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THE ON GUARD

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December 2000

Four combat divisions bound for Bosnia

Kansas, Minnesota, Indiana and New York tapped for peacekeeping duty

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The Army's recent announcement to incorporate four more Army National Guard combat divisions into the Bosnia peacekeeping process well into 2005 brought holiday smiles to Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz and everyone else concerned about those units' future.

Divisional headquarters elements will command the multinational force in the U.S. sector for six months at a time. Six more of the Guard's 15 separate enhanced brigades have also been tapped for Bosnia duty.

"I think there's a pretty bright future for our combat formations," said Schultz, director of the 352,000-member Army Guard since June 1998. "We are up to that task without any question at all. We have never failed a mission," added Schultz, pointing out that Guard troops served in 64 countries last year.

The plan that Gen. Eric Shinseki, the Army's chief of staff, announced three weeks before Christmas validates the Guard's divisions and provides long-range predictability to their deployment schedules, Schultz observed.

The additional four Guard divisions are based in Kansas, Minnesota, Indiana and New York. The manpower projection is 4,171 citizen-soldiers for fiscal

year 2001 and 3,601 for 2002, according to an official at the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

"The announcement provides predictability for our soldiers and units to ensure they are given adequate time to train for the Balkans mission," said Maj. Tom Artis, an Army spokesman.

By April 2005, seven of the Guard's eight divisions will pull rotations in the Balkans. The six maneuver brigades have been tasked for Bosnia duty through April 2003.

"What you're seeing is an indication of the degree of integration among the components that is being accomplished in the Army and the confidence level that the



Photo by Maj. Richard Goldenberg

CALLING BOSNIA — New York infantrymen Spc. Marcus Slick (left), 1st Lt. George Rodriguez and Spc Jason Rathburn, members of 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, could be called upon to serve as peacekeepers in Bosnia in the near future.

Army's senior leadership has in the reserve components by assuming responsibility for these missions," the Army Guard director observed.

"It is unprecedented in terms of some comparisons with our past activities," added Schultz who credited the Texas

■ See BOSNIA BOUND, page 5



Photo by SSgt. Len Butler

Lone Star over Iraq

Texas Air Guard F-16 pilot Maj. Joel Hennes displays his state's flag while refueling over Southwest Asia. See related story and photos on pages 8-9.



COMMENTARY

Readers Return Fire

ABOUT the PAPER

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Address:

NGB-PAI-C
Suite 11200
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington VA 22202-3259

Phone/FAX Numbers:

(703) 607-2649
DSN 327-2649
FAX: (703) 607-3686

Web site:

<http://www.ngb.dtic.mil/>

STAFF

CHIEF,
National Guard Bureau
Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis



CHIEF,
NGB, Public Affairs
Daniel Donohue

CHIEF,
NGB-PA
Command Information
Maj. Lee Packnett

EDITOR
MSgt. John Malthaner

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT
MSgt. Bob Haskell

GUARD MAIL

Actively Agitated

I learned a new term from my active duty brothers recently, Legacy Equipment.

I found out during my unit's support of the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia that the active component, in its zeal to show its the force for the future, was embarrassed by the National Guard's *Legacy Equipment*, and didn't want the Pennsylvania Army Guard's equipment in view of or associated with their equipment.

If not disheartening enough, I found it disturbing when active Army majors and colonels snickered and sipped drinks while watching myself and other Army Guard soldiers erect tents.

It has been my hope, that since my service as a Guardsman in the Gulf War, and the continued service of Guard units around the world, that the active-Army would see us as equals, not as second-class soldiers.

It's hard to explain to a young soldier why the active-Army is different from the Guard. It is obvious to an 18-year-old that they are not treated or thought of as capable as an active duty soldier.

My explanation to those young soldiers was this: The Army does not like the fact that Guard soldiers take better care of their equipment; that Guardsmen have a sense of ownership for their unit and its equipment. I told them that the 2-1/2 ton trucks that my former unit took to Saudi had been used in Viet-

nam. A Guardmember may be responsible for the same weapon, the same radio and the same truck for his or her entire 20-year career. I told them that once you see the calibre of the active component's average soldier and compare them to a Guardmember, you will be proud that you are in the Guard.

We all need to present ourselves to the active component as their equals at every opportunity. We need to show them that we go the extra mile. We need to thank them for allowing us to have *legacy equipment*.

Hopefully, it will show the powers-that-be that the Guard is a trustworthy guardian of the equipment they provide to us.

Capt. John M. O'Boyle
Pennsylvania National Guard

Institution of Intensity

I just recently read the article by MSgt. Bob Haskell about the Academy of Military Science (AMS) at McGhee Tyson, Tenn. As a recent graduate, I found the article to be a very accurate and well written image of what the AMS experience was like.

I was very new to the military when I arrived at McGhee Tyson, having been in uniform only a few months. My experience there, while difficult, had a tremendous impact on me. It was one of the most intense learning experiences of my life.

I consider the staff to be some of the finest officers and enlisted that I have met in my brief career with the Air National Guard. Turning individuals into a team, and teaching them the

skills a good officer needs in six weeks is not an easy job, but the AMS faculty succeeds in meeting this challenge.

2nd Lt. William M. Rapke
New York National Guard

SEALing the Fate

This is in regard to the Guard recruiters offended by the cartoon depicting a recruiter attempting to recruit a seal into the Navy S.E.A.L.S.

It sounds like these two recruiters aren't making mission. Tell them to stop writing to the editor and put people in boots. As a recruiter of 10 years, if I could have enlisted seals and get credit for them, I would have.

SFC Daniel Picard
Massachusetts National Guard

Swearing In

A member of the Ohio National Guard recently complained about the frank language used in a story (September issue) that quoted Col. James Hagerstrom -- a two-war flying ace.

If you change a quote, it's no longer a quote. Hagerstrom is an American hero. Print anything he has said, and that's just fine with me.

MSgt. Jeffrey G Adams
New Hampshire National Guard

LETTERS POLICY:

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

Our e-mail address is:
malthanerj@ngb.af.mil

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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

"These 'Bosslifts' have been a great success, but there are times I wish we flew cargo planes."



IN THE NEWS

■ New CSM ■ Hessert Retires ■ Employers Honored

Lever named Army Guard CSM

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A seasoned South Carolina Army National Guard enlisted man who studied at one of America's premier military colleges has been named the command sergeant major for the Army Guard's entire enlisted force.

A. Frank Lever III, 53, has been selected by Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army Guard's director, to succeed CSM John Leonard Jr. as the chief advocate for the Army Guard's more than 300,000 enlisted people.

Leonard, 54, is leaving that position in Arlington, Va., after nearly four years to become the sixth senior enlisted advisor for the nearly 750,000 enlisted people in the United States' seven Reserve Components. He will work for the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon.

"I wanted to be an enlisted soldier," said Lever, who joined the South Carolina Army Guard in 1969. That was the same year he graduated from The Citadel, South Carolina's state military college, with a degree in political science. He has been the state command sergeant major for nearly two years.

"I believe I have helped more South Carolina Army Guard soldiers as a sergeant major than I ever could have as an officer," explained Lever, whose father was a lawyer and state family court judge.

"My background is in the community-based Guard that is ready and relevant," explained Lever, who has been a sergeant major for 13 years. "I want to continue helping our citizen-soldiers with quality of life issues so they will want to stay in the Guard."

Lever has a master's degree in management from Webster University in St. Louis, Mo. He served for three years as deputy commissioner for South Carolina's Department of Youth Services. He also owned a company that collected and securely disposed of confidential documents for industrial, government and financial agencies before going to work full-time for the South Carolina Guard 17 years ago.

"He has always worked hard to raise the standards of our noncommissioned officer corps, and he's instilled the importance of the NCO educational system to our junior NCOs," said SGM Larry Rikard, a long-time colleague. "He's a team player and he knows how to get a consensus

■ See LEVER, page 4

"I want to continue helping our soldiers with quality of life issues"



CSM A. Frank Lever

From private to general, Hessert retires

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A Bangor, Maine, man who began his military career as an Army private has retired from the Air National Guard as a two-star general.

Maj. Gen. Wil Hessert, 58, who is highly regarded throughout United States' armed forces, retired Dec. 12 during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Hessert, a former commander of the Maine Air National Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, was presented the Defense Distinguished Service Medal in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

Hessert concluded more than 40 years of service as the military executive to the Reserve Forces Policy Board and military advisor to Terrence O'Connell, the board's chairman. The board is the principal policy advisory agency to the secre-

tary of defense for all seven reserve components and their 870,000 people.

