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THE ON GUARD

Volume XXVIII, No. 9

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

June 1999

Guard lends Kosovo refugees a hand

■ 'Garden' Variety Help: Jersey troops give Operation Provide Refugee boost

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Department of Health and Human Services:

■ They trucked clothing, shoes, books, toys and toiletries from 21 county collection points across their state to Fort Dix where some 4,000 Albanian people were given refuge at Fort Dix.

■ They sorted and bundled the new and used items at two warehouses.

■ They distributed the stuff to 11 "country stores" set up in two villages of brick barracks where the refugees were housed after being flown into nearby McGuire Air Force Base.

■ They staffed those stores where the refugees could take whatever they needed

John McClure figured he had seen every side of military service during the 35 years he has worn the Army's uniforms. Then the refugees from Kosovo began streaming to Fort Dix in central New Jersey in early May.

That's when the infantry-seasoned sergeant major in the New Jersey Army National Guard embraced the mission that melted his heart. That's when he saw first-hand just how far the American people, including National Guard folk, will go to help proud people who have been driven from their homes and deprived of their dignity.

"The outpouring of the American people has given me a new outlook on life," said McClure on June's first Friday. "It feels so good to be helping people instead of training to blow them away," added the full-time Postal Service manager who ordinarily avoids the limelight as the New Jersey Army Guard's senior noncommissioned intelligence officer."

Here's what a few hundred Garden State Guardmembers directed by Col. William Marshall did during May and well into June to support Operation Provide Refuge spearheaded by the U.S.



Photo by SSgt. Mark Olsen

HELPING HAND — New Jersey Army Guard Spc. Delmond Simpson hands a box of clothing to a Kosovar helper.

to get back on their feet.

The first month's tally was 1,200 tons -- 2.4 million pounds -- of water, teddy bears, toothbrushes, baby strollers and other things that private citizens and corporations freely gave to help welcome the refugees to America.

Guard soldiers also loaded trailertrucks of goods for the Salvation Army and unloaded and stored pallets of water and soft drinks for the Red Cross.

■ See REFUGEES, Page 13



Photo by SFC Daniel J. Fortin

BORDER BUFFER

Maine Army Guard troops with Company C, 133rd Engineer Battalion recently deployed to the U.S./Mexico border in San Diego, Calif., to assemble a 147-mile steel fence. The fence is expected to curtail drug and immigration problems there.



COMMENTARY

• Just Call them WeekDay Warriors

ABOUT the PAPER

The *On Guard* is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 by the Command Information Branch of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The 50,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

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Submission Requirements:

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

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Continually Re-Serving

By Charles L. Cragin
Acting Assistant Secretary of
Defense for Reserve Affairs

President Clinton recently authorized 33,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve to active duty in support of NATO operations in and around the former Yugoslavia.

Nearly 6,000 have already been called to duty. The decision to order our reserve forces into battle sends an unmistakable message about our national determination to achieve our military and political objectives in the Balkans.

The call-up of those forces also sends another message, one more operational than political in its meaning. The 1.4 million men and women who serve in our Reserve components represent one-half of our nation's total military might, and they are an integral and vital part of today's Total Force.

This has not always been the case, as evidenced by the terminology used to describe reservists during the Cold War, as "weekend warriors."

During the Cold War, when the term was arguably more suitable, our forces were easily identified as being either active or reserve. Around the world and around the clock, the active forces were the ones we relied on to get the job done. Meanwhile, our reserve forces were simply that: they waited in reserve, ready for recall to active duty.

In many respects we had redundant capabilities in the reserves -- they were often the mirror image of the active force, only less ready and less well

funded. The idea was that we could get them ready -- if they were ever needed -- with enough time to spare, and get them into battle to reinforce the active troops that were engaged in fighting a war. As such, our reserves were essentially manpower

replacements. They trained one week-end a month and two weeks each summer -- they could, in fact, have been aptly described as "weekend warriors."

But times have changed dramatically since the Cold War ended.

Today reservists are standing tall around the globe, defending our interests in an uncertain world. In Bosnia, over 20,000 men and women of the National Guard and Reserve have helped bring peace to a divided and devastated land. In Central America, thousands are helping our southern neighbors recover from the awful aftermath of two destructive hurricanes, drilling wells and building roads, bridges, schools and clinics. In Southwest Asia, they are helping enforce the no-fly zones over Iraq.

In the post-Cold War era, we have come to rely heavily on our National Guard and Reserve, not just as reserve forces in waiting, but as critical contributors to the Total Force effort.

Although we can use the same word, there should now be a different emphasis on the syllables -- a different emphasis to reflect a different type of force, a force comprised of people who

"Re-Serve" on a continual basis.

Last year, those who "re-served" contributed over 13 million duty days to active component missions and exercises, which is the equivalent of adding nearly 35,000 people to the active force, or two Army divisions.

Kosovo is the fifth presidential call-up of reserves since the Cold War ended. President Clinton authorized a reserve call-up in 1994 for humanitarian operations in Haiti; in 1995 for peacekeeping operations in Bosnia; and in 1998 for the enforcement of no-fly zones over Iraq. President George Bush invoked a similar authority in August 1990 for the Gulf War.

We cannot undertake sustained operations anywhere in the world without the National Guard and Reserve. Every day reservists serve extended tours away from their homes, families and jobs. We should all be grateful for the patriotism and support shown by civilian employers and Guard families.

We also should remember that the reliance on reservists has helped dictate the demise of the weekend warrior.

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GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"Assemble the men, Sergeant ... and try not to forget anything!"



IN THE NEWS

• Magnum Moment • Nighthawk to Netherlands • Brigade Birth

Selleck gives at-risk teens star treatment

■ **Former Guardsman: One-time California infantryman pays tribute to ChalleNGe teenagers**

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Tom Selleck has captivated many crowds during the three decades he has portrayed a host of television and movie characters ranging from a macho private investigator in the 1980s series *Magnum, P.I.* to a gay tabloid television reporter in the 1997 film *In & Out*.

But Selleck, a star in this season's movie *The Love Letter*, stood tall as a former member of the National Guard while paying tribute to military people determined to help young people get a grip on their lives during a June 9 visit to the nation's capital for the USO of Metropolitan Washington.

"I am proud to have served our country in the National Guard," the former California Army Guard infantry soldier told 200 people just a few hours after placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Selleck's evening audience included members of Congress, generals, enlisted people and USO officials who have championed educational programs.

"The real heroes are the people we are honoring here tonight," added Selleck during a program that recognized the National Guard's four outstanding Youth ChalleNGe programs for "at-risk" teenagers and a dozen

active duty men and women who have worked with public school students in the Washington-Baltimore region.

