

## IN THE NEWS

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Texas's 49th Armored Division is ready to go

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# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXVIII, No. 8

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May 1999

## Refueler units called up for Kosovo

### Fueling the Force: Operation Allied Force looks to the Guard for gas

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Ross Hamer knows all about being left behind when his friends go off to war. That happened to him nearly a decade ago during Desert Storm. Hamer is 57 now, still fit and trim at 170 pounds. The command chief master sergeant in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard did not let the chance to serve his country in a combat theater of operations again pass him by.

Hamer is the senior enlisted man and the ground safety manager somewhere in Europe for 470 citizen-airmen and 14 KC-135 Stratotankers from the Pittsburgh-based 171st Air Refueling Wing that is taking part in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Operation Allied Force over Yugoslavia.

"I volunteered. I'm not going to stay home this time," vowed Hamer who began overseeing a thousand deployment details -- from shooting on the range to shots in the arm -- on April 27 during the Air Guard's Year of the Enlisted.

That was the Tuesday when President Bill Clinton approved Defense Secretary William Cohen's request to call to active duty up to 33,102 members of the National Guard and other reserve forces.

They will reinforce the two-month campaign intended to secure stability for the displaced people of Kosovo and peace for central Europe.

"Ongoing operations now require more support from the Reserve forces," Cohen explained. "The presidential selected reserve call-up is designed to help us meet those expanding needs."

Once again, America's citizen-soldiers and airmen put civilian lives on hold to support a major military operation. It was the largest call-up since 239,187 served during the Gulf War in 1990-91.

"Reservists have civilian jobs, and we deeply appreciate the support that their employers provide," said Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Air Guard refueling wings from four states -- Pennsylvania, Arizona, Alabama and Wisconsin -- have been tasked to contribute 1,245 people and 32 tankers to the first wave of 2,116 Air Force reservists and 47 tankers expected to serve for up to 270 days.

Pennsylvania is providing the most people and airplanes. They began departing on May 4.

The 171st and Arizona's 161st Air Refueling Wing in Phoenix were the first Air Guard units sent to replace volunteers who helped sustain the air operation during its first five weeks. Members of 16 Air Guard units, including 100 from Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Wing near Harrisburg have taken part.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell  
**READY TO GO -- CMSgt. Ross Hamer vowed he would 'not stay home this time.'**



Photo by SSgt. Rick Breitenfeldt

### DISTANCE DARLING

Oregon Army Guard Sgt. Timothy Vandervlugt once again claimed the title as the Guard's fastest man over 26.2 miles at the 16th Annual National Guard Bureau Marathon trials. See related story/photos on Page 10.

■ See CALL UP, Page 11





## COMMENTARY

• Aligned with NATO • Palmetto Pride

## ABOUT the PAPER

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## GUARD MAIL

## Un-UN

*You made a huge error in the March issue. On page 12 under the newsmaker about the Texas Army Guard hosting an event for its veterans, the last sentence says: "The Division has been selected to deploy to Bosnia this summer as the command and control unit responsible for the withdrawal of the United Nations forces currently maintaining the peace in the Balkans."*

*I am in Bosnia, an Army Reserve corporal in public affairs, currently serving in the 1st Cavalry Division's Tactical Operations Center (DTC). We are not United Nations forces! We are part of NATO! I would not, under any circumstances, serve under the UN, or even with the UN. I showed your article to about 15 officers in the DTC and everyone said (loudly), "We are not United Nations forces!"*

*We are members of SFOR, a NATO group (Stabilization Force), and are here to enforce the Dayton Peace Accord. I earned my NATO medal two days ago, because I am here under NATO, not the UN.*

*On top of that, there is no "withdrawal" going on, or about to go on. I have interviewed the 49th Armored Division's people who were here, including their one-star commander, and they are bringing 800-plus troops here for the long haul.*

*What withdrawal are you talking about? I'll be here until October and*

*there is no planned "withdrawal" in sight.*

*But my main point is that none of our forces are in any way connected to the UN. The only UN people here are the International Police Task Force and the Multinational Specialized Units, here to perform demining and police monitoring.*

*I think you should publish a clarification in the next issue because you were factually incorrect. As a military public affairs soldier, I am shocked that the editor of a military publication could be so wrong.*

Cpl. Tom Cox

Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia

*Editor's Note: According to Texas National Guard spokesman Aaron Reed, nearly 850 soldiers with the 49th AD are scheduled to report to Bosnia in February 2000. See related story on Page 16.*

## Carolina Crew

*I'm writing regarding your article "Guard humanitarians help Honduras rebuild" (March, page 10) where it states, "...the Louisiana Air National Guard flew more than two tons of those supplies to Honduras aboard a C-130 with the Spears delegation in time for the opening ceremonies."*

*It was indeed the Louisiana C-130 that flew the mission, however, this was a joint effort due to the South Carolina C-130 being unavailable at the time due to maintenance. The mission was flown by South Carolina C-130 aircrew members in support of Guardmembers from*

*their own state.*

*A small point, I know, but we do support our own and feel compelled to point that out.*

*Additionally, we would like to thank the Louisiana C-130 folks. We have been working together jointly in efforts like this for almost 10 years and they graciously agreed to help us with the use of their aircraft in support of the mission.*

*As the unit commander, I feel that the efforts of my air crew to support the state of South Carolina and the Hurricane Mitch relief efforts should be pointed out.*

*We have flown a number of those missions since the first of the year. We leave tomorrow on a similar mission, with our aircraft, in support of the Louisiana National Guard.*

Maj U.B. Strickland

South Carolina National Guard

## LETTERS POLICY:

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

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## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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



"I found that last maneuver to be a dazzling display of dexterous driving. I give them a Thumbs Up!"





## IN THE NEWS

• Sooner Support • Elated Environmentalists • Cold War Certificate

## Killer tornado prompts Guard call up

■ **Twister Assisters: More than 1,300 Oklahoma, Kansas troops activated to restore normalcy**

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The 1991 highway of death in Kuwait City. The 1989 World Series earthquake in San Francisco and Oakland, Calif. And, to be sure, the 1995 federal building bombing in downtown Oklahoma City. National Guardmembers in Oklahoma have accumulated their share of war stories over the years. So when they spoke in hushed wonder about the half-mile-wide, F-5 tornado and dozens of other twisters that terrorized their state at dusk on May 3rd, they were not blowing smoke.

"A lot of people don't realize how much destruction there really is. You can't comprehend the damage from the news coverage," observed PFC David Gibbs, who stood watch over a ravaged Del City neighborhood after midnight eight nights later.

"This gives us a sense of peace that nobody's getting in and taking the last thing these people have," said Pvt. 2 Jeremy Bass, a community college student and medic who was Gibbs' partner beside the ghostly rubble and barren trees that could have been the backdrop for a Stephen King novel.

It was, however, all too real for nearly 1,000 Oklahoma Army and Air Guardmembers activated to help their people deal with one of the 10 worst tornado outbreaks in U.S. history. Winds exceeding 300 mph, the strongest ever recorded on Earth, killed 43 people and injured 800 more along a 140-mile, \$1 billion path of destruction that hooked through suburbs and communities around Oklahoma City.

Another 314 Guardmembers in Kansas added new chapters to their litany of war stories after rolling out to help victims in Wichita and the demolished suburb of Haysville where still more tornadoes killed five while



Photo by SSgt. David Dyer

**AFTER the STORM** -- Oklahoma Army Guard Lt. Chris Matthews searches for victims in Bridge Creek after a massive tornado struck May 3.

attacking that part of Tornado Alley the same night.

It will take years to rebuild, but National Guard men and women quickly joined forces with police, fire and medical responders and with Red Cross and Salvation Army volunteers to, yet again, give their afflicted people a sense of security and hope.

It included some tough, grizzly duty.

Gibbs, a metal roof construction worker by trade, helped move body-bagged fatalities during a four-hour shift at the same Oklahoma City morgue that handled many of the 168 people killed in the Murrah Federal Building bombing four springs earlier. Part of a man's leg laying on a table was Gibbs' most vivid memory.

Other Guardsmen probed for bodies at Bridge Creek. And most members of the 45th Infantry Brigade and 90th Troop Command summoned for duty pulled 12-hour day and night security watches, helping keep looters as well as sightseers out of the stricken communities.

"It would be chaos out here. There are people who live off disasters. They'd be swarming all over this place," said an Oklahoma City policeman about the need for security.

■ See TWISTER ASSISTERS, Page 5

## Guard environmentalists land Army awards

Natural resource conservation efforts at Minnesota's Camp Ripley and in Missouri, along with a clean-up effort headed by New York's Col. Frank Intini, were recognized at an Army-level environmental award ceremony in the Pentagon, April 26.

Environmentalists at Camp Ripley were singled out (Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation category) for protecting endangered species, such as gray wolves, on a 51,000-acre camp that is used by

thousands of Guardmembers annually. Through a program that fits radio collars to the wolves, Ripley environmentalists can track the animals to their dens and ensure that military training leaves them undisturbed.

Judges also recognized the Gopher State caretakers for their public awareness program that allows area high schoolers to "shadow" Camp Ripley staff members. Teens follow along as staffers take water quality samples, monitor bear and wolf ac-

tivity or carry out other environmental management tasks.

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ripley staffers developed a native-grass management plan that will strengthen 3,000 acres which currently host 82 grasslands.

