

IN THE NEWS

STAT TOURS

There are many fulfilling jobs at the Guard Bureau

3



MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING

ON TARGET

The Arkansas proving ground gets soldiers ready for battle

8-9



SPORTS

CHAMP

Jose' Luis Morales wins another title

10



THE ON GUARD

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November 2000

Texans return from Bosnia

■ Lone Star Division shines during historic peacekeeping mission

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Mesquite and cedar trees and grass burned brown by the summer's searing heat. Such were the things that assured more than 750 Army National Guard soldiers they were back home in Texas during October's first week following a spring and summer of pivotal peacekeeping duty in Bosnia.

"The time went fast; a lot faster than I thought it would. But it still feels good to be home," said Sgt. Ross Wellen in the afternoon of Oct. 5, about 12 hours after landing at Fort Hood with 164 other citizen-soldiers in the 49th Armored Division.

The Texas Army Guard's Lone Star Division flag and commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Halverson, returned at 10:45 p.m. that evening, signaling the end to a high-profile mission that reflected the status and the future of the total force Army.

The National Guard division had commanded the American sector in northern Bosnia -- including soldiers in the active Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and an 11-nation multinational force that included Scandinavian, Russian and Turkish troops -- since early last March.

They helped prolong nearly five years of peace among Serbs, Croats and Muslims in that part of the Balkans before turning the mission over to the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

The Texans, coincidentally, returned to their homes on the same weekend that President Slobodan Milosevic's 13 years of autocratic rule ended in neighboring Yugoslavia.

Milosevic, believed to be a key player in the bloody three-year Bosnian war, has been indicted for murder and crimes against humanity in Kosovo by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at the Hague.

The Serbian strongman's fall may not alter the need to maintain a peacekeeping force in Bosnia, said Halverson, who worked closely with civilian officials.

"I don't think it's going to have as big



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

WELCOMED HOME -- A Texas Army Guard woman tearfully embraces her husband after returning from an eight-month deployment to Bosnia.

an effect as some people would hope," he said. But it did, at least, hold out the promise for a lasting peace in that war-torn part of the world.

Meanwhile, the 49th remained under

■ See TEXANS RETURN, page 5



Photo by Capt. Steve C. Lai

**SETTING
her SIGHTS**

Hawaii Army Guard Pvt. Lorinda Ballesteros, a medical technician with the 29th Infantry Brigade, eyes the target during training at Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu.



COMMENTARY

Readers Return Fire

ABOUT the PAPER

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GUARD MAIL

Forgive my French

I just read the two-war ace article about Col. James Hagerstrom (September issue) in the "Guard History" section. Although I enjoyed the overall article about Hagerstrom's bravery, I was shocked and disappointed with language used in the article.

Specifically, in three places where Hagerstrom was quoted:

■ "It was just a hip shot," he reported. "it had no deflection, no nothing ... just sheer a## luck."

■ "He was sitting there with smoke and sh## coming out of his airplane right above his air base."

■ "Seeing a burning mig crash on your own base can cause a he## of a morale problem," he added.

I believe these comments could have been modified without changing or demeaning the quote or the article. While I understand such comments might be appropriate in a pilot's briefing room with military personnel present, that is not the case here. This publication finds its way into homes, businesses and offices of traditional Guardmembers. Our reputation, like it or not, hangs on what we say and do.

I think we owe it to our Guardmembers, their families and our friends to always be conscious of potentially offensive language or quotes, even if changing it may err on being a little bit prudish.

MSgt. David Flook
Ohio National Guard

Concerned about Suicides

It seems that near the end of each fiscal year, we find out how bad things really are for our fellow soldiers in the Guard; so bad, that some of them commit suicide. I was disturbed by this article (September) and felt prompted to write.

Since March I have been on Active Duty for Special Work orders. I had no idea how much "stuff" the full-time staff has to deal with during the week.

I've been on active duty before, but this doesn't really compare. The full-time staff has to ensure that M-Day soldiers are cared for, as well as help with the upkeep of the armory.

If they are married, they have to find time to spend with their families. I know of some full-timers that drive extended distances to go to work, often staying away from home during the work week. Throw all that together with little or no notice of inspections by higher headquarters, and that causes increased stress.

The hardest thing for anyone to do is to reach out for help. I know, I've been down that road a few times myself. Just when I've been ready to give up hope, somehow things manage to stabilize for a little while longer.

It can be really difficult to deal with things when you are married, because you have a family to care for. It can be just as bad when you are single.

Compounding the problem, some Guard units don't even have a chaplain assigned to them.

I serve in California, a state that I really don't consider pro-military. This

also has an affect on soldiers. When you don't feel that the people you serve appreciate what you do, it can have a negative impact.

I don't have any answers to the problems we all face as soldiers. It's sad to hear that our fellow brothers and sisters in uniform are opting for suicide, instead of asking for help.

Taking care of and looking out for each other has got to be a high priority.

Sgt. Robert Brimer
California National Guard

Makes you go 'Hm'

The HMMWV has been around for a long time. My second duty station was Comiso, Italy, where I managed a fleet of them. I've been out of that business for a long time, but can't imagine they have changed the name of that vehicle. The correct term is High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle, or HMMWV.

Why do I keep seeing it referred to as a humvee? I would think if you were going to refer to it, you would get the spelling correct.

MSgt. Lisa Puscian
Colorado National Guard

LETTERS POLICY:

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GUARD TOONS

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"He's says he's 'prior service,' but his ID card expired in 1636."



IN THE NEWS

■ Touting Tours ■ Clever Cards ■ Black Berets

'Stat' tours available at Bureau

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

His nearly five years of Air National Guard duty in the shadow of the nation's capital have been, by and large, a rewarding experience for CMSgt. J.B. Watsabaugh.

"After the first year, I told my wife that perhaps we didn't need this much of a change," Watsabaugh chuckled beside his fifth-floor cubicle at the National Guard Bureau's home office in Arlington, Va. "Now, I wouldn't have changed it for the world."

The man from Missouri was speaking of the statutory tour — or stat tour — as the Air Guard's chief enlisted manager for life support that brought him to The Beltway in January 1996.

J.B. and RaNae Watsabaugh, a licensed practical nurse, plan to return to St. Joseph, Mo., and the Air Guard's 139th Airlift Wing, in January.

"I have gained a higher level of experience," said Watsabaugh. "When I go back, I should be able to benefit my home unit more than I could before I left."

That is what stat tours are all about, and the Air National Guard has plenty of opportunities for enlisted people and commissioned officers to gain that national

level of experience and to bolster their retirement pay at the same time.

"Stat tours offer members of the Air Guard two things," said CMSgt. Trish McMerty, Human Resource Division chief. "The chance for individuals to expand their professional horizons and the opportunity to share their knowledge with their units when they return to their homes."

The Air Guard has 1,000 stat tour positions, McMerty related. Most are located in the Washington, D.C., area.

The operations and flying directorate includes 120 positions, and the personnel directorate has 110. The counterdrug directorate features approximately 100 stat tours.

Elsewhere, 64 stat tours are available at the Air Guard's Training and Education Center in Knoxville, Tenn. Another 183 slots are located on 1st Air Force turf at Tyndall Air Force Base in western Florida.

Stat tours help in another way, said McMerty.

"People bring fresh ideas and different perspectives from their home units to the National Guard Bureau," she pointed out. "It's a good way to get input from the field."

Stat tours can also mean some significant retirement dollars, according to McMerty.

A four-year tour is worth 1,160 retirement points. That

■ See 'STAT' TOURS, page 4



CMSgt. J.B. Watsabaugh

"I should be able to benefit my home unit more than I could before I left"

New identification card uses 'smart' technology

The Department of Defense recently introduced its identification card of the future.

Since October, the Department of Defense began issuing a new multi-purpose card for DoD personnel. Dubbed a "common access card," it will be more than just an identification card.

The card will eventually allow physical access to secure areas, permit entry into the Department's computer networks, and serve as the authentication token for the Department's computerized public key infrastructure.

The common access card is an important example of the Department's efforts to use cutting-edge technologies to reform their business processes, to eliminate paper-based activities, to ensure the security of its networks, and consequently to enhance military readiness.

The new ID is based on "smart card" technology that stores and processes information on an integrated microprocessor chip. Embedded within the card, this chip is a small computer without a monitor or power supply. It has the capability to read, write, and perform various operations on several thousand bytes of information.

The common access card is about the size of an average credit card and will incorporate linear and two-dimensional bar codes and a magnetic stripe in order to enable the card to support other functions, either on a Department-wide or individual command basis.

Among the possible activities being considered on a Department-wide basis are processing food services charges in military mess halls and updating important manifest and deployment data. Local commands

are also evaluating placing individual medical and dental information on the card, as well as student status, armory and property accountability, training, and rifle range performance.

"I applaud the fact this card gives our people a key technological tool to improve performance while protecting individual privacy," said Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Bernard Rostker, whose office assisted in the development of the card.

The card will become the standard identification card for approximately four million people affiliated with the Department. Included in this total are active duty uniformed services personnel, selected reserves, DoD civilian personnel and eligible contractor personnel.

The target date for completion of the initial new card issuance is the end of September 2002.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Soldiers to don black berets

In a symbolic fashion statement, the chief of the Army said Tuesday the beret — for decades the distinctive headgear of elite Army units — will become standard issue for all soldiers.

Soldiers who now wear the fold-up "overseas" cap, the saucerlike "service" cap, or the baseball-style "battle dress uniform" cap will instead wear a black beret. Helmets, of course, will still be worn in combat. Army chief of staff Gen. Eric Shinseki said in a surprise announcement that the change will take effect June 14, 2001, the Army's birthday.

"When we wear the black beret, it will say that we, the soldiers of the world's best army, are committed to making ourselves even better," Shinseki said in a speech to the annual convention of the Association of the United States Army. He said the beret would be a "symbol of unity."