He served for two years, until June 1999, as the U.S. Air Force's deputy inspector general. He was the first Air Guard member in history to assume one of the 50-year-old parent service's top administrative positions. Making sure all Air Force wings were ready to go to war was among his primary concerns.

"He is a man of extraordinary vision and talent who's proven at the highest levels that the National Guard is essential to total force success," praised Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., Air National Guard director.

"His leadership has laid the foundations in people, capabilities and support structures to ensure a bright, limitless future for citizen-warriors in the entire spectrum of expeditionary operations," added Weaver.

Hessert commanded the air-refu-

eling wing in Bangor for five years until November 1996 when he left for Germany to become the Air Guard assistant to the commander of the U.S. Air Force-Europe.

"I need to tell you my thoughts about the Air Force's second core value, which is 'service before self.' Service with the people is what we're going to remember," said Hessert, who was accompanied by his wife Marion and daughter Heidi. His son Brian is in the Alaska Air Guard.

Hessert is a command pilot who has accumulated 4,500 hours in fighters, cargo planes and tankers.

"I'm not going to remember the airplanes," said Hessert. "I'm going to remember those crew chiefs who worked night and day, when it was 25 or 30 degrees below zero, to keep our planes ready to fly."

"It is the people who put their service before themselves that form the backbone of our Air Force."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Walker's promotion makes Native American history

When Oklahoma's Thomas S. Walker was promoted to brigadier general recently, he became the only Native American general officer currently serving in the Army, according to the active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard Bureau General Officer Management offices.

Walker, who traces his lineage from both Cherokee and Wyandot Indian tribes, was promoted at the Oklahoma National Guard Armory in Ardmore.

"While I am honored to be known as a Native American general, I am even prouder to be representative of a very diverse and culturally rich Oklahoma society," he said.

The first Native American Army general officer was William McIntosh, a Creek Indian. He commanded a regiment of 1,500 Creek warriors as a brigadier general during the First Seminole War from 1815 to 1818.

Walker earned his juris doctorate in law from the University of Oklahoma in 1972. He received a direct commission to first lieutenant in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1975. He has served in a variety of Staff Judge Advocate General positions. He's currently assigned as a special assistant to the Army's judge advocate general. (Army News Service)

Year of Employer declared

"On behalf of the National Guard -- 457,000 strong -- I declare the year 2001 to be the Year of the Employer."

With that simple declaration, National Guard Bureau Chief, Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis launched the Air National Guard's theme for the coming year -- a recognition of those employers who support Guardmembers across the nation. The announcement was welcomed by more than 1,500 Air Guard officers, non commissioned officers and Adjutants General attending the recent Air National Guard's Senior Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Davis said the program will include opportunities for employers and communities to get "reconnected" to their Guard units. The Army Guard also has adopted the theme.

Some of the program's goals include: increasing recognition of Guard employers; assisting the National ESGR office to strengthen relationships with employers; and increasing the visibility of the military in the community.

LEVER

FROM PAGE 3

for the best solution to any situation."

"When I became a sergeant major I started looking toward the day when I could become the command sergeant major for the entire Army National Guard," Lever explained. "I wanted to be all that I could be and serve as an example to others about what they can accomplish if they work hard."

Lever and his wife Ellen reside in Arcadia Lakes, S.C. They have two grown sons.

Leonard has twice gone to war, as a Marine who was wounded twice in Vietnam and as a Maine Army Guard battalion sergeant major in the Persian Gulf, during his 35 years in uniform. The Maine native grew up in Southwest Harbor and graduated from Husson College in Bangor.

He is now the senior enlisted staff aide to Charles Cragin, the principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs.

He's also the ranking advocate for all of the enlisted members of the Army and Air National Guard and the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard Reserves.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Leonard's background and experiences with the Marines and the Department of the Navy and as the enlisted leader for the Army National Guard, the largest of our reserve components, makes him extremely well qualified to take on these responsibilities," explained Cragin.

Leonard succeeds Army Reserve CSM Collin Younger who has retired from military service. Leonard and his wife Sharon live at Fort Myer, Va. They have two grown daughters.

He is filling the Reserve Affairs position that involves shaping and influencing issues common to all enlisted reservists — such as military pay, retirement benefits, commissary privileges, and health care — that are routinely considered in Congress.

"I'm really thrilled with the opportunity to go from the job I have to the Office of the Secretary of Defense," said Leonard. "I will continue to bring issues to the top that affect all of our reserve enlisted men and women," he vowed.

Guard celebrates 364th birthday

Health care, officer lateral moves discussed

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Two ideas to make it easier for citizen-soldiers and airmen to serve as part of this country's total military force proved to be promising candles for the cake as the National Guard celebrated its 364th birthday in Arlington, Va., on Dec. 13.

Dr. Bernard Rostker, an economist who is the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, outlined initiatives for helping Guard and Reserve members keep their personal health insurance when they are mobilized and for making it easier for officers to switch from the active or reserve components.

"Today we give thanks for the absence of war. We are at peace," observed Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "But that does not mean that our people are not busy."

Earlier, Davis declared 2001 as the Guard's Year of the Employer while addressing nearly 200 civilian business leaders and Guard officials who attended the Industry Day sponsored by the National Guard Association of the United States.

"When Guardsmen and women have strong, stable and mutually understanding relationships with their employers, it decreases stress and improves the quality of their lives," observed Davis.

The Year of the Employer goals, he said, "are to increase recognition of those who employ Guard men and women and to assist and partner with the national Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve office to collectively strengthen our

relationships with employers."

Although it is not yet known how President-elect George Bush's administration will address issues involving the United States' 870,000 men and women in the seven reserve components, Rostker indicated they will remain in demand.

"We've asked much of the Guard and you've never failed us," he told his audience that included many current and former Guard Bureau chiefs and directors of the Army and Air Guard.

"The penalty for that is that we keep asking you to do more and more. I don't think we're going to stop," added Rostker.

"You are an absolutely critical part of the Defense Department," he observed, because the active forces have been reduced in size while America has taken on increased peacekeeping commitments around the world. "Over the last five years it has become quite clear how important the Guard and Reserves are to accomplishing our national strategy."

A new health care initiative would give reservists who are mobilized for more than 30 days the choice to enroll in the military's Tri-Care insurance program or pay their personal health insurance premiums, Rostker explained.

"We think that's important for continuity of care for the families and stability in the program," added Rostker who is pursuing that effort with Charles Cragin, the Defense undersecretary for Reserve Affairs.

Giving officers greater flexibility for lateral movement among the active and reserve forces, "much more than we allow today," is being stressed in a study about the future of the officer corps, Rostker added.

"We have to do things that recognize the fact that you are part-time soldiers and that career patterns can now bring people on and off active duty," he said.

These proposals, Rostker indicated, are in line with the decision three years ago to do away with red identification cards for reservists and to issue green cards to everyone in military service.

"We know how much that meant in terms of breaking the barriers of first and second class service," he said.

Defense Secretary William Cohen, Rostker observed, is exploring ways in which the military can reconnect with America because of a concern that the all-volunteer force has lost touch with the public.

"As we worry about reconnecting with America, the primary institution that serves us in that regard is our reserve components and is the National Guard," Rostker told the group whose military heritage took root began at the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636.

"You represent the commitment of the citizen-soldier to provide for the common defense," he added. "We don't have to tell you to reconnect with America. You are America."



'NON-COM' CUT -- CSM John Leonard Jr. (left) and TSgt. Christina Blithe slice the Guard cake on behalf of enlisted troops.



Photo courtesy of the Texas National Guard

From the Cockpit to the Oval Office

Then Lt. George W. Bush, a member of the Texas Air Guard's 147th Fighter Group in Houston, straps into an F-102 jet. He is the first president since Missouri Capt. Harry Truman to be a member of the National Guard.

BOSNIA

FROM PAGE 1

BOUND

Army Guard's 49th Armored Division with making it possible.

The Texans commanded the American sector's multinational force without incident for half of 2000, returning home in October. It was the first time a Guard division had commanded active Army troops since the Korean War.

"The 49th had a very successful rotation. It was clearly prepared," Schultz said. "The Army's III Corps and 1st Cavalry Division helped us get ready. That's the Army at work."

"The 49th Armored Division is always happy to be the first to do something," said Maj. Gen. Robert Halverson, the division's commander. "We love the challenge and the adventure. That's why we wear the uniform, to serve our state and nation."