The Missouri Army Guard's environmental management office won the Army's Natural Resources --

■ ENVIRONMENT, Page 4

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Honduran school children celebrate belated Christmas

Most of the world celebrates Christmas Dec. 25. But for the more than 20 students in a thatch-roofed, open-sided school house in Honduras, Christmas came in March.

The belated celebration was the result of a collection taken up by Oklahoma Army Guardmembers from Edmond-based Company C, 49th Support Battalion. The unit was deployed to the hurricane-ravaged nation to provide medical services as part of New Horizons 99, a relief effort that involved more than 2,700 soldiers and airmen.

PFC Jamie Avery, a medic who served as a soldier "Santa Claus," and her commander, Maj. Layne Adams, heard of the children's plight through a local villager. After briefly meeting with the teacher of the school, Rosa Delaa Ramierz, the Sooner State Guardmembers were allowed to deliver a duffel bag filled with toys they had purchased.

Each child was allowed to choose one toy from the large stack piled on the ground. With shy smiles, each child bent down and chose a toy. For the girls, there were jewelry making kits and hairbrushes to choose from. For the boys, there were toy guns and soccer balls.

Avery, 19, said the children's gratitude was refreshing.

"The children of that village didn't care what color or if it was the right toy. To them it was the greatest thing in the world," she said with a smile. "We can take so much for granted when we receive gifts."

### Cold War vets recognized

Up to 22 million former and current service members and DoD civilians can start applying for certificates honoring them for their role in winning the Cold War.

Those qualifying for the certificates can apply via the Internet at <http://coldwar.army.mil>, e-mail at [cwrs@fairfax-emhl.army.mil](mailto:cwrs@fairfax-emhl.army.mil), or fax at (703) 275-6749.

Applicants can also mail requests to: Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Applicants must present proof of service. Officials caution applicants not to send original documents because they cannot be returned.

People are eligible for a certificate if they have military or civilian service with the War, Navy or Defense departments between Sept. 2, 1945, and Dec. 26, 1991.



## IN THE NEWS

## ENVIRONMENT

FROM PAGE 3

team category for managing the construction of sediment basins to protect roadside streams, completing prescribed conservation burns of tall grasses and rehabilitating freshwater marshes. The marshes provide shallow wading habitats for shorebirds.

To accomplish this, the Show-Me State staffers worked closely with several other environmental agencies. Most notably, they coordinated their efforts with the U.S. Geological Service, the Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the employees of the Cole County Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as interested people from several colleges and universities.

These partnerships, noted judges, allowed the Missouri team to expand limited resources and develop an expansive and effective environmental program.

Intini, commander of the Army Aviation Support Facility No. 1 in Ronkonkoma, won the Army's Environmental Quality Award individual category.

Working with various state agencies, he arranged for helicopter crews to drop 100 concrete, igloo shaped, reef balls — weighing 1,500 pounds each — into the Great South Bay of Long Island. The balls created a 100-yard artificial reef that will increase fish activity.

Seeking other flight training opportunities, Intini arranged for his helicopter crews to help remove abandoned vehicles from the Pines Barren Forest Preserve. To date, 53 vehicles have been removed. Additionally, the Guard crews were given permission to fly low-level flight and night vision training scanning the preserve for illegal dumping, all-terrain vehicles and other natural resource violations. In establishing this new training area, Intini saved the Army National Guard more than \$100,000.

"Success begins with the individual and his or her steadfast commitment to the Army and the environment," said Ray Fatz, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment.

## D.C. troops ring in NATO summit

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Della Wilson could have stayed home from work on April 23 were she only a secretary in the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. Instead, she worked a 12-hour shift during the day watch at the NATO Summit's operations center because she is also a sergeant in the District of Columbia Army National Guard.

Wilson was one of four dozen members of the D.C. National Guard who got up close and personal to that weekend's summit in the nation's capital marking the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 50th anniversary.

They took part in the largest assembly of heads of state and foreign dignitaries to visit Washington in its 197-year history. They were part of the supporting cast that enabled NATO's leaders to produce a 17-point statement supporting the Kosovo people and reaffirming the allied air campaign against Yugoslavia.

"I volunteered. I figured this would be my only chance to be a part of something as important and as big as this," explained Wilson who is a squad leader and 15-year veteran of the 275th Military Police Company.

Had she not volunteered, Wilson would have been among some 100,000 government workers who took a paid holiday to stay away from downtown in order to reduce traffic and make way for some 1,700 delegates from 42 countries and 3,000 journalists.

Six D.C. Army Guard officers and two Air Guard officers served as motorcade officers during the weekend when trains of shiny automobiles led and followed by police escorts traveled the district's streets.

Three more operations NCOs, beside Wilson, worked with members of the U.S. Secret Service, the FBI, the district's police and fire departments, and other Defense officials.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Meanwhile, 35 military police provided security at the D.C. Armory where 300 donated vehicles used for the summit were parked.

No one entered that concrete armory and its parking lots during April's final full weekend unless they had proper credentials and before their bags and packages were thoroughly searched.

That force from the 260th Military Police Command included two citizen-soldiers with diverse public profiles.

Sgt. Ronald Wilson is a former Marine Corps welterweight boxer and Golden Gloves champion from New York. He now supervises 50 U.S. Postal carriers in Rockville, Md.

Pvt. 2 Carlos Talley put on hold a murder case he was investigating for the D.C. Bureau of Judicial Affairs. He has investigated domestic, civil and criminal cases during the two years he has been a judicial officer for the Superior Court.

Keeping the traffic flowing past the armory and making sure that everyone who was inside belonged inside were among their concerns during the NATO weekend, Wilson explained.

**ON the MOVE** — Maj. Cecilia Flores (left) coordinates a motorcade for NATO dignitaries.

"Maintaining a high visibility and being a winner goes a long way," he observed.

The security measures had already been arranged because of the international nature of the summit. It did not result from the NATO air campaign going on in Yugoslavia, explained Maj. Timothy Spriggs, a D.C. Army Guard mobilization officer.

"The security for the armory was already scheduled," said Spriggs, "but the bombing certainly heightened our awareness."

The summit also provided a crash course in international protocol, said Maj. Cecilia Flores, one of the Guard's eight motorcade officers. The six D.C. Army Guard officers were the only Army officers assigned to that detail.

"I was not aware of all of the protocol and security issues for visits by heads of state," said Flores.

Each officer was assigned to two delegations. They made sure the proper dignitaries got into the cars driven by active Army soldiers from Fort Eustis, Va., in time to follow the heads of state to the meetings and ceremonies.

Flores worked with the delegations from Luxembourg and Portugal.

The soldiers made the proper impression.

"It's a small force, but a vital one," observed one official as Flores checked the cars and drivers in her care early into the crisp, sunny Saturday morning. "We'd all be in tough shape if we had to walk."

"I was the officer in charge of the National Guard's marching unit during the 1997 inaugural parade. This is a lot more involved than that was," explained Flores.

"Being part of a big historic event," she said, "is kind of cool."

## Abrams Aptitude

New York Army Guard SSgt. Alan Hutchins performs an operator-level repair on an M1-A1 tank at the Army's Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. Forty tank maintainers with the state's 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry were recently given the opportunity to train on one of the nation's most advanced armor systems.



Photo by SFC Jim Filio





Photo by SSgt. David Dyer

**SOONER SUPPORT** — Oklahoma Army Guard SSgt. Mike Tyson, a member of HHC, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry, digs through a tornado-ravaged home for victims.

## Twister

FROM PAGE 3

## Assisters

"These Guard people do what we ask them," summed up another Oklahoma City policeman, Sgt. Don Bingham, who watched through the chilly night with four Guard members. That crew included Sgt. Lewis McKinney who joined the 120th Engineer Battalion in February, 10 years after leaving the Navy, to earn retirement benefits.

In Kansas, Guardmembers delivered water to thirsty livestock and hauled donated goods to distribution centers. They also cleared away uprooted trees and other debris with a bulldozer, a pair of front-end loaders and six dump trucks.

"The biggest challenge was taking on a task where we didn't know what we had to deal with," said Air Guard 2nd Lt. Jason Fountain in Wichita. "It was still dark when we got here."

Some Guardmembers met some interesting people.

Kansas Spc. Brent Buckley checked the identification of one driver who proved to be a Secret Service agent preparing for Vice President Al Gore's visit to Haysville on May 6.

Oklahoma Army Guard Sergeants Jason Flugge and Roger Farley spoke briefly with President Clinton when he visited Del City on May 8.

And Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bu-

reau, lauded all of the Guard workers while visiting both states with Ruby DeMesme, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs.

"I think when people join the Guard, they understand what they're getting into," Davis said. "They understand that the neighborhoods they're working in today could be theirs tomorrow."

Many American flags flying from stakes and sticks amidst the rubble supported Davis's contention that "the spirit of the American people is really incredible."

"I think the statement from the people of Oklahoma City is one of resilience," added Davis following May's tornado tragedy that was immediately compared to the bombing on April 19, 1995.

More than 740 Guardmembers were on state active duty during 37 days after a truck bomb blew away one side of the federal building.

Empty buildings and boarded up windows next to the site make it a grim place even as work progresses on the Oklahoma City National Memorial that is scheduled to be completed next year.

The tornadoes killed far fewer people. But the destruction of 3,098 Oklahoma houses and apartments and the damages to 7,844 others afflicted many more residents and reminded everyone that Mother Nature still packs a terrible punch.

*Public Affairs Spc. Darren Heusel in Oklahoma and Stephen Larson and Spc. Brian Jopek in Kansas contributed to this report.*

## INSIDE THE TORNADO

# On the edge of DISASTER

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Darrell "Robbie" Robinson joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard 23 years ago to serve his country and to help keep foreign foes far from his family's door.