The 1999 Volunteer Service to Education Awards Ceremony also gave Selleck the opportunity to comment on how the National Guard has become more involved in community programs since he served as a machine gunner and noncommissioned officer in the "Glendale-Burbank Rifles," the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry, from 1967-73. He also trained for riot duty.

"I was in the infantry, and we spent a lot of time in the field. We would put on an occasional community event, but nothing of a sustained nature," Selleck recalled during an interview. "The ChalleNGe Program and the Guard's other community programs now have a continuity that make others want to take part."

"If we don't take care of the future of our country, we won't have much of a country," observed Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, who presented Selleck with a Minuteman Award and who helped recognize this year's top four Youth ChalleNGe programs.

And the winners were:

■ Louisiana -- Lt. Gen. Herbert R. Temple Leadership Award.

■ Georgia -- Lt. Gen. LaVern E. Weber Citizenship Award.

■ Mississippi -- Lt. Gen. Emmett H. Walker Academic Award.

■ Virginia -- Best All-Around.

The first three awards are named for former chiefs of the Guard Bureau.

Twenty states have established five-month, residential Youth ChalleNGe programs that focus on unemployed

■ See SELLECK, Page 4



STAR SALUTE -- Virginia ChalleNGe graduate John Stokes is congratulated by former Guardmember Tom Selleck.

Drug interdiction mission moves to Netherlands

By TSgt. David Somdahl
North Dakota National Guard

Operation Coronet Nighthawk has a new home.

The Air Guard counterdrug mission -- formerly based at Panama's Howard Air Base -- has been moved to Hato International Airport on Curacao, one of six islands in the Netherlands Antilles chain. Curacao is in the Caribbean Sea about 40 miles north of Venezuela.

Guard-run First Air Force flying

units typically rotate aircraft, mechanics and pilots for six-week periods to monitor drug traffic using F-16 fighter aircraft.

The recent move was made possible by two groups from the North Dakota Air Guard's 119th Fighter Wing, based in Fargo.

Following a brief closure ceremony at Howard, four "Happy Hooligan" F-16 fighters departed for Curacao on May 1.

"In addition to getting our equipment moved from Howard, we also unpacked and stored numerous cargo

loads for the Nighthawk staff," reported Lt. Col. Terrance Shiers, the 119th detachment commander at Curacao. "The first two weeks we had a lot of help from the Dutch military."

Instead operating from one location, as they did at Howard, U.S. forces will deploy to several locations within the Caribbean. While the primary Nighthawk presence is on Curacao, other agencies will be based in Aruba, another island in the Netherlands Antilles chain, and from Ecuador's Manta AB.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

New TAGs named

Twelve states have selected new adjutants general recently.

They are: Maj. Gen. Willie Alexander, Ala.; Brig. Gen. Philip Oates, Alaska; Brig. Gen. David Rataczak, Ariz.; Retired Brig. Gen. Paul Monroe, Calif.; Brig. Gen. William Cugno, Conn.; Maj. Gen. Francis Vavala, Del.; Brig. Gen. Ron Dardis, Iowa; Col. Gregory Gardner, Kan.; Maj. Gen. John Smith, Ohio; Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, Ore.; Maj. Gen. William Lynch, Pa.; and Brig. Gen. Claude Williams, Va.

Guard brigade activated

A group of nearly 150 members of Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade represented their 4,000 brigade counterparts during the historic activation of the 24th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Riley, Kan.

The 24th is the U.S. Army's first integrated active duty/National Guard division. The 48th Infantry Brigade is one of three National Guard brigades to become part of the new division.

Earlier this year, the Department of the Army announced the designations of two active component/National Guard integrated divisions -- the 24th and the 7th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Carson, Colo.

The 24th Infantry Division was inactivated at Fort Stewart, Ga., in 1996 when the Army reduced to 10 divisions. It will consist of the Army Guard's 30th Infantry Brigade (N.C.), South Carolina's 218th Infantry Brigade and Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade.

The 7th Infantry Division was last organized as a light infantry division and was inactivated at Fort Ord, Calif., in 1994. It will consist of the Oregon Army Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade, Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Brigade and Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade.

Maine's Hessert named to Reserve Forces Policy Board

An Air National Guard general will soon sit as a full-time member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB).

Maj. Gen. Wilfred Hessert, former commander of the Maine Air National Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, will be designated military executive to RFPB Chairman Terry O'Connell July 1.

The board advises the secretary of defense directly on reserve policy matters.

SELLECK

FROM PAGE 3

teenagers who have dropped out of school, but who are looking for a chance to improve their prospects for leading productive lives. Seven more states are starting programs this year.

Directed by Joe Padilla at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, ChalleNGe has been hailed as one of the most successful programs for "at-risk" youth in the United States. It emphasizes citizenship, education, life-coping skills, leadership and followership, and physical training. Specially trained people mentor graduates during the following year.

"If it weren't for this program, me and my fellow cadets would probably be in a lot of trouble," said 17-year-old John Stokes, who graduated June 19 with a general equivalency diploma that he earned from the Virginia program at Virginia Beach.

"I've learned how to keep my mouth shut when I'm told I've done something wrong," Stokes candidly added.

John Covich, who has learned many of the same life-coping skills from the Alaska program, surprised his grandfather, Sen. Ted Stevens, with a special presentation on behalf of that state's ChalleNGe program. The Alaska senator is among the National Guard's strongest advocates in Congress.

"The Volunteer Service to Education Awards Ceremony is so vital because it raises awareness of the many contributions the military makes to area communities," stated Michael Singer, chairman of the board for the USO of Metropolitan Washington, about the program established in 1992.

Having former Guardmember Tom Selleck as a special guest made this year's ceremony that much more significant for those who shook his hand and who posed with him for photographs.

It was a chance for Virginia ChalleNGe cadet Monica Benton to return to her Washington, D.C., home with a new outlook on life.

"If I wasn't in this program, there's no telling where I'd be today," said the young woman who plans to go on to a community college.

"I feel good because I'm part of this ceremony," she added. "I know if I wasn't part of it, I wouldn't have met Tom Selleck."

Civil War foes join forces in Kuwait

... It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced

Gettysburg Address

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Hey, it's been 136 years since Gettysburg. Bury the hatchet. Let bygones be bygones. That was then; this is now. *Fagetaaboutit.*

Some 30 Army National Guard soldiers from Alabama and Maine are not repeating history this summer in the hot sands of Kuwait. They are serving together as aviators and air traffic controllers. They are on the same side. They are doing their bit for Operation Southern Watch. They are getting along famously.