"Knowing about these missions well in advance gives our junior leaders adequate time to work on the individual skills and tasks our soldiers will need to perform their peacekeeping duties," said CSM A. Frank Lever, the Army Guard's enlisted leader.

"Early notice gives the Army Guard leadership a chance to work with our Family Readiness Programs and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and help the soldiers and their families and employers minimize the disruptions to their civilian lives," Lever added.

December's announcement continued a trend that has been gaining momentum for three years.

The Virginia-based 29th Infantry Division and Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division have been informed they

will command the U.S. sector from October 2001 to April 2002 and from October 2002 to April 2003.

The extended plan has given notice to the following infantry divisions: 35th, Kansas, April-October 2003; 34th, Minnesota, October 2003-April 2004; 38th, Indiana, April-October, 2004; and 42nd, New York, October 2004-April 2005.

Meanwhile, the 48th Infantry Brigade from Georgia and the 39th Infantry Brigade from Arkansas are preparing to support the Army's 3rd Infantry Division for six months beginning next April.

Other enhanced brigades, that are not part of a division, from Mississippi, Idaho, Indiana, and South Carolina, will provide peacekeeping troops on the ground from October 2001 to April 2003.

Citizen-soldiers from the divisions in Texas and Minnesota

will also be part of the ground force, the troops who patrol the communities and provide security for the military camps.

Some 350 Guard soldiers from North Carolina and Oklahoma have already reported to Bosnia for a winter of that duty that was formerly handled by active Army troops.

Come next October, when a record 2,461 citizen-soldiers are expected to deploy, the Army Guard will have sent

more than 10,000 troops to the international peacekeeping mission that began in December 1995. A total of 6,837 Guard soldiers have been mobilized during the first five years.

Those numbers are necessary, said Army officials, because the number of Army deployments has grown by more than 300 percent since 1989 while the active and reserve forces have shrunk by over 40 percent.

"The Guard has to be willing to sign up for the missions when and where required," stressed Schultz. "The downside to not signing up for missions is that you don't have to worry about a future. You don't have one."

"We are up to that task without any question at all. We have never failed a mission"

Equipped with new advanced laser targeting pods, Air Guard F-16 pilots patrol the skies over Iraq with more peace of mind

Protected by the Pod

By SFC Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

Maj. Carl Jones was once again patrolling the hostile skies over Iraq. A decade ago, he did so as Marine during the Persian Gulf War. This time, he was strapped into an F-16 Fighting Falcon jet as a pilot with the Alabama Air National Guard.

He's not alone.

Three Air Guard F-16 fighter wings recently returned from Incirlik, Turkey, after taking their turn patrolling the Northern Iraq "no-fly zone" as part of the new Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. Air Guard pilots have flown over unfriendly skies in support of Operation Northern Watch since 1991.

Along with Air Guard fighter wings from Indiana (the 181st FW) and Colorado (140th FW), Alabama's F-16 crews voluntarily served as part of a 90-day AEF deployment to enforce the no-fly zone over Iraq that began last September. Air Guard leaders say the AEF program is succeeding, because it allows units the predictability and flexibility to schedule their own troop rotations, while accommodating their families and employers.

"The whole system is set up to give units latitude about how to fill their 30-day block of the 90-day AEF rotation," said Indiana Air Guard Col. Kent Waggoner, deputy commander for the 181st FW in Terre Haute.

At the same time, the increased participation by the Air National Guard in real-world missions around the globe reduces the burden of the active-duty Air Force. It also provides the force with seasoned, war-tested pilots and crews.

"The Guard can get spun up pretty quickly," Jones assured. "The pilots in the Air National Guard are tremendous. Transitioning from an airline pilot to a fighter pilot is certainly achievable with the right training."

Family members and employers also like

the predictability the AEF's regularly-scheduled deployments offer, reports Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, director of the 109,000 men and women who comprise the Air Guard. Prior to AEF, he added, many citizen-airmen risked being pulled away from their families and jobs for weeks at a time with little or no notice, especially during unforeseen conflicts like in Kosovo.

Still, no amount of training or advanced notice can allay the fears many Air Guard family members feel knowing their spouse or parent is flying over a hostile area. However, a critical piece of equipment may help — a laser targeting pod.

The recent Northern Watch deployments marked the first time Air Guard fighter jets were equipped with "Litening II" advanced-targeting pods. In short, the pods allow pilots to fly outside the range of enemy ground fire while launching precision-guided munitions, or "smart bombs."

"It was a lot different than the Persian Gulf War," Jones recalled. "The aircraft and systems we have now are a whole lot better. I felt as safe as I was going to feel in



Photo by MSgt. Walt Lynch

A NOD to PODs — Alabama Air Guard crew chiefs with the 187th FW attach a Litening II pod to one of the Montgomery-based unit's F-16s.

that environment."

While most in the Air Guard's F-16 community have had limited exposure to the pods, the recent Northern Watch 90-day rotation allowed the Alabama, Colorado and Indiana F-16 units to share aircraft and the Air Guard's first eight "Litening II" pods.

"Right now we're sharing a lot of the high-tech assets to get our aircrews trained and ready to perform that mission," Waggoner said. "All of the CINCs (Commanders-in-Chief) want units that are capable of firing PGM (precision guided munitions), because they don't want airplanes dropping dumb, iron bombs on targets incorrectly."

■ A NOD to PODs, page 11



Photo by Allan Jakub



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

IN REVIEW -- Mustering (top photo) for just the second time since the Civil War, nearly 3,000 members of the Vermont National Guard formed in August. Nearly 700 District of Columbia Army Guard military police (2nd from top) were called upon in April to help keep World Bank protesters in line. Vermont Air Guard SSgt. Clem Devlin (right) operates a front end loader in Macedonia. Nearly 500 U.S. and Macedonian military members renovated two clinics and two schools there in May and June. Louisiana Army Guard Sgt. Dana Pelkey (above) watches as a pallet is put on his truck in Belize. More than 3,000 active and Guard troops spent nearly four months in the Central American country building seven schools. The humanitarian mission was operated by the Louisiana National Guard.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

YEAR IN REVIEW

Global

Fighting wildfires, running the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, fostering partnerships with foreign nations, building fences at the border, becoming part of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force, building schools in Belize and Macedonia, patrolling the no-fly zone over Iraq, flying drug interception missions over Curacao ... The National Guard was there

Guard



Photo by SFC Jack Holt



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

IN REVIEW -- A member of the Montana Army Guard (left) uses a pick-axe to check for hot spots while on wildfire duty in August. Nearly 1,500 Army and Air Guardmembers from 10 states were called upon to help douse some of this country's worse wildfires in nearly 100 years. A Texas Army Guard woman (top) tearfully embraces her husband after returning home from a nine month deployment to Bosnia. The Lone Star State's 49th Armored Division commanded the 11-nation multinational peacekeeping force. D.C. Air Guard TSgt. Paul Sullivan (above) disarms a missile on an F-16 used to curb drug traffic over Curacao.

INSIDE OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH

LONE STARS — A Texas Air Guard 147th Fighter Wing pilot (center photo) patrols the skies over Iraq. Texas SSgt. Robert Davila (right) raises an F-16 to inspect its landing gear.



OVER IRAQ

Guard wings deliver experience to Southwest Asia operation

By SSgt. Len Butler
Texas National Guard

Although the humidity of the Texas Gulf Coast stood in stark contrast to the arid plains at Prince Sultan Air Base in Southwest Asia, it was pretty much business as usual for a battle tested group of Texas pilots and crews.

The Texans, members of the 147th Fighter Wing, recently deployed to the region as part of Aerospace Expeditionary Force 9, in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Lt. Col. David Alexander, the detachment commander, said the mission was similar to what the wing does at its Houston base.

"Our purpose here is to provide defensive counter-air for the coalition forces and to protect the 33rd Parallel," he said. "Providing counter-air is what we do back home as well."

By the time the last of the Texans

returned home Nov. 15, more than 150 members of the F-16 Fighting Falcon unit saw action in support of the United Nations-mandated "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq. They joined three other coalition nations in the nearly 10-year operation.

Alexander said the 147th's dual mission at its home station is unique.

"We serve as both an air defense and a general-purpose F-16 Block 25 wing," he said. "We are part of the air and coastal defense for the continental United States and, at the same time, we are a worldwide deployable, general-purpose F-16 wing."

For the unit, the deployment had an ironic historical significance. Exactly 50 years before their October departure for this mission, the 147th's 111th Fighter Squadron was mobilized for another combat operation — enforcing United Nations Security Council resolutions in Korea.