Yet, an unspeakable force of nature -- the half-mile wide, F-5 tornado seen on television around the world -- came as close as he could image to destroying his Del City home and his family's domestic tranquility at dusk on May 3.

"Being right on the edge, we were so lucky," said Robinson who is a sergeant first class and full-time soldier at the 90th Troop Command's headquarters in nearby Oklahoma City.

How close did that monster twister come to his two-story home at 3329 Oakbrook Drive? About 50 yards -- half a football field.

How close did that tornado come to Robinson and his wife Debbie and teenage daughter Kendra and Sheltie dog Rascal as they huddled in a crawl space beneath the stairs? Too damned close.

The wasteland of tragic death, homes reduced to rubble, trees stripped of branches and bark, and cars and pickups crushed into accordions began just across the street.

What had been a Pleasantville kind of military community on the western edge of Tinker AFB was transformed into a vast landfill when the Robinsons emerged into a nightmare of neighbors screaming from pain and crying for help.

Their next door neighbor, 67-year-old Noah Fish, was killed, apparently by a flying truck. Loretta Richards, 60, who was visiting Fish, also died. Loretta was the nice lady who checked identification cards at Tinker's Base Exchange.

Debbie Robinson had known those people for a long time because she grew up in that neighborhood. They purchased their home from her parents eight years earlier.

Dozens of other Guardmembers suffered

losses, said Maj. Gen. Stephen Cortright, Oklahoma's adjutant general.

Air Guard MSgt. Karen Champeau, lost most of all she owned -- her condominium in Oklahoma City and her car that was blown out of her garage.

"I got out with my bird and my dog," said Champeau who rode out the fury in a closet under her staircase. She had barely gotten home from her job at state National Guard headquarters.

The staircase was the only part of her home left standing.

"It was the most scared I've ever been in my whole life," she said. "I put a pillow over my head and laid on my dog. I just knew I was going to die."

She remembers smelling rain and dirt and feeling a breeze coming under the door after the eternity of the storm.

"I opened the door and there was the sky," Champeau said. "Everything was flattened behind me. A tree was in my living room."

Yet, a week after the worst tornado outbreak in half a century had plowed a deadly path across central Oklahoma, Champeau and the Robinsons and their neighbors were making the best of a bad situation and feeling very good about being alive.

Such is the spirit of the "Okies." They dealt with disbelief and anger after the Oklahoma City federal office building was bombed four springs earlier. American flags flying amidst the rubble signaled their resolve to deal with the devastation of this spring's tragedy.

"At least we've got something to clean up," said Debbie Robinson, a registered nurse who works at Children's Hospital.

Four of Robinson's off-duty Army Guard buddies were covering holes in his roof with blue tarps to keep out the rain. Windows without glass were boarded up. A half-dozen holes where 2-by-6 timbers had speared into the sides were patched over.

"The Guard is like one big family," said Champeau who moved into a Guard friend's partially damaged home.

Yes, the memories remained vivid.

"I never pay attention to the tornado warnings. We hear the Tinker sirens all the

time. But this time there was something different in the voices on the radio," said Debbie who ushered her daughter and dog beneath the stairs while Robbie unplugged appliances as the tornado bore down.

"It sounded like Tinker was firing up all of their jets; like cars were flying up and down the street," she recalled of the storm's wrath. "We just knelt in there and prayed."

And there was humor.

"We're supposed to be able to survive an F-4 tornado under those stairs," said Robbie.

Countered Debbie: "Yeah, well it was F-entough for me."



**TWIST of FATE --**  
While the Robinsons  
and their lawn escaped  
untouched, their neighbors did not.





**Y2TALK** -- Lt. Col. Kirk Krist (left), the Guard Bureau's Y2K coordinator, makes a point during a recent exercise. MSgt. Domingo 'Joe' Gauna (opposite) tests a high frequency radio.

## Guard exercise deals with potential millennium 'bug'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**C**an we talk?"  
Joan Rivers?  
Nope, Stan Schrader.

That signal captain from the South Carolina Army National Guard was among a host of people at the National Guard Bureau around Washington, D.C., who learned in May how well they could talk to the states and territories should the lights and telephone systems go out after midnight next New Year's Eve.

The possibility of problems caused by the Y2K syndrome was the driving force behind an exercise named Higher Focus, a Guard-wide high frequency radio communications test conducted from the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., May 1-2.

The 28-hour test was the first of its kind for the 8-year-old backup network. It also illustrated the Guard's resolve to help the American people from Puerto Rico to Guam deal with any crisis resulting from computer-driven systems that fail to function early into the new millennium.

"Although the probability of such an event occurring is very low, the National Guard must always be prepared for a variety of scenarios," said Maureen Lischke, the Guard Bureau's chief information officer.

"If a large chunk of our communications goes down, if we couldn't call Cali-

fornia because of a huge blackout or a brown-out somewhere in this country, we would rely on our high frequency radios," said Schrader, the five-member communication team's deputy chief.

The exercise involved contacting Guard headquarters in key states -- Massachusetts, Mississippi, Kansas, Indiana and Oregon -- and then having signal people in those states radio the other states in the five regions.

"We signal people enjoy what we do," said Schrader. "We love to get on stage."

The entire National Guard is on stage because of Y2K. The clock is ticking. Come June 1, it will be 214 days and counting.

"It is critical that the Guard achieve Y2K compliance to ensure that we can meet the requirements of our elected state and federal leaders today, on New Year's Eve and into the next millennium," said Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

That does not, however, include asking the states to call out the troops on Dec. 31, Davis stressed. Although several states have indicated they will alert Guard elements in case they are needed, each state can do what it thinks best.

Y2K is no longer much of a mystery.

It refers to electronic and computer system problems that could occur because some date-sensitive devices may not be able to compute 2000 when those systems progress from 1999 into the new century. It stems from the decades-old practice of using two digits, such as 98, rather than four to represent each year. That has prompted concerns that those systems will read 00 as 1900, before today's computers were created, instead

of 2000 and simply shut down along with the utilities, financial services and defense systems they control.

Neither is Y2K being forecast as the end of life as we know it.

The entire Defense establishment is confident that the fixes are in or will be by the end of this year thanks to a four-year, \$2.5 billion effort to study, test and fix its 2,300 systems needed to go to war, preserve peace, and pay and care for its people.

"There's absolutely no question the Department of Defense will be able to protect the United States and its allies on Jan. 1, 2000," promised Dr. John Hamre, deputy secretary of defense. "All mission-critical systems are either Y2K compliant or have viable contingency plans in place."

The National Guard is said to be ahead of the game because it has a core of veteran people who worked the system before computers.

"Y2K is not abnormal for us, because business as usual means working without a computer anyway," pointed out Lt. Col. "Dutch" Thomas, the Army Guard's chief of Military Support.

Furthermore, Y2K plans are an extension of the emergency response plans that have already been prepared throughout the 54 states, territories and District of Columbia, it was pointed out.

Still, the Guard Bureau has addressed the issue on two fronts: (1) to prepare the national force sworn to respond to state emergencies and federal missions; and (2) to take care of its 467,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen.

The bureau has asked the states to make sure their systems are in Y2K order so they can continue to perform their federal missions as elements of the Army and Air Force and to respond to any calls from the governors.

All of the Army Guard's critical systems are expected to be certified as Y2K compliant by Sept. 30, and it has earmarked \$3.5 million from additional congressional funds for the high frequency communications exercise.

That test in May and another one planned for September are part of the national initiative.

All Army Guard ground weapons systems including howitzers and Abrams tanks and the Air Guard's jet fighters and cargo planes have been tested and treated, said Army Guard Lt. Col. Kirk Krist, the Y2K coordinator for the National Guard Bureau and the Army Guard.

All of the Army Guard's attack and utility helicopters are also expected to be up to snuff, he added.

Commanders are also checking generators and other emergency equipment and are asking utility officials about the Y2K status of local electrical, telephone,

# Y2K Care



## INSIDE Y2K

# Stocking up for the Millennium

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

During her 17 years at the Air National Guard's Readiness Center, civilian software engineer Glenda Smith has acquired plenty of faith in what we generally call "the system." Fact is, she maintains the computerized payroll and retention benefits systems for the 106,800-member Air Guard at Andrews AFB, Md.

She is also a widow and a single parent who keeps a home for herself and her 12-year-old son Patrick, as well as her three cats, in nearby Bowie, Md.

Smith is convinced the world will not go to hell in a hand basket because of Y2K disorders come January.

Like a lot of Americans, however, she is already considering some common sense precautions to get by for a few days should the lights go out around midnight on New Years Eve.

"It's like getting ready for a bad storm, that's all," shrugged Smith who learned the importance of stocking up during her younger years on her grandparents' farm in Pennsylvania's Somerset County.

"I've always had canned goods, and I'll probably add a few more. And I'll have plenty of water. And extra food for my cats. And I'll keep some extra cash on hand, just in case," said Smith.

A gas grill and a full tank of gas in the car will also be good ideas, she surmised.

"But I've seen for myself that these computer programs are being made Y2K compliant," Smith said, "and I really believe we're going to be all right."

Internet web sites may be filled with forecasts of Y2K gloom and doom, but responsible officials are urging sensible Americans like Smith to take some basic precautions and to not panic.

There are things that people can do, according to such agencies as the General Services Administration, to take care of themselves and their financial well being should some computers and microchips regard 2000 as 1900.

