

## IN THE NEWS

### CARING HANDS:

Illinois medics  
deploy to Ecuador  
to make difference

6



## URGENT VICTORY

### CYBER-SAVVY:

Computer exercise  
demonstrates  
future of warfare

8-9



## FEATURE

### DESERT DEEDS:

A-10 units are  
getting respect  
in Kuwait

16



# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXVIII, No. 7

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

April 1999

## Rapid responders take on terrorism

### Cincinnati Course: Guard medics learn to deal with hazardous materials

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

It does not take someone with the brains or the backing of a Steven Spielberg to create a weapon of mass destruction. 18 National Guard medical people were recently reminded in the city where that famous filmmaker was born.

All it takes is a terrorist with a cheap detonator and a small charge of plastic explosive to ignite a chemical bomb and endanger a lot of Americans.

That underlying lesson about the potential dangers of hazardous materials was not lost among members of the Guard's newest national support force who spent Easter's Holy Week studying and rehearsing HAZMAT recognition and response procedures in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Soon after Spielberg took his Academy Award bows for recreating the horrors of Normandy in "Saving Private Ryan," physicians assistants and paramedics from six of the Guard's 10 new regional RAID (Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection) teams explored the ways and means of protecting the homeland.

"There is a real threat out there today. It could affect millions of people," justified Washington state Air Guard Capt. Terry Gram. "I believe we need to be prepared. Not every fire department and emergency medical system is totally capable of responding to a weapons of mass destruction incident."

The 22-member National Guard RAID teams have been formed in 10 states across this country since last October. Their job

is to help civilian authorities detect and assess chemical, biological and nuclear hazards from weapons of terror ranging from the truck bomb that destroyed the federal building in Oklahoma City to nerve gas that was released in a Tokyo subway in 1995.

The classes in Cincinnati were devoted to controlling chemical reactions and learning to do some very dirty work in cumbersome protective suits. They were conducted at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Response Training Center, a compact, two-building complex separated from downtown Cincinnati by the city's sprawling railroad yard.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**RAPID RESPONSE** — Medical professionals with one of the Guard's RAID teams practice their skills at plugging a HAZMAT leak using a mallet and cedar shingles.

"You don't have to mess around making stuff up. There's stuff going up and down the rails every day," pointed out David Zander about the chemicals that many of those cars contain. "Barges on the Ohio River haul hundreds of tons of chlorine," added the center's quality assurance manager.

That, he pointed out, is one reason why it is important for the full-time RAID team members to know how to respond to hazardous material incidents.

■ **RAPID RESPONSE**, Page 11



Photo by Lon Barry

**SCRUB  
a DUB  
DUB**

SSgt. Eugene Bryant (left) and MSgt. William Flack, crew chiefs with the District of Columbia Air Guard's 113th Wing, suds down an F-16 using a new portable wash water collection and treatment system. The 113th is the first Air Guard unit to purchase the system that consists of a large mat to hold the runoff, a vacuum to collect it and a decontamination unit to remove hazardous materials. Its portability allows users to wash aircraft indoors.





## COMMENTARY

• Hero in Life • Safe State • Close Shave

## ABOUT the PAPER

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## GUARD MAIL

## Hero Remembered

Though otherwise a very special story, I have one serious disagreement with you concerning the piece on the late TSgt. Rich Visintainer (Feb. issue).

He very much loved his wife and children, cherished quality time with his friends, was honest and conscientious at everything he did, was proficient in his civilian and Air Guard jobs, but yet he didn't attain "hero" status (according to *The On Guard*) until his death.

With all due respect to your paper, you got it all wrong. It's obvious TSgt. Visintainer was a hero long before his untimely death. Though I never knew him, your own story has told me as much.

His death didn't make him a hero, his life did.

SSgt. Jack Attig  
Kansas National Guard

## Wrongly Stated

I have just noted that you incorrectly credited the Arkansas Air Guard with winning the Air Combat Command Flight Safety Award (Feb. issue) when it was actually awarded to the Alabama Air National Guard's 187th Fighter Wing in Montgomery.

It is indeed the fifth time in the last decade we have received such an award, and we are very proud of our Alabama Guard men and women and

their commitment to safety.

In addition to winning this award and the 1997 National Guard Bureau's Flight Safety Plaque (seven out of the last 10 years), we currently have approximately 50 Guardmembers deployed to Kuwait, filling in for the active duty forces in such areas as security, supply and administration.

Keep up the good work. You do a great job of getting the news to the Guard family.

Capt. Joyce Guthrie  
Alabama National Guard



Alabama Lt. Col. Woody Lamar, the 187th Fighter Wing's safety officer, displays some of the fruits of his unit's labors.

## Hairbrained Editing

Just got my copy of the January issue. It seems you took a little liberty with my letter. I wrote in criticizing Curt Rogers of Kansas for representing the National Guard while wearing a goatee (while competing in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C.) and you changed it to Curt Carey of Indiana.

I know both individuals and the mistake is your's, not mine. Your caption with the pictures on page 10 (Nov. 98 issue) had them reversed. If you read the text of the article, it is clear that Rogers needed a shave, not Carey.

I feel that you owe me and Spc. Carey an apology.  
MSgt. Vincent J. Delaney  
Indiana National Guard

Editor's Note: You are correct. We are sorry for the misunderstanding.

## 'On Guard' staff moves

The staff of *The On Guard*, and members of the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office's environmental and historical services teams moved to a new address in February.

'Letters to the Editor' can be mailed to: NGB-PAI-C, Suite 11200, 1411 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA 22202-3259. You also may FAX your letters to DSN 327-3686 or (703) 607-3686. Our e-mail address is: malthanerj@ngb.ang.af.mil

## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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



"Geez, I heard the new PT standards would affect soldiers over 40, but I never thought they'd come after us."





## IN THE NEWS

• New to NATO • Fueling the Fight • Prepared for Pope

## Partnerships help pave NATO entry

**■ New Alliances:** *Guard states proud of role played in getting NATO's latest members admitted*

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The crystal ball was cloudy in 1993 when U.S. National Guard troops began a remarkable relationship with Eastern European countries eager to learn the ways of democracy.

No one dared dream that three of those countries that had recently shaken off the yoke of communism would become full-fledged members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization within five short years.

That, however, is the satisfaction that Guard people in Texas and Nebraska, Ohio, and Illinois, as well as in Washington, D.C., are feeling these days now that the three nations have joined the premier alliance for European peace and stability.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright accepted the admission papers on March 12 in Independence, Mo.

The Guardmembers believe the National Guard, through its six-year-old State Partnership Program, has helped the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland achieve their goals of being admitted to NATO.

The four states have forged long-lasting relationships with those countries that will be greeted by their 16 new allies when President William Clinton hosts NATO's 50th birthday in Washington during April's final weekend.

"It gives us a sense of mission accomplished," said Capt. Janet Worley, the new State Partnership coordinator for Texas that, with Nebraska, has established close ties with the new Czech Republic's military and civil authorities. "This is what we set out to do, to get them ready for NATO," added Worley.

Ohio has been doing the same thing with Hungary as has Illinois with Poland.

Getting into NATO has been a common goal for



Photo by Capt. Troy M. Gipps

**PARTNERED for PEACE**—Indiana Army Guard and Romanian troops have hammered out a good working relationship over the years. Indiana is one of 29 Guard states partnered with a nation eager to learn the ways of democracy.

Eastern European nations. Diplomats from the three countries stated their cases to Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, then Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and nearly half of this country's state adjutants general during a conference at NATO headquarters near Brussels, Belgium, in March 1996.

"The Guard has the resources to be a major player in this mission," said Baca at that time. "There is no one better than the citizen-soldier to talk about civilian control of the military," he added.

That is but one issue that National Guard members have discussed and demonstrated with their partner countries during exercises at home and abroad.

Developing a strong corps of noncommissioned officers, providing military assistance to civilian authorities during natural disasters and civil emergencies, and exploring ways to foster open market economies are others.

Those are messages that Guardmembers in 29 states

■ See PROUD PARTNER, Page 7

## Guard refuelers aid attack on Kosovo

Several Air National Guard refueling units have been called upon to help fuel the first waves of allied air strikes on Serbian military positions in and around Kosovo.

KC-135 Stratotankers and crews belonging to Hawaii's 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, Nebraska's 155th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), Mississippi's 186th ARW, Tennessee's 134th ARW, Illinois's 126th ARW and New Jersey's 108th ARW participated in the NATO operation,

confirmed National Guard spokesman Jack Hooper on April 9.

About 150 air crew and support experts from the Aloha State's 203rd squadron, based at Hickam AFB, were on a regularly scheduled deployment to France when Operation Allied Force began March 24.

"The morale of our Hawaii Air Guard personnel is extremely high," squadron commander Lt. Col. Edwin "Skip" Vincent said from the 145th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron operations center in Istres, France.

"We have been refueling aircraft from the United States, as well as Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal."

Members of the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing in Harrisburg also were being used, Hooper confirmed.

As part of the operation, waves of NATO warplanes and missiles hit army barracks, power plants and air defense batteries, trying to force Serbia to end the onslaught against Kosovo Albanians.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Oregonians command 'actives' at North Wind in Japan

Officers of the Oregon Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry became the first such Guardmembers this decade to command active-duty soldiers while running the annual North Wind bilateral training exercise in Japan recently.