Aides to Shinseki said they expected some grumbling, particularly among Army Rangers who already wear black berets. Emmett Hiltbrand, a retired Ranger and Vietnam veteran who is president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, said that he was appalled by Shinseki's decision.

"It's going to look silly" and will erode some of the distinction of being a Ranger, Hiltbrand said.

Infantry division commander receives second star

H. Steven Blum, the commanding general of the Army Guard's 29th Infantry Division, was promoted to major general on Oct. 15.

With units in five states — Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey — the 29th and Blum are currently preparing to assume command of Task Force Eagle in Bosnia-Herzegovina on or about Oct. 1, 2001. As the commanding general of Task Force Eagle, Blum will lead active, National Guard and reserve soldiers from eleven states. He also will command a multi-national force that includes a dozen countries.

"The 29th has a proud history of mission accomplishment and I'm dedicated to perpetuating that history," said Blum.

The 29th's deployment will mark the first time an Army Guard division will exercise command and control of Guard combat units since the Korean War.

'STAT'

FROM PAGE 3

TOURS

could mean an additional \$214 per month to those who retire as master sergeants with between 20 and 22 years of service and an extra \$565 for people who retire as full colonels after 26 years.

Those considering stat tours, especially around Washington, D.C., should be concerned with more than the money, Watsabaugh cautioned. Stat tours, he added, are not necessarily for everyone.

"You have to like to do staff work. And it's a commitment for the entire family," said Watsabaugh of the considerably faster pace he and his wife encountered when they moved from "midtown, USA," to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

The transition was relatively easy for the Watsabaughs. They were in their 50s, and their two children were grown.

J.B. had taught high school math and physical education and had coached football and basketball in Iowa and Missouri for a few years before becoming a full-time Air Guard technician in St. Joseph with the 139th in 1974. Neither he nor his wife had ever been to Washington.

"I was satisfied with my job, but I was ready for a change. I felt I could make a difference in the career field," Watsabaugh explained. Besides, it was the only way at that time he could be promoted from senior master sergeant to chief in the life support arena.

He discovered he could make a difference at the Bureau.

During his watch, for example, chief master sergeants slots have been added to that career field across the country, and 28 people now have the chance to be promoted to that rank.

"People can now progress all the way through the enlisted ranks in the life support field," Watsabaugh said with satisfaction.

Although Watsabaugh acknowledged it will be good to return to Missouri, living and working around Washington will remain unforgettable.

"In many ways it's (D.C.) the capital of the world," he said. "Everything happens here. It's been neat to be a part of it."

Missourians mourn, honor Governor

'It was very somber. I saw a lot of people crying'

By Sgt. Gail Braymen
Missouri National Guard

Members of the Missouri National Guard played a vital role in helping the state's citizens mourn the death of Gov. Mel Carnahan.

During the four days after Carnahan, his son Randy and aide Chris Sifford died in an Oct. 16 plane crash near St. Louis, National Guard soldiers and airmen performed duties including honor guard details, organizing a public memorial service at the capitol, acting as escorts and security, and assisting local and national media. Guardmembers also produced the memorial service program, where pilots from the 131st Fighter Wing flew the "missing man" formation.

"This proves the Guard can rally around and get the job done," said Maj. Gen. John Havens, adjutant general. "(Gov. Carnahan's) family and staff are very appreciative."

On Thursday afternoon, just three days after the crash that left Missourians stunned and grieving, his casket was brought by hearse to the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City. Once there, members of Missouri's Military Funeral Honors team carried the casket into the elegant home.

Ironically, it was Carnahan who signed legislation in 1998 establishing Missouri's Military Funeral Honors Program, the first of its kind in the nation. Carnahan himself was an Air Force veteran. This past summer, Carnahan rewarded his troops by signing into law a bill guaranteeing up to 100 percent tuition assistance for Missouri Guardmembers.

After the funeral honors team gently laid down the Governor's casket inside the high-ceilinged Great Hall of the Mansion, an honor guard comprised of citizen-airmen and soldiers stood vigil the rest of the day and through the night.

Changing the guard every 15 minutes, the detail stayed on duty until the casket was taken to the public memorial service in front of the Capitol late Friday morning. During eight hours of public visitation Thursday evening, honor guard members watched approximately 8,000 people file through the Mansion to pay their last respects to the state's 51st governor.

"It was very somber. I saw a lot of people crying," said Sgt. Steve Forsha, an honor guard member and personnel NCO at Ike Skelton Training Site.

While the honor guard kept their sol-

emn vigil inside the Mansion, other Guard members were organizing security and working with other state agencies to prepare the Capitol lawn for a public memorial service that attracted several thousand mourners. Guard officials also had to coordinate with members of the Secret Service, because of the attendance of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore and other dignitaries.

Although severe weather and fog apparently contributed to the crash, the day of the memorial was near perfect autumn weather. Mourners in their shirtsleeves crowded the sidewalks of Capitol Avenue to watch the procession walk behind the Governor's casket from the Mansion to the Capitol.

As the bells of St. Peter's Catholic Church tolled in the distance, and sunlight flashed off the saber carried by procession escort commander Lt. Col. Mark McCarter. He is the Missouri Army Guard's Recruiting and Retention Management director and commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detach-



Photo by Sgt. Gail Braymen

PAYING RESPECTS — A member of the Missouri National Guard stands vigil over Gov. Carnahan's casket Oct. 19 as state Sen. Harry Wiggins kneels and prays.

ment, 3rd Battalion, 135th Aviation in Jefferson City. A Missouri Air Guard color guard, and Guard drummers beating a slow, steady tattoo, marched behind McCarter.

Four white horses came next, two of them pulling a traditional black wooden caisson bearing the Governor's casket.

The horses' riders, the caisson and an eight-person casket team came from the Indiana National Guard's Military Department of Indiana Ceremonial Unit, a sister unit to the famous Old Guard in Arlington, Va., and the only such unit in the National Guard. The Indiana unit also provided horses to pull the caisson.

The Indiana horses were replaced just hours before Friday's ceremony by Missouri Mennonite plow horses. During a rehearsal Thursday evening, officials discovered the visiting horses lacked special

shoes to give them secure footing on the steep streets surrounding the Capitol.

Following the caisson, a sleek, black caparisoned, or riderless, horse walked. Led by an officer of the St. Louis Metropolitan Mounted Police, the horse wore a saddle with boots set backward in the stirrups, symbolizing a fallen warrior who would never ride again. The caparisoned horse also came from the Indiana Ceremonial Unit.

Walking slowly toward the Capitol, the Carnahan family, Clinton and Gore led hundreds of other dignitaries and family friends in a solemn procession.

The National Guard and other state agencies took just three days to organize the event. Officials coordinated countless details, including transporting the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra String Quartet from New York's Carnegie Hall to Jefferson City.

Hours before the public ceremonies began, National Guardmembers had been directing traffic, handing out programs and seating mourners for the service. More than 10,000 mourners attended the memorial service. Countless others across the state and nation watched the service as it was broadcast live on television.

Several dignitaries, including the president, spoke during the service. But perhaps even more moving was the sound of 19 echoing booms, rounds fired from the barrels of three, 75mm pack howitzers by members of "Truman's Own" Battery D, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery in Independence. Harry S. Truman commanded Battery D as a captain during World War I. Congress later passed legislation in his honor that Missouri's Battery D would be the only artillery unit in the U.S. Army designated Battery D.

"We all feel we are part of a great state, and it was a great honor for us to be there and take part in this ceremony," said Battery D 1st Sgt. John Painter. "We were glad to be there as citizen-soldiers and representing Battery D."

The 1st Battalion, 128th Field Artillery in Columbia provided the howitzers for the service.

As the booming of the howitzers faded, two National Guard musicians, one soldier and one airman, blew the sweet, forlorn notes of "Taps."

Then, streaking high above in the brilliant blue sky, F-15s from the 131st Fighter Wing flew in the "missing man" formation. The four jets appeared together over the Capitol lawn. Suddenly, one broke away. It zoomed straight up and left the others, symbolizing the loss of a comrade who did not return from a mission.

INSIDE THE DEPLOYMENT

Family Reunion

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Because he is the oldest son and nearly man-grown, Ricky Palacios Jr. worked very hard to be the man of the house in Alice, Texas, for his mom and younger brother Adam during the eight months his dad served in Bosnia with the Texas Army National Guard.

Ricky is 12.

Ricky and Adam, who is 10, know what being Guard kids is all about. They are typical of the young people who have their own demons to deal with while a father or mother is away on active duty.

"A lot of my friends think it's real fun to not have one of the parents there. But it's not fun," said Ricky in Austin on October's first Saturday morning after finally hugging his father, Maj. Ricardo Palacios, for the first time since February.

Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, chief of the National Guard Bureau's Family Program, is concerned about Guard kids like the Palacios.

"It should not hurt a kid to be in the National Guard," she insisted in July, during the National Guard's Year of the Family workshop.

"We've been concerned, as we should be, about the spouses and about the employers during the 10 years since Desert Storm," Ogilvy-Lee added. "It's time we do something for the kids. They serve, too."

That's why she has announced that next summer's national Family Program workshop in Washington, D.C., will include a symposium for Guard kids to talk about their issues and concerns.

The Palacios family is a case in point. Maj. Palacios was the transportation officer for the 49th Armored Division's headquarters element in Bosnia that commanded the U.S. sector's multinational peacekeeping force during the past spring and summer.

"I had a great staff, but it's the hardest thing I've ever done," said Palacios at Camp Mabry, the Texas National Guard headquarters, where many of the Lone Star Division's 750 returning citizen-soldiers were reunited with those they love.

Palacios and his staff had to get 500 Humvees, trailers and other pieces of equipment to Bosnia and back on ships, planes, trucks and trains. He had to deal with Customs officials. He had to keep those vehicles operating on foreign soil.

to March 1998.