"This is a great opportunity for us here," TSgt. W. Jerome Baker said. "We are a dedicated fighter wing with experienced technicians, and we're here to do whatever it takes to keep the planes in the air."

The Texans provided the third and fourth of six Guard rotations from three states serving in the 90-day AEF

mission. The Vermont Air Guard brought two airplanes from each state to the theater Sept. 9. The New Jersey Guard followed the Texans and completed the Guard's F-16 contribution in mid-December. Each state maintains two 15-day rotations to complete the 90-day mission.

And though Guard stays are much shorter than those of their active duty counterparts, they are not short of experience in real-world missions.

"We have been referred to as 'Pop Tarts' by the active duty because we pop in and pop out of a deployment," said MSgt. Wanda Newman, a flight medic. "But we take our jobs very seriously. We work long hours and train smart for the short amount of time we're here."

While a certain number of qualified

people from the unit had to go, no one individual was ordered to take part in the operation. When word of the mission deployment got around the 147th's headquarters at Ellington Air National Guard Base, just southeast of Houston, all of the slots for the rotation were filled almost immediately with volunteers.

Of the more than 150 airmen deployed to Southwest Asia, nearly half stayed for the entire 30-day rotation.

"That says a lot about the men and women of this fighter wing," said SMSgt. F. Craig Thomas, a production supervisor. "They knew their roles and mission long before we left and they have really stepped up."

Lt. Col. Steve Higgs explained that a typical combat sortie lasts anywhere from three to more than five hours. A

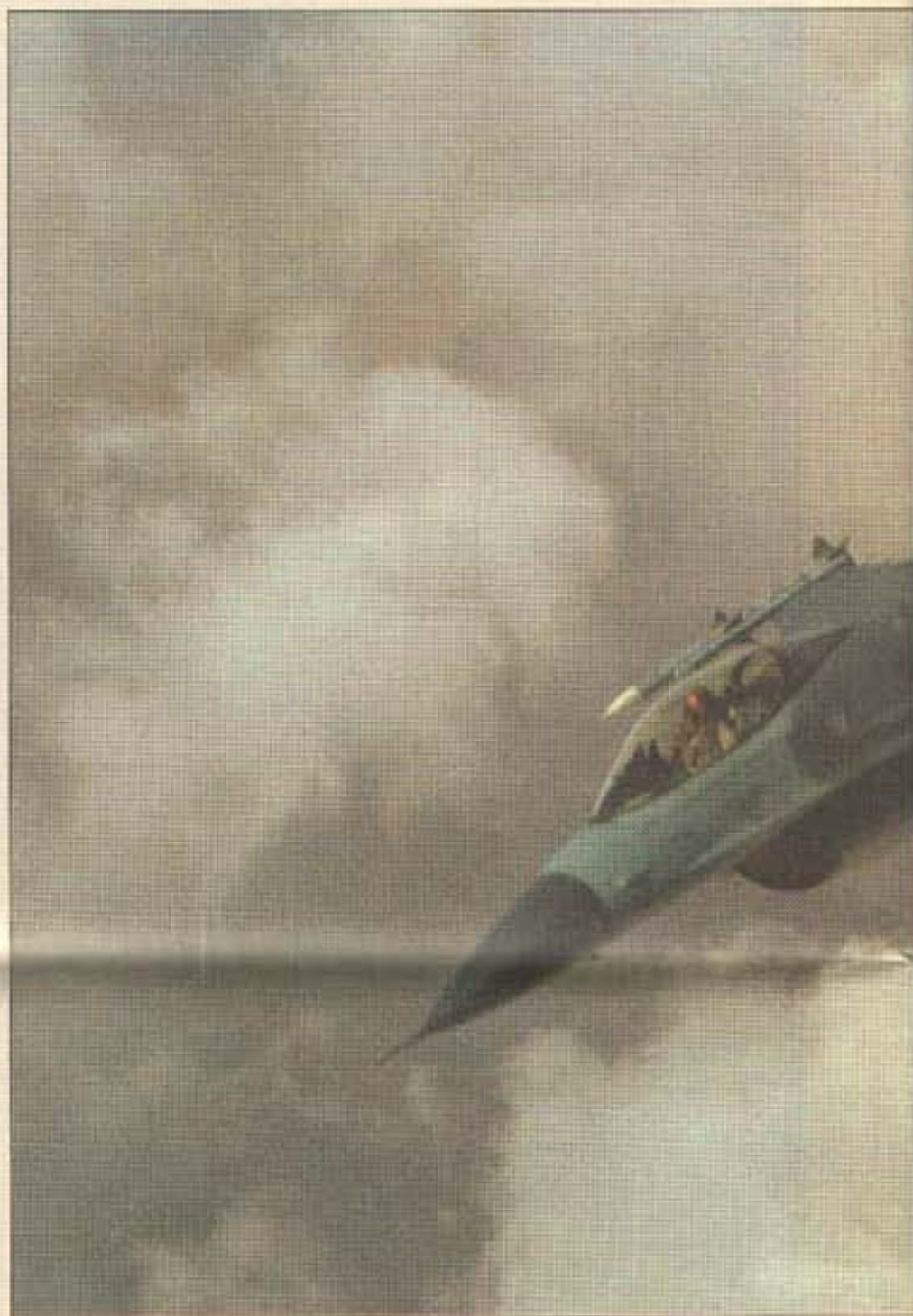




Photo by SSgt. Sean W. Worrell

"wall," the defensive posture of coalition aircraft, is created by maintaining a constant presence in Iraqi air space south of the 33rd Parallel -- often referred to as the "box." In addition to the fighters, radar-jamming, reconnaissance and command and control aircraft, and KC-135 Stratotanker refuelers ensure that the planes stay on the mission.

"We maintain a constant presence," Higgs said. "When a plane runs low on fuel, it is immediately replaced by another one."

And while the planes nearly always return to base showing no signs of battle damage, reports of Iraqi ground fire being aimed at them are common.

Maj. Scott Crogg said that he had heard reports of Iraqis firing at coalition aircraft, but he hasn't encountered

organized anti-aircraft fire, just sporadic small-weapons fire.

"Once in a while they might throw their radar on us," he said. "But this mission has been going on for nearly 10 years. We have degraded their air-defense capabilities so much now, that for them, it's all about surviving."

"Even if they do fire on us," Crogg added, "their shooting will highlight their own positions and they know that if they take a shot at us, they would encounter full retribution."

The danger, though, is very real. Since Operation Desert Fox ended in December 1998, there have been nearly 500 events of anti-aircraft missiles and artillery firing on coalition aircraft. Iraqi aircraft have challenged the no-fly zone an estimated 150 times during the same period.



Photos by SSgt. Len Butler



BATTLE TESTED -- Texas SSgt. Scott Zacher (below) disarms an AIM-120 missile after a Texas Air Guard F-16 returned from a sortie over Iraq. Guard F-16s (left) and crews from Texas, New Jersey and Vermont were present in Southwest Asia.

Thomas said the 147th hasn't missed a single sortie since the mission began. Preparation, he added, is important. But equally important is the fact that the maintenance crews are highly skilled.

"For most of us, we are trained every day back in Houston to fix any problems that might arise," said SSgt. Bert Babcock, a flight-line crew chief. "Most of us here are full-time technicians at Ellington, so we're coming over here and doing things that we are already comfortable doing."

When the F-16's return from a mission, the maintenance crews inspect every inch of the airplane. Nothing is overlooked, as avionics, weapons and evasion systems are thoroughly checked.

If a decision is made to replace anything (even the engines themselves), the work is done quickly and often well into the night, ensuring the aircraft is available for the next day.

Babcock said when the maintenance crews prepare to launch the planes, veteran pilots are the ones getting into them.

"We have experience from the top down," he said. "Like our maintenance and operations people, our pilots came into the Guard possessing real-world experience."

Crogg, a veteran of two previous Operation Southern Watch missions while on active duty, passed the 100-sortie mark over Southwest Asia. More than anything, he said, the greatest asset the National Guard brings to

the AEF is experience.

"We have pilots who get off active duty, but continue to fly fighters in the Guard," Crogg said. "I believe we have some of the brightest and best pilots in the military."

"Everyone who came here hit the ground running," added Maj. Mike McCoy, a veteran of more than 80 combat sorties over Bosnia-Herzegovina during that country's brutal civil war. "Our maintenance crews are top-notch. And with it only being a 15-day rotation for many of us, we had to pick up immediately."

