Army Guard SSgt. Lisa Webb, a Black Hawk crew chief, cleans the salt from the cockpit windows prior to a mission.

through "blade-folding" procedures, in which the rotor blades are repositioned, overlapping one another over the tail of the helicopter.

Unlike some Navy helicopters, which have power-operated blade-folding capabilities, the Black Hawk's rotor assemblies must be partially disassembled.

Blade folding allows more helicopters to fit in the tight confines of carrier decks and hanger bays.

Earlier, the water-hazard-training portion of the program provided a much more intense learning experience. During the training, flight crewmembers were suspended upside down in the training pool while breathing from small bottles of compressed air and exhaling through their noses.

"I must have gotten six gallons of water up my nose," said Capt. Robert Gale, a Black Hawk pilot. "It's impossible to avoid it. Everything else was 'cake' compared to the pool."

The grand finale is the "dunker," a barrel-shaped mock-up of a helicopter fuselage. In this training, crews are strapped into the simulator, which is dropped into the pool. Then they must wait -- as the fuselage rolls upside down and sinks -- before executing their evacuation procedures.

The training difficulty is magnified when wearing blackout goggles to achieve a "blind" evacuation.

"The water hazard training is an eye-opener for everyone," Webb said. "It makes us think about how we'll react if we hit the water. This training is critical."

For CWO5 Terry Kennemer, the Texas Army Guard's aviation safety and standardization officer, the water-survival training -- required for shipboard operations -- was a first.

"It's not easy," said Kennemer. "It takes a lot of effort to jump off a tower with 40 pounds of flight gear strapped to us and swim the required 100 yards with it. The gear itself doesn't float. This certainly builds our confidence."

According to Gary, the Texas aviators adapted to the world of Navy aviation very quickly.

"I see no difference between the National Guard units and the regular Army units we've trained with," he said. "They proved they could operate in this new and challenging environment."

## INSIDE THE TEXAS GUARD

The Teofilo brothers, one a member of the Navy the other a Guardsman, met aboard the USS *Constellation*

# Reunited at Sea

By SFC Brenda Benner  
*Texas National Guard*

One brother serves his country, his feet planted firmly on the ground, while his younger brother rides the oceans and sees the world. Their paths finally converge in the most unlikely of locations -- on the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation*, off the coast of San Diego.

Texas Army National Guard SSgt. Legalo Teofilo, a full-time UH-60L helicopter mechanic with Troop F, 124th Cavalry, enjoyed a miniature family reunion of sorts when a training mission led him to his younger brother's floating duty station.

"I found out from my sister just a few days before I came out here that the USS *Constellation* was my brother's ship," said Teofilo. "It was a shock."

Younger by seven years, Petty Officer 1st Class Leitu F. Teofilo, a dental technician aboard the "Connie," as she's affectionately called, also relied on his sister for the good news.

Their meeting materialized as Legalo accompanied UH-60L Black Hawk pilots and crew members participating in the Joint Shipboard Helicopter Integration Process program, also known as JSHIP. This innovative program is designed to better integrate non-Navy helicopters and their crews aboard Navy vessels.

The Teofilos, born and raised in the small village of Fatumafuti, near Pago Pago, American Samoa, have not seen one another for more than four years.

A chain of seven islands, American Samoa, a territory of the U.S. since 1900, is located in the South Pacific, halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand. It is the only U.S. territory south of the equator.

Legalo received an insider's tour of the ship with an emphasis on the dental areas. He said that this initial encounter with an aircraft carrier has been an adventure for him and his fellow soldiers.

"The ship's dental sections look incredible," said Legalo. "I don't know how they can do all the procedures they do while staying on a ship."

In turn, Leitu and his shipmates were treated to a guided tour of the Army's Black Hawk helicopter.

"I finally got to see his helicopters for the first time, and learn how they function compared to Navy helicopters," said Leitu. "It's very interesting."

Legalo and Leitu followed a proud Samoan tradition when they joined the military.

American Samoa, with a population of about 65,000, provides its fair share of recruits to the military.

"The people here are really supportive of the military," said Army civilian Saunou Vaouli, a recruiting specialist in American Samoa. "We've recruited about 100 Samoans per year over the last 10 years for the active-duty Army, the Reserves and the National Guard."

The latest statistics from the Defense Manpower Data Center indicate that nearly 700 military personnel of Samoan heritage currently serve within the active-duty military branches. Lietu is one of 40 active-duty sailors, while Legalo joins the ranks of over 260 full-time soldiers.

Legalo started a family tradition also when he enlisted -- his two youngest brothers, twins, also joined the Army. One serves in Hawaii, while the other is in Oregon. Four out of six Teofilo brothers have answered the call to duty.

Legalo left Samoa for the military after graduating from high school in the early 70s. He traveled to Panama, Korea, Virginia, and Texas on duty assignments.

Leitu waited until college graduation to follow his brother's lead.

"Seeing him do well in the Army helped me realize that the military wasn't so bad after all," said Leitu. "The Navy allows me to see the world. Since I grew up in the South Pacific, I enjoy the smell of the sea. I've had great duty stations in Sicily, Italy and Germany."

Legalo said he believes it must be rare for brothers in



Photo by SFC Brenda Benner

**PICTURE PERFECT REUNION** -- Petty Officer 1st Class Leitu F. Teofilo (left) and his 'big' brother, Legalo, a staff sergeant with the Texas Army National Guard, briefly reunited aboard the USS *Constellation*.

two different military branches to have duty aboard the same ship and that this opportunity to meet is a blessing.

Their military careers make it difficult to get leave at the same time for family gatherings.