The battalion, along with Company C, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, formed Task Force 1-186 and shared tactical and cold-weather training scenarios with soldiers of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force.

"Traditionally North Wind alternates between active-duty components one year and National Guard units the next," said Maj. Chad A. Synder, chief of field training for U.S. Army Japan.

"It has been at least 16 or 17 years since an active duty element has been embedded in a National Guard task force of this magnitude," said Maj. Todd Plimpton, task force operations officer.

Training included lanes training, perimeter defense, obstacle breaching and cold-weather tactics. Several training scenarios also included an opposing force.

### Missouri base hosts Pope

Catholics weren't the only ones in Missouri preparing for the visit of Pope John Paul II recently.

The Missouri National Guard dedicated its time and people to help the Pontiff's visit go smoothly. While his stay in the Show-Me State made headlines, few people knew that he spent much of his time at the Air Guard base at Lambert Field.

"The hangar underwent a complete change," said Col. Mary Rielley, 131st Fighter Wing logistics group commander. "We had to completely clear out eight offices and they brought in everything needed to transform the place."

The space was used for the Pope's personal office and a meeting place for the Pope and President Clinton.

Air Guard men and women also worked as bus escorts and on the cleanup. About 70 Missouri Army Guardmembers provided medical and security assistance. Some spent four days establishing security zones with special fencing.

"It was the Guard's job to provide a facility for this event to take place," Rielley said. "It was a great honor that the Pope, president and vice president were all here at our base."



## Cohen approves medals for Joint Endeavor, Guard

Secretary of Defense William Cohen has approved the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) in addition to the Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM) to qualifying Guard men and women who have participated in or who are providing direct support to Operation Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard.

For the purposes of the award, Operation Joint Endeavor began Nov. 20, 1995, and ended Dec. 19, 1996. Operation Joint Guard began Dec. 20, 1996 and ended June 20, 1998.

By policy the AFEM is awarded to U.S. service members participants in major operations that encounter foreign armed resistance. The AFSM is awarded for service in major operations that do not encounter armed resistance.

Since all U.S. military participants in Joint Endeavor/ Guard have already received or are eligible to receive the AFSM for their peacekeeping efforts in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia in furtherance of the Dayton Peace Accords, the award of the AFEM is possible only as an exception to policy.

Award of the AFEM in this case is limited to those U.S. Service members participating in or providing direct support to OJE or OJG who were deployed in the designated area of eligibility: the countries of Bosnia-Herzegovina or Croatia, and those respective air spaces.

To qualify for the AFEM for Endeavor/ Guard, Guardmembers must have participated for one or more days in the operation within the designated geographic area of eligibility, or meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be deployed in the area of eligibility as an individual by official orders for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days
- Participate as a regularly assigned crew member of an aircraft flying into, out of, or over the Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, the Adriatic Sea and those respective air spaces.

## Pilots combat conditions to deliver relief

By Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
New York National Guard

Altitude extremes, unfamiliar terrain and vultures were among the dangers and challenges pilots like CWO3 Joe Weiser faced recently flying relief missions in Honduras.

Weiser, a standardization instructor helicopter pilot with the New York Army Guard's 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, was in the Central American country as part of New Horizons '99, the American military's engineering and medical exercise to promote stability in that region. The exercise began in January and is scheduled to run through May.

Members of the battalion, based in Latham, began rotating through Honduras Jan. 16. An estimated 75 battalion members have been tapped to fly supplies and people, and conduct casualty evacuations, in support of the engineers and medical professionals that make up the Guard-run Joint Task Force Sula.

Weiser said the mission requires flying their Blackhawk helicopters at altitudes ranging from zero to over 9000 feet, or from sea level to over Honduras' Santa Maria Mountains.

The mountains, he pointed out, create unique weather conditions. Strong, straight winds blow against one side of a mountain range, like waves crashing against a rocky coast, that create swirling wind patterns on the opposite, or lee side of the mountain range, Weiser said. Pilots flying over the mountains must maneuver their helicopters through the maw of this turbulence.

This would be an extremely unnerving experience, Weiser said, if not for the training pilots receive at the High Altitude Training Center in Eagle, Colo. It teaches pilots what to expect from turbulence, how to evaluate wind conditions, how not to exceed the helicopter's limitations, and how to manage the helicopter's power for maximum fuel economy. That's



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

a key skill, he added, since flying in windy conditions requires more power and fuel.

Proper planning, Weiser said, helps to alleviate some of the piloting challenges offered in Honduras. It's also required. Flight plans must be filed with Honduran Air Traffic Control authorities 24 hours in advance.

High-flying vultures, which have wingspans measuring 2 to 3 feet, also keep aviators on their toes. Weiser and other pilots refer to them as buzzards.

"The buzzards are a real problem," he said. "They're denser here than I've ever seen."

Weiser said the vultures are a danger to the aircraft if they fly into the rotor blades, and a danger to pilots if they fly into the cockpit. He said the vultures usually move out of the helicopter's way.

"They can cause quite a bit of damage, because they're a heavy bird," Weiser said. "If we hit one, we'd have to land right away."

Navigation also is a challenge. The terrain is unfamiliar, and because of the damage Hurricane Mitch wrought, land-

**PILOT PLOTTING** — CWO3 Joe Weiser (right) reviews a flight plan with fellow New York Army Guard Blackhawk pilots CWO3 David Cox and CWO2 Steven Browning.

marks shown on the map don't exist.

"Navigating in an unfamiliar area really makes us use all the skills we've practiced," Weiser said. "This is a great experience for these guys."

The Blackhawks benefit as well, insisted SSgt. Jeff Healy, a 3rd battalion technical inspector.

Healy works with mechanics to ensure the helicopters are fit to fly. He said hot weather expands hydraulic seals so they fit snugly and leak less. That reduces maintenance time. Back home, Healy reported, cold weather contracts the seals, causing frequent hydraulic leaks.

"Since they've been here, I haven't noticed any hydraulic leaks," he said.

Weiser confirmed that he and others are comfortable in the cockpit.

"It gives you a very good feeling that nothing's going to break," he said.

## Have 'MERCI'

New York Army Guard SFC Michael Worobey gets the feel of a vehicle equipped with the Mobile Emergency Communications Response Interface (MERCI) system. The Empire State National Guard was asked to test the prototype vehicle that promises to function as a 'one-stop' mobile communications center during a disaster.



Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning





# PEOPLE

## • Revisiting a Horrifying Past

Ohio's Svann Kim fled Cambodia with his life as a teen. Despite danger, he went back

By TSgt. Greg Rudl  
Ohio National Guard

**S**vann Kim was 15 when Vietnamese forces toppled the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia in 1979, forcing him and thousands of others to flee to Thailand.

That journey west meant trekking over mined jungle trails and past marauding military groups who robbed, molested and killed at will.

He spent his next five years in refugee camps, experiencing a lifetime of hardships, before finally making it to the United States.

After learning English and earning his high school diploma at the age of 24, Kim walked into an Ohio Air Guard recruiting office and like what he saw.

Today, he is a staff sergeant working as an administrative specialist with the 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus.

However, living the American dream, did not keep Kim from returning to a homeland many Cambodian-Americans have vowed never to return — and it's got nothing to do with the exchange rate.

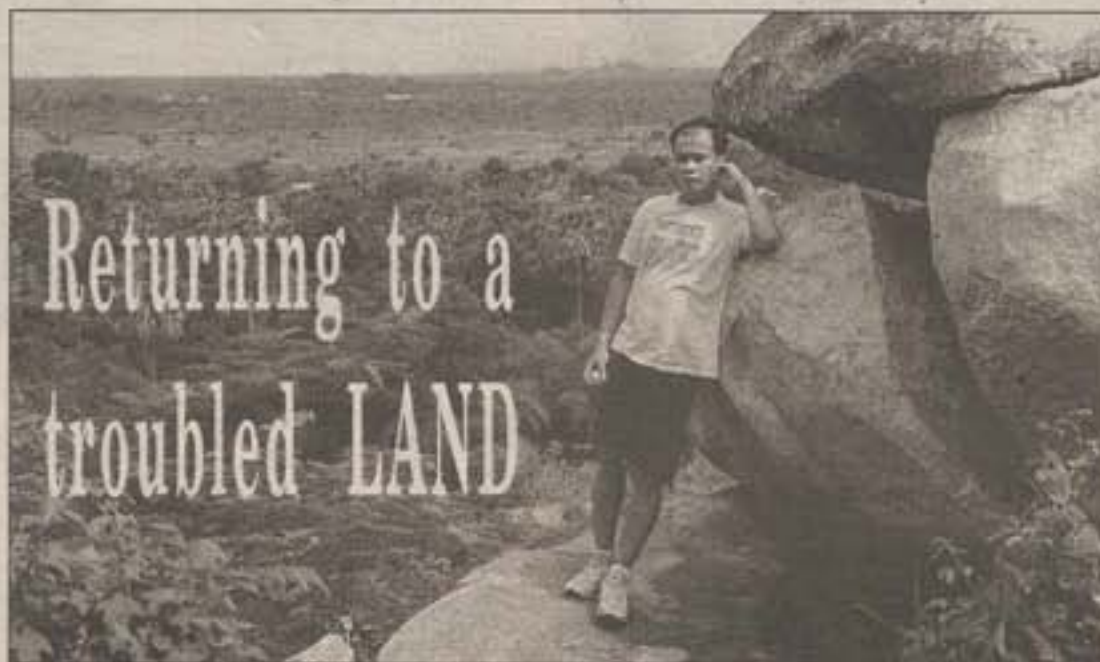
The country has recently endured a holocaust, is littered with land mines and is prone to near-monthly political coups. The State Department has issued a travel advisory for Cambodia.