"They can see us all -- black, white, and brown soldiers -- working as brothers," Huff said. "They're all white. I have to

believe that if we can get along, they should.

"Sure, we have our differences in this country. But, for the most part, we don't grab guns and

start killing each other," added Huff before venturing back into the Texas afternoon to savor the mesquite, the cedars and even the burned, brown grass of home.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

TEXANS

FROM PAGE 1

RETURN

the Army's microscope as the first Guard division to be given charge of active duty troops since the Korean War.

Job well done, praised Lt. Gen. Leon LaPorte, the Army's III Corps commander who welcomed many of the citizen-soldier who returned to Texas in early October, sometimes at 2 a.m.

A 1st Cavalry Division band and honor guard that carried the U.S. and Lone Star State flags greeted planes filled with soldiers that touched down at Fort Hood's Robert Gray Army Airfield.

"I think it will have a tremendously positive impact," said LaPorte of the effect the Army Guard-commanded rotation will have on the ongoing integration of reserve and active duty forces. "General Halverson did a tremendous job of leading U.S. soldiers."

Halverson credited his soldiers, especially the junior non-commissioned officers and company-grade officers, with the mission's success.

"I'm very proud of every one of these soldiers," he said. "They did everything I asked them to do, and we brought them all back safe and sound."

The duty in Bosnia included making sure that an additional 85 square miles of playgrounds, fields and roadways were clear of land mines, a division spokesman reported.

HEADED HOME -- After a eight-month peacekeeping deployment, a Texas Army Guardsman and his wife go home arm-in-arm.

Tough training, including a demanding mission rehearsal exercise at Fort Polk, La., last November, was a key to success, the Guard soldiers stressed.

"It was very realistic," said MSgt. Lawrence Tucker of San Antonio, a seasoned veteran of Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. "The train-up kept us on our toes for what we should be doing while we were there."

"The training was harder than the actual mission," said Sgt. Jon Copple of Austin, Texas, even though 12-hour duty days were not unusual at the 49th's Eagle Base headquarters in Tuzla.

That Bosnia seems to be steadily prospering from nearly five years of peace validated their mission, the Texans observed. For example, 8,000 families returned to their pre-war homes, a division spokesman added.

"A lot of displaced people returned to their homes while we were there," said Copple, who worked in the division's intelligence section. "There was also new construction even though, sometimes, you had to look for it. But the old blown up stuff still leered right out at you."

MSgt. Jerry Huff said he believes the diversity of America's military people can be a model for Bosnia's ethnic communities.

The Vietnam veteran has had two tours in Bosnia to reach that conclusion. Huff belonged to a 46-soldier artillery fire support element from the Texas Guard that was assigned to a Swedish battalion there from August 1997

His Guard kids, meanwhile, experienced their own ordeals even though they understood why their dad had to be away.

"He had to help the Bosnians build houses and roads and rebuild the stuff that was damaged during the war," explained Ricky.

"Some of the kids laughed when I would talk about it," added Adam. "Some didn't even believe it. It was hard to talk about it to anyone but my mom."

How did they miss their dad?

He was not there for baseball and football games. He was not there to cook their special breakfasts. He was not there for a summer of camping. He was just not there.

Not everyone laughed. Teachers and counselors at their schools in Alice, near Corpus Christi, and people at their church talked to her sons whenever they needed extra help, said Melody Palacios.

"One of my teachers had a husband who went away when he was in the Navy," Ricky explained. "She knew everything that was going on."

Although the Palacios did not have to deal with any major crisis, the sons had to do some growing up.



Photo by SSgt. Len Butler

FAMILY AFFAIR -- Maj. Ricardo Palacios kisses his son Adam, as his wife Melody and son Ricky look on.

"This one stepped up and did what his dad prepared him for," said Melody, pointing to Ricky. There was, for example, a lawn sprinkler head that had to be replaced.

"I didn't know how to fix the sprinkler head," Melody said. "He said 'Come on, Mom, Dad showed me how. Let's go get a new one.' And he fixed it."

Yes, he kept in touch with his wife and sons by telephone and e-mail, said Palacios. And he saw many videos of his sons playing football and baseball.

But he didn't realize how much they had grown until he saw them on Oct. 7.

"They're a lot bigger, and they're more mature. I can just tell by the expressions on their faces," said Palacios who returned from Bosnia ready to resume his roles as a family man and as a sergeant in the Texas Highway Patrol.

"Mom is ready to become a mom again, and I'm ready to become a dad," he said.

And his Guard kids are ready to become normal kids.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

GETTING a LIFT — CSM Edward Iannone Jr. (above, right) flew to Fort Irwin to discuss aviation issues with Guard soldiers. A Guard crew chief (right) gets busy at Ft. Rucker.

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Edward Iannone Jr. is a direct, U.S. Army command sergeant major who will travel a long way to make a point. He is the top enlisted soldier for Army aviation. He knows that going to the field is the best way to find out what those troops in the active and reserve forces are up to.

Therefore, his recent trip from Fort Rucker in lower Alabama to Fort Irwin in southern California to observe and talk to 373 Army National Guard aviation soldiers during a rotation at the National Training Center was just another few days at — or away from — the office.

He observed the citizen-soldiers in the 449th Aviation Task Force from North and South Carolina, from Alabama, Idaho and three other states as they carried on as best they could in hooded gas masks and heavy protective suits following an early-morning simulated chemical attack when clouds of smoke engulfed their Mojave Desert encampment.

Iannone's point was that Army Guard aviation has become a vital part in the Army's combat and utility helicopter force and that he wants to improve the training and get more, modern equipment for those soldiers.

"We have 51,450 people in Army aviation. Twenty-six thousand of those are on active duty. The others are in the reserve components," explained Iannone who has served as the command sergeant major for the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker since June 1997.

"The active duty people could sustain combat operations during a major conflict for a month," Iannone reasoned. "With the Army Guard and Reserve, we could sustain for as long as we need to."

The Guard is bearing the giant share of that load thanks to force reorganizations during the past decade. It has nearly half



Army Guard aviation is undergoing significant upgrades

Formidable Flying Force

of the Army's aviation program, including 23,000 people and 2,165 helicopters. The fleet now includes 497 utility Black Hawks and 128 attack Apaches.

More of those helicopters are coming into the inventory to replace the aging, non-deployable, Vietnam-era Hueys and Cobra gunships as part of the Army's modernization program intended to complement Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki's designs for a leaner, more mobile and more lethal Army.

The modernization effort is intended to eventually have four basic helicopters throughout the system — modernized Apache-Longbow attack ships, upgraded Chinooks for hauling troops and cargo, Black Hawks, and new reconnaissance-attack Comanches — explained Army Guard Col. George Gluski, the aviation center's deputy assistant commandant.

Guard officials are eager to keep their far-flung fleet up to par. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands have aviation programs. Army Guard helicopters are deployed around the world, pointed out Lt. Col. Louis Jordan, chief of Army Guard aviation operations. They are also pressed into action for hurricanes, forest fires and other state emergencies. The Guard's assets include an aviation brigade based at Fort Lewis, Wash., eight divisions and a regimental squadron.

It has its own rotary and fixed-wing training facilities in Pennsylvania, Arizona, West Virginia and Colorado, where aviators learn to fly in treacherous mountainous terrain, said Jordan. Full-scale regional maintenance depots are located in Connecticut, Mississippi, Missouri and California.

"Guard and Reserve soldiers need to know what active duty soldiers know," Iannone stressed. "If we train the active duty soldiers better than we train reserve component soldiers, we'd be back to the 1980 way of doing business."

The hundreds of Army Guard officers and warrant officers who learn to fly at Fort Rucker and hundreds more enlisted people who learn air traffic control procedures and how to maintain helicopters at Rucker and Fort Eustis, Va., every year have gained new respect among active Army people.

Furthermore, the Army's efforts to streamline flight training and to beam training courses to distance learning centers across the country are intended to make it easier for reserve aviation soldiers to train closer to their homes.

Approximately 1,500 Guard and Reserve aviators spend about a year earning their wings at Fort Rucker or return to Alabama to learn to fly different helicopters or to qualify as maintenance or safety officers every year.

Another 235 enlisted people get train in air traffic control, aviation operations, and Huey and Kiowa maintenance, reported members of the Reserve Component Liaison Office. About 700 Guard soldiers train in 16 aviation specialties each year at Fort Eustis, the Army's Transportation Center.

Upwards of 400 reservists are at Fort Rucker at any given time. Many others return for a few days of refresher training before deploying to such places as Bosnia for peacekeeping duty.

Fort Rucker is doing all it can to keep the flyers and enlisted people locked and cocked for contingency operations. MSgt.

Harold O'Daniel is one of the active Army people who sees to that. The 22-year soldier is the committee chief for the Air Operations Training Committee that writes the lessons and sets the standards for the control tower and aviation operations training.

He likes Guard soldiers.

"They're a little older than most active duty soldiers," O'Daniel said. "They're very focused. They know what they want here. I consider them role models for the other students."

His instructors spent a recent weekend guiding 10 air traffic controllers from Indiana through the procedures they would use while directing aircraft in and out of Army bases in Bosnia.

Citizen-soldiers from Minnesota and Arkansas have sharpened their radar and tower skills there before going overseas. Florida people were expected for a week of tactical air traffic control training.

O'Daniel's staff has also put every part of the aviation operations course on computer disks to be sent to Army Guard units throughout the country. The units have only to provide the instructors to follow the programs.

"We will make the necessary adjustments to help the Guard," he vowed.

Others have climbed aboard that bandwagon.

"We're marketing ourselves better. Two different National Guard units have been coming here every month since January," said Bruce Miller, operations manager at Fort Rucker's Aviation Testbed Collective Training Facility.