"This visit has been great for us," said Legalo. "We hope to see each other one of these years during our annual San Diego area family reunions. We're going to send a photo of both of us together to our mom who is back in Samoa. She is very excited."

Legalo and Leitu parted ways with repeated words of farewell in their native Samoan language. "Tofa soifua," they said. "Good-bye, see you later."

And until these two brothers personally receive handshakes, hugs and kisses from their numerous relatives and friends, those attending the reunions will finally see Legalo and Lietu together again -- if only in a proud mother's precious photograph.



## NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Airmen from an Illinois Air Guard airlift wing deployed to Fort Irwin, Calif., to provide Army infantrymen air support

## Eyes on the GROUND

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The noncommissioned officer wearing helmet and goggles and standing in the command turret beside a .50-caliber machine gun looked very much the soldier as an armored personnel carrier bounced across the Mojave Desert.

But the stripes on his camouflage sleeve gave him away. They were Air Force blue.

MSgt. Steve Salander, 32, was not one of the Army National Guard soldiers undergoing 10 tough days of combat training with South Carolina's 218th Mechanized Infantry Brigade at the Army's National Training Center toward the Mexico end -- the oven-hot end -- of California.

Salander lived in the desert for all 10 days because of his full-time job with the Air National Guard.

He hangs out with Army Guard infantry outfits quite a lot as a team chief with the Illinois Air Guard's 169th Air Support Operations Squadron in Peoria. Close air support is the 14-year Air Guard veteran's and the squadron's business.

Salander's team of five enlisted men had the job of directing low-flying Air Force F-16 jet fighters to enemy targets on the battlefield for the 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry,

one of the South Carolina enhanced brigade's maneuver units.

"The job is to guide the fighters so they get their bombs on target without hitting friendly forces," explained Salander. "It's interesting work."

It's also gritty grunt work that most people do not associate with anyone affiliated with the Air Force. Fighter pilots, however, need eyes on the ground when they go tactical. Who better, Salander explained, than others in blue.

Twenty-two members of the Illinois squadron were attached to the brigade for its three weeks of training at Fort Irwin, Salander explained.

His tactical air control party included SrA. Jose Acevedo, Jake Frazier and Chris Gosch. All three are college students. South Carolina Army Guard Sgt. Steve Legette, a high school football coach, drove the armored personnel carrier.

Air Guard Capt. Mark Chapman was the liaison officer working with the infantry battalion's command staff.

The mission involved driving to high points as close as possible to the targets and talking to the fighter pilots on radios mounted in the tracked vehicle.

"We don't go to the highest point, because we don't want the enemy to see us," Salander explained. "We look for a place where we can hide and still see the targets and watch the fighters."

The Air Guard squadron gets lots of practice, Salander said, because it supports Army Guard infantry brigades based in South Carolina, New York and Indiana and an armored cavalry regiment in Tennessee. It has recently added two Special Forces groups to its clientele.

Team deployments to the Balkans are not uncommon. Members of the 169th



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**HELP from BELOW** -- Illinois Air Guard MSgt. Steve Salander, a member of a Peoria-based 182nd Airlift Wing squadron, ensured Army infantry units got air support at the National Training Center.

will spend three weeks in Bosnia next summer, Salander said.

The squadron's tactical controllers train to direct the fire of attack helicopters, field artillery and naval guns. Most of their work, however, is with jet fighters, Salander explained.

Even though members of the 169th are not in the infantry, they have to use infantry tactics to survive and do their job. And they have to live with the infantry, hardly a comfortable way of living.

However, they take it in good-natured stride.

Quipped Frazier: "I joined the Air Force and they sent me to the Army."



A North Carolina Army Guard soldier (above) drinks from his canteen. A citizen-soldier (right) takes aim at a Bradley during a battle at Fort Irwin.

## Nearly 5,000 Guardmembers take on the National Training Center, Mojave Desert

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

It's hard to hold people's feet to the fire when hot sand is burning through their boots. The U.S. Army, however, does just that at its National Training Center in the harsh Mojave Desert that blankets California's southern end.

You don't believe it? Ask several thousand National Guard soldiers who spent July's final three weeks enduring intimidating 115-degree days while the Army put South Carolina's mechanized 218th Brigade Combat Team through its paces on 1,000 square miles of planet earth's most unforgiving real estate, Fort Irwin, Calif. It's next door to Death Valley.

Ten years after the Persian Gulf War, the 218th is part of Army's 24th Infantry Division. It is considered a classic case of how closely active and reserve components are now serving together. And the brigade will send citizen-soldiers to Bosnia in two years. The training in the desert, therefore, was not taken lightly.

Oh, you say, it's a dry heat. Yeah, sure. Tell that to the nearly 5,000 Guardmembers who fought four morning training battles during 10 days in "The Box" against the 11th



Armored Cavalry Regiment, the fort's dominating opposing force, while being monitored day and night by 405 observer-controllers.

Tell it to the nearly 2,000 more citizen-soldiers in the Palmetto State Task Force that helped pull off what was considered the largest peacetime deployment in National Guard history. Hey, hot is hot.