Many of them involve asking questions during this information-is-power computer age. Some GSA tips:

- If you have a personal computer, PC software, fax machine, camcorder, camera, security system, digital wristwatch, or other electronic date sensitive devices, check the manufacturers web site or contact the manufacturer to see whether your product has the potential for a Y2K problem.

- Make a list of your other household products with a calendar function. Check the manufacturer's web site or contact the manufacturer by phone or mail to find out compliance status.

- If you have a bank, mutual fund, or brokerage account, start to keep records of any transactions that you make before the millennium. If you use your computer to

make any of these transactions, download the records of your transactions and keep them on a backup diskette and print copies for your files.

- If you have a mortgage, car loan, or other debts, keep your canceled checks as proof of the payments you've made. Ask your mortgage or car lender for a statement of payments already made and those to come with the amounts allocated to interest, principle and escrow. That will ensure an accurate record of your payments.

- Ask your financial service providers about their plans to deal with the Y2K date change. Make sure you are satisfied with the answers.

- If you have insurance policies, keep copies of the policies and records of the payments you make.

- If your credit cards expire after Jan. 1, 2000, carry a credit card with an earlier expiration date as a backup in case a retailer's equipment is unable to process the 00 card. Ask your credit card company what they're doing to ensure a smooth transition.

The banking industry has already assured customers that their accounts will remain in order and that automatic teller machines will work after we ring in the new millennium. No one need withdraw their life savings.

Most banks and other financial institutions are in good shape because loan calculations and other long-term transactions have required Year 2000 compliancy for years, experts have stressed.

It is also important to remember that appliances and other equipment that do not rely on computers and chips will not be affected by Y2K glitches.

"The Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association filed comments with the Federal Trade Commission stating that the vast majority of consumer electronics prod-

ucts will not experience Year 2000 problems because their components are not date sensitive," the Army's Office of Information reported.

People who own older computers whose manufacturers have gone out of business can seek out hardware upgrades. They can also run a simple test to determine if their systems will stay on track into the next century.

You can do that by temporarily disabling any date and time-related programs that normally start when

you turn on the system and storing them on a disk as a precaution. Then reset your system's clock to 23:30, Dec. 31, 1999, and wait. Most machines will roll over to Jan. 1, 2000.

Shut it off for a minute or so and start it again. It should still indicate Jan. 1. Run your machine for 24 hours to make sure it changes dates properly. 2000 is a leap year, so if your computer calendar includes Feb. 29, the system is OK.

And, yes, you should be able to use your telephone, and your car and truck will probably start.

"Your telephone's caller ID and network will work," promised Ameritech spokesman Frank Mitchell. "And we're updating the 911 services we are involved with."

Long-distance services will not be affected, said another industry expert, because "most switches don't care what day it is."

"Vehicle computers recognize time only in the passing of milliseconds, not months and years," Mitch Fugua of the American Automobile Association assured the Army.

In short, Americans like the Air Guard's Glenda Smith can expect to keep right on trucking -- at home and at work -- next year while they're wondering what all of the Y2K fuss was about in the first place.



and water and sewer systems coming into the nation's Army Guard armories and Air Guard installations.

"Most of our 250 installations, including our 88 flying wings, are telling us their community services are already compliant," said Air Guard spokesperson Glenda Smith, a civilian software engineer.

So, insist Smith are the systems that Guardmembers rely on for pay, orders, travel vouchers, medical benefits, educational entitlements and retention incentives.

The programs at Andrews Air Force Base that govern the Air Guard's \$725 million annual payroll have been certified as have other systems used for cutting orders and reporting supplies.

Smith explained that a Y2K problem was first detected in 1994 when a computer could not issue orders for a full-time Air Guardmember six years in advance.

Y2K compliance versions of all three systems have been available to every Air Guard unit since last August, Smith added.

Likewise, Army Guard personnel systems are being brought up to speed, and are being checked and checked again.

"I take this very seriously. We have made the effort, and everything is OK," explained Gary James who oversees the Army Guard's systems in Indianapolis that regulate pay and publish all active duty and travel orders.

Those systems were tested in March by pushing the clocks ahead to 2000. They will be re-tested in June, August, September and December, he said.

"If there is a problem that has slipped through a crack, we believe we can fix it in a matter of hours," James maintained.

What if the power goes off in Indianapolis?

"We have sent copies of these programs to the 54 states and territories," James said. "As long as we have power and a computer somewhere, we can pay the people."

Defense health officials have assured the Army that the Tricare system has been totally tested and that they are meeting regularly with Tricare contractors to monitor progress.

In short, the National Guard along with the entire defense establishment believes it will be business as usual come Jan. 1 and when most people return to work on Monday, Jan. 3, thanks to a lot of hard work.

"There are lots of moving parts to our Y2K program," acknowledged Krist. "We have great folks working on each of them."



Ms. Glenda Smith



## MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

Former South Carolina general, Vietnam nurse finds closure at The Wall

## DEALing with a difficult memory

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Gail Deal paid a tearful tribute to her unknown soldier and came to grips with the part of her past she had locked away for three decades during her first visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on a dreary Monday morning in April.

"I didn't want to see The Wall. But I felt I had to see it. A load has been lifted from my shoulders. Now I feel more peaceful," said the woman who retired from the South Carolina Army National Guard as a brigadier general nearly two years ago.

The Vietnam Memorial is a somber place on the brightest of summer days. The black granite wall bearing 58,209 names, the statue of three war-weary servicemen, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial are more sobering when clouds filled with rain hover over the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

That was how Gail Deal quietly confronted her loss of innocence and her coming of age during the year she served as an Army nurse in South Vietnam. She visited the memorial with her 22-year-old son Roger. That is where she finally wept for another young man — her unknown soldier.

She was 1st Lt. Gail Rice, 26, in February 1967 when she joined the 91st Evacuation Hospital of Quonset huts and wooden buildings at Tuy Hoa beside the South China Sea. The doctor's daughter from Detroit had been a nurse for nearly six years.

Most of that hospital's patients were Vietnamese women and children who were wounded in body and spirit from the conflict ravaging their land. The grim faces of those children punctuate the snapshots she has preserved for 31 years.

She also cared for Vietcong and Korean soldiers.

Early into her tour, however, a young American soldier with a terrible head wound covered with a bloody field dressing was carried into the hospital. But there was no hope for saving that soldier. The doctors and nurses devoted their energies to other wounded soldiers who

could be saved.

She spoke of that soldier while gazing at the women's shrine of three nurses comforting a soldier whose eyes are covered with a bandage.

"We had to push him off to the side," she said softly. "We waited for him to stop breathing. I don't know his name. But I've never forgotten that guy."

She volunteered for the Army in 1966, "because that was the thing to do," Deal explained. But she buried her memories of the children and spectacular sunsets and 12-hour shifts and the people with whom she served after she returned from Vietnam early in 1968.

Her most cherished mementos include Thanksgiving and Christmas menus and cards from the 1967 holiday season. There is a note from a Mrs. Le Thi Hang who thanked the medical and nursing staff "for all the work you do to help bring peace and love to my people and my country."

Deal got on with her life as a military nurse who served for three

80 nurses helped care for 38,000 people who streamed through that hospital during four months in Saudi Arabia.

"Vietnam was a young persons war. Desert Storm was an older persons war because there were so many reservists," explained Deal.

"If there was a problem, Colonel Deal was right in the middle of it, quietly and calmly sorting it out. She was always there," recalled SFC James Smith, who served with her in Saudi Arabia. Smith is now the chief medical NCO at the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

"We are just proud of what we did with that unit," said Deal. "We brought together people from Alabama and Florida and Puerto Rico, a whole lot of people who didn't know each other. Our maturity helped us."

She is still a civilian nurse — caring for elderly people who are mentally ill in Lexington County near her home in Imo, S.C.

She has talked far more freely of her expe-



Photo courtesy of Gail Deal



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton

**FINDING CLOSURE** — A tearful Gail Deal (above) observes the Vietnam Women's Memorial. From Vietnam in 1967 (top photo) then 1st Lt. Gail Rice enjoys a rare break.

years at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington; as a wife and mother; and, beginning in 1979, as a nurse in the South Carolina Army Guard.

She was chief of nursing services for the 251st Evacuation Hospital when she went to war again, as an Army Guard lieutenant colonel, in January 1991. Her

periences in the Persian Gulf than she ever did of her days in Vietnam, said her son, a senior at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

That all changed before Memorial Day. That's when Gail Deal took her emotional journey back in time.

She placed a small American flag in the bronze hand of one of the nurses at the women's shrine while remembering those with whom she served in Vietnam. And she said hello — and goodbye — to her unknown soldier whose name is somewhere on that wall.

Army Guard CSM John Leonard pays homage to former Marine comrades

## Coping with SURVIVAL

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Some morning around the last Monday in May, John Leonard Jr. will put on a plain sports shirt and a pair of faded jeans and go to the western end of the National Mall to quietly visit some friends he has not seen for over 30 years.

He will not wear his Army uniform that he proudly wears as a command sergeant major because these friends were Marines, as he was, and because he does not wish to rob "Red" Belknap and his other friends of the respect he believes they deserve. It is his way.

He reluctantly wore his uniform to be photographed for this story because he did not want to be the center of attention.

John Leonard Jr., the command sergeant major for the Army National Guard in Washington, D.C., will join thousands of others who will pay their Memorial Day tributes to the people who died or were declared missing a lifetime ago in Southeast Asia and whose names have been cut into The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Even though he has visited those friends many times before, he will again wonder why their names are on that black granite wall and why his is not. That, too, is his way. It is the same for many veterans who visit and weep at The Wall.