That's the word from Camp Doha and Ali Al Salem Air Base where members of Alabama's 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation are ferrying VIPs and cargo in Blackhawk helicopters and where citizen-soldiers from Maine's Company E, 120th Air Traffic Control Group are telling a steady stream of military aircraft when to land and when to take off.

Both units belong to Task Force 131. Maine 1st Sgt. Stephen Theriault has assumed those duties for the Alabama and Maine soldiers.

"We're like peas and carrots," said Alabama Capt. James Madison Jr.

"We have had no problems working together and getting along with each other on or off duty," added Maine CWO2 Dawnalyn Boggess.

July 2 will mark the 136th anniversary of a dreadful afternoon at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1863 when soldiers from the two states were not nearly so friendly.

They were Civil War foes, and they



Photo courtesy of Maine National Guard

killed and wounded a great many of each other during a vicious fight for a hill called Little Round Top at the left end of the Union line. It was a pivotal moment during the biggest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere.

The 20th Maine Regiment, led by Col. Joshua Chamberlain, held the hill and won the day by ordering his outnumbered men, who had used nearly all of their ammunition, to fix bayonets and charge the attacking Alabama brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Evander Law.

Holding that hill, it has been said, prevented the Confederate troops from gaining the high ground and, perhaps, defeating the Union Army. The Maine men took 400 prisoners but suffered 125 casualties.

Six score and 16 years later, helping the allied coalition keep the southern no-fly zone over Iraq clear of enemy aircraft is the unfinished work that has been nobly advanced by others and that has bonded the Alabama and Maine Guard soldiers together.

That work includes flying generals and

SERVING in the SAND — Maine Army Guard CWO2 Dawnalyn Boggess posed with a Blackhawk in Kuwait.

other visitors to various field sites for the Alabama troops who, according to Madison, would prefer to be on call for the air assault missions. For the Maine troops, it includes directing nearly 1,000 American, British and Kuwaiti aircraft a month from air traffic control towers at the two bases.

It has been a homecoming of sorts for Alabama SSgt. Michael Bing and Maine Sgt. Edward McCullough who pulled Persian Gulf duty during Operation Desert Storm, Boggess reported.

It is not, however, all work. Boating, diving and snorkeling in the gulf as well as trips to camel races have filled off-duty days. And air-conditioned quarters, a movie theater, fitness and recreation centers, and computer learning centers are among their comforts a long way from home.

Their observations in an e-mail message indicate the Alabama and Maine soldiers are far more focused on this year's mission in Kuwait than on a fight that took place a long time ago in Pennsylvania.

"Working and living conditions are actually better than I expected," commented Alabama Sgt. Robert Lindsey. "However, being an air assault unit tasked with VIP missions is somewhat disappointing."

"Working conditions can be a bit rough during the day when the temperatures get really high. Night brings much needed relief from the sun. We have to watch out for the crawlies on the ground that can bite you," stated Maine SSgt. John Merrill. "We do adapt, and our team spirit helps in overcoming adversities."

EQUINE
CALL UP

Sgts. Tom and Terry, South Carolina State Guard Percheron horses were called back into service to carry the casket of slain police officer Ricky Love. The horses, which came off of active duty with the Army's Calsson Platoon at Arlington National Cemetery serve with the Palmetto State Guard during ceremonial events.



Photo by Lt. Col. Frank Whitlock



PEOPLE

• Like Father, Like Son • Twister Assister



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Col. David Wherley
flies aircraft his Golden
Knight son jumps from

AIR aParent

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Like father, like son? Well, sort of.

Air National Guard Col. David Franklin Wherley Jr. and his son, Army Cpl. David Christopher Wherley, are men of the sky.

The father flies airplanes. He's logged more than 5,000 hours in seven types of fighters, trainers and cargo craft. He commands the District of Columbia's 113th Wing at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

The son jumps out of them. A soldier since 1995, he's a new member of the elite Golden Knights, the U.S. Army Parachute Team, that performs sky-diving demonstrations, enhances Army recruiting, and tests new equipment and techniques for airborne soldiers.

The Wherley family enjoyed a brief reunion during May's third weekend because the

WHERLEYs with WINGS
Cpl. David C. Wherley (left) and his dad, Col. David F. Wherley, visit at a recent Andrews AFB airshow.

Golden Knights were among the marquee aerial acts that dazzled a half million during the Armed Forces Day Joint Services Open House at Andrews, the East Coast's largest military air show.

Wherley, 26, is part of the Gold Demonstration Team that performed on Sunday after getting grounded by high winds on Saturday.

"I've always wanted to jump out of airplanes," explained the young man who learned free-fall techniques on his own time while stationed in Italy and who has racked up some 580 jumps, including 400 since joining the Knights last August. He's also an accomplished scuba diver.

"What do you do if your 'chute doesn't open?" and "Why do you jump out of perfectly good airplanes?" are the questions he most frequently answers as one of the newest spokesmen for Army training, benefits and values.

"It's the hardest job I've ever had and the best job I've ever had," added Cpl. Wherley on Saturday.

"Obviously, I'm the proud papa, now that I've gotten over the idea of him jumping out of those perfectly good airplanes," said Col. Wherley.

Countered his son: "We parachutists don't believe there is a perfectly good airplane. That's why we wear parachutes."

INSIDE THE OKLAHOMA TORNADO

'I was polishing my boots while my sergeant was talking to my Mom'

Duty First, Prom Later

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

There were many reasons Mandy Chambers could have been excused from May's National Guard activation in Oklahoma after tornadoes tore into the heart of that state.

She is 17. She is a junior in high school. She hasn't gone to basic training. She would be on duty in Del City, her hometown.

But Chambers did not let any of those excuses stand in the way of her duty as a private first class and five-month member of the Oklahoma Army Guard's 45th Support Detachment in Midwest City.

"I was excited. I wanted to do this. I was polishing my boots while my sergeant was talking to my mom," said Chambers who soon discovered that not all Guard duty is glamorous.

She became part of the security force on May 11; the day after the tornadoes did their deadly damage. She helped keep Del City safe from looters and open to emergency

workers and utility crews. Ray Drive, the street where she lives, escaped the storm's wrath, she explained. Other parts of her neighborhood were wiped out.

Chambers was hardly expecting her baptism of fire so soon after joining the Guard last December to earn the educational benefits she plans to use at Oklahoma State University after she graduates from Del City High School.

She began basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., on June 1.

There was, however, no holding her back. "She's a real go-getter," said SFC Garry Reeves who told Chambers' mom what her daughter would be doing and where she'd be serving as Mandy was brushing her boots.

"I wasn't going to call her. But she volunteered," Reeves added.