The wing's motto, "One Team, One Fight," isn't just a catch phrase. Guard and active-duty airmen work shoulder-to-shoulder on virtually every part of the mission at Prince Sultan AB.

"This has turned into truly a seamless operation," said TSgt. Dominic Perino Jr., from a Spangdahlem, Germany-based unit. "We can't tell who is Guard or active."

"The support people we have are the most important cog in the wheel," Higgs added. "The crews, the technicians and wrench-benders, they are truly the unsung heroes."

Many 147th pilots and airmen said the experience has helped validate their place in the AEF concept.

"We brought a wide range of experience, expertise and enthusiasm," Newman said. "Along with the pilots and ground crews, our weapons people and crews challenged themselves to keep things running smooth. The camaraderie speaks for itself."



SPORTS

■ Martinez to Manage ■ Among Skeet's Elite

SPORTS SHORTS



Buck Martinez

Former Missouri Guardsman named Blue Jays manager

The Toronto Blue Jays recently signed former Missouri Guardsman Buck Martinez, a former Kansas City Royals catcher, to a three-year contract as the baseball club's eighth manager in franchise history.

Martinez played for the Blue Jays from 1981-86 and since then has been the team's color commentator and a popular sportscaster for ESPN's *Baseball Tonight*.

Martinez joined the Kansas City-based 205th Military Police Battalion in February 1970 and served in the S-3 office. He was a specialist when he transferred to the California Army Guard in November 1973. He earned the expert marksmanship medal with the M-16 in 1972.

"The field is where my heart is," Martinez said recently about his move from the broadcast booth to the bench.

Martinez played 17 seasons in the major leagues with the Kansas City Royals, Milwaukee Brewers and the Blue Jays. He was a career .225 hitter with 58 homers in 1,049 games. He also authored *"From Worst to First"* and *"The Last Out."*

National Guard Bureau Maj. Shirley McVicker has her sights set on a skeet championship and law degree

Taking aim at Skeet's Elite

Armed with weapons nicknamed *Stubby* and *Precious*, Shirley R. McVicker took aim at her first Mini-World registered skeet shooting competition recently in San Antonio, Texas.

McVicker, an Air Guard major assigned to the National Guard Bureau's protocol office, was up against top sheet shooters from New Zealand, England, Canada and other countries during the Mini-World competition. It precedes the World Skeet Championship held annually by the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.

The Mini-Worlds, considered by many as the preliminary to the world event, also provides an opportunity for those shooters who cannot participate in the 10-day world competition to compete in an abbreviated four-day version.

The competition rules are the same and require the same amount of skill and concentration, McVicker noted.

"Skeet shooting takes a lot of hand and eye coordination, focus and patience," said McVicker. "Many say it's a game of the mind."

"It is a lot of fun to come out and shoot at the targets," she added. "It's also nice to meet people from all over the country and world."

Over the last four years McVicker's time for practice and competition has been restricted because of her pursuit of a law degree. Despite this, she has competed in register competitions throughout Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Now that she has graduated from law school, McVicker said she looks forward to increasing her time on the skeet range.

A Charlotte, N.C. native, she attributes her interest in shooting to her older brother and to her earlier career in law enforcement.

Her interest in skeet, she said, surfaced quite by accident.

"While visiting a local gun club, I saw some folks shooting a round of skeet," she recalled. "I was immediately intrigued with the sport and knew I had to do it."

For competition, McVicker uses two shotguns. In the 12-gauge event she uses a left-handed Remington, 1187 semi-automatic shotgun she nicknamed *Stubby*. In the 20-gauge, 28-gauge and .410 bore events she fires a Beretta 682 Gold dubbed *Precious*.

The game of skeet centers on a four-inch-in-diameter clay target propelled across the skeet range at a speed of 47 mph. The shooter is positioned in one of eight stations, and when ready, calls for the target to be launched. One round of skeet consists of 25 targets. In competition four rounds, or 100 targets, are thrown. A perfect round is achieved by breaking all 100 targets.

Although McVicker didn't win this year, she plans prepare for the 2001 shooting season by receiving numerous hours of coaching, followed by many days and weeks of practice. San Antonio will again be the site of the 2001 Mini-World and World competition.

McVicker said she plans to attend and win.

ON TARGET — Maj. Shirley McVicker demonstrates the form that qualified her to compete at the Mini-Worlds.



Photo courtesy of Maj. Shirley R. McVicker

**Oregon F-15 pilot
Capt. Jeffrey Hwang
becomes first com-
bat pilot to destroy
two enemy aircraft
simultaneously,
single-handedly**



Deadly from ABOVE

By 2nd Lt. Elena O'Bryan
Oregon National Guard

With two Serbian MiGs screaming toward him with bad intentions, Capt. Jeffrey Hwang fired two missiles. Seconds later, he became the first pilot in combat aviation history to single-handedly and simultaneously destroy two enemy aircraft during a single intercept using radar-guided missiles.

For his poise and skill, the Oregon Air Guard F-15 pilot with the 142nd Fighter Wing was awarded the coveted Mackay Trophy from the National Aeronautic Association recently during a Washington D.C., ceremony.

During a sortie over Bosnia in March last year in support of Operation Allied Force and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ground forces at Tuzla airfield, Hwang identified two aircraft in violation of Bosnian airspace and NATO peacekeeping directives.

After spotting the aircraft on radar, Hwang and his wingman turned deeper into Bosnian airspace and assumed a position of disadvantage both to determine the intent of the other pilots and

to avoid a confrontation along the border. But the Serbian aircraft continued to close in on the F-15s and NATO forces on the ground.

"Up until that point, I was worried about not doing the right thing," Hwang said. "But then there was no doubt left they were not friendlies."

The F-15 pilot's training then took over as he maneuvered to take a shot at the rapidly approaching aircraft.

"Once you start the routine, it just flows," Hwang said. "Just like with the butterfly-stroke swimmers use at the Olympics."

Both Hwang and his wingman fired AIM-120 missiles. Later investigators revealed only Hwang's two missiles had reached and destroyed the targets — two MiG-29s from the Serbian Air Force.

"I was just the guy who hit the button," Hwang said later after receiving the Mackay Trophy. "There were a lot of other people who made the mission possible, even though I got the glory."

When he received the four-foot high trophy from U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan, Hwang said despite the size of the trophy, there wasn't enough room on the plaque to recognize those on the ground who supported the mission.

"It is important to identify all the people who keep you on the pointed end of the spear as a pilot," said Oregon Air National Commander Brig. Gen. James Cunningham.

"Even though he gave credit to almost everyone else, Capt.

POISED PILOT — From his F-15, Oregon Air Guard Capt. Jeffrey Hwang downed two MiGs by himself, simultaneously.

Hwang showed great airmanship and situational awareness to effect this intercept," said Lt. Col. Garry Dean, vice commander of the 142nd FW in Portland.

The National Aeronautic Association has given the Mackay Trophy almost each year since 1912 to recognize those who have contributed to "the art, sport and science of aviation and space flight."

Hwang joins a short list of accomplished fliers from aviation history who have received the trophy beginning with Lt. Henry H. Arnold, who would later become commander of the Army Air Forces during World War II.

The trophy also was given to Capt. Edward Rickenbacker, who set a record in downing 16 enemy aircraft during World War I, and to Capt. Charles Yeager who flew the first supersonic flight in 1947.

Mackay Trophy winners include fliers who set the world's altitude record and who flew the first transcontinental and round the world flights.

This kind of company, and the combat experiences Hwang has had so far, would seem to confirm his feelings about being an F-15 pilot.

"Whatever I thought flying would be like," he observed. "It is that much more."

A Nod to Pods

FROM PAGE 5

Illinois Air Guard Maj. Rich Neely, a member of the Springfield-based 183rd Fighter Wing, said his unit deployed to Turkey last year without the pods, and were relegated to supporting fighters with more high-tech equipment.

"If you don't have the PGM capability, you're not going to be invited to dinner," he said. "The PGM capability puts us in position to get into the fight. We need to be relevant."

As one-third of the Air Force's total F-16 fleet, Air Guard leaders insist its F-16 force is poised to do even more to relieve the operational tempo placed on its active-duty counterparts. However, without the pods, it is forced to warm the bench.

"I would certainly endorse the need for more pods," Jones maintained. "The Air National Guard is a tremendous asset that brings a lot of experience with it. But we can't help without the right equipment."

Only through innovative management techniques and sharing, have Air Guard pilots and maintainers been able to establish themselves as key players in enforcing the no-fly zones over Iraq. Combined with active Air Force and Air Force reserve crews, they have flown nearly 250,000 sorties over that region in the last decade without losing a single pilot. Many pundits attribute that success to the Air Force's heavy reliance on its Guard and reserve fleet of veteran pilots and crews.