"I was never any better a Marine

than they were. I have often wondered why I was spared and why they were not," reflected the man from coastal Maine on a glorious Thursday in early April when the cherry blossoms were in full pink bloom in Washington, D.C.

Leonard certainly came close. He has two Purple Hearts, and he carries a small piece of mortar shrapnel in his thigh from his 14 months in Vietnam — May 1966 to July 1967 — when he was 19 and then 20. He was a corporal and a crew chief on a Sikorsky UH-34 helicopter, call sign Yankee Romeo 4, in HMM 161.

The HMM stands for Helicopter Marine Medium. It defines that squadron's mission of re-supplying grunts on the ground, carrying others into combat, and flying the wounded and the dead to more peaceful places. It was the only Marine aviation squadron north of Da Nang at that time, Leonard explained.

"It was a dangerous business during

a dangerous time," said Leonard of 1966 and '67 that, according to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial's web site, yielded 17,297 American service members to The Wall.

He knows where to find his friends. Cpl. Ronald Lee Belknap, panel 9E, line 110; Pvt. Arthur Willie Greene, panel 14E, line 56; Cpl. Charlie Lee Burney, panel 22E, line 60.

They were young enlisted men who grew old beyond their years in combat, like Leonard, and who died while they were in the flower of their youth.

That is the sad truth of The Wall. Of its 58,209 names, 32,710 belong to kids who were E-3s and E-4s. Another 1,205 were junior warrant officers. Another 4,220 were lieutenants and captains. The Wall belongs to the young.

Leonard also knows how some of those young men died during the war that has come to define his military career and his generation.

• "Red" Belknap perished after a

single enemy machine-gun bullet hit him in the head on Aug. 8, 1966. He was 22.

• Charlie Burney died after his helicopter landed for refueling and caught fire on June 25, 1967. He was 19.

• Arthur Greene perished with four others when his helicopter was hit in midair by a friendly artillery round on Jan. 20, 1967. He was 24.

Those and many more stories about the ecstasies and agonies of combat have been recounted in Marion Sturkey's book "Bonnie-Sue: A Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron in Vietnam" (Heritage Press International, 1996).

They are burned into John Leonard's memory.

So is the fate of another name on The Wall.

Navy Engineman 2nd Class Joseph Musetti Jr. has been listed as missing in action, and presumed dead, since Sept. 28, 1967, when his river patrol boat came under attack. He came from

**PAYING RESPECTS** — CSM John Leonard searches for the names of fallen Marine comrades he served with in Vietnam. Leonard (inset) as a 20-year-old Marine Corps corporal and helicopter crew chief north of Da Nang.

Hall Quarry, Maine, near Leonard's home of Southwest Harbor on Mount Desert Island. Leonard carries Musetti's MIA bracelet to this day.

Belknap, however, strikes the most despondent chord.

"Pinocchio was his game. He would play for hours," Leonard recalled.

"And he talked a lot about his wife and his two stepchildren back in Tennessee. He was soft-spoken, and everybody knew him because he worked in maintenance."

"There was always sadness when someone died. But there was a great deal of sadness when Red died. He would have gone home in another week."

There are aspects of that and every war that do not make sense.

"The ones who stick out are the ones who didn't have to be where they were when they were killed," said Leonard of the clerks and maintenance people who volunteered to fly combat missions because they were, foremost, Marines.

Red Belknap did not have to be flying in that helicopter.

Since returning from Vietnam, John Leonard Jr. has earned a business degree from Husson College in Bangor, Maine; raised two daughters with his wife Sharon; gone to war again, in the Persian Gulf, with the Maine Army Guard's 286th Supply and Service Battalion; and become Maine's state command sergeant major.

He moved to Washington as the Army National Guard's top enlisted man in January 1997.

He has never publicly questioned this country's policies pertaining to Vietnam.

But sometime around the fifth Monday in May, when America will observe Memorial Day with barbecues and with speeches about those who have paid the supreme sacrifice, John Leonard Jr. will spend a few minutes at The Wall remembering his friends. He will wonder why he has been allowed to live for 52 productive years while they were not.

Why? It is his way.



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton





## SPORTS

• Team Miller, Carey and Dehoff catapult Hoosiers

# Indiana marathoners run down title

**Distance Darlings:**  
*Vandervlugt, Wild claim*  
*men's, women's crown*

By SSgt. Rick Breitenfeldt  
Nebraska National Guard

**D**on't tell anybody, but Sgt. Kelly Wild doesn't consider herself a marathon runner.

For those who watched her in action at the 16th Annual National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials in Lincoln, Neb., May 2, however, she may be mistaken.

"I'm not really a marathoner, I just fake it," said Wild, a 34-year-old training sergeant with the Florida National Guard shortly after claiming the title as the Guard's fastest women over 26.2 miles for the fifth straight year.

"I've faked it really well a couple of times," said Wild.

Her 3:14:57 finish, slightly faster than last year's, easily allowed her to best Rhode Island's Laura Wells by more than five minutes.

According to Wild, she always has a goal to finish strong and help the National Guard whenever she runs a marathon.

"I come here to get first in the National Guard and represent the National Guard the best I can. Whether it takes a three-hour marathon or a 3:20, that's what I'm going to do," said Wild.

Like Wild, Oregon Sgt. Tim Vandervlugt was this year's top Guard finisher once again, finishing the race in just 2:32:32. The Lincoln event attracted a total of 280 National Guard runners and a record 2,573 competitors overall.

Vandervlugt, a 34-year-old infantry soldier in the Oregon Army Guard, said he came to Lincoln confident in the way he had trained for the race.

"I put in a lot more mileage this year and started training a lot further out," said Vandervlugt who finished his seventh



Photos by SSgt. Rick Breitenfeldt



**ALL-GUARD** -- Florida Army Guard Sgt. Kelly Wild (left) eyes another first place finish at the 16th Annual National Guard Bureau Marathon in Lincoln, Neb. For the fifth time, she was the Guard's fastest woman marathoner. Masters champ (above) SSgt. Bill Kaemmer finishes strong.

Master's title, finishing in 2:42:15. Kaemmer, a 40-year-old teacher with the Des Moines school system, finished 15th overall.

The defending team champions from Indiana blew away their closest competitors from Wisconsin by more than 17 minutes.

With a combined time of 8:11:06, Hoosier team members Capt. Whitney Miller, Spc. Curt Carey, SSgt. Trent Sinnott and Pfc. Doug Dehoff say they know what it takes to win.

"The key is Curt Carey and just having a strong one-two punch. That's going to help any team when you have two people finish in the top ten overall," Miller said.

The youngest member of the team, Dehoff -- a 19-year-old college freshman who was running his first marathon -- said he knew how to keep things in perspective.

"I was just here to have fun, and I did," said Dehoff.

According to 1st Sgt. Diane Shottenkirk, National Guard Marathon coordinator, the top 60 runners from the men's open, men's masters and women's categories will comprise this year's All-Guard marathon team.

The team promotes physical fitness in the Guard by running in the Air Force Marathon in Ohio, the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., and the Navy's Blue Angels Marathon in Florida.

## GONE the DISTANCE

### MEN's OPEN

Tim Vandervlugt, Ore.	2:32:32
Ross Shales, La.	2:36:46
Whitney Miller, Ind.	2:37:19
Curt Carey, Ind.	2:37:40
Robert Schnell, Wis.	2:37:52
Curt Rogers, Kan.	2:39:30
Jose Perez, P.R.	2:41:38
Derek Wright, N.Y.	2:43:58
James Wilbanks, S.C.	2:48:05
Arcides Colon, P.R.	2:49:49

### MEN's MASTERS (Over 40)

Bill Kaemmer, Iowa	2:42:15
Randy Pochel, S.C.	2:44:46
Victor Cuevas, P.R.	2:47:45
Mike Zeigle, Wis.	2:50:09
Ray Workman, Utah	2:50:19
Kevin Guinee, Mass.	2:50:56
Luis Diaz, P.R.	2:51:31
Jabby Young, Mt.	2:51:56
Paul Brand, N.C.	2:55:07
Michael Smith, Pa.	2:55:31

### WOMEN

Kelly Wild, Fla.	3:14:57
Laura Wells, R.I.	3:20:08
Holly Scott, Del.	3:27:37
Karin Kasupski, Ver.	3:31:32
Deanne Trauba, Utah	3:33:09
Susan Hart, Mass.	3:40:01
Barbara Gossage, Neb.	3:41:41
Suzanne Shields, Ga.	3:43:10
Holly Payne, Tenn.	3:43:39
Alice Belanger, N.H.	3:47:07

Lincoln marathon just two minutes behind the overall winner.

"I wanted to get a quick start today, but I got through the halfway point slower than I wanted to," said Vandervlugt.

Overcast skies, cool temperatures and periodic rain made running this year's race perfect for some and a little tough for others.

"I got a little cold," said Vandervlugt,

"but not cold enough that it was a problem."

Runners from more tropical areas such as Florida and Puerto Rico had different opinions.

"I wasn't very happy with it, but what could I expect," said Wild, a Niceville, Fla., native. "My hands were so cold that I couldn't grab the water cup."

SSgt. Bill Kaemmer captured the



## INSIDE THE ACTIVATION

NATO allies  
back Call-up

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Engineering may be in his heart, but Kosovo was very much on Dr. Eugeniusz Roguski's mind in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 28th, the third day of a National Guard workshop focusing on floods.