But there were high school matters to attend to. Spc. Ryan Severt from her unit escorted Mandy to her school's junior-senior prom in downtown Oklahoma City the Saturday night after the storm. And she resumed classes when her school re-opened on



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

A DATE with DISASTER — Shortly before Oklahoma Army Guard PFC Mandy Chambers (left) and Spc. Ryan Severt attended her Junior Prom, the two helped their neighbors recover from a devastating tornado.

Monday, May 10.

Now she is reconsidering her military future.

"I was thinking about joining the Navy after college," Chambers explained. "After this, I think I'll stay Army. It's pretty awesome."



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking

END of an ERA -- CSM Royal Moulton (left) cases the Exercise Support Command's colors as Col. Angel Rivera rolls the flag.



Photo by MSgt. Steve Collier

Fort Clayton inactivation ceremony recalls 15-years of National Guard involvement

A well-built LEGACY

By SFC Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

Alaying some people's fears that more than 15 years of successful National Guard deployments had completely ceased, the commander for U.S. Army-South in Panama told citizen-soldiers they would continue to be tapped for their expertise in Latin America and the Caribbean even though the U.S. military was pulling out of Panama.

These words of encouragement came during a June 4th inactivation ceremony at a virtually deserted Fort Clayton, Panama, of two of the Army National Guard's two premier units -- the Exercise Support Command and the Theater Equipment and Maintenance Site.

"As I look out over this proud collection of citizen-soldiers, I realize that we will be seeing each other many times -- I repeat: many times again," said Maj. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger, U.S. Army-South commander. "The contributions you and thousands of National Guardsmen like you in this command have made in this part of the world is unprecedented."

"The contributions that you will continue to make will help us shape and preserve a hemisphere of peace, stability and prosperity," he added.

Because of the continuing U.S. mili-

tary base closures in compliance with the coming Panama Canal Treaty deadline on Dec. 31, 1999 and the eventual turn-over of U.S. control of the Panama Canal to the government of Panama, forward-deployed Air and Army Guard units stationed in Panama have been casing their colors while the U.S. military relocates U.S. Army-South headquarters to Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

Besides the Exercise Support Command -- led by Col. Angel Rivera and CSM Royal Moulton -- and the Theater Equipment and Maintenance Site -- led by Lt. Col. Donald Potter and 1st Sgt. Mark Adkins -- inactivations have already preceded other Guard units in Panama like: Theater Support Element, the Alabama Army Guard's 167th Corps Support Command and the Air Guard's Operations Coronet Oak and Coronet Nighthawk.

Although Kensinger acknowledged during the somber inactivation ceremonies that he was saddened to see the National Guard and U.S. military leaving Panama, he noted that citizen-soldiers should be proud of the 15-year legacy it has left in the Western Hemisphere.

Kensinger reflected back on the National Guard's efforts throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, to include deploying tens of thousands of National Guard troops to the area to build roads, schools, medical clinics, fresh-water wells, and providing medical treatment for hundreds of thousands of people. Besides the engineering and medical efforts, Kensinger also acknowledged National Guard military police, infantry training



Photo by MSgt. Steve Collier

LEGACY LEFT -- A group of Illinois Army Guard soldiers (top) with 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry used Panama's Fort Sherman to test their waterborne training. SFC Carl Legore (above, with camera) teamed with Tennessee Army Guard Sgt. Gary Chancey to interview troops deployed to Panama. Legore helped train Guard Public Affairs troops deployed to the region to report on Guard activities.

and exchanges, logistical, supply and maintenance, public affairs, military intelligence, signal, finance and ordnance disposal support.

The general urged Guardmembers to reflect on the friends they had made during countless deployments, particularly their most recent efforts in helping hurricane-ravaged countries in Central America and the Caribbean.

"As your unit prepares to inactivate and prepare yourselves to depart, I want you to pause for a moment and realize the immensity of what you have accomplished here," Kensinger said. "It is here that National Guard soldiers have achieved their finest hour."

While some may consider the Total Force policy a cliché now, Kensinger insisted that Guard troops will continue to be tapped for more "tough jobs," be-

cause of the "success story" they almost single-handedly wrote in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To prove his point, Kensinger noted that only seven countries in the Western Hemisphere were democratically-elected governments when then-Maj. Kensinger first witnessed Guard deployments in 1983 to Latin America. More than 15 years later, and with the Guard leaving Panama, he noted a radically positive change in the region. Now only one country (Cuba) doesn't practice democracy.

"I think the change to democracy in the region has all been done through your efforts," he said.

Despite the glowing words of encouragement, some National Guard citizen-soldiers, many who participated in various military and humanitarian exercises over the years, could not help feeling sad.

That melancholy was compounded when some returning citizen-soldiers witnessed the ghost town-like atmosphere at Fort Clayton's family quarters, the abandoned Theater Equipment and Maintenance Site motor pool at Fort Kobbe and the lifeless flight line at Howard Air Base.

"It is sad that we are having to leave. Panama is such a beautiful country. I have friends here in Panama and with the military. I will miss them," said Puerto Rico Army Guard Spc. Lana Luciano, a logistics specialist at the Exercise Support Command. "It's very sad to have to look back and remember all of the hard work the National Guard has done here, but we have to try to be positive and look



Photo by Spc. George Roache

WELL DONE — Arizona Army Guard Spc. Clay Johnson, a member of the 257th Engineer Detachment, helped dig a well in Honduras last year.

at all of this as just another step."

Others, like North Carolina Army Guard Capt. Gary Robinson, the Exercise Support Command protocol officer, said he and others were in a state of disbelief that almost a century of U.S. military involvement on the isthmian nation was actually coming to an end.

"It still hasn't hit," Robinson said. "It probably won't hit until we're standing on the ground in Puerto Rico."

Others view the departure of the National Guard from Panama as one more positive paragraph that has been written into a thick book documenting hundreds of years of National Guard history.

"The National Guard citizen-soldiers have always done a good job and thanks for a job well done," Rivera said following the casing of the colors. "I think this is the end of a chapter and the start of a new one."

Looking toward the future, military officials at National Guard Bureau said planning new exercises in the expansive Southern Command theater will shift back to individual states, where officers will have to assume more responsibility in the planning process rather than rely so heavily on forward-deployed units.

To ensure leaders and troops get the word about the changes, Army Guard Deputy Director Brig. Gen. Michael Squier, and Col. Clyde Vaughn, a former Exercise Support Command commander and current chief of the Bureau's Operations Division, attended the inactivation.