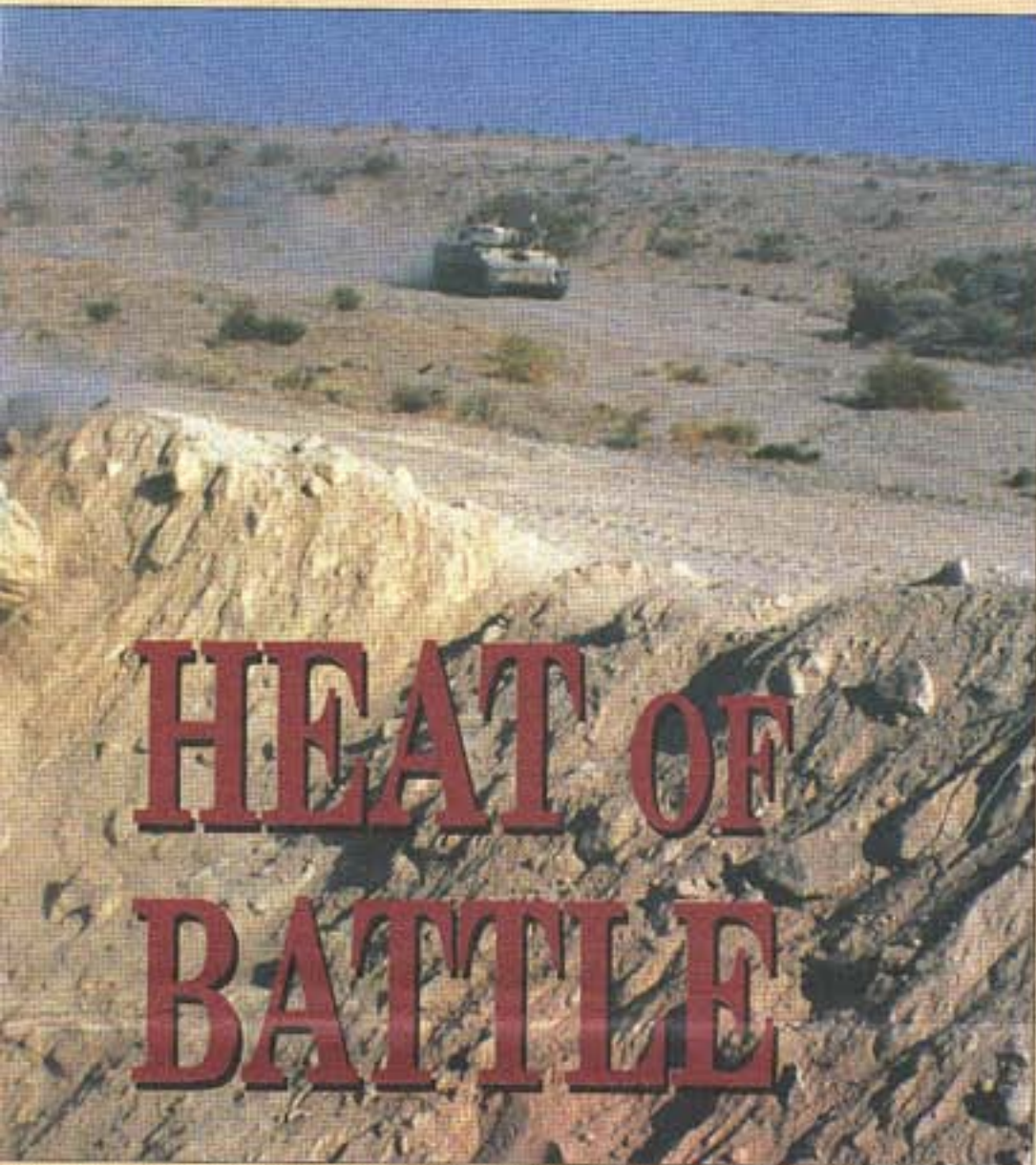
Consider this.

■ The only shade from the mid-day sun were steel trucks and tanks, tents and camouflage netting that were only slightly cooler than your average oven.

■ The billowing sand stripped paint off helicopter blades, and front edges of rear rotors had to be touched up after every flight. Cleaning carburetors was also critical.

■ Troops drank enough water and Gatorade to fill Lake Superior, and 12 pounds of ice for each citizen-soldier were hauled to the field every day to fill the coolers and chill the food. One day's ice allotment totaled 30 tons.





**DESERT WARRIORS** — A South Carolina Army Guard Bradley Fighting Vehicle crew from the 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry negotiates Irwin's challenging terrain.

Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

■ Shaving at dawn when the temperature was a mere 70 and eating warmed field rations before sunset were the highlights of most days.

Then there were the after-action reviews.

"This is what we think you did wrong." "How would you fix this?" "Oh, you looked pretty good over here, but what were your people doing over there?" The evaluators bored in as if they were teaching at MIT.

That is the level of training in the four Ts -- Temperature, Terrain, Timing and the home Team -- that the Army's armor and mechanized infantry brigades get at the National Training Center. The Guard soldiers from South Carolina and more than 20 supporting states were not spared the rod.

No one asked for quarter.

"I've never seen anything like this before," gasped North Carolina artillery Sgt. Dale Leonard while shaking fine sand out of his rifle and reloading as his gritty guard post was being assaulted by enemy armor.

"This is like sticking your feet in flour," added Leonard, a civilian long-haul trucker. "I didn't say I liked it, but it's good training."

Lt. Col. Greg Batts, commander of South Carolina's 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry, the brigade's force of Bradley Fighting Vehicles, said there's no other substitute.

"There is no better way to replicate the fog of war than here at the National Training Center," he said.

"To quote the post commander, Army units don't get trained-up here. Units leave here ready to train," added Batts, a special operations police lieutenant from Charleston.

It was a critical three weeks for the brigade based in Newberry, S.C., that spent two years preparing for its \$21-million, first full-scale training rotation on the West Coast.

The 218th is one of three Army Guard enhanced maneuver brigades that make up the Army's 24th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Riley, Kan. It was reactivated in June 1999. The two other brigades are located in

North Carolina and Georgia.

And the South Carolina brigade commanded since March by Brig. Gen. Earl Brown, a 53-year-old civilian pharmacist, must supply about 600 mechanized infantry and armor troops for six months of peacekeeping duty in Bosnia beginning in October 2002.