Despite the very real danger, Kim has gone back, twice.

He recalled the terror of the Pol Pot regime (1975-79) as a child. The movie *"The Killing Fields"* graphically depicted much of what happened during that time, though softening much of the brutality. He credits his survival to his youth.

"I could have died if I were any older from starvation or from overwork," he said.

Like many Cambodians, Kim lost much of his family during the Khmer Rouge years, includ-



Photos courtesy of SSgt. Svann Kim

ing his father

"My dad? He's probably dead," Kim said. "He tried to get out of the country during the Khmer Rouge regime. Somebody caught him and killed him."

Kim's first revisited his homeland in 1996.

"I was excited and emotional as the plane circled over Phnom Penh airport.

"When I met my family for the first time, they could still recognize my hometown accent," he continued. "I met a girl, too. Her name was Champei."

If a woman can launch a thousand ships, certainly Champei is what motivated Kim to return last year. He planned to court, marry and eventually bring her back to the United States.

Taking a leave of absence from the Guard, Kim, his mother and aunt, returned to their troubled homeland. The entourage would fulfill a Cambodian custom that mandates that before a marriage can be approved, the two families must spend time getting acquainted.

As soon as they arrived, the two sides visited and talked for many weeks. After much discussion, Champei's father refused to give his daughter away. According to Kim, the father reasoned that Cambodia was safe, and he didn't want his daughter to live so far from the family.

After that setback, Kim's

mom and aunt returned to the United States. Kim remained.

He toured the countryside, something he never had a chance to do before because of the war. He visited towns and cities and ancient ruins, including the temples of Angkor Wat.

Traveling in Cambodia can be hazardous, considering many of its minor roads and trails are littered with thousands of land mines left from past conflicts.

"In small towns and cities it's OK, but not in the jungles or off the roads," Kim said. "A group of Cambodian widows, who lost their husbands to land mines, have been trained by a volunteer organization to de-mine areas using special equipment." Kim said he read in a Cambodian newspaper that it would take 100 years to remove all the mines.

While in Cambodia, Kim worked for one month as an interpreter for the U.S. Agency for International Development. He assisted an official whose job was to manage a maternal child health program.

After that job, he crossed by boat into Thailand and witnessed a flourishing logging and fishing industry. His next goal was to see Vietnam.

Cambodia and Vietnam are still not on the best of terms. Their animosity culminated when Vietnam invaded Cambo-



dia in late 1978 and installed its own government. The physical features of the two nationalities differ as well as their languages, which Kim says is like comparing English to Sanskrit.

"When I went to Thailand all I needed was permission in the form of a stamp, signature and a small fee paid to the customs people at the border," he said.

He would soon learn that it wasn't that simple in Vietnam.

He crossed into Vietnam with little difficulty and stayed the night in Saigon. He planned to see the museums the next day.

"I wanted to see the exhibit of war criminals. That's what they called American POWs," Kim said.

The next morning, as he looked for a ride to the war museums, he became the object of racial discrimination.

"Taxi drivers saw me and said *Kampuchia! Kampuchia!* (another word for Cambodian). They thought that I'm Cambodian because of my dark skin. I told them that I'm Cambodian-

**BOLDLY GOING** — On his most recent return to his homeland, Kim (left and below) visited Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

American — that I live in the states," he recalled.

Not knowing the language also added to his uneasiness.

"I became afraid that they may take me somewhere and just rob me."

Under this pressure and the risk of traveling alone, Kim decided to head back to Cambodia. He crossed the border at a different point from which he had entered the country. Upon arriving at the Vietnamese checkpoint, they checked his visa and discovered it was inadequate. It should have been processed through the Vietnamese embassy in Phnom Penh.

"They arrested me," he said. "I was very scared."

He spent a night in jail, being questioned by officials who thought he was a spy. He never said anything about being in the American military.

After his release, Kim returned to Cambodia and spent the remainder of the time visiting areas around his hometown. During that stay, Cambodia experienced political unrest.

"Political tensions were building up at that time," he recalled. "There were bombings and people killed."

At his relative's insistence, Kim packed up for home.

"Five days after I got home, fighting was reported," he said. He found out later that two of his cousins, both affiliated with defeated political parties, had fled into the jungle in fear for their lives. One had been sleeping in the rice paddies at night for safety.

Kim continues to closely monitor the situation in Cambodia. If it improves and more aid continues to flow in, he plans to return and help bring his country back to whole. He wants to complete his degree in nursing and use those skills to help administer aid.

He said his family, concerned for his safety, would rather he not return.





**RESTORING SMILES** — Illinois Army Guard Lt. Col. Larry Foster, a dentist with Company C, 634th Support Battalion, examines a Ecuadorian girl's sore tooth during a recent two-week medical readiness exercise. Foster and other dentists averaged 30-50 tooth extractions daily while serving in South America.

Photos by Capt. Tim Franklin



**BASIC CARE**  
Illinois Army Guard Pvt. 2 Kerri Patterson takes a young girl's blood pressure in Ecuador.

# HEALING HANDS

Illinois medics help  
bring relief to Ecuador

By Capt. Tim Franklin  
*Illinois National Guard*

**T**hey lined up by the hundreds in front of the fence surrounding a school in the Ecuadorian village of Poalo, waiting patiently for their turn to see a doctor. Some walked from as far away as 20 miles for the chance to get some medicine, or perhaps have a troublesome tooth pulled.

Thirty-five Illinois Army National Guard medical ambassadors from Company C, 634th Support Battalion, with the assistance of soldiers from the Ecuadorian army, provided an "ounce of prevention" for thousands of rural Ecuadorians as part of a two-week medical readiness exercise in that South American nation recently.

The Prairie State medics provided basic medical care and screening to the Quichua Indians of rural Cotopaxi Province as part of a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored Medical Readiness Training Exercise, or MEDRETE. The training allowed the company to deploy and train in a real-world austere environment.

In addition to basic medical care, the Company C medics also taught classes aimed at showing the villagers simple things they can do daily to improve their quality of life.

"Our purpose is to educate the Ecuadorian nationals on preventive measures that would curtail some of their ills long term," explained Company C 1st Sgt. Tamu Kuzel. "At the same time, we provided some temporary relief."

The village of Poalo was one of three treatment sites set up by the company to help the people living in the province.

At each of the treatment sites, the villagers were given a screening where their blood pressure, temperature and weight were checked before they saw doctor or dentist. In some cases, villagers only needed to receive basic medicines.

The South Americans also were given classes on preventive measures like dental hygiene, teeth brushing and taking vitamins. The importance of cleanliness, such as washing hands, burning garbage and boiling water to help prevent disease, also was stressed.

While the members of Company C were adroit at handling medical matters, some found the language barrier a challenge.

"I've had five years of Spanish and language is still the biggest challenge," said Spc. Valerie Friedrich, a medic and a pre-med student at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Compounding the language problem was the fact that many of the people seeking treatment at the Garcia Moreno de Poalo school were Quichua Indians, who spoke a dialect unfamiliar to their Spanish interpreters. Fortunately, Ecuadorian soldiers from the 9th Special Forces Brigade were able to bridge the language barrier.

**"Regardless of  
how much I think  
I'm prepared, I  
still experience  
culture shock"**

**1st Sgt. TAMU KUZEL**  
Co. C, 634th Support Battalion





**CARING HANDS**—Spc. Danyell Bean (above), a medic with the Springfield, Ill.-based Company C, 634th Support Battalion, gives an Ecuadorian girl a deworming medicine. As part of the medical screening service provided, Pvt. 2 Michelle Peters (below) takes the temperature of a patient.

"The Ecuadorian military has given us tremendous support," Friedrich said. "They have been wonderful."

Contending with a lack of communication and spartan working conditions were dilemmas relatively easy to remedy. Those realities paled in comparison to the frustration many Company C medics experienced trying to serve so many truly needy Ecuadorians in just two weeks.

"It's a little overwhelming. More than I expected," said Pvt. 2 Kerri Patterson of her first deployment. "We've had anywhere between 450 and 600 people a day."

"(But) I've loved all the training we're getting here," she added.

Patterson wasn't alone. Pvt. 2 Michelle Peters said the sheer number of patients her company served made for hectic days. However, she said the genuine gratitude extended by those Ecuadorians she helped, made the experience more fulfilling.

"The people are really friendly and open," Peters said.

Over two weeks the men and women of the Springfield-based medical company provided basic treatment and education for nearly 5,000 people.

Though the deployment to Ecuador marked Kuzel's fifth MEDRETE, the first sergeant said it's difficult to get used to the stark realities that confront those living in medically-underserved nations.