"I thought we offered something unique. We completed all of our assigned missions successfully and we met all of our deadlines," said Potter, who will leave his Panama commander post to return to the Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

"Sometimes I wonder how we did it," he marvelled, "but we met all of our missions."

Illinois's 233rd Military Police Company returns to Panama to make history -- again

Holding down the FORT

By SFC Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

While they were literally were "holding down" Fort Clayton as U.S. military troops pulled out Panama, members of Illinois Army Guard's 233rd Military Police Company also were making history -- again.

Many of the military police officers with the Springfield-headquartered unit, some of whom have never stepped outside the United States or let alone Illinois, were overwhelmed to learn that they were the last troops in Panama prior to the final turnover of U.S. military installations along the historic Panama Canal.

"I'm very proud that we were chosen to come down here during what is a really historic moment," said 21-year-old Spc. Shauna Cashion. "In a way, it's kind of sad and scary at the same time. I know that I'm lucky to be here, but I know I'll probably never be here again."

Because of the continuing U.S. military base closures in compliance with the coming Panama Canal Treaty deadline on Dec. 31, 1999 and the eventual turnover of U.S. control of the Panama Canal to the government of Panama, the security services provided by the Prairie State MPs are now more important than ever, said U.S. military officials with U.S. Army-South.

Aside from performing gate-guard duty and checking vehicles leaving the installations, Cashion and others deployed to Panama for two-weeks to patrol rapidly emptying U.S. military installations. In the meantime, the citizen-soldiers receive valuable training in an austere and overseas environment.

"I'm glad to be getting this field experience," Cashion added. "We can't get this back in Springfield on our one-weekend-a-month drills."

Spc. Dale Matteson, 19, a criminal justice major at Lakeland Community College in Mattoon, Ill., considered

the 233rd's last deployment to Panama as another badge of honor for the unit.

"I think being here and being one of the first and the last military police units to deploy to Panama just before the turnover has to do with our unit being one of the best units in the state," Matteson noted. "There is a lot of pride in this unit knowing we're the last troops in Panama," after nearly a century of U.S. military presence.

Despite possessing a relatively short military lineage, the 233rd MP Company has been one of the state's most activated and awarded units in recent times.

Formed more than 20 years ago at the Illinois National Guard headquarters in Springfield, the unit has been called out several times over the years for state-active duty following several tornadoes. 233rd police officers also have served in several other historic events including:

- 1980 - Mariela boatlift, Fort McCoy, Wis.
- 1985 - Subic Bay, Philippines.
- 1987 - Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) Exercise, Germany.

■ 1989-90 - Operation Just Cause, Panama.

■ 1990-91 - Persian Gulf War, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait.

■ 1993 - Riot duty for Chicago Bulls basketball finals.

■ 1993 - Midwest floods, Quincy, Ill.

■ 1990-99 - Multiple garrison law enforcement deployments, Panama.

One of the 233rd's long-time leaders, SFC Jim Hobbs credits the unit's success to the Illinois National Guard's ability to attract education-minded young adults. The state

offers enlisting troops a paid-in-full, four-year college tuition scholarship to any state school, among many other educational benefits.

"I think that's one of the things that we've got over the active Army is that we can get people in our unit who are highly educated," Hobbs added.

Despite efforts to research Latin American history, many were surprised by Panama's unique surroundings.

"Just reading about it still doesn't get you ready for coming down here," said Spc. Kurtis Glosser, a business major

at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

"Just when we were walking back to our barracks following our orientation briefing we spotted a sloth in the jungle tree line," he added. "It's really something else down here."

Besides taking in the tropics, other 233rd citizen-soldiers were still busy checking identification cards at fort entrance's and performing numerous day and night time walking patrols due to increased security concerns because of the emptying military bases.

Following a foot patrol on another hot and humid day along a Fort Clayton fence line, Spc. Mark McManaway, said he was trying to savor everything about Panama.

"I'll probably be telling my grandkids later in my life the story about how their grandfather was in Panama when the United States left," McManaway said. "I want to try to remember as much as I can."



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking

PRAIRIE STATE PATROL — Illinois Army Guard Spc. Kurtis Glosser (left), Spc. Dale Matteson, Spc. Mark McManaway and Spc. Shauna Cashion, all members of the 233rd Military Police Company, patrol Fort Clayton's fence line.



Photo by MSgt. John Thomson

SHOWING his STRIPES — Spc. Brady Hulsey (pictured with his mother) is comfortable in uniform for the Louisiana Army Guard and as Disney character Tigger.

Soldier of the Year Spc. Brady Hulsey likes to bounce around Disney World

Working for WALT

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Product manager for a diesel engine company, instructional assistant for a county school district, and life-guard supervisor are ways that some of this year's 10 outstanding Guard soldiers and airmen stay gainfully employed.

And Tigger. We mustn't forget Tigger. That is the whimsical, Winnie-the-Pooh character that Louisiana Army Guard Spc. Brady Hulsey portrays for eight or 10 hours most days at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

"I've always wanted to be in entertainment. I couldn't be [Snow White's] Prince Charming because my face is too round, so I auditioned for Tigger. I was tall enough to fit the suit, and I got the part," said Hulsey, 20, who began charming young and young-at-heart visitors to the Magic Kingdom on April 29.

That was three weeks before he took his bows as one of the Army Guard's top soldiers for 1999 during a banquet at

Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

Shaking hands, signing autographs and prancing around Disney World visitors as the irrepressible, tiger-like cartoon character for 30 minutes at a time has been the most recent break for the fledgling actor. His list of high school, college and Granbury, Texas, professional theater credits range from "Grease" to "Assassins" to "The Sound of Music." He began working at Disney in January.

A Louisiana Guard soldier since February 1996, Hulsey is a mail delivery clerk with the 1083rd Transportation Company in Bossier City. He has been named Louisiana's top Guard soldier for the second straight year. He is also a junior, studying theater and pre-med, at Northwestern State University.

His Guard and Disney jobs reflect his two personalities, said Hulsey who does not hesitate to express himself in both roles.

As an actor, Hulsey strives to give people memorable vacations. "I do it for the kids and their magical moments," he explained. As a citizen-soldier, he is an outspoken advocate for patriotism and for preserving the Guard's traditions.

He is also a prime example of how far Guardmembers will go to serve their states and country. Bossier City lies 20 miles from the east Texas border. That's about 800 miles west of Orlando as the crow flies.

"Our reservists are professionals, and they train hard to do their jobs. They are willing to make the necessary sacrifices," Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs, told the Andrews audience on May 20.

That praise certainly rings true for young Brady Hulsey who, at this point in his young life, is making a long stretch of the Southeast his stage.