There, 20 aviators at a time can familiarize themselves with the terrain, climate and opposing forces they will encounter in such places as Bosnia, Kosovo and Kuwait while getting stick time in simulators surrounded by computerized images.

A streamlined training program called Flight School XXI will also play help Guard pilots train faster.

"The message from the field is clear: 'Give us aviators that are trained in their go-to-war aircraft,'" Jones recently wrote in *Army Aviation*.

Student aviators now learn to fly training helicopters during their year at Rucker. They have to return for six to 12 more weeks to learn to fly the Black Hawks, Chinooks, Kiowa gunships or Apaches in their units.

Initial training costs about a million dollars per pilot. Additional transitional training runs another \$125,000 apiece, said Col. Jack Self, the state aviation

INSIDE ARMY AVIATION

What does the future hold for Delaware's Gaetano Gravino Jr., a recent aviation school distinguished graduate?

FLYING START

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Gaetano Gravino Jr. is at an awkward age. He's older than most Army privates first class. He's younger than most role models. Yet, the 26-year-old physical therapist from Wilmington, Del., has become the sort of solid citizen-soldier with a promising future that the National Guard loves to show off.

That accounts for the 15 minutes of fame that Gravino, one of the Delaware Army Guard's newest soldiers, experienced recently in lower Alabama -- at Fort Rucker, the home for Army aviation.

Gravino was the distinguished graduate in his class of 14 students, including four Guardmembers, who finished the 10-week Helicopter Repairer Course for UH-1 "Hueys." He earned that honor with an academic average of 97 percent and a physical training score of 294 out of a possible 300 points.

There has been nothing awkward about his attitude since joining a Delaware Army Guard medical evacuation unit -- Company C, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation -- last August. Gravino has been determined to do well because that is his way.

"I didn't feel like slacking off. I wanted to do it right," explained Gravino, who has a 3.7 grade point average as a biology major at the University of Delaware and who works with injured high school athletes and with senior citizens at a physical therapy clinic.

"I felt that joining a medevac unit would go along with my civilian job as a physical therapist. I decided to go for distinguished graduate because the Army put it out there for me. I thought it was a good goal," said Gravino.

He had been hard in the hunt as his basic training company's honor graduate a few months earlier at Fort Benning, Ga. He had to start from scratch in Alabama because he knew absolutely nothing about helicopters. All he knew about Fort Rucker was what he had read in W.E.B. Griffith's novel "The Aviators."

"I wanted to get to know helicopters because I thought

it would be a good hobby. I had to learn a lot on my own," Gravino explained. "The instructors showed me what I didn't know. I found out that if you do the work, you do well. Now I want to fly. I'm seriously considering warrant officer school, here at Rucker."

"He'd make a great pilot because he understands how these helicopters work," predicted SFC Rodney Keyes, chief of the Maintenance Training Committee at Fort Rucker. "And he'll know how to take care of the enlisted people who are helping him."

Gravino had already learned plenty about not giving up and how perseverance can pay off before putting on his uniform.

He played lacrosse at East Carolina University until he blew out a knee. After surgery, he played again for Delaware. Another knee injury ended that career. But Gravino's experience helped convince him that helping others as a physical therapist was the right thing to do.

His father also helped. Gaetano Gravino Sr. is a former Special Forces soldier who has climbed the enlisted ladder to become the acting command sergeant major for Delaware's troop command battalion. He persuaded his son to funnel part of his drive into the Army Guard.

"My father influenced me a lot," said Gravino following his graduation ceremony. Then he laughed. "I was asking him to pay my way to graduate school after I get my bachelor's degree. He told me 'Join the Army.'"

"Private First Class Gravino worked for me for six weeks before his class began. Everyone who met him was very impressed," said SGM Deborah Songer, the Army Guard's liaison sergeant major who since last September has watched over nearly 300 enlisted citizen-soldiers who



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

DISTINGUISHED FAMILY -- PFC Gaetano Gravino Jr. (left) poses with his father CSM Gaetano Gravino Sr., who flew to Fort Rucker to celebrate with his distinguished graduate son.

have trained at Fort Rucker. "He's a good soldier."

No one who knows him believes that Gravino will remain a helicopter mechanic or an enlisted man for how long he remains in the Army National Guard. Aviator's wings, as a warrant officer or even as a commissioned officer, certainly seem to be in his future. He has caught the flying bug at Fort Rucker, and he is that driven.

But the fact that he has made a name for himself at one of the Army's most prestigious training posts as a new enlisted man has made Gaetano Gravino Jr. a role model for everyone who wonders what they can accomplish in the National Guard.



FLYING FIX -- A Guard woman repairs a helicopter component while training at the Army's Aviation school at Fort Rucker, Ala.

officer for Oklahoma that flies primarily Black Hawks and Chinooks.

"I've sent pilots for my Chinook unit to Rucker and they get qualified in Kiowas," said Self. "That doesn't do me a bit of good."

"The FS XXI concept will replace the current Huey and Kiowa basic combat skills phase of Initial Entry Rotary Wing [training] with immediate tracking into an advanced aircraft," Jones explained.

"It will reduce the amount of time students spend at Fort Rucker by an average of six weeks while increasing the students' experience and proficiency in their go-to-war aircraft," he added.

Meanwhile, CSM Edward Iannone is concerned about the enlisted troops who keep those helicopters flying.

"I want to see if the soldiers are properly trained; if what we're teaching them in the schoolhouse is helping them in the field," Iannone explained. He also looked for areas that troops are not being trained.

He got an earful. Too few people to pull security and repair the helicopters at the same time and not enough parts to maintain the equipment were the most common complaints. He says he hears similar concerns from "active" soldiers.

"He could decide if this unit should be training like this on the front lines or if we should be training for our real maintenance jobs on hard stands in a rear area," remarked E Company 1st Sgt. Howard Lowe with North Carolina's 130th Aviation Regiment.

Iannone made it clear he understands the Guard's unique challenges.

"This task force comes from seven different states. It's difficult to do the job right with people they've never worked with," Iannone said. "The shortage of personnel also hurts them. The full-time technicians have to train the new people and do their own jobs."

Reserve and active Army soldiers do have something in common, Iannone noted. "They deal with their challenges, and they accomplish the mission."

MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING CENTER

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A 6-foot-7, Michael Clites towers over every one he talks to. He is almost as tall sitting down as most people who stand before him.

However, it is his uncompromising belief in training and competing with military rifles, pistols and machine guns -- the individual weapons of war -- that makes him stand out in his crowd.

Clites, 47, is a lieutenant colonel in the Arkansas Air National Guard. He does not believe that today's smart bombs and cruise missiles designed to deliver death and destruction from great distances are the only ways to win future wars.

Soldiers, airmen and marines, Clites is convinced, must still know how to shoot straight and true on a battlefield should they have to survive the fog of war.

That is why he is an icon among the hundreds of people who are directing and competing in the National Guard's major annual international and national marksmanship matches recently at Camp Joseph T. Robinson a few miles north of Little Rock.

"The training and the competition we offer here require the same skills that troops would require in combat," said Clites who is the administrative officer for the National Guard's highly regarded Marksmanship Training Center.

"The contestants have to perform in the manner that could save their lives on a battlefield," he added. "If their weapon jams in the middle of a battle, they can't raise their hand and have someone else clear it."

More than 300 premier military marksmen from the United States and nine other countries competed in the 10th annual Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting (AFSAM) in October. The United Kingdom sent six teams.

More than 700 troops from 46 states and territories competed in the annual Winston P. Wilson national championships for National Guard shooters last month. The first Inter-Service Small Arms Competition for U.S. service and academy teams will be held at the same time.

Clites, a former Wilson combat pistol champion from South Dakota, has been credited with building AFSAM into one of the world's foremost military marksmanship events by Col. Danny Short, Marksmanship Training Center director.

It started a decade ago as a series of informal exchanges involving citizen-soldiers from the United States, part-time Territorial troops from the United Kingdom and soldiers from Australia.

Since then, teams from Greece, Switzerland, Mexico and South Africa have competed in Arkansas, he explained. Two teams from the U.S. Army, teams from the Marine Corps and the Army Reserve as well as the National Guard's top team also competed this year.

"My marching orders five or six years ago was to make AFSAM the best military marksmanship match in the world," Clites told his international audience during the opening ceremonies. "The matches that you put on in your countries have raised that bar for us."

"It's also about military people making friends. If we have enough exchanges among different countries, it could alleviate future problems," observed Clites who learned about the dangers of warfare from his father while growing up on his family's farm in Carthage, S.D.

Dale Clites was badly wounded while serving as a B-26 machine gunner during World War II. He flew 63 combat missions against the Germans.

The Arkansas match attracts top marksmen, several foreign shooters explained, because the competition is the toughest in the world and the ranges are well maintained.

Most important, claimed Clites, is the emphasis on combat shooting skills and the chance to learn from soldiers from other cultures and countries, including British troops who have served in Northern Ireland.

Those are lessons that American military people must not forget, insisted Clites. He is concerned that, except for the Marines, marksmanship training for most active duty troops does not get as much emphasis as it once did.

The National Guard, he said, has been blessed with leaders who believe that individual marksmanship training is one of their fundamental responsibilities.

That, Clites observed, is why the Marksmanship Training Center, including the National Guard Sniper School, has thrived in Arkansas.

That is also how the Air Guard officer has become a respected international advocate for combat training and competition in small arms that just make it possible for many soldiers to survive on a future battlefield.

STANDING



TALL



RIFLE READY -- Missouri SSgt. John Robertson fires at a target during a recent meet.

ON

The Marksmanship
Training Center is
saving lives on the
battlefield

Target

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Breathe and squeeze. Breathe and squeeze.

The lessons of the rifle range linger for a lifetime among soldiers who have learned to shoot the Army way during basic training.