Photos by Capt. Tim Franklin

"Regardless of how much I think I'm prepared, I still experience culture shock," Kuzel admitted. "You just have to remember that the problems, diseases and injuries you see are because of the conditions in which they live."

"It is something that we cannot change in two weeks."



**LINKED in BATTLE**  
As partners, California Army Guard and Ukrainian soldiers tested their battle skills during a major simulated exercise.

and Puerto Rico are sharing with people in 27 different countries, including six Central and South American nations, now involved in the State Partnership Program. However, the National Guard's "Bridge to America" still runs predominately between the United States and Europe.

"As the lead agent for this important work, the National Guard has achieved great results in furthering U.S. economic and security interests in the European theater," praised Army Gen. Wesley Clark, supreme allied commander for Europe.

"The immediate return is the prospect for a lasting peace in Europe," Clark added. "The long-range goal is for these countries to achieve economic prosperity as they become members of a thriving international business community."

The messages have taken many forms.

After Ohio experienced its most severe flooding in 60 years in March 1997, for example, the chief of the Hungarian Engineer Directorate and several staff members observed how Ohio Guard troops helped civilian authorities cope with that disaster situation.

Hungarian Brig. Gen. Janos Tompa traveled to the stricken area as a staff member with Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander, Ohio's adjutant general.

The newspaper *Kuntnohorske Noviny* last October reported that the chief of the Czech Republic's Civil Protection Office learned a thing or two about emergency relief during discussions with four Texas Guard representatives visiting that country.

"The last area in which we can cooperate is, strangely enough, hurricane-like catastrophes," the newspaper quoted the Czech Republic official. "Hurricanes do not occur in this area, but the after-effects are the same, for example, as a gas explosion or other industrial accidents or natural disasters [in] which civilian protection is concerned."

Nebraska Guardmembers, mean-

## PROUD PARTNER

FROM PAGE 3

while, have focused on air base security and environmental protection activities while building a strong partnership with the Czech Republic's air force and army during the past three years.

Furthermore, Poland hosted multinational air and ground arms exercises that included aircraft and crews from the Illinois Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force in September 1997. It was the first joint military exercise between U.S. and Polish air forces since World War II.

There are plenty of indications that the State Partnership affiliations will continue while the three countries are settling into NATO.

Texas and the Czech Republic have scheduled 11 events for this training year. They began with rigger and airborne operations in the Czech Republic last September. They will end with a NCO training program in Texas next September.

"I don't think they'll get into NATO and forget all about us," said the Texas coordinator.

There are many ties that bind. West Texas, for example, has a large Czech population. That Chicago is one of the world's largest Polish cities is expected to help keep Poland and Illinois close.

"One thing to remember is that after April we can do war-fighting training in those countries because they will be NATO members," pointed out Lt. Col. George Smith III, the Europe and Eurasia Division chief in the National Guard Bureau's International Affairs directorate.

"It is my belief that the states and international partners have created long-term relationships that will allow everyone to work together as allies and good neighbors," predicted Col. Robert James, the National Guard's director of international affairs.

"The ascension into NATO of the three invited countries," James added, "creates opportunities for the countries and the National Guard to continue working together on projects of mutual interest."



## INSIDE URGENT VICTORY

Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division celebrates past, before embracing future

## BYTEing into the Battlefield

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The Army Guard's 28th Infantry Division briefly paused to celebrate its past March 12, before taking a giant step into its future at a U.S. Army training post in eastern Germany. Colorful cakes decorated with replicas of the Pennsylvania mechanized division's distinctive red keystone patch marked the 120th birthday of the Army's oldest, continuous serving active or reserve division.

Within hours after blowing out their birthday cakes' candles, the division's 600 leaders and battle staff members were prepared to lead a V Corps assault against a foreign enemy on a bloodless, digital battlefield in the five-day warfighter exercise Urgent Victory.

It was a pivotal day at the sun-bathed Grafenwoehr Training Area for the 28th and for all eight of the Army Guard's combat divisions. It was the first time a Guard division took part in the corps-level warfighter exercise in Europe.

In all, 1,000 Guard members from 11 states and 400 members of the Army Reserve were engaged in the 4,000-soldier training exercise.

That the 28th, with its three brigades and artillery and aviation assets, has been made the main effort in the corps fight was even more frosting on those cakes, said Brig. Gen. Walter Pudlowski Jr., the division's 33rd commander.

"If there is a moment in a citizen-soldier's life when we come close to doing what we've signed up to do, this is it," reflected Pudlowski who is as well versed in his division's history as he is in concepts of modern warfare.

"This is exactly why citizen-soldiers sign up, so that when America calls, they'll be there," Pudlowski added. "So will the 28th Division."

The 28th has been there many times since it was established on March 12, 1879, by Pennsylvania National Guard General Order No. 1, according to its unit history. It was designated the 7th Division before being reorganized as the 28th in 1917 while training in Georgia for World War I duty.

Its lineage includes a battalion called the "Associators" that Benjamin Franklin formed in Philadelphia in 1747 to counter a threat from Spanish troops coming up the Delaware River. Battle streamers from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War reflect this country's history of warfare before the 20th century.

Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, nicknamed the 28th his "Iron Division" as it fought non-stop in six campaigns, and suffered 14,000 casualties, during the final four months of World War I.

The final months of World War II meant more trials by fire for the division that landed at Normandy in July 1944 and began slugging its way to Germany. The HBO movie "When Trumpets Fade" illustrates how the Hurtgen Forest in Germany became hell on earth for the division that November.

"It is very accurate from the perspective of the common soldier and what the Germans did to our troops with their 88s and armor," explained Pudlowski.

The division earned another name while taking on overwhelming numbers of German troops and tanks along a 25-mile stretch of the Our River a few days before the start of the Battle of the Bulge that brought down the Third Reich. The Germans called it the "Bloody Bucket Division."



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**COMPUTER WAR**—Spc. Christopher Delaney shows Army Guard Director, Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, how he tracks the enemy.

The 28th returned to Germany in 1950 to replace active duty soldiers being sent to Korea. Volunteers saw duty during the Persian Gulf War. Three elements have pulled Bosnian peacekeeping duty in Europe, beginning with 40 forward observers from the 28th Division Artillery who served with the Nordic-Polish Brigade in Bosnia in 1996.

That division's leaders got the chance to prove they can command troops on the battlefield of the 21st century during this month's computer-driven warfighter exercise in eastern Germany.

"This will determine our ability to be available on shorter notice for national contingencies," said Schultz while visiting the division's soldiers in Germany.

That was why Pudlowski and the other members of the 28th Division did not dwell for long on 120 years of yesterdays during March's second Friday. There was too much to do for tomorrow.

Iron Maidens, Jennifer Howard and Ruth Rossi are computer literate, blood-thirsty warriors

## CYBER-SAVVY Soldiers

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Jennifer Howard and Ruth Rossi are young citizen-soldiers, privates first class, in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard who had earned a respectable reputation in eastern Germany by the Ides of March. They were known as the "Iron Maidens."

They are examples of the new breed of cyber-savvy soldiers, generally called "pucksters." They move icons representing troops and tanks, artillery and air defense batteries, around gridded, computerized battlefields on which the modern Army is training its combat leaders for the 21st century.

They are the front-line troops in simulation centers. Computer keyboards, not M-16 rifles, are their basic weapons. Bytes are their bullets.

Howard, 22, lives in Carrolltown, Pa., and is studying history and anthropology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She intends to become a forensics expert in law enforcement. Rossi, 21, lives in Erie. She's a cook who aspires to be a doctor.

Joining the Guard, they explained, gave them tickets to higher educations.

They belong to the 13,435-member 28th Infantry Division that sent



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

hundreds of battle staff members into action at the U.S. Army's Grafenwoehr Training Area in February and March. They took on computer-fashioned foes in two bloodless battles under the command of V Corps.

The young women got an education in military matters. "I've learned a lot about the decision-making process and battlefield etiquette," said Howard. "For example, you can't withdraw troops into the enemy. That's just not done."

The 28th led the assault during the five-day March exercise, Urgent Victory, that proved to be one of the division's most demanding peacetime challenges in its 120 years. It was the first National Guard division to take part in a corps-level warfighter exercise. It was the division's largest overseas deployment since its soldiers were sent to Germany during the Korean War.

The Pennsylvania division's motto is "Men of Iron." Hence, Howard and Rossi became the "Iron Maidens" of the 2nd Brigade.

They worked side-by-side for 12-hour days at computer keyboards during both exercises. They tapped their keys and moved their mouses to position their digital teams and task forces based on orders yelled by officers hovering behind.

They blocked out the non-stop chatter of military radios around them. They maintained their sanity, and sense of humor, during the heat of battle in a long, narrow room that served as the Brigade's headquarters.

A computerized warfighter comes as close as possible to reality and intensity for a division or brigade staff without actually having troops on the attack. Charcoal-lined chemical suits that everyone wore added to the realism.

"It is not a game," cautioned Col. Bill Yocum, the brigade's whirlwind commander who has his own nickname—Taz. "To us, this is a real battle, and we're going to do everything we can to win."

Rocket attacks; ambushes by special forces; refueling their Bradleys and resupplying their ammunition; breaching enemy defenses; guarding prisoners of war; evacuating their own casualties. All were part of the drama as well as the decisions that the division's leaders encountered during five long days.