"This NTC rotation is mighty critical. It's important to all of our soldiers," acknowledged

Brown, who left the Air Force in 1973 and joined the brigade as a lieutenant when his father, Joseph Brown Jr., was the commanding general.

What has the 218th learned in California?

"We will now know what the Army standard is for training and performance," Brown said. "We will take home the knowledge and reference points for mobilizing and deploying."

"We will know that putting a brigade combat team on the ground and performing missions as we have here in the last several weeks is a very difficult process, particularly when you consider we have 23 states represented here."

Seven Apache attack helicopters from Idaho and a close air support team from the Illinois Air National Guard, to guide F-16 fighters to their targets, were among a multitude of units that the brigade had to get to know and employ. North Carolina troops led the seven-state aviation task force of 373 citizen-soldiers and 23 helicopters.

The exercise involved much more than 10 days of combat training.

More than 1,800 tanks, fighting vehicles and other pieces of equipment were hauled cross country on 375 railroad cars and 25 trucks. The vehicles were unloaded in Yermo, Calif., and convoyed across the desert to Fort Irwin during two weeks.

Who was interested? Everybody who is anybody in the Army, including the Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki.

"You're to be congratulated for the improvements this brigade has made during this rotation," he told Brown and the brigade's bone-tired staff on July's fourth Saturday afternoon. The 218th had fought its third battle in six days that morning.

"Recognizing the situation and making the transitions is the art of the business," Shinseki told the citizen-soldiers. "Tomorrow will be a better day."

If the days were not all good, they were an adventure in survival, said an armored personnel carrier driver from Charleston, S.C.

"This gives you the chance to escape from the complexities of life and get out here and live very basically. Most people never get the chance to do that," said Sgt. Steve Legette, a 1997 Citadel graduate who has become a high school physical education teacher and football coach.

"If you get ice and a hot meal, your day is made," Legette added. "It makes you appreciate what you have when you go home."





## SPORTS

■ Nevada Knockout ■ Marksmen on Target

# Gilbert scores KO in pro debut

■ **Three-time Champ:**  
*Nevada airman impressive in and out of ring*

By A1C Timothy Glynn  
*Nevada National Guard*

**A** Nevada Air Guard transportation apprentice took motivation, dedication and discipline another step as he slugged his way to victory in his professional boxing debut.

A1C Joseph S. "Joey" Gilbert, a three-time NCAA national boxing champion and member of the 152nd Aerial Port Flight, knocked out Mexico's Miguel Lopez in the second round at Harrah's Reno Resort.

"Everything felt different," said Gilbert, the 2000 Nevada Golden Gloves champion, of his first pro fight. "You have no idea what it feels like."

A graduate of the University of Nevada in Reno, Gilbert realized he was in for a battle when Lopez tagged his broken nose, an old battle wound that can only be healed through surgery, in the first round.

"When you get caught, you have to

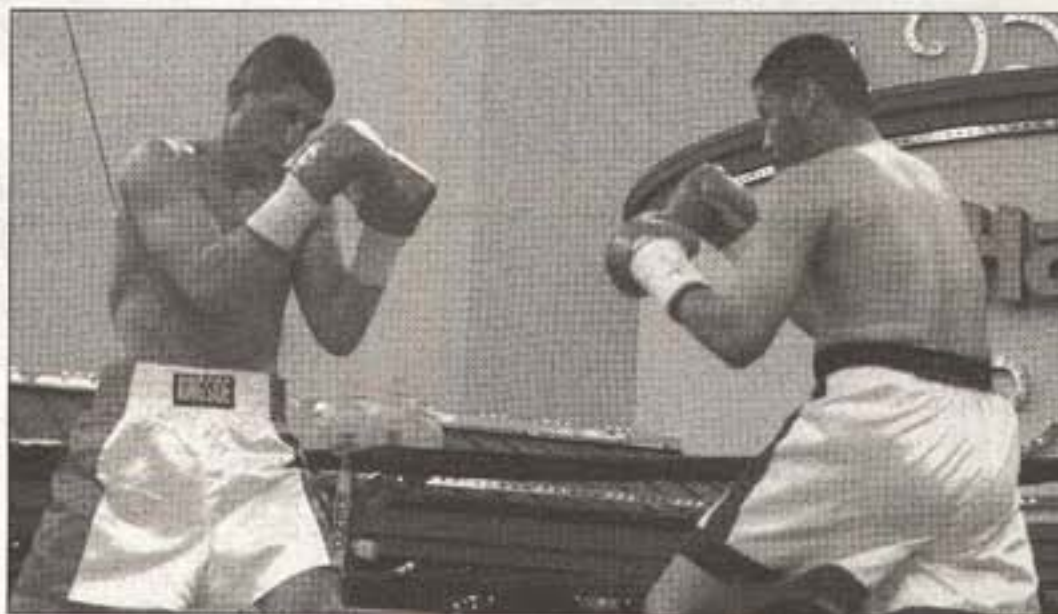


Photo by A1C Timothy Glynn

make it look like you didn't get caught," he said. "That first round was just ridiculous."

"I was told that I was favoring the right hand, but that's just inexperience," he added.

When the second round began, Gilbert's first-time pro jitters took a back seat to his ring generalship. With the roar of the crowd behind him and shouts of encouragement from virtually every seat on the

plaza, Gilbert took command.

After a devastating right hand connected above Lopez's ear, Gilbert worked over his opponent on the red and blue ropes. The match was stopped at 2:47. The fight was scheduled for four rounds.

"He (Gilbert) just surprised me with that right hand," said Lopez of the shot that turned the tide. "One shot and everything is boom."