It was the day after President William Clinton approved Defense Secretary William Cohen's request to call to active duty 33,102 members of the National Guard and other reserve forces to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's air operations over Kosovo.

"Personally, I'm very happy that decision has been made," said Roguski, deputy chief of civil defense for Poland. His country was admitted to the 50-year-old NATO alliance this year along with the Czech Republic and Hungary.

"Without the United States' resources, I'm afraid that operation will not be very successful," Roguski added.

Cabinet-level civil protection officials from NATO's two other new members, who also attended the workshop, said they and their countries support Clinton's reserve call-up for the campaign against Yugoslavia's military force.

The first wave of 2,116 Air Force reservists include 1,245 people and 32 tankers from four Air National Guard air refueling wings in Arizona, Pennsylvania, Alabama and Wisconsin.

"If NATO felt it needed the call-up of these reservists, Hungary acknowledges and accepts

this," said Col. Peter Varga, deputy commander of that country's Ministry of Interior. "This is part of the obligation that all of the countries have made to everyone."

The fact that it is located just to the north of Yugoslavia puts Hungary in a unique position, Varga pointed out, because an estimated 200,000 Hungarian people live in northern Yugoslavia.

"The air campaign is going on immediately adjacent to our country," he said, "and we view with great concern the fact that Hungarian people live beyond our borders. We would like to see the conflict resolved as quickly and as peacefully as possible."

Poland, Roguski explained, is prepared to accept at least 1,000 refugees for a limited period and is sending food, blankets and medical supplies to Albania and Macedonia for humanitarian relief. Two special infantry units are also prepared to deploy if NATO needs them, he added.



Photo by SMSgt. Larry Wilson  
**CHIEF CONCERNS** -- Lt. Gen. Russell Davis (left), National Guard Bureau chief, greets NATO delegates in Cincinnati.

The Czech Republic has recently agreed to contribute the tents, toilets, field kitchens and other equipment needed to set up a camp in Albania for at least 1,000 refugees, explained Maj. Gen. Alois Schulz, commander of civil protection.

"Our role is to protect people from suffering from war and from non-manmade disasters," said Schulz. "The role of this part of our national security is to decrease the level of suffering on the part of the Kosovar people."

Calling up more than 33,000 National Guard and other reserve troops in the hopes of bringing the conflict to a quick conclusion, he indicated, is another effort by the United States to end the suffering.

the Pentagon announced.

The additional tankers are vital, Defense officials explained, because the Air Guard and Air Force Reserve have 55 percent of the Air Force's air refueling capability. They are being based in Budapest, Hungary, and at other bases in Europe.

Shots. Chemical warfare training. Weapons qualification. Computers. Regulations. A mishap investigation kit. Those were items on a long laundry list of things to do and to pack before his people left Pittsburgh, Hamer explained.

It's not as if the klaxons were sounding and people in flight suits were racing to start the airplanes. Still, there was a sense of urgency because the wing did not have a lot of time to pack up and leave.

"It's not like we have two weeks to prepare," said Hamer.

"I'm concerned about the mental attitude of the people who are leaving their families and that they have their affairs taken care of," he explained. "I'm confident that they're well trained. We just have to get them through this initial stage of deployment. Then they'll be fine."

"Somehow, the war in Kosovo seems a little more real now in Pennsylvania," observed Gov. Tom Ridge while asking Keystone Staters to rally around their Air Guard men and women and families.

"They are true citizen-soldiers who -- at a moment's notice -- must now leave their families behind," Ridge said. "We wish them well and pray for their safe return home."



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**FUELER FORCE** -- Pennsylvania Air Guard SMSgt. Terry Goehner, a 171st Air Refueling Wing crew chief, checks out one of his unit's KC-135s prior to takeoff.

## CALL UP

FROM PAGE 1

Ross Hamer is getting his shot after sitting out the Gulf War in Pittsburgh because his A-7 jet attack unit, the Air Guard's 112th Tactical Fighter Wing, was not called up. Meanwhile, his friends in the tankers from the 171st flew 556 combat missions and offloaded 4.6 million gallons of fuel. They completed all of their assigned missions.

The A-7s have since been replaced by more tankers. Now, with 21 airplanes, the 171st commanded by Brig. Gen. William Boardley is one of three super-tanker wings in the Air Guard.

It is sending the most people and largest group of planes from any reserve unit into action.

"This is a real vote of confidence in this wing," said Boardley who has commanded the wing since July 1995. "We've been called to support every major conflict since our inception 50 years ago. This is no different. It's business as usual."

The Arizona wing is contributing 284 people and six tankers to the cause. The 117th Air Refueling Wing from Birmingham, Ala., and the 128th from Milwaukee, Wis., is each sending six planes and between 200 and 300 people.

The stakes are high because Clinton and other NATO leaders remain resolved to win the

conflict with air power; without sending a ground force into Yugoslavia. The fleet of 600 fighters and support aircraft is being reinforced with 300 more, including 10 U.S. B-52 bombers that have been ordered to England,



**ZEROED IN** -- MSgt. Ray Richards (foreground) and other members of the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 171st ARW get familiar with their weapons before deploying.



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

**Indiana CMSgt. Ricardo Randle** and Minnesota SMSgt. David Himmer were recently selected the Air National Guard's Human Resources Airmen of the Year for their efforts in helping diversify the force.

Randle, assigned to the Hoosier State Air Guard's Headquarters, was recognized for bringing together a cross section of individuals to draft the state diversity action plan. He also coordinated a multi-state contingent to support the Indiana Black Expo. The Black Expo is the largest event of its kind with more than 1,000 consumer exhibitors and 500,000 attendees.

Randle is credited with developing a survey questionnaire that ranged from determining the best ways to recruit minorities to ways the Guard can help improve relationships with the minority community. The survey results serve as a baseline to improve Indiana's outreach efforts in minority communities.

Himmer, a member of the 133rd Airlift Wing, established a working relationship with an inner city outreach organization reaching over 1,500 youth from different cultural groups. Himmer also met with Gen. Pao and Laotian community leaders and established a good working relationship with the Laotian community and a recruiting office in their community center. He accomplished the same benefits in the city's Somali community.

**TSgt. Gary Reny**, a member of the Massachusetts Air Guard 102nd Fighter Wing's intelligence office, was recently named the Outstanding Reserve Duty Intelligence NCO of the Year for both the Air Combat Command (ACC) and the Air Force.

Reny was recognized for developing a computer program his office used with success during the unit's most recent Organization Readiness Inspection (ORI). The program improved the way pertinent information was directed and displayed.

According to Reny, his "Commander Intel Display" idea was hatched when he was trying to figure how to best gather and direct information. His program allows updated information to be projected on the wall. The same information can be moved to the pilots via computers.

His idea was benchmarked by the ACC and sent to several other units for use within their intelligence sections. Some 30 units from across the country have requested a copy of the program.

"Without the computers, we could not have done what we did," Reny said. "They allowed us to display updated information quicker."

Reny has been in the intelligence business since he joined the military in 1986. As a member of the active Air Force, he served with the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. He was also stationed in Japan with the 5th Tactical Intelligence Squadron at Yokota Air Base.

He has been a member of the 102nd's intelligence office since 1994.

Reny resides in Marlboro with his wife, Dee. He works as an industrial engineer for Intel Company in Hudson.



TSgt. Gary Reny is honored for his intelligence.



MSgt. Faye Jones is a "Woman of Distinction."



MSgt. Barbara Lederman knows something about good drinking water.

**MSgt. Faye Jones** of the District of Columbia Air Guard's 201st Airlift Squadron was recently honored as one of the nine "Women of Distinction and Community Leaders Award Recipients" by the Air Force Association, Thomas W. Anthony Chapter.

Each year, the organization recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding women in the National Capitol region, both civilian and military.

Jones was recognized for her efforts in raising \$100,000 for the Hospital for Sick Children, and her participation in her unit's Adopt-a-School and So Others May Eat (SOME) programs. She was the Air Force's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year in 1998.

**The Ohio Air Guard's 180th Fighter Wing** won three Air National Guard environmental awards recently for its efforts in recycling and bioenvironmental engineering.

One of the two recycling awards the wing earned was due in large part to the success of its base's recycling center, said Maj. Bill Antoszewski, 180th bioenvironmental engineering officer-in-charge. The center earned \$25,000 last year from recycled paper and scrap metal.

The wing's recycling committee — Antoszewski, Tonja Landios, SMSgt. Mark Chovanec, MSgt. Ray Cousino and TSgt. Jeff Duvendack — won the Air Guard's recycling award for team excellence.

MSgt. Barbara Lederman also won the ANG's bioenvironmental engineer technician award for her efforts in having the drinking water on base voted as the best in Toledo.

**Medical professionals with the Alaska Air Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing** provided care for the medically underserved village of Egegik, about 40 miles from King Salmon, as part of the Arctic Care program.

The 168th team — Lt. Col. Kathryn May, Maj. Susan Darnell, Capt. Teresa Pulsifer, MSgt. Donna Hardy, TSgt. Donald Richey, SSgt. Cathleen Petti and SrA. Barbara Campbell — provided medical, dental and optometry exams for 166 people.

**MSgt. Bob Haskell**, the senior correspondent for *The On Guard*, was among a select list of National Guard public affairs practitioners who received a DoD Thomas Jefferson (TJ) Award for journalism this year.

The Jefferson award is the military's equivalent to a Pulitzer Prize.