"The realism it presents is amazing," rapped Maj. Roger Rose, the day-side simulation cell commander. "You don't want to lose a single electronic troop."

"You can't see blood running down the computer screens, but commanders have to be aware of the human dimension," said retired Army Col. Buck Mildenstein, part of the civilian Battle Command Training Program staff that kept the computerized fight honest.

"The computers will take battle fatigue and casualties into account, but commanders should ask themselves what it would be like in real life," he explained. "A unit that gets cut down to 60 percent strength is

**IRON MAIDENS**—PFCs Ruth Rossi (left) and Jennifer Howard earned their stripes at Urgent Victory in Germany.

having real problems, and commanders have to do something about it."

It is not an easy drill, acknowledged Yocum. The computers are almost impossible to beat.

"It's a lot like Vegas. The deck is always stacked against you," he said. "But if you beat the enemy, there's no need to train anymore. We do the best we can, and we learn from our losses as well as our victories."

Training to the Army's demanding standards is the goal of every National Guard combat outfit, even if they can't roll out all of their troops and equipment at a combat training center.

Computer simulation becomes the next best thing for the battle staffs as well as for the troops with the keyboards, such as PFCs Howard and Rossi.

Early into the March battle, enemy troops attacked a convoy that had run out of fuel. The convoy had few weapons. But it did have mortars.

"Mortars! I can do mortars," snapped Howard. She pounced on her keyboard to hold the enemy at bay until help could arrive.

"I'm telling you," said Mildenstein. "Those Iron Maidens are bloodthirsty."



South Dakota Army Guard Spc. Chad Whitticar

## VEERin' back to 'GRAF'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Chad Whitticar doesn't know if he can handle living in the lap of luxury in Germany, but he's trying to make the best of it.

The engineer specialist in the South Dakota Army National Guard, who lives, works and studies in Rapid City, this March has returned to the German woods near the eastern city of Grafenwoehr (pronounced *Graf-en-VEER*), close by the Czech Republic border.

He left as an active Army soldier in 1995. He has returned as a National Guard soldier four years later.

This time he is living in a troop tent for a couple of weeks, sleeping on an Army cot, eating a couple of hot meals a day, and getting regular rides to showers on the U.S. Army's Grafenwoehr Training Area.

He is part of the 109th Engineer Group's four-man intelligence section responsible for plotting friendly and enemy forces during the V Corp's mid-March computer simulated training exercise Urgent Victory.

About 1,000 Guard troops, including 55 from the South Dakota engineer outfit, are taking part in the 4,000-soldier exercise. The South Dakota troops are the only ones living off in the woods. Most others are living and working in concrete buildings at Camp Aachen. Dining halls, hot showers, flush toilets, the PX and the laundry are short walks away.

The last time, Whitticar was a field artillery soldier in the active Army who trained for a month or two at a time in the woods on 90-square-mile "Graf" and who got along without those rudimentary comforts of home.

Meals Ready to Eat, sponge baths when absolutely necessary, and a few hours

sleep in a different place most nights defined two of his final years in the Army—with the 1st Armor Division and the 3rd Infantry Division.

"This is not what I'm used to," sighed Whitticar on March's second Thursday, his tongue in cheek, "but I guess a guy can get used to these comforts."

The woods that shelter a village of eight heated tents were still damp and chilled as the morning matured toward the noon hour. At 29, Whitticar has maintained the lean look and the talk of a veteran soldier and Gulf War veteran who still longs for his salad days.

"I got out in '95, after eight years, and I missed the Army immediately," he explained. "I missed my friends. You get closer to people in the military than you do anywhere else."

But other concerns have filled Chad Whitticar's life and led him back to his native South Dakota.

He and wife Kerri have been married for five years. They have a 2-year-old daughter and another baby due in June. Whitticar wants a degree in civil engineering and is in his second year at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

He has poured lots of cement as a construction worker to get a feel for his new profession. He has joined the National Guard to remain active in his first one as well as to nail down a military retirement. He has also taken his training to South Dakota's Custer Boot Camp where he is a new drill instructor for juvenile offenders.

For a couple of weeks in March, however, Chad Whitticar is reliving his days as a soldier in Germany.

The 109th Engineer Group routinely moves to the woods for these training exercises, pointed out SGM Leonard Kourt.

"We try to make it as realistic as we can," said Kourt. "The best way to test your unit is to live up to the Army's standards. That doesn't include living in barracks on hardstand."

Whitticar certainly brought that sentiment back to Germany. "It was good to come back to the woods," said the man who has somehow managed to put up with all of those showers.





## SPORTS

• Greenlee Goes for Guinness Goal

## Texas Sgt. Richard Greenlee set out to break his Guinness world treadmill record

By Sgt. Len Butler  
Texas National Guard

Some people can remember when Richard Greenlee was a 300-pound, self-proclaimed coach potato. The guy who suffered a heart attack in his mid-20s.

That was 1984. The year he took up walking.

Nearly 15 years later, the 40-year-old, light-wheeled vehicle mechanic with the Texas Army Guard's Company A, 536th Support Battalion -- who has 15 marathons under his significantly smaller belt -- was attempting to break his 1996 Guinness world record of 26 hours and 16 minutes of continuous running on a treadmill.

He was also running for a cause. The money he raised went to an organization dedicated to helping quadriplegic children get to the Special Olympics.

At 6 a.m. on a recent Sunday at a Bally Total Fitness in Humble, Texas, Greenlee set out to better the mark he set three years earlier as a Florida Guardmember. Members of the Bally staff, as well as soldiers from Company A, lent support with everything from mixing liquid nutrition supplements to filling water bottles.

The game plan was a simple one. Greenlee would run 20 minutes at 5-6 mph, then walk a brisk 4 mph as he took in liquid nutrients comprised of protein powder and fruit juice. The only time he was allowed off the treadmill was when he changed his shoes and socks. He was allowed a bathroom break every two hours.

Greenlee treaded down charted territory six months ago, logging some 1,800 miles leading up to his record assault. He also spent many hours weight training.

"The type of training I have to do is much different than training for a marathon," Greenlee said. "Obviously, I can't do a 36-hour training run for this event. So I have to string my training along to create an overall benefit."

Greenlee said he relates his training to that of a boxer's training regimen.

"The body takes a real beating when running this long," he said. "So I have to prepare my body to take serious punishment."

A runner's state of mind is just as important as his state of his body, Greenlee said. Fittingly, he programmed nine hours of upbeat music and played it continuously as he ran.

At the four-hour mark, Greenlee hopped off the treadmill to change shoes and socks. A couple of minutes later, he was back on. A few minutes later, Greenlee suffered the first of many muscle cramps he would experience on his run. Slowing

gone to put together a segment Greenlee would see at the end of the 10 o'clock news.

"I don't mind people or the media asking me questions about why I do this," Greenlee said. "I think it fascinates them to see a regular-looking guy like me doing such an extreme endurance event."

Minutes turned into hours. The onlookers left, only to be replaced by new ones.

Eight and a half-hours into the run, Greenlee hit "the wall" -- the point during endurance events where athletes test their will to continue. He was ready to accept the pain.

"Now comes the time I just have to bang through, to hammer it out," he said.

In the meantime, onlookers continued to gather, asking Greenlee more and more questions.

"Why do you do this?"

"I enjoy talking to people," Greenlee said. "We share thoughts and ideas on a variety of things."

Greenlee said most of the questions asked by people are how they improve themselves through fitness.

"I want to reach out to them and say, 'Hey, you don't have to go to the extreme like I do.' But they need to get off the couch and do something. Don't let someone say you can't. I was told that back when I couldn't do anything either. That's what inspired me to succeed."

Twelve hours into the run, the pain began to show. An ankle injury suffered during his record run in 1996 slowed his pace.

"It's hurting," he acknowledged. "But I've decided to attack. I'm going to hammer through this."

At 8 p.m., 14 hours into the event, the last call sounded over the intercom for

**RICHARD the LION-HEARTED**  
Texas Army Guard Sgt. Richard Greenlee attempts to break his Guinness world record for continuous running on a treadmill. Spc. Juan Moreno roots him on.

Bally's members. The patrons slowly filed out of the building while Greenlee quietly hung on. The wear on his body had taken its toll. But the heart remained strong.

Throughout the day and into the evening, Greenlee's Guard peers visited him, talked to him; did whatever they could to show support.

Spc. Casey Tomlin took a day off from work to be part of Greenlee's support team.

"He's a good friend, and I respect him for what he does," he said.

As midnight arrived, a member of Greenlee's support team popped in the "Rocky III" soundtrack on the stereo. As "Eye of the Tiger" cranked out a driving beat, Greenlee raised his right arm, extending his index finger. The vibrating sound gave him the motivation he needed to persevere.

The heart and the will were there. But the pain persisted.

Still, he moved on. His walking breaks increased. The limp was noticeable.

Two hours later, 20 hours into the record quest, Greenlee's face displayed an agonizing grimace as he stepped off the treadmill to change his shoes and socks. The old ankle injury had taken its toll. Badly swollen tendons created a constant shooting pain, yet Greenlee refused to end the suffering.

Perhaps Houston Rocket Head Coach Rudy Tomjanovich has some insight. Shortly after his team won its second NBA championship as underdogs, the coach observed evenly, "Don't ever underestimate the heart of a champion."