Gilbert's exceptional skills extend be-

**EYEING VICTORY** -- A1C Joey Gilbert (left), a member of the 152nd Aerial Port Flight and three-time NCAA national boxing champion, gets ready to trade blows with Mexico's Miguel Lopez during his professional boxing debut.

yond the ring, said Nevada Air Guard MSgt. Dennis Fournier, a recruiter with the 152nd Airlift Wing.

Fournier said Gilbert has been a one-man recruiting force, coaxing seven of his friends into enlisting. His powers of persuasion have earned him other prizes,

including gift certificates and days off.

With the gratitude of 152nd recruiters, the admiration of boxing aficionados and the prospect of law school looming on the horizon, Gilbert said he's feeling pretty good about the future.

As for proving he's a potential force in the professional boxing ranks, Gilbert simply smiled.

"Does this not show you that I have what it takes?"

## All-Guard shooters on target at interservice match



Photo by Capt. Pete Giovannini

**HOT SHOT** -- South Dakota Army Guard SFC Darrell Dingle sights his M-16 prior to competition in Quantico, Va.

By Capt. Pete Giovannini  
*Arkansas National Guard*

**O**n ranges perhaps better suited to lawn bowling, the best marksmen from each service met at the 39th Annual Interservice Rifle Championships in Quantico, Va., to determine who was truly the military's best shot.

Led by Iowa Army Guard Col. Eddie Newman, a contingent of 33 Guard shooters and support personnel won or placed in several categories at the Marine-hosted event.

"We've really improved and we're closing ground on the Army and Marine Corps," said Newman. "Our primary goal still remains winning the national championship" at Camp Perry, Ohio.

During Match 8, Pennsylvania Air Guard TSgt. Kenneth Strohm won the Division "A" 1000-yard

match, while Alaska Army Guard CWO3 Ron Fleischhacker took "B" division. Division "A" is open only to service rifle and Division "B" is open to other rifles.

All-Guard shooters won both divisions in Match 9, the individual long-range championship match. Strohm again won Division "A," followed by Pennsylvania Army Guard SFC David Kerin. Fleischhacker won Division "B."

During the Commanding General team match, Strohm, Iowa's SFC Larry Walraven, South Dakota's SSgt. Richard Zolnowsky, Nebraska's Sgt. Bruce McCauley, North Dakota's SSgt. Daniel Marquart and New Hampshire's Spc. Leigh Jenks III teamed to win the Reserve Team trophy.

The Interservice Rifle Team Championship Reserve Trophy was captured by Walraven, McCauley, Jenks, Strohm, Fleischhacker, Marquart, Kerin, South Dakota's SFC Darrell Barry and Maryland Air Guard's SSgt. Gary Diefenderfer.





Photo by Sgt. Clinton Wood

# Basic Blues

By Sgt. Clinton Wood, Minnesota National Guard

**A**t zero-dark thirty, that's 4:30 a.m. to the uninitiated, the worlds of 65 youths were rocked. That was about the time the newest members of the Minnesota Army Guard were introduced by "drill sergeants" to a three-day Basic Training Orientation Course (BTOC) at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, recently.

"There was some fear," recalled SFC Dean Madsen, who played the role as the senior drill sergeant, of the initial wake up that included the banging of trash cans and metal chairs.

"They got a good all-Ameri-

can razzin'."

Many of the recruits, of course, shared a different perspective. William Anderson, a Brainerd High School senior, described the wakeup as "hard."

Joe Johnson, a senior at Aitkin

High School experiencing just his second Guard weekend drill, said the rude awakening was a "big rush."

"You sure wake up in a hurry," he added.

In just its second year, the Gopher State BTOC is designed for basic training graduates who have not attended their advanced individual training (AIT), and Guard delayed entry program enlistees who have not attended boot camp. The training was hosted by members of 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry.

Madsen, who fashioned a Marine Corps-type "high and tight" haircut, noted that the course's cadre (drill sergeants and support staff) included "good NCOs" from the battalions or recent graduates from the Pri-

mary Leadership Development Course.

"They know the deal," assured Madsen, who admitted that he was yelled at a lot by drill sergeants when he attended basic training.

After the initial wake up, the trainees participated in a physical fitness session that included a one-mile run and push ups. They then stood a room and uniform inspection.

The trainees also were treated to four, 45-minute classes on drill and ceremony, basic marksmanship, wear of uniform, military customs, and an introduction to the M1 Abrams Tank and M2 Bradley fighting vehicle.

Only during the classes were the students allowed to "relax," for they ran to and from each class. Naturally, they were not

**NO PAIN, NO GAIN** — Joe Johnson grimaces to pump out another push-up.

allowed to talk or look at their "drill sergeants." Or worse yet, step on their "drill's" boots.

Such discipline did not bother Robert Durham, a University of Minnesota in Duluth student.

"If you do something wrong, you've got to get punished," he said. "It's got to be done."

Johnson, whose uniform looked like he was crawling in the dirt for days, said the course taught him a valuable lesson.

"You can't do anything without teamwork," commented the future infantryman.

Anderson, who plans to be a welder, had some advice for others contemplating the course.

"Definitely go for it," he said.



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

*Vickie Mares became the first woman in the history of the New Mexico National Guard to reach the highest enlisted rank, E-9.*

Chief Master Sergeant Mares, a member of the Air Guard's Headquarters staff, began her military career in the Army National Guard in 1976.

After basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., Mares switched to the Air National Guard upon her return to New Mexico. She became a full-time administrative specialist for the 150th Fighter Wing in 1981. It was at the Albuquerque-based unit that she drew the attention and respect of her commanding officer, retired Lt. Col. Gene Delgado.