Haskell, who finished first in the Feature Writing category, was joined by fellow National Guard Bureau public affairs staffer, Dr. Charles J. Gross, as a TJ winner. Gross, the Air Guard's historian, won for his publication, *Adapting the Force*, in the Special Achievement in Print category.

Texas National Guard's Spc. Aaron Reed finished second for News Articles, while Nebraska Air Guard 2nd Lt. Kevin Hynes was selected as the DoD's second best commentary writer.



South Carolina engineers  
lead ambitious Congaree  
road, welcome center project

# SWAMPed

By SSgt. Shannon Scherer  
South Carolina National Guard

For many, a swamp is a dark, muddy, unsafe parcel of land that snakes and insects call home. For several Air Guard engineers it's also a place to preserve a national treasure.

Members of the the Palmetto State's 169th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) were joined by civil engineers from three states (113th CES, D.C., 180th CES, Ohio, and 124th CES, Idaho) to build a road and welcome center at the Congaree Swamp National Monument. The 200th and 201st RED HORSE Squadrons from Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively, also pitched in.

Unlike a stereotypical Hollywood version of a swamp, Congaree Swamp is a tourist attraction that boasts some of the oldest living trees in the United States.

Martha Bogle, Congaree Swamp superintendent, has worked with the Department of Interior since her arrival in 1995 to find funds that would replace the sorely insufficient dirt road that led into the park.

"We turned away schools because our dirt roads could not handle the bus traffic," she recalled.

In 1997, thinking she had exhausted every possible resource to obtain the money necessary to make the improvements, Bogle got some helpful advice from one her staffers, Lewis Prettyman. Prettyman, a sergeant first class with the Army Guard's 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry, suggested calling the National Guard.

Before Bogle knew it, a partnership between the South Carolina National Guard, the River Alliance (a community based awareness group), Richland County and the National Park Service was created.

Army Guardmembers with the state's 122nd Engineer Battalion offered to clear the area and begin the gravel road, while 169th civil engineers agreed to host the project and pave the road.

CMSgt. Richard Stroble, 169th CES



Photos by SSgt. Shannon Scherer



**PALMETTO PAVERS** — SSgt. Eddie Bowan Jr. (top photo) roughs in electrical outlets. TSgt. Bruce Thompson (left) saws joints into a concrete floor. Capt. Tim Dotson (above) discusses the project with Superintendent Martha Bogle.

August 1998. The 200th and 201st RED HORSE Squadrons worked with Palmetto State Army and Air Guard engineers to clear nearly 1.3 miles of forest, build road elevations and pave a two-lane road that winds through the scenic Congaree Swamp.

Last month, 30 engineers from the 169th started the laborious task of constructing a 10,000-square-foot education, administration and welcome center.

Despite logging 12-14 hour days, many insist the training is some of the most rewarding they have experienced.

"This has been a great annual training for people who don't do this for a living,"

said Doug Truax, electrical shop supervisor.

Capt. Mike Dotson, 169th CES project officer, said the swamp project is more than just your run-of-mill mission.

"Here in the swamp we're not just fixing things, we're building them from the ground up," he said.

In just two weeks, the 169th was able to raise and compact the soil and pour a solid foundation. They also ran the electrical circuits for the building's computers and telephones before turning the framing of the building over to the District of Columbia's 113th CES.

Two more units from Ohio and Idaho will join the construction phase before the 169th returns for the year's final rotation this summer.

Bogle expects the new road and center will be used by nearly 100,000 people annually. She credits the Guard for its efforts in making the swamp accessible to more people.

"Successful parks need successful partners," she said. "The National Guard is a great partner."

*Editor's note: The Congaree Swamp became a national monument — a landmark, structure or other object of historic or scientific interest designated by the President or Congress — in 1976. The swamp is both historic and of scientific interest, being the only place in the nation to have 11,000-acres of old-growth flood-plain forest.*

manager, related that other Air Guard engineering units signed on after word of the project reached National Guard Bureau ears.

"It started out small and blossomed into the project it is now," he said.

With Richland County and the National Park Service supplying the materials, the National Guard began work in





## STATES

• Back from Bosnia • Honduras Helpers • On the Road Again

## KENTUCKY

The final contingent of Bluegrass State Air Guardmembers from Louisville's 123rd Airlift Wing left Germany recently, completing the unit's latest round of airlift missions in support of the Bosnia peacekeeping effort.

More than 350 Kentucky air crew, maintainers and support personnel deployed for month-long exercise, called Operation Joint Forge. They were joined by about 200 citizen-airmen and women from Ohio's 179th Airlift Wing. Both units brought its own C-130s.

Those eight aircraft flew nearly 500 sorties during the deployment, delivering 3,500 passengers and more than 1,000 tons of cargo to sites across Europe and inside Bosnia, including Sarajevo and Tuzla.

The two units also were tasked with helping stockpile equipment for Operation Allied Force, the ongoing NATO air campaign against Serbian forces.

Working around the clock with the Ramstein AB Germany-based 37th Airlift Squadron, the Air Guard crews flew more than 70 tons of fighter support equipment from U.S. bases in England and Germany to bases in Italy.

"Once again, our folks have shown what can be done when we all work together," said Col. Michael Harden, 123rd commander.

## MINNESOTA

## ARCTIC WARRIORS

Two soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery watch as a NATO observer helicopter passes over them during a recent cold weather training exercise in Norway, north of the Arctic circle. Nearly 210 Guardmembers with the battalion's Battery B from Jackson and Battery C from St. James deployed with its M-109 self-propelled howitzers for 21 days.



Photo by SSgt. Ed Holt

## KANSAS

Maj. Steve Higley and MSgt. Ken Lindquist, members of the Sunflower State's 127th Weather Flight based at Forbes Field, recently returned from separate deployments to Kuwait supporting Operation Northern Watch.

Higley, a staff weather officer, provided weather intelligence for 60 days as part of the joint-force 9th Air Expeditionary Group based at Camp Doha.

Lindquist, a forecaster, spent six months providing daily forecasts crucial to protecting resources and planning flights over the Iraqi no-fly zone.

"The National Guard is no longer second string," he insisted. "We are viable to the total force effort."

## NEW MEXICO

Members of the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron returned from a deployment to Honduras, helping that country back to its feet after Hurricane Mitch's devastating blow last October.

The 30-member team was part of a mission to prepare a base camp for nearly 2,500 Army Guard and Reserve troops deployed to Honduras to rebuild roads, bridges, schools and clinics.

Civil engineers constructed three field latrines, two shower facilities, a laundry facility and helped build a field kitchen.

## MISSOURI

By Tammy Spicer  
Missouri National Guard

With more than five feet of snow on the ground, it is difficult to imagine summer coming, but that is exactly what is on the minds of people involved in the Joint Task Force Alaskan Road project.

About 80 soldiers from the Show-Me State's 35th Division Support Command (DISCOM) arrived at the base camp at Annette Bay to help get things up and running. The camp was shut down last summer to prepare for the long, cold winter.

"Basically, we had to get everything back up to speed, electricity, water, the kitchen, generators and equipment," reported Maj. Kevin Raynes, 35th DISCOM support operations officer.

This is the third year of work on Annette Island, off the coast of Alaska, to build a 25-kilometer

stretch of road from the village of Metlakatla and a proposed ferry terminal in Annette Bay.

"The Metlakatla Indian community is ecstatic," said Navy Capt. Douglas Barber, Joint Force Engineer Component commander. "They have been trying to accomplish this for more than 50 years."

With a population of nearly 2,000, the village of Metlakatla is located on the southwest part of the island, Ketchikan, with a population of nearly 10,000, is the nearest large city. Currently, Metlakatla residents are required to travel 15 miles over very rough waters to reach Ketchikan. Because of the distance and harsh conditions, there is only one ferry a week.

The road being built to the north side of the island will end in Annette Bay, where the base camp is located. With a new ferry terminal in the calmer waters of Annette Bay, there will be a nor-

mal ferry service with trips several times a day.

Last summer, work on the road actually began, although a bit slower than anticipated.

"It is pretty tough country up there," Barber said. "There were a number of things that slowed us."

Rough terrain and old equipment were some of the hurdles waiting to be overcome by the task force last summer. They managed to clear and begin about 2 miles of road.

Nearly 1,200 National Guard, Reserve and active duty forces traveled to the remote island last summer, with the bulk coming from the Missouri Army Guard.

This year, along with approximately 450 Missouri Guardmembers, units from Utah, Kansas, Guam, Washington, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Hawaii, Massachusetts and California will work on the project.





## HISTORY

• Korea, Berlin Wall, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Hungary, Kosovo

Kosovo campaign marks sixth time the Air Guard has been mobilized

# From KOREA to KOSOVO

Operation Allied Force, the current air campaign over Kosovo, recently prompted a call up of Air Guardsmen. It was just the sixth time since becoming a separate reserve component in 1947 that Air National Guard (ANG) forces have been mobilized.

A brief review of those mobilizations illustrates some of the significant changes that have taken place in the Air Guard since its inception.

The Korean War was the first and, in many ways, the most important Air Guard call-up. As the largest mobilization in the component's history, nearly 45,000 citizen-airmen — 80 percent of the force — entered federal service in 1950 and 1951.