"Watch and shoot! Watch and shoot!"

The commands, and the techniques, are considerably different for the advanced few who compete in international combat marksmanship matches.

Members of the National Guard's All-Guard combat rifle and pistol teams have mastered those techniques as well as anyone in the world -- as well as seasoned soldiers in the British Army; better than the United States Marines.

That was perfectly clear during the Guard's 10th international Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Arkansas, a few miles north of Little Rock, during October's second week.

That is the home of the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center that emphasizes precision shooting of the combat kind. That is where soldiers in their helmets and other battle rattle run and crawl and fall prone and shoot without much time to slow their heart or catch their breath. That is where National Guard troops learn to survive with their individual weapons of war.

"The training and the competition we offer here require the same skills that troops would use in combat," said imposing, 6-foot-7 Air Guard Lt. Col. Michael Clites, a former National Guard combat pistol champion and the center's full-time administrative officer. "The contestants have to perform in the manner that could save their lives on a battlefield."

Watch and shoot. Watch and shoot. That is nature of the training and intense competition on 500-yard ranges that is considered the world championships among military shooters from this country, from Europe, from Australia and from Singapore.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Nineteen teams from 10 countries, 307 shooters in all, competed this year.

"You learn a hell of a lot about shooting, about yourself and about your compatriots," said Capt. Peter Cottrell of the Territorial Army, the United Kingdom's equivalent to the Army National Guard.

Cottrell was savoring his rifle team's victory in a two-part match that is considered the ultimate test for the riflemen. They had finished the first phase, including a 500-yard run-down, in fifth place on Friday afternoon. They stormed back, for the second straight year, to win that event the following morning.

Part two required the eight members of each team to run and crawl through a confidence course, run nearly another mile to a range, and fire at 92 pop-up targets with 90 rounds of ammunition.

The British Army team finished second after losing one soldier who limped off the confidence course with a pulled muscle. The National Guard team, which won Friday's event, wound up third overall.

"This is where we can see the standards of top competition. We're also interested in weapons technology and how to conduct training. The National Guard has a good reputation," said Lt. Col. Weng Loong Chan, manager of a team from Singapore that sent young shooters to Arkansas for the second straight year.

Arkansas appeals to the shooters, many of whom pay their own way to the Ozarks every autumn.

"We like your mid-South hospitality," said Cottrell. "Everyone is always asking how we're doing and if we're having a good day. It's very competitive on the range, but you feel part of a whole team."

When it came to shooting, the National Guard's rifle and pistol teams were as hard to beat as the Southern charm. Both won the Commander-in-Chief trophies awarded to the top teams of eight shooters in the service matches.

The All-Guard pistol team, led by Hawaii Air Guard SSgt. Robert Jaeger, out-shot the second-place Marines by 61 points. Overall, the Guard team won four of 14 separate matches and

claimed 17 top-three finishes in 11 matches.

They were shown up only by the All-Guard rifle team.

That crowd won eight of the meet's 18 matches. They took all three top places in two of the individual events. They finished first and second in three other matches. They took 20 of the top three places in 12 different matches.

Most have been shooting for a long time. South Dakota Army Guard Lt. Col. David Gray, for example, is a retired game warden.

Some will not quit. North Dakota Army Guard SSgt. Gary Varberg, 40, refused to give in to an aching left heel on the final morning. He was dead last and falling farther behind when the team of eight finished the confidence course.

So he got up on his toes and sprinted to catch his teammates before they reached the range to engage their 92 targets apiece.

"I said 'For the Guard' and blocked out the pain," Varberg explained later.

"If I've got the bullets, I went to get there to shoot them."

Some might argue that, in Arkansas,



BATTLE TESTED — Soldiers with the All-Guard rifle team (left) hustle through a culvert on Camp Robinson's confidence course. CWO4 Hager Hollon (above) had a match named for him.

the All-Guard teams have a home field advantage. But consider this: Guard shooters have won the top military marksmanship prize in England, the Fortuna Trophy, for the past four years and for five of the past six. They shoot well everywhere.

Now there is new trophy up for grabs in Arkansas where the Guard's international meet already features matches named for famed World War II Gen. George Patton and Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, a former chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The new prize honors Kentucky Army Guard CWO4 Hager Hollon, 58, for his years of advocating and helping organize international military competitions.

Hollon will retire early next year, he explained, after 32 years as a shooter, coach and meet director.

He joined the Army Reserve in 1963, competed in his first match five years later, and joined the Kentucky Guard in 1974, recounted Hollon after learning the award had been named for him during the meet's Friday night awards dinner.

"I figured they would recognize me because I'm retiring," Hollon remarked. "I had no idea they'd name a trophy for me. They pulled a fast one on me."

A rifle match for overall individual excellence will now bear Hollon's name. This year's winner was British Warrant Officer Tomas Sands, a member of the first Royal Navy team to compete in Arkansas.

That means that the Hager Hollon Trophy will be one more of many reasons why military marksmen from around the world will come to Arkansas to watch and shoot, watch and shoot.



SPORTS

■ Morales wins IBF Light Heavyweight Title

SPORTS SHORTS



TOUGH TAG -- Maj. Gen. John Prendergast (Army shirt), Montana adjutant general, leads the way during a recent run around the capital in Helena.

Montana adjutant logs 25,000 miles

Montana's Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John E. Prendergast celebrated his 42nd year of National Guard service by running his 25,000th mile and receiving a "Fit to Win" coin from the Governor's Office.

Prendergast began his military career Sept. 6, 1958, enlisting in the Montana National Guard as a personnel specialist. Working his way through the ranks, he has commanded the Guard, comprised of 3,500 soldiers and airmen, since 1992.

In attaining the 25,000th mile, Prendergast said, "Physical fitness is fundamental in accomplishing any military mission my troops or I would be assigned. I am committed to leadership by example, and would never ask anything of my soldiers or airmen that I can't do myself."

Many say New York Spc. Jose' Luis Morales is a champ in and out of the ring

Charitable CHAMP

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
New York National Guard

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

By scoring that knock out over Montel "Iceman" Griffin in London, England, Morales improved his professional record to 36-0. He said he will now set his sights on Roy Jones, Jr., holder of five title belts and considered by many the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world. Jones's only defeat was at the hands of Griffin.

Over the years Morales has run up an impressive amateur and professional boxing record. He won Golden Gloves titles in the greater New York City area and was also on the U.S. Olympic boxing team in 1984. In 1997, he won the World Boxing Organization's middleweight title and the World Boxing Congress's light heavyweight belt.

However, the Bronx-raised fighter, has also distinguished himself outside the ring. He balances his athletic career with a civilian job, a part-time military avocation and volunteer work with youth in the community.

He joined the New York Army Guard nine years ago. He currently serves in the Bronx-based 145th Maintenance Company. Despite his well-travelled boxing career, the former infantry soldier has maintained an excellent attendance and duty performance record during Guard drills. He transferred to the 145th last year to follow a renewed interest in becoming a mechanic, something he grew up doing with his father.

When he is not with the Guard he works as a manager in a Midas Muffler shop in New Jersey.

The champ is also a trained respiratory



Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning

ANOTHER BELT -- New York Gov. George Pataki (left) recognized Spc. Jose' Luis Morales recently for his efforts in and out of the ring.

technician and used to work for a private medical service that served the elderly and other patients with chronic breathing conditions.

Last year he used his skills to save a heart attack victim on an aircraft that he and fellow Guardmembers were on as they returned from annual training in Germany. When the woman collapsed, Morales rushed forward as other passengers stood by. Using the aircraft's emergency automated defibrillator, he stabilized the woman's condition until the pilot could complete an emergency landing in London.

Last spring, Morales again came to the aid of people in trouble following a violent accident on the Staten Island Expressway. Having witnessed the collision of a heavily damaged sedan and a sports utility vehicle, Morales risked his life by aiding the injured victims from both smoking wrecks.

At one point, Morales literally lifted the SUV off a child who had been thrown from the vehicle and pinned when the overturned wreck fell on top of him. Despite serious injuries, all of the injured have or continue to recover. The child's father, a Department of Defense civilian employee, remains in contact with Morales and refers to him as a "hero."

Although a boxer, street fighting is something Morales doesn't condone. For several years he has worked as a volunteer with the New York City public school

system and the police department. He has used his boxing fame and boundless energy to deliver anti-violence and anti-drug messages to young people in the Bronx and Queens neighborhoods. He has participated in special school programs organized by substance abuse counselors and educators.

The Champ also has led after-school exercise programs to help young people learn how to channel their energies, feelings of frustration and destructive tendencies away from violence, drugs and crime and toward physical fitness, helping others and staying in school.

Educators, counselors and law enforcement professionals view him as a good role model for young people because he is a responsible person, a member of the community and is also a champion. Morales recently met with New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, where he was made a member of the Mayor's task force on drug abuse awareness.

Morales said he embraces his Guard involvement, probably with as much passion as he brings to his boxing career and youth efforts.

"I love doing this," he said. "I like new challenges. In the Guard, I see a lot and learn a lot. The training and experience has helped me in my civilian life."

"I really enjoy spending time with the others in my unit," added the Champ. "We built our own family there. We all know our job. We feel good when we complete a mission together."

Although he is new to his maintenance unit, Morales has completed the necessary training this year to earn his mechanics specialty. Despite the inherent hand injuries associated with maintenance work -- a risk that could impact his boxing career and potential million dollar paydays -- Morales said that he is eager to help fellow Guardmembers tackle some of the tougher maintenance jobs.

"I don't hold back," he insisted. "The guys know I am there for them and we all have to work together. That's important to me."

Morales sees the Guard as an answer for young people facing problems.

"I see many kids who are lost. I see others who have jobs that are going nowhere," he observed. "I tell them they should join the Guard like I did."