Army, Air Guard selects its top soldiers, airmen of the year

BEST of the BEST

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Military traditions and old-fashioned patriotism are important considerations for the National Guard's younger generation, according to the newest members of the nation's top 10 citizen-soldiers and airmen honored in Washington, D.C., during the third week in May.

"We have to maintain the traditions. Everything else needs to be evolutionized," forthright Louisiana Army Guard Spc. Brady Hulsey told Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, the director of the Army National Guard, during a brain-picking session that Tuesday afternoon. Hulsey is 20.

"I accept the fact that as a soldier I am expected to work harder than anybody else. I will do everything not to dishonor my oath," wrote Spc. Godfrey Manera who moved to Hawaii from the Philippines, where he was born, five years ago. Manera is also 20.

Six specialists and non-commissioned officers in the Army Guard and four NCOs in the Air Guard were celebrated as the outstanding soldiers and airmen for 1999 during a busy week of banquets and briefings in the nation's capital.

"You stand out in terms of your leadership ability, your intense commitment to training, and your devotion to duty and to the welfare of your fellow soldiers and airmen," said Charles Cragin, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, during an awards dinner at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

The phrase "weekend warriors" no longer applies to America's Guard and Reserve troops, added Cragin in

PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

SOLID SOLDIERS — SSgt. Junior Smith (left), Spc. Godfrey Manera, SSgt. Michael McGhee, Spc. Kenneth McGill, SSgt. Jeffrey Botsford and Spc. Brady Hulsey.

**Soldier of the Year —
First U.S. Army**

Spc. **KENNETH MCGILL**
■ Medical specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry, Dandalk, Md.
■ Served in Korea and at Fort Drum, N.Y.
■ Joined Maryland Army Guard in February 1998.

**NCO of the Year —
First U.S. Army**

SSgt. **MICHAEL MCGHEE**
■ Squad leader, Company B, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry, Christiansburg, Va.
■ Made an Operation Just Cause combat jump in Panama in December 1989.
■ Participated in Desert Shield and Desert Storm during seven years on active duty.

**Soldier of the Year —
Fifth U.S. Army**

Spc. **BRADY HULSEY**
■ Mail delivery clerk, 1083rd Transportation Company, Bossier City, La.
■ Theater and pre-med student at Northwestern State University.
■ Portrays Tigger at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

**NCO of the Year —
Fifth U.S. Army**

SSgt. **JEFFREY BOTSFORD**
■ Small group leader, 209th Non-commissioned Officers Academy, Camp Ashland, Neb.
■ Has written the current doctrine for Bradley Fighting Vehicle gunnery as well as the primary operating instruction for infantrymen in fighting vehicles.
■ Served 8-1/2 years in the active Army, including duty in Germany and Saudi Arabia.

**Soldier of the Year —
Army Pacific Command**

Spc. **GODFREY MANERA**
■ Petroleum supply specialist, Company C, 193rd Aviation, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
■ Graduated AIT as the distinguished honor graduate.
■ Valedictorian of Class of 1998, Waipahu High School.

**NCO of the Year —
Army Pacific Command**

SSgt. **JUNIOR SMITH**
■ Senior radio operator, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry, Fort Juan Muna, Guam.
■ Served 8-1/2 years in the active Army before joining the Guam Army Guard in 1995.
■ Studying fire science at Guam Community College.

reference to April's presidential call-up for 33,000 reservists to support NATO's Allied Force operation in Yugoslavia.

"The bottom line is that today we simply cannot undertake sustained operations in the world without the Guard and Reserve," added Cragin, a retired Naval Reserve captain who called enlisted leaders the people "who really hold our force together; the people who make it all happen."

"You're not weekend warriors anymore," Cragin said. "You're Total Force warriors!"

Manera and SSgt. Junior Smith, from Guam, are the Pacific Command's top soldier and NCO.

Hulsey and SSgt. Jeffrey Botsford, from Nebraska, represented the western half of the country as the Fifth U.S. Army's top soldier and NCO.

Maryland Spc. Kenneth McGill and Virginia SSgt. Michael McGhee were the eastern region's winners from First Army.

This is the Year of the Enlisted Force for the Air National Guard. It is also the Year of Kentucky and, specifically, the Year of the 123rd Logistics Squadron.

Two enlisted men from that 110-member unit were among the four people honored as the Air Guard's outstanding airmen and first sergeant.

TSgt. Christopher Mix, the noncommissioned officer of the year, and MSgt. Timothy Atwell, the first sergeant of the year, belong to the logistics squadron that is part of the 123rd Airlift Wing of C-130 cargo planes based in Louisville, Ky. Atwell is also the top sergeant for the wing's logistics group and logistics flight and oversees a total of 137 Guard men and women.

SSgt. Edward Moore from Washington state is the year's top airman, and MSgt. Lisa Ezzell from Nevada is the nation's premier Air Guard senior NCO.

"That two of our outstanding enlisted people come from the same squadron is extremely unusual because the selection process is very competitive," said Command CMSgt. Gary Broadbent, the Air Guard's enlisted leader at the National Guard Bureau in Washington.

"That is a tribute to that unit's commitment to its mission and to the Air National Guard," he added.

Those four were selected from among 187 candidates nationwide, including 44 who competed for first sergeant's honors, Broadbent explained.

Moore's selection was a tribute to his longevity and versatility. The aerospace control and warning systems operator for the Western Air Defense Sector at McChord Air Force Base

first enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in 1986. He then served seven years in the Army before joining the Washington Air Guard in 1996. He was promoted from senior airman to staff sergeant in December.

He was an Army combat engineer in the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm. Now he belongs to the Air Guard team that guards the United States' airspace.

All 10 were hailed as the "best of the best" among the nation's 350,000 Army and Air Guard enlisted people.

McGhee and Botsford brought their own Desert Storm experiences as well as other impressive active Army credentials to the Army Guard. McGhee made a combat jump into Panama in December 1989, and Botsford wrote the Army's current gunnery doctrine for Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Not everyone, however, merely talked at the distinguished visitors. The Army Guard's director asked the six soldiers and their wives "what it's like out there in the countryside." What, he wanted to know, is the Guard doing right and what needs to be done better.

"We have to maintain a special sense and a feeling for the families and the employers," added Schultz.

"We have tremendous confidence in your units abilities to perform their missions," said Schultz who impressed the soldiers with his candid observations and queries.

"You don't appreciate the Guard until you're in the Guard," observed McGhee, a seven-year Army veteran. "His approach was a little unique. You have to feel like we're all pushing toward the same goals together."

BEST IN BLUE



FLYING RIGHT — MSgt. Lisa Ezzell (left), SSgt. Edward Moore, 1st Sgt. Timothy Atwell and TSgt. Christopher Mix.