"It's not just a matter of time," he observed of her rise up the enlisted ladder. "She definitely earned that recognition."

Mares has seen many changes for military women during her 24 years in uniform.

"There are a lot more women," she said. "And they are not limiting themselves to what were once traditional female fields. You see them in avionics, on the flight line and flying."

Of the nearly 1,000 New Mexico citizen-airmen, 162 are women.

*For 132 Mississippi children a week in July included marching in formation, counting cadence, sleeping on military cots and eating in mess halls.*

In its eighth year, the kids were participating in the Mississippi National Guard Summer Youth Camp 2000 at the Camp Shelby National Guard Training Site near Hattiesburg, Miss.

The week-long camp exposed the children to a montage of military disciplines such as marching, barracks inspections and flag protocol. It also included traditional camp activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, archery, and arts and crafts.

Campers also were treated to demonstrations and displays by Army and Air National Guard units from the surrounding area.

One of those demonstrations involved flyovers, strafing and bombing runs. F-16 pilots from the Alabama Air Guard's 187th Fighter Wing and B-1 crews from the Georgia Air Guard's 116th Bomb Wing were involved. Guardsmen with the Magnolia State's 255th Air Control Squadron gave the campers a ride in a personnel troop carrier to the target impact area where the aircraft drop munitions.

Members of the Army Guard also were involved. Campers were treated to an airborne demonstration by soldiers of the Jackson-based 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, who parachuted from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flown by pilots with the 185th Aviation.

Beverly Sharp, State Family Program Coordinator, said the camp helps military family members better understand what their parents do.

It seems to have worked for 12-year-old Kenya Hardy, whose father Kenneth is a technical sergeant with the 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian.

"I know I am going to join the National Guard when I get old enough," she said.



New Mexico CMSgt. Vickie Mares made history recently.



Mississippi youngsters get a taste of military life at Guard summer camp.



MSgt. Karen Hunter, the Air Guard Recruiter of the Year, is honored by Deputy Secretary of Defense Rudy de Leon.

*The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has awarded the Indiana Air Guard 181st Fighter Wing's vehicle maintenance facility three stars in its Environmental Recognition Program.*

According to Maj. Paul Davis, 181st environment manager, the maintenance facility has been included on a list of award recipients, mostly large automotive service departments, which passed the state's stringent criteria for environmental leadership.

"The state reviewed our practices in areas such as hazardous waste disposal, safety and recycling," he said.

He added that the IDEM also took into account the facility's many proactive programs, such as alternative fuel vehicles. "Many people don't realize that part of our fleet runs on natural gas," Davis said.

Another area that makes the maintenance facility stand out is its aggressive pollution control inspection program.

"We have special analytical equipment to test all of our vehicles for emissions," Davis said. "This is above and beyond what is required by the state for any vehicle, but we do it as a matter of routine here."

*Oklahoma Air Guard MSgt. Karen Y. Hunter was recognized as the Air National Guard's Recruiter of the Year award during an awards ceremony at the Pentagon. Deputy Secretary of Defense Rudy de Leon presented the award.*

Hunter, a Mid West City resident and recruiter for Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, was chosen from more than 300 of the nation's top Air Guard recruiters.

"It was such an honor to be at the Pentagon and receive an award for something I truly love doing," said Hunter.

Hunter achieved the best production numbers in the Sooner State by exceeding every state-recruiting goal. Of her enlistees, 91 percent were in critically low-manned career fields, 30 percent were women and 30 percent were minorities.

Last year she recruited 71 people into the unit at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base.

Hunter credits much of her success to the Oklahoma National Guard's 100-percent state university tuition scholarships and other educational benefits offered to college-minded men and women who join the National Guard.

Hunter also developed and implemented a first of its kind "Fuel your Future Workshop" that involves speaking to junior and high school students about issues such as character, integrity, goal setting and success.

She explained that the workshop is not just about getting young people to join the Guard.

"My primary goal is to develop a real relationship with these kids," she said. "I try to find out their interests and steer them into a career plan that will include those interests."

"Sometimes the Air National Guard is a part of their future, sometimes it's not," Hunter added. "I'm more interested in helping these kids be successful adults."



**BORDER BUCKEYES --** Spc. Nate Mazur (below) screws in a bolt on a bridge at Eagle Pass. A bridge part (right) is lifted into place. Ohio Guardmembers (far right) are shown a popular spot where illegals cross into the U.S.



Ohio engineers deploy to the Texas border to help agents

## Heading 'em off at the Pass

By Sgt. J.R. Lewis  
*Ohio National Guard*

**T**he Texas/Mexico border. A vast, sprawling expanse of sandy hills, mesquite trees and emptiness. Heat rises to maddening temperatures and sunsets strike chords of beauty.

In this land of glaring sun and endless skies, the drug trade and flow of illegal immigrants reach staggering proportions. Only the Border Patrol agents, a section of the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service, stand between the U.S. and the tidal wave of crime that comes with drug and immigration problems.

But when the agents at Eagle Pass, Texas, found themselves being cut off from back-up routes and high-traffic areas by the rugged terrain near the Rio Grande, they called upon a group of engineers capable of handling the heat, pressure and natural elements the area had to offer ... the Ohio National Guard.

Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade rotated in and out of the base camp at Maverick County International Airport, just outside of Eagle Pass, for two months recently as part of Task Force Buckeye, a wide-ranging project aimed at improving the response time and on-the-job safety of Border Patrol agents.

The engineers worked on five projects in support of the Border Patrol: a patrol road upgrade; a station gap bridge; a water reservoir crossing; a bridge near a golf course frequently used as an escape route for illegal immigrants; and an upgrade to a road near Laredo, which lies far to the south of Eagle Pass.