Gen. Weaver said the Air Guard's F-16 arsenal has received many upgrades, however, more are needed.

"We have significantly improved our F-16 fleet," the general said. "But we still need 81 more pods to fill our one-for-one requirement. Our focus in the future is to significantly extend the service life of this airplane."

Meanwhile, Neely said, he and others will do what the Guard does best: "Making due with what we have and getting the mission accomplished."

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Georgia Air Guard Col. George (Tom) Lynn, commander of the 116th Bomb Wing, has been nominated for the Lance P. Sijan Award, the highest leadership award in the Air Force.

Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., Air National Guard director, selected Lynn from the more than 88 flying wings and 200 geographically-separated units that comprise the Air National Guard.

The Sijan award recognizes Air Force personnel who exhibit the highest example of professional and personal leadership standards.

Lynn was recognized for the Wing attaining a mission capable rate for the B-1B bomber 13 percent above the mission capable rate of all active duty B-1 units, and having the best mission capable rate of any B-1B unit during fiscal year 2000. In addition, the 116th achieved a sortie rate 20 percent higher than any other B-1B unit and assumed sole responsibility for six B-1B Aerospace Expeditionary Force commitments. While possessing 11.3 percent of the total B-1B fleet and only 3 percent of all spare B-1B parts and equipment, the Peach State bomb wing accounted for more than 15 percent of all B-1B sorties flown in fiscal year 1999.

These accomplishments were all met with the Wing operating at 85 percent of its required manning and functioning in 34 different temporary locations. The Wing will soon move into \$97 million in new facilities at Robins AFB.

Under Lynn's leadership, the 116th Bomb Wing has successfully completed its conversion to the B-1B, while completing one AEF cycle.

The award is named in memory of Capt. Lance P. Sijan, a 1965 graduate of the Air Force Academy who received the Medal of Honor posthumously. Sijan, on a flight over North Vietnam, was shot down and evaded capture for more than six weeks. After his capture and torture by the North Vietnamese, a crippled Sijan managed to escape, crawling into the jungle. He was recaptured several hours later, interrogated, tortured and died on Jan. 18, 1968. Sijan never divulged information to his captives.

Four pilots with the Arizona Air Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson set the record for flying in a four-ship formation with the largest number of F-16 flying hours amassed (a total of 13,040.6) during a fly-by at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Open House, Nov. 4th.

The fly-by was flown by Lt. Col. Kurt Tek, (3,126 hours), Maj. Nick Anderson, (3,599 hours), Maj. Mark Decesari, (3,313 hours) and Maj. Robert Carpenter (3,002.6 hours).

The parents of Pennsylvania Air Guard TSgt. John Giovannini, a member of the 111th Fighter Wing's 193rd Maintenance Squadron, accepted the Airman's Medal, the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism and the Pennsylvania Cross for Valor -- the state's greatest individual honor -- on behalf of their fallen son during a recent ceremony.

Giovannini distinguished himself in rescuing a drowning woman near Ocean City, Md., in 1999 -- an exemplary act of heroism that cost him his life.



Sijan award nominee, Georgia Air Guard Col. Tom Lynn.



F-16 record setters: Maj. Nick Anderson (left), Maj. Mark Decesari, Lt. Col. Kurt Tek and Maj. Robert Carpenter.



Katy and Craig Ketchum thanked the Alaska Guardsmen who saved their lives.

Giovannini braved a treacherous rip tide to rescue the mother of two. Swimming out to the danger zone, he was able to pull the woman back to the safety of shore. Afterward, he collapsed from physical exhaustion and died en route to the hospital.

Craig Ketchum and daughter are thankful to be alive and they wanted the members of the Alaska Air Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron who saved them to know it.

Ketchum and his 21-year-old daughter, Katy, made a special appearance at a holiday luncheon Dec. 15 at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage to deliver heart-felt thanks to the airmen who rescued them July 20th. On that day, their Cessna 150 float plane crashed near Figure Eight Lake, 15 miles northwest of Anchorage.

Ketchum, owner and president of Ketchum Air Service, suffered minor injuries. Katy's injuries, however, were much more severe and included a broken back and facial trauma.

"She is doing great, improving everyday, and planning to return to college in the fall," said Bertie Ketchum, Katy's mother.

While addressing more than 300 people in attendance at the luncheon, Katy Ketchum tearfully expressed her gratitude.

"I'm 21 years old right now, and because of you, I'll be celebrating my 22nd birthday next year," she said.

Craig Ketchum humbly admitted to the audience that he looks at life differently now and makes the best of each day.

Ketchum shared with the audience what it was like just minutes after he and his daughter had crashed.

"I knew Katy was badly injured and I remember telling her that everything was going to be OK," he recalled. "Then, as if angels were looking over us, I saw two parachutes descending toward us. I couldn't believe it."

The "angels" were 210th pararescuemen MSgt. Brent Widenhouse and TSgt. Mike Murphy. They were on board an HC-130 that happened to fly over the Cessna minutes after the crash.

"Days later, when Katy and I were still in the hospital, the two pararescuemen came back to visit us," Craig reported. "I call that follow-through!"

According to the Ketchums, there is a special place in their hearts for the people at Kulis.

"They're like an extension of our own family now," Craig said, "and always will be."

Recruiters with the West Virginia Air Guard's 130th Airlift Wing have found a way to connect with high schoolers by offering free music to their Junior ROTC programs.

The program was the brain child of TSgt. Greg White, a broadcaster of 16 years.

"We realized that the Junior ROTC programs are limited on their budget and felt that this was a great way to save them money," White explained.

In its second year, the recruiters have performed in more than 20 military functions throughout the state.



Photo courtesy of the New Jersey National Guard

Astronaut Assisters

By SSgt. Mark Olsen
New Jersey National Guard

As a firefighter, TSgt. Joseph Bannon knows how to deal with a burning aircraft and its passengers. But recently the New Jersey Guardsman was receiving training in how to rescue an astronaut from a space shuttle.

Bannon and several firefighters with the Garden State's 177th Fighter Wing went to Patrick AFB, Fla., to learn about spacesuits and orbiters. Just seven months ago, the unit was informed that its Atlantic City International Airport home was

selected by NASA as an emergency landing site for the space shuttle.

The 177th was one of only two Air Guard units to be selected as an alternative-landing site for the space shuttle orbiter. The other unit is New York's

106th Rescue Wing, based at Grubbs International Airport in Westhampton. Both East Coast sites were chosen because they had emergency runways long enough to handle a space shuttle landing.

"The reason that we received this training was the shuttle launch trajectory had been changed from an east-west to south to north trajectory," Bannon explained.

Along with Bannon, firefighters TSgt. Joseph Tomasello, SSgt. Brian Alexander, MSgt. James Hannon and MSgt. William Newcomb attended the three-day class in Florida.

The first day was spent in the classroom and covered spacesuits, helmets, safety belt systems, and powering down the orbiter. Learning to properly seal

the helmet, said Hannon, was one of the more difficult tasks the firefighters had to learn.

"There are so many instruments inside the helmets, and if they are not taken into consideration, then you cannot get a proper seal," he noted. "Sealing the helmet is critical, because of the toxic nature of the space shuttle's fuel."

Once the helmets are sealed and the oxygen hoses are disconnected and the astronauts are on their self-contained air bottles, the firefighters then have a seven-minute window to move the astronauts 2,500 feet away from the shuttle — a difficult job under the best of conditions.

The next two days were spent learning just how difficult it is to hoist 350 pounds of astronaut and survival gear through an 18-

SHUTTLE SERVICE — New Jersey Air Guard firefighters prepare to enter the orbiter mockup through the top hatch.

inch eascape hatch.

"It takes two firefighters to hoist them out, and anything that can get snagged while they are being lifted out, will," observed Bannon. "That's why it is absolutely necessary that the firefighters who go inside the shuttle do all the proper disconnects to lighten the load."

The training deployment had one unscheduled side benefit: Hannon, Bannon and Newcomb had the opportunity to watch a space shuttle launch.

"It was awesome," recalled Bannon. "It was the deployment to end all deployments."



STATES

■ Cole Casualties ■ Olympian Effort ■ Major Milestone

MISSISSIPPI

A Magnolia State Air National Guard C-141 transport crew returned home from a trans-Atlantic medical evacuation mission recently they described as "bittersweet."