Willing himself back on the treadmill Greenlee's lion-sized heart battled the constant pounding of bones, the tearing down of muscle and the stabbing pain in his ankle.

At 3:18 a.m., more than 21 hours after he began, he ended his quest. The heart that helped him endure hours of excruciating pain had begun to beat erratically.

"At some point you have to tell yourself that there will be another day. And believe me, there will be another," Greenlee insisted. "I'm still the world record holder."

Greenlee's next attempt is planned for Dec. 31st. He will call it the Millennium Run. While he offered no predictions, no one will question his heart.

## Where the BOLD



## Meets the RUBBER

his pace, he waited until the cramp subsided. He then picked the pace back up again.

As the morning wore on and the gym got busier, more and more curious onlookers crowded around Greenlee's treadmill. Many asked him why he would do such a thing.

A local television news reporter arrived. After a brief interview, he was





Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**THE RIGHT FIT** -- California Sgt. Richard Furtado adjusts the mask of a self-contained breathing apparatus during training in Ohio.

## RAPID RESPONSE

FROM PAGE 1

It is among the many lessons they are learning during this year of intense training at places like Fort McClellan, Ala., Oak Ridge, Tenn., and the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. The training for the operations staff members, the survey teams and the medical people will climax with a major exercise at Fort Knox, Ky., in August.

The 16 men and two women who gathered in Cincinnati are hardly new to this business of responding to emergencies.

Gram, for example, is a former lead paramedic at the Madigan Army Medical Center near Tacoma, Wash., and has been a physicians assistant for four years. He has worked his share of multiple auto accidents with civilian police and firefighters.

Capt. Miguel Gonzalez, the physicians assistant for the Texas team, is an eight-year veteran of the Dallas Fire Department. He learned a valuable lesson about being prepared for anything when his fire captain and a fire academy classmate were trapped and burned to death in a 14-story residential building during a Christmas Eve fire in the late '70s.

New York Army Guard Capt. James Hoin is a former airborne soldier who earned his physicians assistant credentials at Duke University, where he worked in the surgery department for a decade.

And Texas nurse Donald Lee House, an Army Guard medical sergeant, encountered a deadly cloud of chlorine gas in his hometown when he was a teenage volunteer firefighter.

There is no such thing as too much training, maintained the RAID members. They had completed classes in emergency preparedness, chemical and biological



**BEST SUITED** -- Colorado SSgt. Craig Vago slips on a boot as part of a chemical splash suit.

### INSIDE RAPID ASSESSMENT AND INITIAL DETECTION TEAMS

## A toxic cloud of REALITY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

A green cloud of deadly chlorine gas that an ill wind blew down the main street of his east Texas hometown a dozen or so years ago left Donald Lee House with a lasting impression about the realities of hazardous material.

"I saw what this stuff can do," he said. "It made all of us think. Not everything is as simple as it seems."

No one died that afternoon in the small town near Texarkana and the Arkansas border. But the experience made the 29-year-old medical sergeant in the Texas Army National Guard a seasoned HAZMAT veteran among 18 National Guard medical people who focused on dealing with hazardous materials during Easter's Holy Week in Cincinnati, Ohio.

They belong to Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID) teams that the National Guard has formed to help this country cope with weapons of mass destruction. The outgoing House belongs to the Texas team.

He was an impressionable teenager and a young volunteer firefighter when a cylinder of liquid chlorine sprung a leak at a water treatment plant near his town's business district.

It was a small leak and no cause for alarm, House explained, until the people in charge submerged the cylinder in a tank of water. The tank tipped over, he related, and a cloud of chlorine gas began drifting down the street.

countermeasures, health effects of radiation accidents as well as a couple of other HAZMAT classes before going to Cincinnati.

"This was my first time in a chemical protection suit. It has been a good hands-on experience," said Capt. Pamela Montiero, the California team's medical operations officer.

They also acknowledge they can learn a great deal more from civilian counterparts who have developed sophisticated methods and equipment for handling hazardous materials. They were told of one fire department's HAZMAT trailer truck that carries a golf cart equipped to carry firefighters into large buildings to search for and clean up spills.

"The train has already left the station, and we're trying

Suddenly, it was very big deal.

Some of the workers dealing with the leaking cylinder were quickly overcome by the fumes and had to be dragged out of harm's way. Other people, up to 20 in all, had to be ordered off the street and out of the stores -- fast.

"We had to snatch and drag," said House. "We told people to get out of there right now! We yelled at them: 'Don't ask questions. Just leave!'"

"We grabbed the people who had gone down and got them onto our truck. Then we picked up as many other people as we could on our way out of town. It was mass confusion, but that's what happens in one of those situations. That's one of the things we have to be trained to deal with."

Donald Lee House has since become an emergency medical technician and a licensed voca-

tional nurse, the Texas equivalent of a licensed practical nurse. He and his twin brother Ronald have worked together as volunteer firefighters and as ambulance paramedics. They have helped a woman deliver her baby. They have brought people back to life. They have seen other people die. It goes with the territory.

Donald House also joined the Texas Army Guard's 372nd Medical Support Battalion in Texarkana in July 1990. He was serving in an ambulance platoon when he became the Texas RAID team's full-time medical NCO in January.

"I like helping people," said House of the satisfaction he gets from his job. It's a sentiment shared by those

who savor the challenges of serving the public in life-and-death situations. "It's like a narcotic. Once you do it, you get addicted," he added.

Joining the RAID team, House said, "is a combination of all of my likes."

He is combining the nuclear, biological and chemical training he has gained from the Guard with the civilian fire-fighting, paramedic and nursing skills he has acquired during the years since that cloud of chlorine gas taught him just how quickly people can require his help.



Sgt. Donald Lee House

to catch up," acknowledged Gram.

Their military backgrounds are making that possible, acknowledged George Cronon, the course's robust director who responded to 243 HAZMAT calls before retiring from the Sparks, Nev., Fire Department. He also helped develop Nevada's HAZMAT emergency procedures.

"They work well together. They are willing to learn. They can communicate. And they ask very good and intelligent questions," Cronon praised his National Guard students.

"We hope it never happens, but we had better be ready for anything," said Gonzalez about acquiring the knowledge that could mean the difference between life and death for themselves and lots of others.



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

**Col. Ray A. Nelson** took command of the Kentucky Army Guard's 63rd Aviation Group in ceremonies held recently at Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort, Ky.

The assignment of Nelson, a veteran of Operation Just and a former member of the U.S. Army's special operations aviation community, marks the first time an active duty Army colonel has taken command of an Army Aviation National Guard brigade-size unit.

Nelson replaces outgoing commander Col. Bob Stephens.

Nelson brings a distinguished lineage of experience to his new position. He has held command and leadership assignments with Fort Campbell's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and the 229th Attack Helicopter Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, and 7th Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He recently completed a tour with the Joint Military Commission, Multinational Division North, Stabilization Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Besides taking part in the invasion of Panama, Nelson's operational experience includes Operations Urgent Fury (Grenada), Prime Chance (Persian Gulf), Desert Shield (Saudi Arabia), Task Force Able (Macedonia) and Joint Forge/Guard (Bosnia Herzegovina).

**Iowa Air Guard Maj. Suellen Overton**, a legal officer assigned to the 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines has been selected as the 1999 American Business Woman of the Year by the American Business Women's Association.

Overton was chosen from a select group of top ten business women of the year, who were selected from a field of over 80,000 women nationwide.

Overton enlisted in the Hawkeye State Air Guard as a law enforcement specialist in 1982. She was commissioned in 1987. She has served as the information management executive officer, aircraft maintenance squadron executive officer, chief of social actions, and was appointed as a judge advocate general in 1998.

In private life, Overton has her own law practice in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She received her law degree from the Drake University in 1990. She serves on the Iowa state board of corrections and is active in her community and several professional associations.

**2nd Lt. Garret Hines** and **Spc. Kristina Sabasteanski**, both members of the 1998 U.S. Winter Olympic team, were named 1998 Army Athletes of the Year.

Hines, a bobsledder, and Sabasteanski, a biathlete, were two of nine soldiers who qualified for the 1998 U.S. Olympic team that competed in Nagano, Japan, last February. Both are Guardmembers on the Army's World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) based at Fort Carson, Colo.

Hurling through steep, icy chutes at 90 miles an hour is not everyone's idea of sport, Hines said, but he likes the rush. Hines began bobsledding in 1992, putting to use the strength and



Col. Ray Nelson (left) accepts command and a place in history.



Maj. Suellen Overton, American Business Woman of the Year.



Capt. Terri Herbert (left) takes a hold of Oklahoma history.

speed he developed playing football and running track at Southern Illinois University.

The Tennessee native enlisted into that state's Army National Guard in 1996. He went on active duty when he was accepted into the WCAP. His strength and speed as a side-pusher and brakeman on the two- and four-man bobsleds helped his team earn four World Cup medals, including a gold.

The six-foot, 220-pound soldier was tapped to be the brakeman on the four-man sled that missed a bronze medal by .02 seconds in Nagano -- a thrilling but painful moment, Hines said.

"It took me a month to watch the tape. It was like being there all over again and experiencing the same horrible feeling. But I knew I had to keep watching until I could go on and put that behind me."