The projects made the driving safer for

agents, who often drive at high speeds in off-road situations, and provided quicker access to previously remote areas, narrowing the opportunity for transportation of illegal drugs and immigrants along the 52-mile portion of the border covered by the Eagle Pass agents.

The benefits for the Guardmembers were equally vital. The project provided a change of pace from the traditional two weeks at Camp Grayling, Mich., and allowed the engineers to get hours of hands-on experience, while proving themselves in one of the toughest climates imaginable for construction work.

"This training gets us away from the same-old, same-old," said SSgt. Michael Hay, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 612th Engineer Battalion. "We're not only doing grunt-work, but learning and practicing engineer skills, heavy equipment operating and terrain scouting."

The importance of supporting a goal key to our national leadership seemed to motivate the soldiers and carry them through the tough working climate.

"This is a combat mission," said Sgt. Todd Ryman, a squad leader from Company C. "Instead of tanks and humvees, we've got Border Patrol agents crossing our bridges."

The intensity of the mission was not lost on the agents like Christopher Rose.

"It really gets me right here," he said, raising a hand to his chest. "To think that my response time in helping a fellow agent in trouble will be cut to fractions by this work."

"It is something that I cannot find the words to describe," he added.

Although the heat was a concern for the Guard engineers, proper precautions kept the mission rolling on.

"It's miserable, but we can deal with it," said Spc. Gary Gerber. "It makes me feel good that what we are doing here can actually save lives."



Photos by PFC Haraz N. Gharbari





# STATES

■ Sooner Success ■ Partnered for Peace ■ Joyous in Jersey

## OKLAHOMA

Soldiers with the 45th Infantry Brigade played the ultimate video game after participating in War Fighter, the Army's Brigade Command Training Program or BCTP.

In development for more than 10 years, the program incorporates computer-based wargaming and infantry tactical planning.

The Sooner State brigade has warred against the BCTP twice in the past year, the most recent exercise was held from July 21-23 at Camp Gruber.

Col. Glenn Scott, chief of staff for the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo., said the exercise allowed active and Guard soldiers to work on tactics. He also saw other advantages.

"This BCTP exercise has allowed the 45th Infantry Brigade to deploy all of its battle systems without actually putting men and machines in the field," he explained, "and the 45th has done exceptionally well throughout the exercise."

The "One Army" concept is a top priority of Gen. Eric Shinseki, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, who visited Camp Gruber the final day of the exercise.

"The days of an active Army and a reserve Army have come to an end," he said. "This has been made clear by our increasing reliance on reserve troops for overseas missions such as Bosnia."

## MINNESOTA

### ON the JOB

An Army Guard cop with the Gopher State's 34th Military Police Company in Rosemount subdues a 'looter' during a recent civil disturbance exercise. Nearly 150 citizen-soldiers with the company worked with law enforcers from the city of Robbinsdale to practice their combined response to a possible disaster.



Photo by Sgt. Tim Peterson

## NORTH CAROLINA

Tarheel State Army National Guard engineers deployed to Staseni, Moldova recently, for Exercise Cornerstone 00-1, a combined engineering exercise with soldiers from the Moldova armed forces.

The exercise was conducted as part of the Partnership for Peace program and as part of the State Partnership Program between North Carolina and Moldova.

The National Guard and Moldova engineers reinforced their vertical construction skills and small engineer unit skills, constructing a medical clinic and conducting small unit training exercises.

The clinic will provide a basic level of medical care for more than 640 children, ranging from infants to teenagers.

This exercise was the first ever conducted in the Republic of Moldova. It was the seventh Cornerstone exercise conducted in Europe. Previous Cornerstone exercises were conducted in Albania, Romania, the Republic of Georgia, Bulgaria, Latvia and Macedonia.

Cornerstone exercises are designed to enhance regional stability by employing U.S. reserve component and active duty forces in combined engineering construction operations with the armed forces of host nations.

## NEW JERSEY

In the largest civil deployment of Guard troops since Hurricane Floyd last September, more than 400 soldiers, airmen and sailors from the Garden State National Guard and the newly authorized New Jersey Naval Militia provided support for the largest gathering of sailing ships and modern warships in history July 4.

Camouflage uniforms and white billowing sails graced New York Harbor during OPSAIL 2000. Operating from Liberty State Park in Jersey City, the task force provided medical treatment, security, water stations, crowd control and logistical support.

Planning for event began nearly a year ago, since the international parade of sailing vessels was predicted to attract crowds of over one million.

The preparation resulted in an event that went off without a single incident. Visitors came and saw the ships, the concerts, the fireworks, and they were

able to do so safely, quickly and with few glitches.

The operation also marked the debut of the New Jersey Naval Militia in support of civil-military operations. Naval Militia medical professionals staffed an emergency hospital, sailors provided ground and maritime security, and senior personnel pulled shifts in the unified command post with other state and federal agencies.

According to Col. John Dwyer, state National Guard spokesman, the Guardmembers provided direct support for more than 200,000 visitors.

"The Guard's presence at OPSAIL was completely positive," he said.

"The men and women of the New Jersey National Guard task force gladly gave up their holiday to ensure that Independence Day was safe, enjoyable, and trouble-free for those who came to witness this historic 4th of July," he added.



Photo by SSgt. Mark Olsen

**HARBORING GOODWILL** -- Ships and boats converged in New York Harbor to celebrate Independence Day. The New Jersey National Guard played a pivotal role in making the event pleasant.





# HISTORY

■ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War



"Them buttons wuz shot off when I took this town, sir."



"I got a hangover. Does it show?"



"Joe, yestiddy ya saved my life an' I swore I'd pay ya back. Here's my last pair of dry socks."