"It was bitter because of the USS *Cole* and the injuries suffered and the fatalities," said Lt. Col. Cathy Lutz, the 183rd Aeromedical Squadron's commander. "It was sweet because of the outpouring of love and support that the sailors and their families received."

Lutz was among the Mississippi Guard crew that left Oct. 12 from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to pick up four sailors wounded in a terrorist bomb attack on the USS *Cole* in Aden, Yemen. The blast killed 17 U.S. sailors.

The Mississippi Air Guardsmen transported the four sailors and some of their family members to Norfolk Naval Station, Va., for medical treatment. The crew also included medical personnel who provided in-flight care.

Lutz described the sailors' injuries as "fairly severe."

"They all had pretty bad open fractures," she said. "They had surgery to repair the broken bones, but they all had a lot of pain."

Lutz added that the crew and their patients did not talk about the bombing.

"The patient I was taking care of

PENNSYLVANIA

UPLIFTING
BOSSSES

TSgt. Michael Nagy (left), a boom operator with the 171st Air Refueling Wing, looks out a KC-135 window in flight with Jim King, Boeing's corporate legal counsel. Members of the Willow Grove-based 111th Fighter Wing hosted nearly 40 employers recently as part of their annual 'Bosslift.'



Photo by TSgt. Patrick Cashin

didn't remember anything about the actual incident," Lutz said. "It was just because it was so traumatic, I am sure."

The C-141 arrived in Norfolk Oct. 17 to a welcome that included a band, dignitaries and more of the sailor's family members.

"As (the sailors) were coming off the ramp, they really got a hero's welcome," Lutz said.

"It was touching to be part of getting the patients back to Norfolk," added Maj. Rhonda Mills, the mission's flight nurse.

UTAH

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera agreed Dec. 11th to a plan to place the Beehive State's National Guard as the lead military agency for the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympics.

The Utah Guard will be the primary military headquarters for routine support of the 2002 Winter Olympics, said NGB spokesman Maj. Donald Hawthorne.

"The current plan calls for approximately 100-120 military personnel to be assigned to the Olympic task force staff," said Hawthorne.

Details of the exact manning structure will be coordinated in the near future.

"Work to identify supporting personnel and units should start in the first week of January 2001," said Hawthorne.

ALASKA

The 176th Wing has now flown more than 150,000 hours without any major accidents.

"It's tremendous when you think about it," explained Col. Gene Ramsay, vice commander of the Anchorage-based wing. "We fly more missions in harsh arctic conditions than ever before and we deploy to places around the globe and we've still managed to do it with a superb safety record."

For the 176th, the 150,000-hour safety milestone marks 35 years of flying accident-free, including 10 years of flying C-123s and HH-60s and 25 years of flying C-130s.

"The last major accident experienced by the Alaska Air National Guard was back on December 15, 1965," recalled Ramsay. "One of our C-123 transport planes crashed at Cape Romanzof, 460 nautical miles west of Anchorage, while on a routine training mission. Tragically, all five crew mem-

bers onboard perished."

To honor the safety milestone, 176th Wing Commander Col. Van P. Williams Jr. deemed Dec. 15 a "Safety Down Day," where no flying took place. Instead, flyers participated in numerous safety briefings.

"Safety of flight is, without question, something we take very seriously," said Williams.

Safety briefings are nothing new to pilots at Kulis Air National Guard Base. At least once each quarter, aircrews attend safety presentations and talk about how best to manage crews during flight.

According to Maj. Dirk Cain, a C-130 pilot and the wing's safety officer, aircrews spend a lot of time studying nationwide aircraft mishap reports



SAFETY FIRST — 176th Wing members celebrate logging 150,000 miles without an accident.

and learning from the mistakes others have made.

"Interestingly, major aircraft accidents are usually the result of a series of problems that develop, not just one big mistake," commented Cain. "Through our safety briefs, we learn how to recognize a problematic chain of events and break the pattern."



HISTORY

■ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

Integrated into the force, African-American truckers distinguished themselves during the Korea War

HAULING with HONOR

A very cold wind was blowing spray from the Sea of Japan into the men's faces as they huddled on the dock at the port of Pusan, South Korea, Dec. 31, 1950. It was both a miserable and yet exciting way to mark the passing of the old year and the start of what, for many, proved to be a great adventure in the new year.

The men standing in the cold were members of the 726th Transportation Truck Company, an all African-American Army Guard unit from Baltimore, Md. They were the first of 43 Army National Guard units to arrive in Korea during the war. These ranged in size from single companies to two infantry divisions.

Following the 726th the next morning, Jan. 1, 1951, were two other Army Guard units; Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 231st Transportation Truck Battalion (TTB) and HHC, 167th TTB. The 231st, like the 726th, was composed entirely of African-American Guardsmen from Baltimore, while the 167th was an all-white unit from Pennsylvania. The third, and last, of the Guard African-American units to serve in Korea, the 715th Transportation Truck Company from the District of Columbia, arrived January 5th.

Despite the fact that President Harry Truman had ordered the racial integration of all American military forces in 1948, his order had no practical impact on the Guard up through the mobilizations for the Korean War. Pentagon leaders decided that since officers in the Guard are appointed by the Governors, the Regular Army could have little input on the composition of the state force. However, once a unit entered active duty, it could (and would) be integrated.

The three black companies serving in Korea were drawn from a total of eight African-American units serving in the Army Guard structure of seven states in 1950. They ranged from complete infantry regiments in Illinois and Ohio, to battalion-sized units in California, Massachusetts and New York; plus company-sized units in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Many of these units, like their white Guard counter-

parts, had long records of service to their states and nation.

For instance, the HHC, 231st TTB, known as the "Monumental City Guards," was organized in 1879. It served as part of the 372nd Infantry, 93rd Division in World War I, earning three campaign streamers and a French Croix de Guerre with Palm in honor of the unit's combat record. Many of its soldiers were also awarded decorations for valor.

The 231st was again part of the 372nd Infantry in World War II. Assigned to garrison duty in the Pacific, they earned one additional streamer. They did not know it when they landed at Pusan, but the unit was about to earn eight additional streamers, plus three decorations for their battalion colors.

The other two black truck units were both post World War II organizations and had no combat record, though they too were about to earn multiple streamers for their guidons.

At the time these Guard units arrived in Korea, the United Nations forces were in retreat, pursued by the Communist Chinese Army. The UN was maneuvered out of Seoul, the South Korean capital, but succeeded in establishing a defensive line south of the city.

Within days of arriving in-country, all three of the black Guard units began transporting supplies first to firm up the defenses. They did likewise, later in January,



GUARD HISTORY

By CW2 John Listman
Army Guard Historian

sponsible for the repair of assigned vehicles.

One of the units attached to the 231st was the 726th TTC. Days after arriving in-country, it was performing its first mission -- carrying replacement troops to the 1st Cavalry Division to help stabilize the front. All of the other units assigned to the 231st were "white" companies. Despite this, there was little friction between the races.

By May 1951, UN forces succeeded in pushing the Communist out of Seoul and back across the 38th Parallel.

The 231st set up its operation near the town of Uijongbu. As the men performed their routine duties, they saw a massive number of "ants" moving over the hills near their position. The Chinese Spring Offensive had begun. Almost immediately the word came to quickly evacuate to the rear.

However, they had a number of "deadlined" trucks unable to run. Rather than leave them for the advancing enemy, the men in the maintenance platoon hooked up chains and tow bars and pulled them all out.

The District's 715th TTC, known as the "Capitol Truck Company," had different experiences. Assigned to the X Corps during the May 1951 Communist offensive, the 715th, along with other truck companies, moved elements of the 3rd Infantry Division north to reinforce the 2nd Infantry Division in repelling strong Chinese attacks.

This rapid movement of fresh troops, and the resulting Battle of the Soyang River, enabled the UN forces to throw back the Communist assaults. By the autumn of 1951, as the UN again pushed the Chinese north to the 38th Parallel, a stalemate settled in place with men in trenches like those seen in World War I.

The Guard truckers spent the winter of 1951-1952 continuing to haul men and supplies in vast numbers to the front. In the summer of 1952, as the standoff continued with little movement, those Guardsmen called to active duty in August 1950 (including all three black units) became eligible for rotation home and discharge.

All Guard units serving in Korea were eventually racially integrated. When the black Guardsmen returned home and wanted to reorganize their units, they were initially informed that they would again be segregated organizations. After the black officers appealed to the NAACP and the black press, most of these units were "open" to all qualified applicants, regardless of race. However, many traditionally all-

white units were not open to black enlistments until public and DoD pressure during the civil rights movement of the 1960s forced them to integrate.