Most of the airmen belonged to fighter and light bomber units. The call-up exposed the weaknesses of all U.S. military reserve programs, including the ANG. Before the war, Air Guard units lacked specific wartime missions. Their equipment, especially aircraft, was obsolete. Once mobilized, they proved to be almost totally unprepared for combat. Although many key Air Guardsmen were used as fillers elsewhere in the Air Force, it took three to six months for some Air Guard units to become combat ready. Some never did. Eventually, the problems were sorted out, but not before the mobilization created a tremendous political uproar.

Six Air Guard fighter squadrons saw combat in Korea while other units contributed to the global U.S. military buildup for the expected war with the Soviet Union. The Air Force dispatched ANG units to Europe to shore up NATO while others reinforced stateside major air commands.

By October 1953, every Air Guard unit had been returned to state service. The Korean War reversed the deteriorating relationship between the Air Force and the ANG, stimulating reforms that helped produce a model reserve program.

The second Air Guard mobilization began on Aug. 30, 1961 when President Kennedy declared a national emergency and ordered 148,000 Guardmembers and Reservists to active duty for not more than one year in response to Soviet construction of the Berlin Wall.

The Air Guard contributed 21,067 people to that effort. Units called-up in October included 18 tactical fighter squadrons, four tactical reconnaissance squadrons, six air transport squadrons and a tactical control group. The flying organizations, however, needed additional personnel, spare parts and training before they were ready to deploy.

In late October and early November, eight of the

tactical fighter units flew to Europe with their 216 aircraft in operation "Stair Step," the largest jet deployment in the Air Guard's history. Because they were not trained and equipped for aerial refueling, they had to island-hop across the Atlantic Ocean.

The United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) lacked spare parts needed to support the ANG's aging fighters. Some of the units had been trained to deliver tactical nuclear weapons, not iron bombs and bullets. They had to be retrained for conventional missions once they arrived on the continent.

The majority of mobilized Air Guardsmen remained in the continental United States. They flew airlift missions and prepared a follow-on force in case the Berlin crisis escalated into war. The Air Force concluded that the Air Guard units sent to USAFE achieved little militarily.

Although they prepared for deployment far more rapidly than they had during the Korean War, Air Guard units still required extensive post-mobilization training and additional equipment. Their obsolescent aircraft were not interoperable with the USAFE's existing aircraft and logistics pipelines. By August 1962, all ANG units had been demobilized.

Largely as a result of the Berlin experience, the Air



## GUARD HISTORY

By Dr. Charles J. Gross  
Air Guard Historian

eight tactical fighter groups, three tactical reconnaissance groups and three wing headquarters elements. The fighter units were rated "combat ready" when called into federal service. Primarily because of equipment shortages, the reconnaissance units took about a month to prepare them for overseas service. The President mobilized an additional 1,333 Air Guardsmen on May 13th. Those units included two tactical fighter groups and a medical evacuation unit.

On May 3, 1968, the first of four Air Guard fighter squadrons began arriving in Vietnam with their F-100s. In addition, 85 percent of the 355th Tactical Fighter Squadron — on paper a regular Air Force unit — were Air Guardsmen. The Air Guard units were quickly inte-

grated into Air Force combat operations and performed well.

In addition, two Air Guard F-100 squadrons were dispatched to Korea in the summer of 1968. Except for the two flying squadrons, the wing consisted of individual Guardsmen and reservists from other units.

Terrible living conditions and the uncertain nature of their mission generated many public complaints by the disgruntled Guardsmen and Reservists. Spare parts also were limited. The wing's readiness rate fell below Air Force minimum's in December 1968. Eventually, the unit met Air Force standards and passed an ORI.

The 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing also experienced a difficult tour of active duty. It had not been rated combat-ready when it was mobilized Jan. 26, primarily due to equipment shortages. Such problems were quickly overcome enabling it to provide photo reconnaissance support in the CONUS, as well as Japan and Korea. All Air Guard units were returned to state control by June 1969.

The Vietnam mobilization demonstrated how well ANG units could perform if they were fully trained and equipped before being called into service.

The next crisis that precipitated an Air Guard mobilization began when Iraq seized its tiny oil-rich neighbor Kuwait in August 1990. Altogether, 12,404 Air Guardmembers entered federal service during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm with 10,456 of them being mobilized.

Initially, Air Guard volunteers had concentrated on airlifting as well as flying air refueling, reconnaissance, tactical airlift and special operations missions. The Persian Gulf crisis was the first time in the Air Guard's history that the majority of people involuntarily recalled to active duty were not members of combat flying units. Most of them were members of support organizations.

Air Guard units were rapidly deployed and quickly integrated into military operations. All ANG units were returned to state control by August 1991.

The last Air Guard mobilization before Kosovo involved peacekeeping in Bosnia. After exhausting volunteer resources, a series of air traffic control and combat communications units were mobilized for 120-day rotations at Tazar, Hungary, beginning June 1996. Additional locations in Bosnia were added later. Over 200 people from at least 8 units served. The mobilization ended March 31, 1999.



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

**GLOBAL FORCE** — Ground crew with the 126th Light Bomb Wing, with squadrons from Chicago, Ill., and St. Joseph, Mo., are briefed about their upcoming deployment to Europe in 1951.

Force decided as a matter of policy that its Guard and Reserve units must be prepared for rapid global deployment after a call-up. This didn't become a reality until the ANG obtained modern equipment, generous funding and more realistic training after the Vietnam War.

The third crisis that produced an Air Guard mobilization began on Jan. 23, 1968 when the North Koreans seized the U.S.S. Pueblo. President Lyndon Johnson ordered a partial mobilization of 14,000 air and naval reservists. While war was averted in Korea, the communists' Tet offensive in South Vietnam a month later stretched American military resources thinner.

The Air Guard mobilized 9,343 people Jan. 25th. Within 36 hours, approximately 95 percent of the Air Guardsmen had reported to their units. Those included





# TRAINING



## Bound for BOSNIA

Lone Star Division gets ready to run peacekeeping mission

By Aaron R. Reed  
Texas National Guard

Eagle Base is still several months and more than 5,000 miles away, but the excitement was palpable as more than 300 members of the Texas Army Guard took one step closer to Bosnia.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Armored Division soldiers, slated to take the lead in the Balkan peacekeeping mission next March, completed a pre-mobilization Soldier Readiness Processing, or SRP, at the Texas Army National Guard's Camp Mabry headquarters recently.

"This has been very successful," said Maj. Michael Cain, the Texas Army National Guard mobilization analyst in charge of the processing. Cain added that the SRP is only the first of many individual tasks soldiers have to complete before deploying.

"The main purpose of this initial screening is to identify non-deployable soldiers and to see what areas we need to work on," he said. "It's an ongoing process."

The stations set up around the cavernous drill hall should be familiar to any soldier who has deployed overseas in recent years: records, medical, finance, family support ... a seemingly endless list of stops involving dozens of pieces of paper. But instead of the long lines many soldiers said they expected, the wait at each station was relatively brief.

A computerized database system, the Mobilization Level Application Software, (MOBLAS) helped speed things along. Developed in 1995, the program has been used at Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

And though version 3.1 of the software currently is being fielded to 27 power-projection and power-support platforms Army-wide, the weekend marked the first time it has been used to help mobilize a National Guard unit.

"MOBLAS provides us with the ability to store the information in a database for future reference," said Jim Winklesky, a Forces Command data analyst.

"From the database, we can break out all kinds of reports," he said. "I can ask it, for instance, how many people don't have SGLV 93s, or how many people are not

fully-qualified for deployment ... It will tell me, by soldier."

Winklesky said that one standard for SRP is 50 soldiers processed each hour. "With MOBLAS, Fort Stewart mobilized 5,000 soldiers over three days," he said. "That's a huge cost-savings in soldiers' time."

The automated system also reduces the possibility of human error.

"Visualize this," Winklesky said, giving an example. "Say you have 15 shots you have to analyze for a soldier ... a clerk has to sit down and apply a three-year criteria to this shot, and a five-year criteria to that shot; this system will automatically flag any expired immunizations."

By updating soldiers' information across all of the reports each time new data is entered, the MOBLAS system also will allow the 49th Armored Division soldiers to efficiently transport and check their records when they undergo another full-blown processing this summer.

"We're doing this to III Corps standards, so when we get to Fort Hood and do this for real in June, we'll be pretty squared-away," said SFC Richard Rodriguez, in charge of mobilization operations. "After this weekend, we'll have a pretty good handle on what we need to work on."

Spec. William Wilha, an M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle hull mechanic from the 3rd Battalion, 112th Armor, is slated to work in the division's operations section in Bosnia. In the civilian world he's the foreman of his father's 32,000-acre West Texas ranch.

"I've never had to work inside my entire life, so that's going to take some getting used to. But they need help in Bosnia, and I'm glad to go over there and give them a hand," he said.

Wilha said he was pleased with how smoothly the preparation for mobilization had progressed.

"This has been a lot better than some of the stuff I've done in the Army," he said, smiling. "For once, they had all my records."

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer announced last September that HHC, 49th Armored Division, will take over command and control of NATO's Multinational Division-North in Tuzla in February 2000.

The Texas Army National Guard headquarters unit will be joined by Fort Carson's active duty 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. With the mobilization of several Texas Army National Guard support units still awaiting Department of the Army approval, the total number of Texas citizen-soldiers deploying to Bosnia is expected reach 850. They follow more than 350 Lone Star Guardmembers from 13 units who have deployed in support of the peacekeeping mission since mid-1996.



**READY STANCE** -- Pvt. Samuel Stout (left) stands proudly with his unit's guidon during a recent formation. Sgt. Veda Campbell (top photo) ensures a soldiers' records are updated.