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin, a Guardsman, captured life for the World War II G.I.

## Drawn to the FOX HOLE

Say the words "Willie and Joe" to any World War II veteran and from most, you will get a two-word response: "Bill Mauldin."

Mauldin, the cartoonist who created the renowned strip that detailed the travails of infantrymen Willie and Joe, often depicted his featured characters in situations common to fighting men: dirty, sloppy, and unshaven; frequently wet and/or cold; and often harassed by petty regulations and the officers and military police who enforced them.

Gen. George Patton hated Willie and Joe, calling them "those godawful things you call soldiers" during a meeting with Mauldin. But to the millions of GIs who eagerly awaited each day's new cartoon, Willie and Joe represented every man in uniform.

Interestingly, the two were Guardsmen.

In 1940, 19-year-old Bill Mauldin had just returned to Phoenix, Ariz., from art school, when a high-school friend convinced him to join Arizona's about-to-be-Federalized 120th Quartermaster Regiment, part of the

45th Division. Cartooning jobs were scarce, so Mauldin signed up to be a truck driver. He wound up drawing again, however, when the division started its own newspaper.

Partly to get material for his work, Mauldin transferred to Company K, 180th Infantry, an Oklahoma unit like most of the 45th. Mauldin's drawings chronicled the "Thunderbirds" part in the Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941, and, after America entered WWII, their shipment to North Africa.

The characters of Willie and Joe evolved into their final form when the 45th Infantry Division entered combat in Sicily in July 1943.

Willie, probably based on a Native-American Guardsman who had befriended Mauldin when he transferred to the infantry and who was later killed in action, was the wise-cracking cynic.

The snub-nosed Joe usually played the straight man, but he too could toss off the one-liners, as when he told the company medic: "Yer dern tootin' my sniffles is serious -- I been drawin' mortar fire."

Together, Willie, Joe and the rest of their company (for Mauldin's work was not limited just to the two riflemen) went through the war, from Sicily to Salerno, and up the Italian mainland.

By this time, Mauldin was no longer in the infantry; he had been transferred to headquarters to work full-time on the paper. Although he still returned to the front lines to gather ideas, he did not return to Company K. The Guardsmen he had served with in 1940-41 were being killed, and as Mauldin later wrote, "It's easier to see this happen to strangers rather than your old friends."

The fact that he had once been an infantryman is what



### GUARD HISTORY

By Renee Hylton  
Army Guard Historian

made Mauldin's "reality-based" work so good. It was not long before he came to the attention of the *Rolls-Royce* of military journalism, the newspaper *Stars and Stripes*, which had a distribution in the hundreds of thousands in the Mediterranean Theater alone.

*Stars and Stripes* began to run selected Mauldin cartoons, but there was resistance to transferring him to the regular staff. Many officers considered Mauldin's work not only offensive, but downright subversive. Others of high rank disagreed, however, and their case was bolstered when *Life* magazine ran a feature on Mauldin's work.

It was hard to argue with such visible success, and early in 1944, Bill Mauldin began drawing a daily strip for *Stars and Stripes* called "Up Front." He was allowed to retain the rights to his work, and the series was picked up by a press syndicate, eventually running in hundreds of civilian newspapers in the U.S.

When World War II ended, Mauldin had won a Pulitzer prize for journalism, and his book *Up Front*, a brief narrative built around his cartoons, made the best-seller list. He continued to work as an editorial cartoonist, winning another Pulitzer Prize in 1959. Now retired with homes in Arizona, Florida and California, his great World War II cartoons are still in print.

In 1977, Bill Mauldin returned Willie and Joe to Oklahoma when he sold his original drawings to the 45th Infantry Division Association for a fraction of their worth. The Oklahoma state legislature appropriated money to build an addition to the 45th Infantry Division Museum to house the collection. Each year thousands of visitors stop to laugh at the timeless humor of Willie and Joe, and to honor the men who fought with them.





# TRAINING



Photos by SSgt. Bob Jordan



**EYE ON BOSNIA** -- A soldier with the North Carolina Army Guard gazes at the enemy during training at Fort Stewart, Ga.

North Carolinians are ready to make history in Bosnia

## Keeping the PEACE

By Maj. Robert Jones  
*North Carolina National Guard*

**T**wo units from the North Carolina Army Guard are preparing to be the first Guard mechanized infantry and armored companies to serve in Bosnia.

Tarheel State soldiers with Company A, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry and Company B, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor will deploy to the Balkans in October.

The two companies from the 39th Heavy Separate Brigade will send 196 Guardmembers to Task Force Eagle in Tuzla, Bosnia.



**READY TO GO** North Carolina infantrymen (above) race into battle at Fort Stewart. Tarheel State troops practice crowd control as part of their upcoming peace-keeping mission in Bosnia.

"Selfless service to the state and nation is nothing new for our citizen-soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Gerald Rudisill, North Carolina adjutant general. "This is another excellent opportunity for our units to demonstrate that we can perform these missions along side our active duty counterparts."

They will be joined in Bosnia by a light infantry company from the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade. These are the first Army Guard combat units to deploy to the region since a Virginia rifle company went to Croatia in 1997.

To meet pre-deployment requirements

the units mobilized July 18. Since that time, they have been at Fort Stewart, Ga., where they have conducted soldier-readiness, processing, gunnery and mission-rehearsal exercises.

Deploying to Bosnia is nothing new for the Tarheel State Guardmembers. Nearly 1,100 Army and Air Guard troops have deployed to Europe and the former Yugoslavia as part of the NATO Stabilization Force.

While the Army recently announced a new policy to reduce deployments of active and reserve-component personnel to 179 days, the Bosnia-bound units will be on active duty for a total of 295.