"I tell them if they join they can get help to go to school," he added. "I really think the Guard can be a solution to their personal problems in life. They need a chance. I think the Guard can give that to them."



Cabanas 2000 in Argentina gave a group of Texas citizen-soldiers a unique experience

Keeping the Peace

By Lt. Edie Rosenthal
Special Operations Command

In the serene pastures of a small town outside the city of Cordoba, in the central part of Argentina, a bitter civil war was escalating. People were hungry and a feeling of unrest permeated the town. In response, the United Nations sent in peacekeeping troops to help restore order.

Such was the challenge placed upon the participants of Cabanas 2000, a multi-national peacekeeping exercise held recently. More than 1,000 civilians and military personnel from the Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the United States participated.

Thirty of the 300 U.S. military troops who deployed to the South American country to hone their peacekeeping skills were from the Texas Army Guard.

"What makes this exercise so special is the exchange of dialogue and ability to talk about experiences," said Maj. Gen. Alfred A. Valenzuela, U.S. Army-South commanding general. "It's the interchange of tactics, techniques and procedures."

It is those experiences that will be important in the future

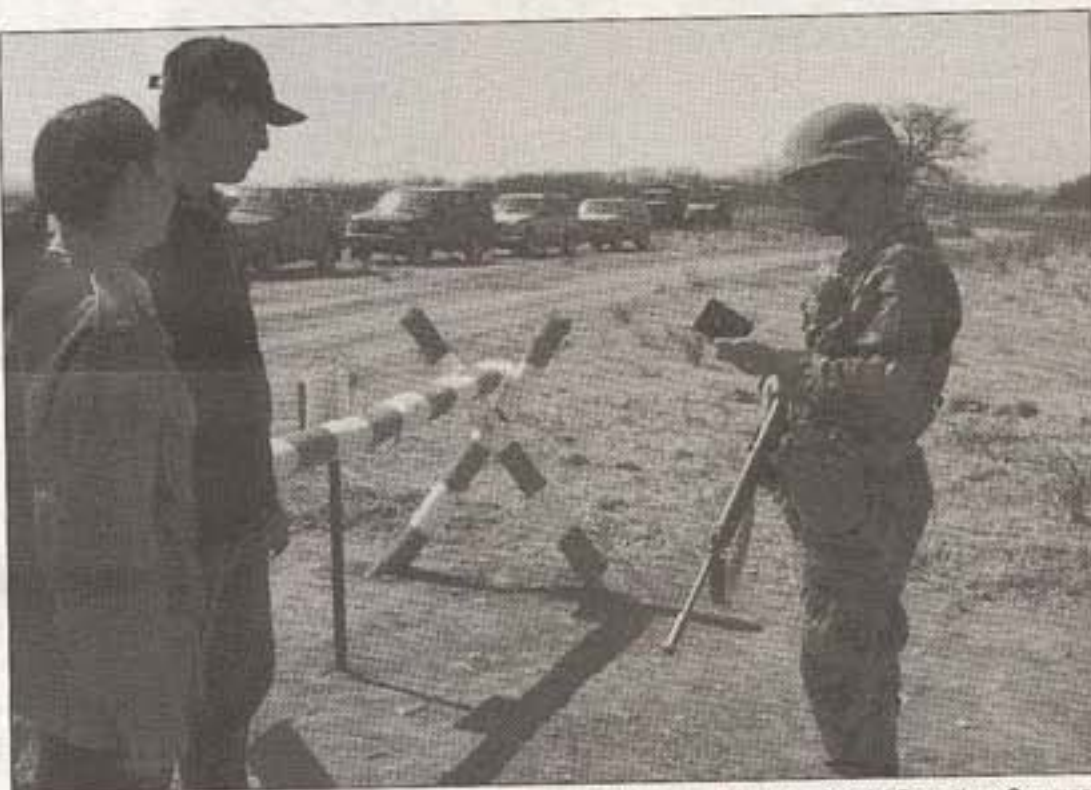
for the exercise participants.

During the two-week exercise, participants had to act and react to a multitude of scenarios in which military and civilian role players, in mock villages similar to a Hollywood movie set, acted as angry mobs, fleeing refugees and potential guerillas creating civil unrest.

Trainers and advisors from both civilian and military organizations were brought in to ensure the exercise embraced realism.

For Texas Army Guard Sgt. Ysmacel Paez, that realism meant working as a platoon leader and radio telephone operator with soldiers from Paraguay and Ecuador.

"We don't get many opportunities to get out and work with other countries," said Paez. "I learned a lot, especially from the



Photos courtesy of the Special Operations Command

other countries.

"If I were asked to participate in a peacekeeping operation," he added, "I would be better prepared."

According to Navy Capt. Stephen Jones, who functioned as the exercise's deputy commander, Texas Guardmembers and U.S. Army reservists were asked to fill key positions during the exercise.

"If I had to rely only on the active duty force, I would have trouble finding people with this type of expertise," said Jones.

The last four days of the exercise saw the participant's peacekeeping skills tested around-the-clock.

Some of the scenarios included: U.N. soldiers providing

CAPABLE at 'CABANAS' -- Citizen-soldiers (top photo) with the Texas Army National Guard, practicing their skills at identifying minefields, march along a road. A soldier with the Texas Army Guard checks the identification of two civilians prior to their entry into the United Nations compound during Cabanas 2000, a peacekeeping exercise in Cordoba, Argentina, with military personnel from seven other countries. A contingent of 30 Lone Star State Guard members participated in the exercise.

security assistance to a village when a riot erupted over the distribution of food; a minefield explosion that requiring medical attention for an injured civilian; and an exchange of prisoners.

SSgt. Eberardo Zamura, the platoon sergeant for the 30-soldier Lone Star State Army Guard contingent, said the Cabanas 2000 exercise gave him a differ-

ent perspective on peacekeeping missions.

"I used to watch television and see the UN troops, and I didn't know what they were going through," explained Zamura. "If my company or battalion gets called up for a peacekeeping mission, this training has given us the skills to train the rest of our battalion and to fulfill the mission."

NEWS MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Thirty-two Montana National Guard Youth Challenge Program students successfully completed their General Equivalency Diploma (GED) in October.

Located in Dillon on the Western Montana College campus, the students passed all five sections of the GED in their first attempt at the test.

Managed by the National Guard, the Youth Challenge Program is a three-phase program designed to help 16-18 year old high school dropouts complete their GED and make healthy life choices.

Phase one includes application processes, a two-week orientation and screening evaluations. Phase two is a five-month residential education opportunity, and phase three consists of a 12-month mentorship program.

Students must complete all phases to graduate from the program.

According to statistics from the Children's Defense Fund, throughout the United States, 2,789 students drop out of high school each day. Montana's Office of Public Instruction reports that slightly more than 2,000 Montana students quit high school annually.

Since its establishment in July 1999, 24 Youth Challenge Program graduates have entered post-secondary college, vocational training or continuing education programs, 27 have entered or await entry into military service, and 58 have secured employment throughout the state.

The first Montana Youth Challenge class graduated 43 students in February 2000 and the second class graduated 91 this past July. As the current residency phase enters its 16th week, class three has 88 students.

John Hinkell recently became the first directly-commissioned officer in the Virginia Army Guard in more than 15 years.

Hinkell has a unique background. He has over eight years in service, four on active duty. He holds two Military Occupational Specialties and they are ironical; 11B and 75H. He has been a rifleman in a line unit and also worked as a specialist in the 29th Infantry Division's operations shop.

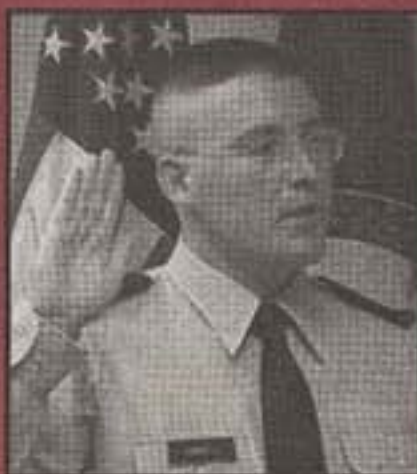
"The direct commission option simply gives commanders another opportunity to acquire lieutenants," said Lt. Col. Edward A. Heyener, the Virginia Army Guard's assistant chief of staff for personnel. "The entire chain of command must endorse a non-commissioned officer who is applying for a direct commission."

Despite giving up his full-time job at NGB, Hinkell said he has no regrets.

"I feel that at this point in my life this was a good transition for me to jump that hurdle," he explained. "If I wanted to be an officer then I had to make those sacrifices."

He also attributes his desire to become an officer to his close interactions with the officers he works with at NGB.

"I had the opportunity to work with many professional officers at work," Hinkell added. "I aspired to be one of them."



Virginia Army Guard 2nd Lt. John Hinkell recently received a direct commission.



The Air Guard's best finance office resides in Montgomery, Ala.



Capt. Greg Fritz (2nd from left) and 1st Sgt. Richard Lindley took home the award for the Guard's best engineer unit.

As for those NCOs seeking a direct commission, Hinkell has some advice.

"Get a mentor," he suggested. "Talk to senior enlisted soldiers and junior officers. I found junior officers were very supportive of my goals and aspirations to become a commissioned officer."

A C-130 maintenance crew from the New York Air Guard's 109th Airlift Wing returned from England recently having captured the prestigious Concours d'Elegance Trophy for "Best of Show" at the Royal International Air Tattoo 2000 in Cottesmore.

The air tattoo showcases aircraft from around the world while offering competitive events between selected types, each year. This year, heavy-lift cargo planes, including the C-130 Hercules, 141 Starlifter and C-17 Globemasters competed. Twelve judges, from various countries, tallied scores after making a thorough inspection of each plane's exterior. All judges, including one retired U.S. Air Force colonel, were former military aviators.