Airman of the Year

SSgt. **EDWARD MOORE**
■ Aerospace control and warning systems operator, Western Air Defense Sector, McChord AFB, Wash.
■ Persian Gulf war veteran has become a weapons director technician and tracking technician.
■ Pursuing an associate's degree in space operations technology.

NCO of the Year

TSgt. **CHRISTOPHER MIX**
■ Fuels technician, 123rd Logistics Squadron, Louisville, Ky.
■ Ohio native holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and computer science from Ohio University and a master's in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University.
■ Joined the Kentucky Air Guard in 1991.

Senior NCO of the Year

MSgt. **LISA EZZELL**
■ Noncommissioned officer in charge of the education office, 152nd Airlift Wing, Reno, Nev.
■ Has earned two associate's degrees from the Community College of the Air Force.
■ Created an educational program for traditional Guardmembers and technicians at her unit.

First Sergeant of the Year

MSgt. **TIMOTHY ATWELL**
■ "First Shit" for 123rd Logistics Squadron, Louisville, Ky.
■ Joined the Air Force after finishing high school in 1974 and became an aerospace ground mechanic in the Kentucky Air Guard in 1977.
■ Has accumulated four associate's degrees in business and the arts and in applied science.



Photos by Aaron Reed

Texas Air Guard unit knows more about the front line than the flight line

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

By Aaron Reed
Texas National Guard

As the sun sets in muted glory behind southern New Mexico's Organ Mountains, a hush falls over the desert. Even the relentless wind pauses, as if to summon the strength it will need to push the mercury toward the 30-degree mark during the night.

After a time, the silence is broken with a single, hollow "boom." As anxious eyes scan the sky, a faint, glimmering point of light breaks out above the peaks. The light grows brighter, throwing the desert floor into sharp relief as it spirals slowly to earth.

Then, all hell breaks loose.

Halfway to the hills, angry tongues of fire lap at an unseen target. The throaty bark of a .50-caliber machine gun is punctuated by the more deliberate, pounding rhythm of a grenade launcher.

It's rock and roll. It's mind-numbing, heart-bursting, adrenaline-pumping firepower.

It's business as usual for the Texas Air Guard's 204th Security Forces Squadron.

The rattle and roar of big guns is not uncommon on the vast firing ranges surrounding Fort Bliss. What is unusual is the tags sewn over their hearts that read "U.S. Air Force."

This El Paso-based Texas Air Guard outfit is the only unit of its kind in the entire U.S. Air Force. The 111-member squadron specializes in heavy weapons: Browning M-2 .50-caliber machine guns, Mk-19 machine guns and M-29 81mm mortars.

But the differences between the 204th and traditional Air Guard organizations go deeper than exotic weapon systems. These citizen-airmen also are designated "B" Flight of the rapid-deploying, "first-in" 820th Security Forces Group, headquartered at Lackland AFB in San Antonio.

"This is a direct reporting unit to a deployable active duty unit," said Maj. Daniel Steiner, the squadron's commander. "We're not a follow-on unit or a round-out unit. When the 820th goes, we go."

And the squadron's parent unit, the spear point of Air Force security forces, is always on call.

"The day the planners plant the flag and say this is where air assets are going," Steiner said, "that's the day the phones ring."

Fire teams from the 204th have deployed for "real world" missions five times in the past two years. The first call came five months before the unit was even officially on-line.

Steiner said the latest deployment to



FIRE UP — SrA. Jose Soza fires the Mk-19 machine gun as SSgt. Ruben Arispe helps him adjust his aim.

Southwest Asia, just nine days before Christmas, saw eight members of the squadron on a plane to Lackland within five hours of notification.

"We are tasked to deploy within 24 hours," confirmed Lt. Col. Michael Dickey, 820th Security Forces Group deputy commander. "Our initial deployment package will always include at least four people out of El Paso."

When deployed the 204th is a lethal force armed with weapons that are designed to stop the kind of threat that killed 19 U.S. service members in the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia.

"Heavy weapons truly are the most formidable force multipliers that security forces have," noted Lt. Col. Wayne Milgrim, air reserve component advisor to the Security Forces Center at Lackland. "The best heavy weapons teams we have right now are in the Guard."

"If people are going to be saved out there on the line," he added, "a lot of it is going to be due to the proficiency of these guys in the Guard."

It takes time and constant training to maintain that proficiency. It's one of the reasons a reserve component unit was chosen to field the Air Force's dedicated heavy weapons teams.

"There are different reasons why it doesn't work as successfully with the active duty," Milgrim said. "One reason was the rotations (airmen moving on to new assignments) — that cuts into it."

Being an Air Force unit located on an Army post, is also an advantage.

"We don't support a flying wing here," Steiner said. "So the mission here is to be as proficient on those weapon systems as we possibly can."

MSgt. Edward Torres-Menendez, the squadron's superintendent of operations, said unit members also have to remain current on more typical security-related tasks such as handcuffing, building searches, and the like.

"Basically, the challenge we have is time," he said. "Trying to fit all that training into the two days we have on a drill weekend is tough."

To meet the challenge, unit members maximize their training opportunities. Start times of 6 a.m. are the rule rather than the exception, and long, hot days at the range occasionally bleed into the cold, early hours of the next morning.

"When you're trying to get a bunch of people proficient on six weapon systems and you only have two days a month to do that, yeah, it creates some long days," Steiner confirmed. "We don't have a lot of idle time."

Observers say the hard work is paying off.

"Right now they've already passed the introductory and basic proficiency level, and they're gaining ground toward the expert level," Milgrim said of the 204th's gun crews. "That's exactly where we wanted to be 15 or 20 years ago on the active side, but we weren't able to do it."

Because the El Paso heavy weapons squadron has a unique role within the Air Force, the unit's members adopt the best tactics, techniques and procedures available from the other services.

"We couldn't call some place and say: 'Hey, how do you guys run your heavy weapons squadron?' Steiner observed.

"So we've taken things from the Marine Corps, the Army, the Air Force, the British ... we looked at the things they do well and said, 'How do you do this?' We still talk to them."


In the 204th's case, some of the inter-service advice comes from within.

"We do have a lot of experience," noted SSgt. Jesse Villanueva, the Ranger-qualified NCO-in-charge of the squadron's full-time, 13-member, rapid deployment team. "We've got Marine veterans, Army veterans from airborne units and Air Force guys. It's been fantastic, because everyone contributes what they know."

Maturity counts too.

"Our people want to be here," Villanueva added. "They're not wishy-washy, and they're not here just for the education benefits. They've been deployed."