Sabasteanski started participating in the sport that combines cross-country skiing and marksmanship as a student at Castleton State College in Vermont, where she was a cross-country skier. She is an administrative specialist with the New Hampshire Army Guard.

Sabasteanski finished seventh, one place shy of a trip to the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, then won the 15-kilometer event at the 1996 Military World Games held in France. In 1997 she was ranked third overall in competitions leading to Olympic-team berths. Although an Olympic medal eluded her in Nagano, Sabasteanski was the highest American finisher in the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint and helped the women's relay team to a 15th-place finish, the highest by a U.S. biathlon team at the Winter Olympics.

**Oklahoma Army Guard Capt. Terri Herbert** became the first woman to serve as commander of the Headquarters Battery of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade in Enid.

"There are not many jobs in the Army for women. I would say that the Army has come a long way," Herbert said. "I am excited about the new position."

Before coming to the 45th FA Brigade, Herbert served as a chemical officer. The Tulsa resident enlisted into the Air Force in June 1978. Ten years later, in October, she enlisted into the National Guard. She was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in July 1990.

**MSgt. Kelly Smith**, a Georgia Air Guard Recruiting and Retention NCO, was awarded a coveted gold badge for being the 1998 Recruiting and Retention NCO of the Year for Region III.

She was selected for this award over other applications from 13 southeast and southwest states.

She will now compete for the national title.

After coming off an active duty Air Force tour as an air traffic controller, Smith joined the Peach State Air Guard in March 1988. She started recruiting in August 1991 with the 117th Air Control Squadron in Savannah. In July 1993, Smith transferred to the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron in Brunswick.



Texas Army Guard para-  
troopers jump into Germany,  
establish friendships

# SKY GODS

By Aaron Reed  
Texas National Guard

Maybe it was that adrenaline rush, or the view of the snow-covered Bavarian Alps on the horizon. Maybe it was the blast of cold air hitting the jumpers' faces at 140 knots, more than 1,200 feet above the earth. Or maybe it was the pride they felt at flying 6,037 miles from San Antonio, Texas, and arriving on-target just 14 seconds early.

Or, maybe it was just ... well, the fun of it all that put the huge grins on the paratroopers' faces when they hit the manicured drop zone at Altenstadt, Germany.

"This is always a dramatic way to enter a country," assured SSgt. Mark Bartlett after parachuting out of a Texas Air Guard C-130 over the German Air Transport and Air Landing School. "If you have any lack of motivation for any reason, it ends here."

Bartlett, a member of the Texas Army Guard 49th Armored Division's Long Range Surveillance Detachment, is typical of the individuals who took part in the Lone Star State Army National Guard-sponsored joint jumpmaster exchange. A master parachutist who has served on jump status for more than a decade, he has logged in excess of 100 military static line jumps.

They call people like that master blasters, sky gods. By the time they parachuted into Germany, the 12 members of the team had racked up more than 150 years of combined parachuting experience, and an astounding 3,345 military and civilian jumps.

"It's not unusual to have one or two very experienced master parachutists in a small unit out at the 82nd Airborne Division, but you don't usually find this many people with this much experience in one unit," said SFC Mark Dunlap, NCO-in-charge of the 10-day exercise that included the Marine Corps Reserve's 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and the



German Army's Parachute Test Company 909.

Col. Guy Jones, chief of the U.S. Army-Europe's Special Operations Theater Support Element, called the operation a "perfect example" of joint and Allied assets. "You have a Texas Air Guard aircraft, German parachutes, U.S. soldiers, airmen and marines, and German paratroopers -- all working together."

Jones, the man who invented "air superiority grey" -- the color of the U.S. military's High Altitude, High Opening parachutes, said the exchange of ideas, and exposure to different procedures between the sister services and the German paratroopers, is important.

"You establish professional relationships that are very, very useful when you have to execute combined operations," he noted. "Plus, it's a great enhancement to NATO interoperability."

As the former commander of the Army's elite Golden Knights parachute team, Jones knows something about quality soldiers.

"I have been impressed by the level of competence in a great many of the reserve component units I've seen in Bosnia and Europe over the last three years," said the Army's senior-most airborne officer in Europe.

That competence was in evidence during the exercise as 333 parachutes were

deployed with no injuries.

The Guard's airborne success is no surprise to Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. William Moore, the 4th Recon Battalion's active duty training chief and primary jumpmaster who has worked with the Texas Army Guard before.

"Every time we jump, we invite the Guard jumpers, and vice versa," Moore explained. "The Army wrote the book on parachute operations. By us working together as much as we do, it's a good way to check each other."

Although the focus of the week's activities was on the ability of Germans and Americans to exit the C-130 together in mid-flight, the Germans provided other training opportunities.

Soldiers with Parachute Test Company 909 hosted weapons familiarization and qualification at a nearby range. U.S. troops vied for the German Army Marksmanship Badge, or "Schutzenschwur," by firing the new G-36 assault rifle, the venerable MG-3 machine gun and the P-89mm pistol.

More than half the Americans qualified, with several earning the prestigious gold badge equivalent to the U.S. Army's expert marksmanship badge.

After weapons qualification and a quick lunch in the field, the Americans and their hosts donned full rucksacks for a 20-kilometer (12.4 miles) forced march back



Photos by Aaron Reed

**JUMPIN' in GERMANY** -- A German soldier (top photo) falls toward the Altenstadt drop zone. Texas Army Guard SFC Paul Callaway (above) checks a young German soldier's parachute. Lt. Col. Rick Weyrick (left), the Texas Guard airborne commander, rolls-up his parachute after a jump.

to the 909th's home at Landsberg Kaserne.

"The road march brought me back to reality," said Gunnery Sgt. Edward Cruz Jr., shaking his head. "The shooting was fun; I didn't qualify expert, but I had a good time."

A "good time" was one of the goals of the operation, according to Col. Friedrich Jeschonnek, commandant of the German Air Transport and Air Landing School. The German Army's senior airborne officer said the after-hours socializing between the Germans and Americans was just as important as the dawn-to-dusk parachute operations.

"These soldiers may have to go to Bosnia or somewhere else with American soldiers one day," said Jeschonnek, the former commander of his country's contingent of NATO's Implementation Force. "I want them to remember the friendships they made here, and know that they can work together."

The reluctance with which many Texans boarded their C-130 for the flight home was evidence that the allies were clearly some distance down the road to establishing those friendships Jeschonnek wanted.

Bartlett, who spent an active duty tour on the East German border at the height of the Cold War, was wistful.

"I would have traded a year of my first tour here for this one week," he said.





## STATES

• Presidential Flight • Jayhawk Haulers • Herculean Effort



Photo by MSgt. Chris Martin

**THUMBS UP** — Ghana President Rawlings tries on a helmet before take off.

## DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

*His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings*, the president of Ghana, piloted a 113th Wing F-16 during his first official visit to the nation's capitol.

The Ghana president was no stranger to high performance aircraft, having flown in Italian-made Maeke jets as a flight lieutenant (now retired) with the Ghana Air Force, as well as Italian Tornados in Germany.

Air Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Johnson flew with Rawlings during an hour-long flight that reached speeds at 550 mph.

"He (Rawlings) said, 'This is the most incredible aircraft I've ever flown,'" Johnson recalled.

"He flew about a third of the time and we put it (F-16) through its paces," Johnson added. "He really got a lot out of the flight; more than most. His experience was evident."

## NEW YORK

## CRASH COURSE

New York Air Guard William Furmanski, a security policeman with the 174th Fighter Wing in Syracuse, hikes to the site of an A-10 crash in Williamstown — 40 miles north of the base. Members of the F-16 unit assisted local law enforcers in securing the area for investigators. The pilot ejected and was picked up by a Fort Drum Army helicopter crew.



Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Waters

## NEW MEXICO

More than 70 members of the Land of Enchantment National Guard helped ring in the gubernatorial reign of Gov. Gary Johnson by supporting activities surrounding his recent inauguration — his second.

Guard volunteers provided a soldier/airman color guard presentation, a Blackhawk helicopter flyover and a 19-gun, 75mm Howitzer salute. Music was provided by state Guardmembers with the 44th Army Band.

## KANSAS

About 250 members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing have returned from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, after supporting Operation Northern Watch.

The Topeka-based unit also sent five KC-135 refueling tankers. The first aircraft left Topeka Feb. 24 and returned in early April.

The 190th teamed up with Air Guardmembers from the 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pa., to provide aerial refueling for aircraft patrolling the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

"We train to be world-wide qualified, and even though we were half-a-world away, our fully-trained personnel carried out their duties in an exemplary manner," said Col. Rufus Forrest, 190th commander.

## GEORGIA



Photo courtesy of the Georgia National Guard

More than 300 members of the 165th Airlift Wing, a C-130 Hercules unit, recently returned to their Savannah International Airport base after serving three months supporting Operation Joint Forge from Ramstein AB, Germany.

The Peach State airmen relieved an active Air Force unit from Pope AFB, N.C., shuttling supplies and peacekeepers to Bosnia. More than 25 Guard and Reserve units from across the country also were involved.

While deployed, 165th crews flew more than 1,100 sorties delivering 3,700 ton of cargo and over 10,000 troops. They also boasted a 97 percent mission success rate despite weather conditions, mechanical problems and operational changes.