Out of dozens of airplanes from 30 countries, the 109th took top honors for the best looking and cleanest one in the show. The outcome was an unprecedented score of 117 out of 120 points.

"The Concours d'Elegance Trophy is one of the most coveted and prestigious maintenance awards in the world," said Col. Max Della Pia, 109th commander. "The air crews who fly our aircraft can, and do, attest to the superior quality of maintenance we have at the 109th."

"It is heart warming to see the maintenance team get this international recognition for what we have known all along -- we have the best maintainers in the world," he added.

Members of the Alabama Air Guard 187th Fighter Wing's Financial Management Office, located at Dannelly Air National Guard Base in Montgomery, were selected as the Air Guard's Financial Services Office of the Year.

Cited for their customer service, 187th finance specialists generated nearly \$26 million in payroll for its part-time and full-time Guardmembers. They also processed more than 31,000 pay transactions, while maintaining a better than 99.75 percent accuracy rate. In the area of travel vouchers, they reduced payments times from 8.2 days to 3.4.

"Our FM shop is the best of the best," said Col. Scott Mayes, 187th commander. "It's clear to me every day how valuable our FM folks are."

The Missouri Army Guard's 203rd Engineer Battalion made history recently at the ENFORCE conference at Fort Leonard Wood, sweeping the top three awards for top unit, top NCO and best platoon leader.

The conference annually recognizes outstanding active duty, Guard and Reserve engineers and units.

The most outstanding engineer unit award went to Company C, 203rd based in Monett and Pierce City. SPC Daniel Mazouch took home the honor as the Guard's top engineer NCO, while 1st Lt. Matthew Bacon was named the Guard's best platoon leader.

BUSY HANDS -- A 165th master sergeant (right) checks a Peruvian boy's throat. A 165th doctor (below) looks into a young girl's ear for infection. A Peruvian woman (center photo) has her heart checked. Medical professionals with the 165th Airlift Wing's medical squadron treated more than 6,500 Peruvians in nine days.



Photos courtesy of the Georgia National Guard



TEACHING TEETH -- Peruvians were treated to a lesson in flossing.

Mission of Mercy

Georgia medics endure austere Peru to deliver much needed care for 6,500 people

By Capt. David C. Simons
Georgia National Guard

A small city nestled in the heart of the Andes Mountains, Ayacucho, Peru, is rural, desolate and obscure. While only 150 miles from the cosmopolitan capital of Lima, it is a full day's drive over a one-lane road that weaves through the mountains. The airport, without runway lights and other navigational aids, can only handle daylight landings. It is barely a dot on a map.

That didn't deter nearly 40 doctors, nurses, medical technicians and supply specialists from the Georgia Air Guard 165th Airlift Wing's Medical Squadron who made their way to the small city on a mission of mercy.

Flown by the aircrews from Savannah's 158th Airlift Squadron, the medical professionals flew on two of the unit's C-130H's to Peru.

The first day of actual medical assistance took the unit in an armed convoy up into the Andes Mountains. The small town they visited was Huamanguilla, nestled on dirt roads 40 miles from home base.

Setting up the clinic in "Colegio Educativo 38270 San Antonio" -- the town's school -- the unit established a protocol system to work with the expected influx of patients. Those seeking assistance would go through

an initial screening and then receive training on the use of soap, toothbrushes, purifying water and other general hygiene practices. Then patients would be allowed to visit one of the following facilities: dental, physician, optometrists, gynecological, or general health.

The optometry clinic came equipped with 5,000 pairs of glasses, a donation by "Project Cyclops," a program administered by the Wisconsin Air Guard. The Mayor of Huamanguilla reported that once his people's eye sight starts to go, they can no longer function in an employable status. The gift of glasses, he said, will give many of his people a chance to return to work.

With medical sites established, the clinic was prepared to see their first patients.

Lining up outside the walls of

the school, more than 500 Peruvians sought medical treatment on the 165's first day there.

The dental site was the busiest, as men, women, boys and girls, all lined up for an exam. Teeth were pulled and toothbrushes were provided along with several comforting hugs for crying children.

Women got pelvic exams from the clinic's nurse practitioners, while the squadron's three physicians saw to the more serious problems, such as broken bones, "third world" type diseases and infected wounds. Many children, noted a 165th doctor, suffered from respiratory infections. It was not uncommon, he added, for entire families to be infected with parasites.

A pharmacy was established to dispense various drugs to the patients. The drugs were provided by various national drug companies. In addition, the national companies provided general health pamphlets translated into Spanish.

One of the most difficult jobs, noted many of the Georgia medics, was for the translators who spent much of their time in constant movement attempting to break down the language barrier and guide the care givers. Even the team's members who were fluent in Spanish had difficulty translating Huamanguilla's unique dialect.

After nine days, the Georgian care givers provided much needed medical treatment for more than 6,500 Peruvians at three separate sites.



STATES

■ Watching Iraq ■ Command Change ■ Protecting Peace

NEW JERSEY

More than 150 airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing, based at the Atlantic City International Airport began an Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployment to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Southern Watch.

The contingent left Nov. 4 and will return around Dec. 15.

Southern Watch enforces the United Nations Security Council southern no-fly zone over Iraq. The U.S. air component of operation Southern Watch is comprised of active-duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve aircraft and personnel under the operational command of Joint Task Force - Southwest Asia.

Since December 1998, there have been more than 700 incidents of Iraqi surface-to-air missile firings, anti-aircraft artillery firings and Iraqi aircraft violations of the southern no-fly zone.

No allied aircraft have been shot down and no American soldiers or airmen have been wounded or killed while enforcing the no-fly zone.

Over the past year, the 177th Fighter Wing has deployed more than 30 people to provide expeditionary combat support for Operations Northern and Southern Watch. Northern Watch is based in Turkey and enforces the United Nations Security Council northern no-fly zone over Iraq.

ILLINOIS

KEEPING PEACE

Illinois Army Guard Sgt. Craig Funnerman, a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry, searches a Ukrainian soldier role playing as an agitator during PeaceShield 2000. More than 200 Prairie State troops and 21 countries participated in the peacekeeping training exercise in Ukraine.



Photo by Sgt. JaMarco Bowen

VERMONT

For the first time in history, an active duty Army officer took command of a Green Mountain State Army Guard battalion.

Lt. Col. Michael S. Chesney officially took command of the state's 1st Battalion, 172nd Armor during a recent change of command.

The change is part of the Department of Defense's Battalion Command Exchange Program.

"The exchange is more than just a physical exchange between people, it's an exchange of experience and backgrounds that goes both ways," said Chesney.

Last January, Vermont Army Guard Lt. Col. Ernest Audino took command of an active Army battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash.

MASSACHUSETTS

More than 100 family members and friends gathered on a cold Nov. 4 night at Hanscom Air Force Base to welcome home the men and women of the Army Guard's 65th Press Camp Headquarters, after a six-month mission to Bosnia.

The 20 unit members from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut reported to the region in April, and have played a vital role in the success of Operation Joint Forge.

RHODE ISLAND

Tucked in the pocket of Sgt. Brian Fielder's uniform is a dictionary of the Hungarian language. Kept in a plastic sleeve of Sgt. Carter Thomas's wallet are pictures of his wife and three sons.

Equipped with tools to help them get by and mementos of the lives they leave behind, the Army Guard's 119th Military Police Company recently flew to the Balkans for a seven-month peacekeeping mission.

The deployment, the first ever overseas peacetime mission for the state's Army Guard, will send the 136 members of the police company to a base camp in Hungary near the border of Croatia and Yugoslavia.

Their mission will see them keeping law and order among some of the 3,900 U.S. soldiers assigned to the region and escorting convoys through Croatia and into Bosnia.

The threats that await the Guard troops range from political extremists who have been blamed for a handful of sniper attacks on U.S. troops to land mines that dot the Bosnian countryside.

For Fielder, the mission has him searching for new Hungarian words and wondering what the foreign terrain will bring.

"Over the years, it's improved," he said, referring to reports he has heard from returning troops. He's less enthusiastic about the cold of a Balkan winter.

"It's like Maine," he said.

The troops were bid a safe journey at a ceremony at Camp Varnum, a military training camp that commands a sweeping view of Narragansett Bay. State Adjutant Gen. Reginald A. Centracchio and Rep. Robert Weygand both spoke, commending the troops for their sacrifice and admonishing them to stay safe.

Some 150,000 U.S. troops have served in Bosnia in the five years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accord brought a fragile cease-fire to the region's ethnic conflict. Nearly a quarter of those troops have come from the Guard and Reserve.

The deployment will be the second overseas trip with the Guard for Thomas, 39, an investigator with the Massachusetts Department of Corrections. He served in the military police company when it was deployed to the Persian Gulf war in 1991.

What's easier this time, he said, is that he knows when the mission will end, on March 20.

"That makes a big difference," he said.

Centracchio promised to see the soldiers at Christmas, when he will lead a delegation of Rhode Islanders to visit the soldiers.

"Above all, be safe," he said. "We need you to come home."



HISTORY

■ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

Millions of people, to include members of the Guard, are expected to observe the Lewis and Clark commemoration

Retracing the ROUTE

Between 2003 and 2006 literally millions of people will be drawn to a dynamic grassroots phenomenon, a historical commemoration of one of the most adventurous and amazing events in American history: The Lewis and Clark Expedition from 1803-1806.

Ever since the "Corps of Volunteers for North West Discovery" returned from their trek, it has evoked national pride and a strong attraction for most Americans. With the Bicentennial commemorations less than three years away, there has been a ground swell -- especially out west -- of interest.

Even states, cities, and communities "off the trail" have begun planning and organizing commemorations to capture the national spirit of the expedition. There are well over 500 separate web sites devoted to Lewis and Clark. The first printing of Stephen Ambrose's national best seller, *Undaunted Courage*, a biography of Meriwether Lewis, has now sold over two million copies.