Most of the "old" black units are still in the force today. For instance, the heritage of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 231st Transportation Truck Battalion from the Korean War period is today perpetuated by the Maryland Army Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 229th Supply and Transport Battalion, 29th Infantry Division (Light).



DELIVERING WHEN NEEDED — An ambulance driven by members of the Maryland Army Guard's 231st Transportation Truck Battalion, based in Baltimore, deliver a patient to a helicopter at I Corps in Chonan, Korea, Feb. 11, 1951.

in support of the first United Nations counter offensive to push the Chinese back across the 38th Parallel, the pre-war border between the two Koreas.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 231st TTB, assigned to I Corps, was a command and control unit, with a varying number of truck companies (from four to eight) attached to it for different periods of time, depending on the mission. While the battalion staff planned routes and assigned missions to its subordinate units, a separate section controlled a maintenance platoon re-



TRAINING

Top Dollar 2000 gives finance types front line pay problems

On the MONEY

By Lynn Gonzales
Top Dollar Public Affairs

Comptrollers and contracting officers treating sucking chest wounds and eye punctures, firing 9mm handguns while wearing gas masks, and crawling under barbed wire as M-16 bullets fly overhead. Sound unlikely? It isn't.

Thirteen teams -- one of them a Guard squad -- of the Air Force's top finance and contracting specialists completed five days of such intense activities at Top Dollar 2000.

Top Dollar is a physically and mentally demanding training exercise and competition that puts comptrollers and contracting officers in a bare-base environment simulated in a foreign country.

For nearly a week, teams worked and slept in a tent city in the middle of terrorist-infested Equatoria, a fictitious South American country built on the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.

In addition to completing over 250 timed scenarios that tested their ability to perform their jobs, competitors were also tested in several military skills: self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare, marksmanship, information security and physical fitness.

A seven-member team representing the Air Guard was one of the units competing in this elite training exercise. The team consisted of two contingency contracting officers from Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., and five finance experts from McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn. They were: TSgt.

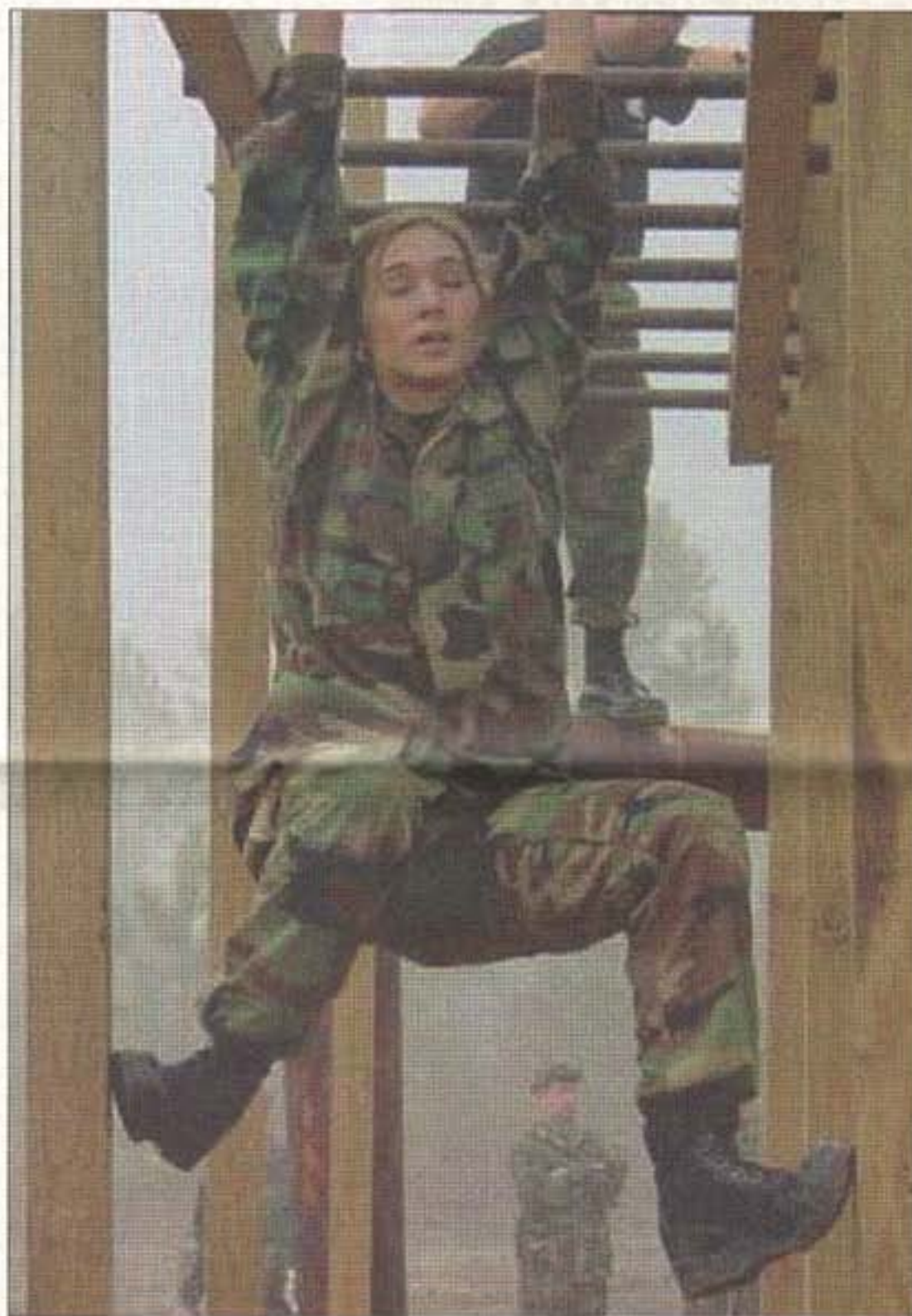


Photo by Lynn Gonzales

Jenny Madden and SSgt. John Campos from contracting and MSgt. Todd Pinkard, MSgt. Hal Weeden, TSgt. Duane Bolling, SSgt. Katrina Hunt and SSgt. Charles Tullock from finance. They worked together to overcome the variety of challenges the Top Dollar staff of scenario writers, role players and evaluators had planned.

"By throwing us together in a tent, we had to rely on each

other. You had to learn to balance the whole thing: [finance and contracting]," said Campos, a Jacksonville-based contracting officer.

According to the main scenario, the kidnapping of a U.S. senator, prompted the United Nations to request troops and expand army operations in Marandua, a city in southern Equatoria. Competitors acted as the financial center for troops

stationed at the air base in this fictitious city. Upon arriving at Marandua Air Base, competition evaluators checked each team's logistics detail kit, which contained everything they needed to set up a deployed office.

Once participants had their offices up and running, scenarios began and rarely stopped. They covered numerous types of situations that finance and contract-

DAY at the OFFICE -- Tennessee Air Guard SSgt. Katrina Hunt negotiates the vertical bars on the Top Dollar 2000 confidence course.

ing specialists could encounter in a real deployment, including handling pay disbursements, setting up allotments, purchasing goods from and negotiating contracts with foreign vendors, managing a contingency budget, and ensuring tax exclusions and gratuities were processed.

"All of the scenarios were based on real-life situations that have happened in the [finance and contracting] career fields over the past 10 years," said Col. Brad Busch, Top Dollar 2000 commander.

The competition is designed to challenge the teams to perform their jobs during a deployment under stressful conditions that change with every hour. The timed scenarios ranged in difficulty from basic to complex, testing the teams' ability to work together to find a solution to each customer's problem.

"The scenarios kept us very busy. They came in one right after the other, so this was definitely for the best of the best. It's never this busy in the office," said Hunt, a finance specialist at McGhee Tyson.

Between scenarios, team members used the time to their advantage: discussing recent scenarios, taking time to catch up on paperwork or reading through stacks of Air Force regulations and forms. Either way, the teams learned from the experience and took valuable skills back to their commands.

"Top Dollar provides invaluable training," said Lt. Col. Tony Kitt, Top Dollar deputy commander. "The best we can hope for is that they will take these skills and apply them whenever they're called to serve in a forward deployed location. They'll be ready to handle the most difficult budget and acquisition challenges."

"You learn a lot faster here [in the competition]" observed Madden, a contracting officer from Jacksonville. "I learn by doing, and every time a scenario came in, I learned something new that I tried to remember for the next time."