**HERCULEAN EFFORT** — A C-130 Hercules (left) flown by the Peach State Air Guard's 165th Airlift Wing taxis on a runway in Europe.





# HISTORY

## • The Air Guard's Transition to Tankers

To become more relevant, Air Guard leaders fought to adapt its force

### Foregoing Fighters for 'FUELERS

After the Korean War the Air Guard's arsenal of aircraft was overwhelmingly fighter jets. It was a situation that many senior Guard leaders feared could lead to the force's extinction.

In order to survive, the Air Guard would have to broaden its horizons. With a concentration of Guard missions limited to a small area of Department of Defense requirements, the Air Guard was left vulnerable to potential program changes. A well-balanced Air Guard, they concluded, would be in its best interests.

By 1960, the Guard had begun to acquire special operations, aeromedical airlift, and strategic airlift missions to help overcome this dangerous vulnerability.

Air refueling was the next major mission area that the Air Guard added to its expanding portfolio of flying missions. Unlike special operations and airlift, the original impetus to participate in it apparently came from the active force.

It was driven by two primary factors. First, significant numbers of jet-powered KC-135 tankers had begun to enter the Air Force's inventory replacing older and slower piston-driven aircraft like the KC-97. Second, the Air Force had continued to neglect the Army's mobility requirements.

The latter reality was illustrated during Operation "Big Slam/Puerto Rico," conducted in March and April 1960, where Air Force refuelers were unable to move massive amounts of aviation gasoline to Puerto Rico from the U.S. As a result, the Military Air Transport Service and the U.S. Continental Army Command recommended that tanker aircraft be transferred to the Air Guard and Air Force Reserve when they became excess to the Air Force.

The Air Force began to buy a modernized and significantly expanded airlift fleet after President John F. Kennedy took office in 1961. Kennedy and his Secretary of Defense, Robert S. MacNamara, were determined to expand America's military power and mold it into a more effective policy instrument. They replaced the existing strategy of massive nuclear retaliation with a new one known as flexible response. That strategy

facilitated the need for the U.S. to develop a wide range of military capabilities, including conventional warfare.

The House Armed Services Committee had formed a "Special Subcommittee on National Military Airlift" headed by South Carolina Representative Mendell Rivers to examine America's military airlift situation.

The Rivers subcommittee endorsed the recommendation that some tankers surplus to active duty Air Force needs should be placed in the air reserve forces. To help overcome the strategic airlift shortfall, it recommended that additional C-97 squadrons be established in either the ANG or the AFRES and that KC-97 tankers be transferred to those reserve components. It also suggested that, once C-124 "Globemaster II's" became excess to Air Force requirements, they should also be transferred to the Air Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

The Air Force Association's Air National Guard Council also formed a special committee to study airlift requirements in early 1960. Its study, which was widely circulated to Congress, the Department of Defense and the Air Force, advocated a large buildup of airlift capacity in both the active and reserve forces. The council also suggested that some Air Guard units be given KC-97



#### GUARD HISTORY

By Dr. Charles J. Gross  
Air Guard Historian

encouraged a significant number of conversions to tanker and strategic airlift aircraft during the remainder of the 1960s.

More and more Air Guard units transitioned from fighters to conventionally-powered airlifters and tankers during the 1960s as the Air Force converted its tanker and strategic airlift inventories to jets. By 1960, 16 of the Air Guard's 92 flying units were operating large aircraft.

The Air Guard's fleet of KC-97s had a significant impact on the component's training and global mobility. To demonstrate the effectiveness of a program to improve the readiness deficiencies of Air Guard fighter units during the 1961 Berlin mobilization, they refueled 19

Air Guard F-100s and 12 RF-84s during "Operation Ready Go" in 1964 — the Air Guard's first major overseas training exercise to Europe.

"Ready Go" was the brainchild of Brig. Gen. Willard Millikan, the District of Columbia's 113th Tactical Fighter Wing commander. He had asked Brig. Gen. Howard Markey, a federal judge who commanded Illinois's 126th Air Refueling Wing, if the latter's tankers could support an Air Guard fighter deployment to Europe. Millikan's goal was to dramatize the significant improvements in

the Guard's readiness and mobility that had been made since the Berlin Crisis.

During that crisis, Air Guard F-84s and F-86s had taken a month to prepare for overseas deployment. Then, it had taken a week for 216 Air Guard fighters to island-hop across the Atlantic Ocean to France in "Operation Stair Step," primarily because they had not been equipped for air-to-air refueling.

Markey enthusiastically endorsed Millikan's proposal. They then convinced the Guard Bureau to support it. In the summer of 1964, Guard fighter and reconnaissance aircraft crossed the Atlantic in about

nine hours and were ready to fly training sorties within 45 minutes of their arrival in Germany. For Guardsmen, the operation demonstrated that they could rapidly deploy combat-ready forces to Europe and other potential Cold War flashpoints.

Since the Cold War's end, Air Guard tankers have played critical roles in real world operations from Kosovo to the Persian Gulf. The ground work for those contributions were laid during the early 1960s when Air Guard leaders worked to preserve its force structure while adapting to changing times.

That shift from fighters to refuelers — bolstered by the arrival of the KC-135 — also allowed the Air Force and Air Guard to accommodate the Army's need to enhance its global mobility.



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

#### FUELING the FORCE -- An Illinois Air Guard KC-97F refuels a Prairie State F-86F during a training exercise in 1961.

tankers to ensure an aerial refueling capability to support the organization's fighter aircraft.

The Air Guard received its first KC-97 aerial tankers between July and August 1961. During that period, the 108th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS), Ill., 126th FIS, Wis., and 145th Aeromedical Transport Squadron, Ohio, converted to KC-97Fs and were redesignated air refueling squadrons.

The Kennedy administration's "flexible response" strategy and the Guard's desire to preserve all of its existing flying units, with the most modern aircraft available,





# TRAINING



**DESERT WARRIORS** — Maryland Air Guard SSgt. Keith Alai (rear), a 175th Wing crew chief, helps Pennsylvania A-10 pilot Maj. Lydell Sullenbarger before a recent mission.



Air Guard A-10 units earning respect enforcing no-fly zone

## Distinguished Desert Deeds

By Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver  
Pennsylvania National Guard

Keeping Saddam Hussein out of Southern Iraq has become the full-time concern for three Air Guard A-10 units currently enforcing the line in the sand from Al Jaber, Kuwait.

High winds and desert sandstorms are just some of the battles nearly 1,000 Guardmembers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Connecticut participating in Operation "Guarded Skies" have encountered while patrolling the southern no-fly zone. Air Guard crews have logged some 70 sorties weekly.

During a recent visit, Secretary of Defense William Cohen referred to the deployment as a "Rainbow Coalition," describing each unit's contribution as a color.

He left little doubt that he was impressed with the Guard's work in this difficult theater of operation.

With each state assigned as lead unit for a month, March saw the Philadelphia-based 111th Fighter Wing at the helm. For many members of Pennsylvania's most historical flying unit, it was a return trip. Some four years ago Keystone airmen proved their proficiency, a legacy they would repeat on this deployment.

"Our aircraft are working well, our training sorties are good and our support people are upbeat," reported Col. Jim Skiff, 111th commander.

CMSgt. Tom Gillespie, acting production superintendent, echoed his commander's assessment.

"The flying is going well," Gillespie said. "We have not missed one mission."

While their primary mission is to fly and maintain A-10 aircraft, Guardmembers augmented nearly every shop on Al Jaber. From avionics to weapons, citizen-aimen provided important support, and in some cases, illustrated their expertise.

SSgt. George Roach, a civilian television photojournalist and teacher with extensive video expertise, augmented the region's communications flight. In short order he was able to repair the security



Photos by Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver

**GREAT in KUWAIT** — Pennsylvania Air Guard A1C Ed Stewart (top photo) checks a landing gear before flight. CMSgt. William Meade (above) inspects a sidewinder missile prior to a desert mission.

forces' close circuit television.

"We don't have people with that type of experience," said Maj. Paul Suarez, the active duty communications flight commander. "It's different technology and it was a mission that needed to be done."

While this is Roach's first trip to the desert, for many 111th members it was a time to compare notes.

"In '95 we slept on cots and the tents were the older style with flaps," recalled MSgt. Eddie Stevenson, NCO-in-charge of operations. Today, troops enjoy raised floors, captain's beds, color television

and more.

"One thing has remained the same," Stevenson added. "The food; it was good then, and it's good now."

During the deployment a few A-10 pilots did fire missiles at Iraqi targets. However, with force preservation the overriding philosophy, A-10 crews were focused on search and rescue operations.

"Combat search and rescue is a very gratifying mission; we just hope we don't ever have to use it," said Lt. Col. Steve Sischo, 111th detachment commander.

Part of that search and rescue mission response force meant teaming with HH-60 Pavehawk crews. Combining the Pavehawk's side-mounted, 7.62-mm machine guns with the A-10's 30-mm cannon, a downed pilot could feel secure knowing that an abundance of firepower would arrive to help in short order.

For some, the deployment to Al Jaber was a look to the future. For others, it was a way to compare the past to the present. For all, however, it was proof, once again, that the Air National Guard A-10 community can get the job done.