Regarded Filmmaker Ken Burn's 1997 documentary about the *Corps of Discovery* was the second most popular historical film ever (after his extremely popular Civil War series). The new Sacagawea dollar coin also has surpassed all expectations for any American coin.

Federal government officials estimate visitation along the National Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail will at least double or more during the commemorative years, with several million visitors expected each year. Non-government studies estimate visitors to the trail at more than 10 million annually. Lewis and Clark, those tough frontier explorers we all learned about in 7th grade American history, will come to life even more during the next few years.

At the heart of the story of Lewis and Clark is the little known mystery that the Corps of Discovery was a military expedition commanded by two extraordinary, but decidedly different, officers. Most of the members of the expedition, except for a few, were

NCOs and enlisted soldiers in the regular army. The U.S. Army will participate with more than a dozen of Federal agencies and hundreds of state, local and private groups to commemorate the Bicentennial of the most popular, well-documented and influential Army exploration during the westward expansion. The Lewis and Clark Expedition is an Army story.

Interest in Lewis and Clark is extremely important to the National Guard. There are three reasons why the Guard should participate. Historically, though a tenuous connection, both Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Capt. (actually a lieutenant during the expedition) William Clark had served in the militia.

In 1792, William Clark joined the Virginia militia. He became a regular when he fought in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Later, he commanded a rifle company that included a young "Ensign" Lewis. Clark was serving in the Kentucky militia prior to joining the expedition.



GUARD HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Sherman Fleck
CHIEF, Historian

Whiskey Rebellion, and a year later took a commission in the regular army. Some of the men served in state militia at various times during their lives.

Since the Corps of Discovery was an Army unit, the second reason is paramount. This is the importance of representing the military aspects to the American people in local and national commemorative events. The National Guard is the perfect entity to provide the military presence along the historical route. All one has to do is look at a map and follow the course they followed, to realize that there is only one active duty installation along the entire route: Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

If the Army leaders and event organizers want a military presence along the trail, then the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve can be visible symbols. The Guard is even more favorably positioned because of its state relationship and boundary divisions that are easy references for organizing and conducting events.

The Lewis and Clark drama is also a powerful tool for National Guard recruiting and public relations for local and national visitors.

The last reason the expedition, though regular army, is relevant to the Guard is because it was conducted as a non-combat mission, which throughout American history has been the traditional role of the state militia and the National Guard. They trained their men for all eventualities, including fighting hostile Indian tribes, but the primary purpose of the expedition was exploring and searching for a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

They also had scientific, trade, map-making, diplomatic, and commercial missions and interest during the two-and-a-half year trek. Today's National Guard is a seasoned veteran of non-combat missions, as well as its primary role to wage war as the premier reserve component.

As the military was the right tool for the expedition, the National Guard should play a role during the upcoming commemoration.

As the bicentennial draws closer, many ideas and projects will surface to honor this great military expedition that did much to open the American West. Ideas in the private and local sectors range from "Discovery" groups reenacting the entire route, complete with keel boats and period equipment, parades, festivals and national ceremonies.

As for the Army, component and major command planners are considering everything from a cross-country relay run following the route, to a "modern-day" Corps of Discovery of soldiers in current boats, vehicles and equipment, "retracing" the route as recruiting and public relations vehicles.

The National Guard, as one might expect, will be involved at many events along the route.



William Clark



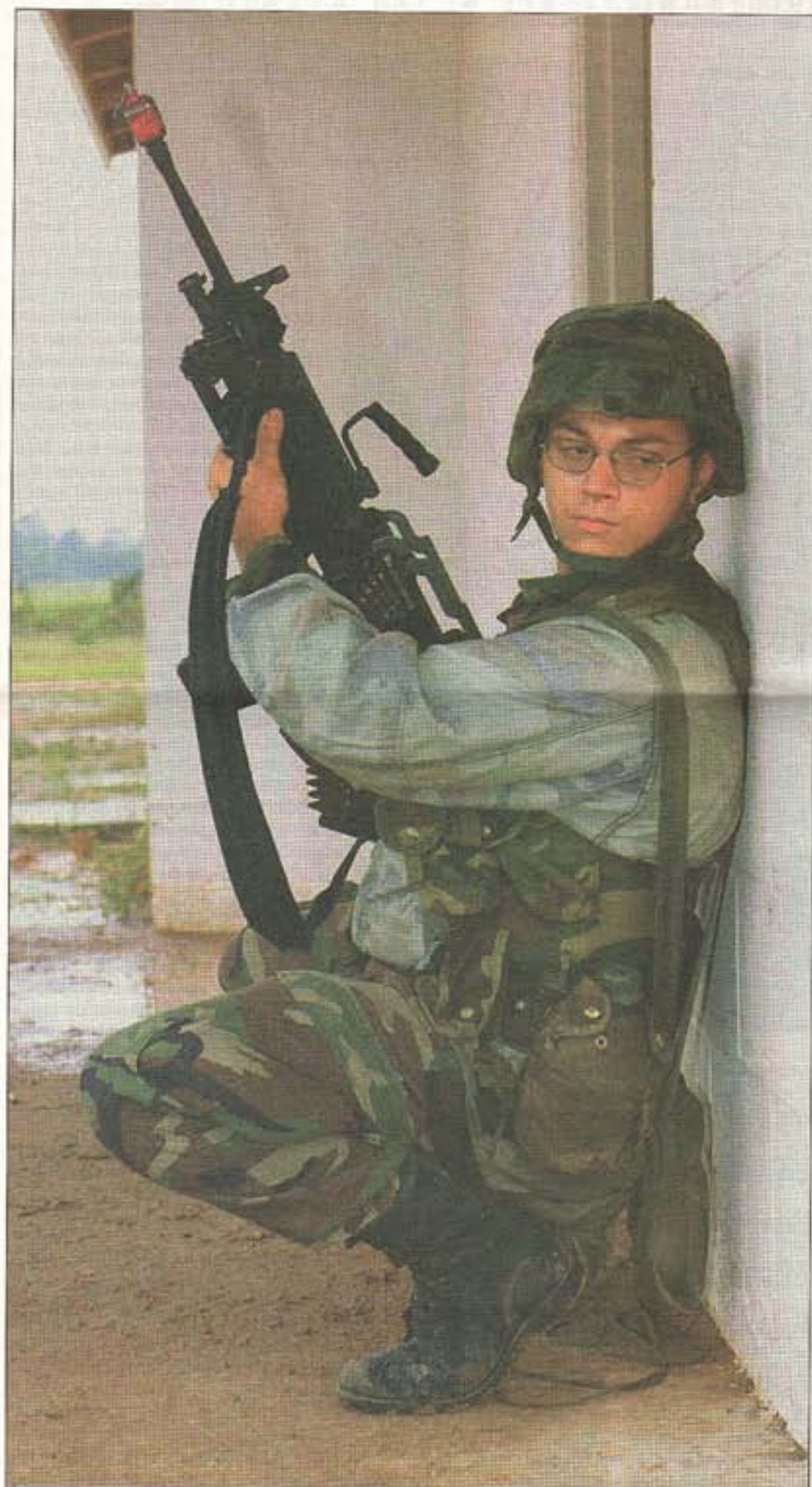
Meriwether Lewis

"The Corps of Discovery was a military expedition commanded by two extraordinary, but decidedly different, officers. Most of the members of the expedition, except for a few, were NCOs and enlisted soldiers"

Clark went on to serve in the territorial militia and then Missouri militia for nearly 30 years as brigadier general. Lewis also joined the Virginia militia in 1794 during the



TRAINING



Eager to leave the Gulf War behind them, Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade eyes Bosnia

Ready for Redemption

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The Persian Gulf War was not one of the 48th Infantry Brigade's finest hours. Ten years later, the Georgia Army National Guard outfit is taking full advantage of another chance to play a critical role in the total force Army.

The brigade command staff has already moved from its headquarters in Macon to Fort Stewart, Ga., near Savannah, to prepare 1,200 of its citizen-soldiers for peacekeeping duty in Bosnia beginning next April. That will be the largest group from any single Army Guard unit to serve in Bosnia.

Brig. Gen. Robley Rigdon, the brigade's commander, will become the assistant commander for the American sector under Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp, commander of the active Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Col. Tommy Stewart, the 48th's deputy commander, will lead the two security task forces of Army and Guard ground soldiers responsible for keeping the peace.

"We made it clear we didn't want to be fillers. We wanted to be part of the mission," Stewart explained.

The fact the 48th is going is a far cry from the brigade's situa-

tion during Desert Storm in 1991, Stewart recently reflected. The brigade cooled its heels at Fort Irwin, Calif., while officials debated whether it was ready for combat duty in the Persian Gulf. The 100-hour ground war against the Iraqi army was fought and won before that debate was resolved.

"We said we needed 90 days to fully prepare for war. The Army kept telling us we're not ready," explained Stewart of what is still a sore subject within the Army Guard community.

Much has changed since then, Stewart explained. The Army has paid considerably more attention to the National Guard and Army Reserve as the size of the active force has declined.

"The nation needs a total force, not three separate forces," he said. "The Army simply can't function without one of them any longer."

That means training the troops before they are needed.

"The advent of training support brigades has helped us achieve more of a battle focus. We're training with more efficiency," Stewart explained. "Now we have the Army's brightest and best teaching, coaching and mentoring the reserve forces. It is a good relationship now as opposed to before."

Stewart is confident the Georgia brigade is primed to prove itself in Bosnia, which it could not do in the Persian Gulf.

"We are going there with a purpose," he said. "This brigade can help validate the importance of the reserve components."

BOSNIA BOUND — Georgia Army Guard Pvt. Jonathan Honey (left) peers around a building. An Abrams crew (top) hunts for the enemy during training at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Photos by Sgt. Roy Henry