INSIDE the TEXAS GUARD

From WARRIORS
to TEACHERSBy Sgt. Len Butler
Texas National Guard


BIG GUNS — MSgt. Jesse Armendariz (opposite page) directs SrA. Louie Portillo to set an aiming stake for the 81 mm mortar.

"In a word, they're veterans."

Before the 204th Security Forces Squadron officially stood-up in January 1998, the 203rd and 204th Security Police Flights provided the Air Guard presence at Fort Bliss.

The new squadron got half the unit designation, most of its people, and all the firing ranges the old units left behind. It's another reason — a major reason — Air Force heavy weapons landed at the western tip of Texas.

More than 1,750-square-miles of ranges straddle the Texas-New Mexico border make up the Fort Bliss Training Complex. By comparison, that's an area with 1.5 times the land mass of the state of Rhode Island.

"No other Guard unit gets to fire the number of rounds we do," SMSgt. Mark Lindell said. "I don't think any unit in the Air Force fires as much as we do."

Or can they boast the "seamless integration" the 204th enjoys with the 820th Security Forces Group.

The 820th — made up of seven flights from each of the Air Force major commands — includes civil engineers, explosive ordinance disposal specialists, medical specialists, intelligence analysts, and more.

"We get along great with the other guys from the 820th," reported SrA. Jose Soza, a .50-calibre machine gunner. "They don't treat us like a bunch of weekenders."

To be sure, The airmen of the 204th have to maintain the same deployability status their active duty counterparts do. They also conduct physical training to Army standards.

"The members of the 204th are not identified as Guard, they are identified as part of the 820th," said Milgrim. "It's full respect."

Dickey, who deployed with members of the 204th to Qatar, said the El Paso weapons experts are outstanding.

"If you deploy with us, you have an extremely high probability of nobody messing with you. And if someone does mess with one of our installations, we have the resources to deal with that threat."

Against the backdrop of base closures, unit re-alignments and the reshuffling of Air Force missions, the Texas Air Guard's 149th Fighter Wing received a huge boost when it was converted from an F-16C Fighting Falcon fighter wing to a flying training wing.

The move created 80 full-time positions at the San Antonio-based unit for instructor pilots and support staff. In addition, the conversion also will require the construction of buildings for classroom facilities and the hiring of academic instructors.

Implemented in January, the "Lone Star Gunfighters" mission will be to train Air National Guard aviators in an effort to ease the huge backlog of student pilots waiting to become full-fledged F-16 fighter pilots. Ultimately, plans call for active and Air Force Reserve student pilots to join in.

Wing Commander Col. Robert J. Spermo said attrition has been the main culprit in the creation of the log jam of student pilots awaiting flight training. With a robust economy, he noted, airlines are bleeding the service of some of its best pilots, most notably instructor pilots. The mass exodus leaves the Air Force in the difficult position of trying to maintain an adequate number of instructor pilots to go along with the steady number of student pilots waiting for flight training.

Spermo said that in fiscal year 1999, the National Guard requested 51 slots at the Air Force F-16 training school, but was granted only nine.

"That leaves 42 students coming out of pilot training and returning to their units without be able to perform the actual mission they signed up for," he said.

Reaction among the unit's members to the role change was mixed. Nearly everyone agreed that one of the best things about the change is no longer having to wear chemical protective gear in the hot Texas sun. However, some pilots didn't like being taken away from their traditional war-fighting role.

"Your average fighter pilot was really not that happy at first," said Maj. Jack Presley, operations officer for the wing's 182nd Fighter Squadron. "It's not that teaching is a bad duty assignment. It's just that the pilots are no longer front-line fighter pilots."

Despite the transition, Presley said many are excited about the transition from warriors to teachers.

"This will at least give us a chance to leave a mark," he said. "This can be very rewarding for all of us."

Spermo agreed that some of his pilots viewed the new mission as a difficult pill to swallow. But, he added, the end result is a much more tangible.

"In the training business, we know that at the end of each workday that there will be a 'no kidding' finished product," Spermo observed. "Training new pilots on how to effectively employ the F-16 will definitely bring a new sense of accomplishment."

Moreover, Spermo added, most fighter units do not see combat or contingencies for years.

"A pilot could go his whole career without flying in a combat mission," he said.

That hasn't been the case with the 149th Fighter Wing. In 1997 wing pilots deployed to southwest Asia in support of Operation Southern Watch, flying regular combat patrols over southern Iraq, enforcing the "no-fly zone."

Spermo said the 182nd Fighter Squadron also played a major role in the Korean War. The Lone Star Gunfighters were the first Air National Guard unit to engage and shoot down a Russian-made MiG fighter jet in an aerial dogfight. The 182nd also was the first unit in the entire Air Force to refuel in flight.

To accommodate students and instructors in the unit's new mission, the 149th's fleet of single-seat, F-16 Block 25 jets were replaced by the two-seat, Block 30 aircraft. Equipped with a General Electric engine, the Block 30s are more powerful and much faster than the Pratt and Whitney-powered Block 25s.

With the arrival of the Block 30s, 149th aircraft mechanics have had to undergo intense retraining. In addition to the extra classroom time,



mechanics had to perform a number of tasks under the supervision of a certified GE mechanic before being certified.

The wing's entire maintenance squadron stands to benefit from the role change, as 67 of the 80 new positions will go to the maintenance shop. Most of those positions will be used to create a night shift to better handle the anticipated increase in training sorties.

SrA. Samuel Terrill was one of the many 149th citizen-airmen to apply for one of the new positions. The chance to sharpen his skills also appeals to him.

"Many of the guys in our squadron work in aviation fields outside of the unit. I don't," he said. "For me, not only do I have a chance to advance in my job, but it would allow me to do my job everyday."

CMSgt. Ed Hobbs said the new hirings will open up 17 supervisory positions.

"That's something we don't see that often," he said. "It is rare to have upward mobility on that type of scale. I've been in this unit for 28 years, and I've never seen an advancement opportunity like this."

Hobbs added that the transition was one more step toward a seamless integration between active, reserve and National Guard units.

"As far as our role goes," he observed, "we now have a much larger mission than we did as a combat unit."



Photos by Sgt. Len Butler

NEW GIG — SrA. Samuel Terrill performs an ultrasonic inspection on a 149th Fighter Wing F-16 (above, right) landing strut.

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

In a rare contracting coop, the Washington National Guard's U.S. Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO) was awarded a Department of Defense-level award for their unprecedented success in awarding contracts to woman-owned small businesses (WOSB).

Col. Curtis Pintler, who guided the state's near 40 percent increase in awarding WOSB contracts, accepted the award on behalf SFC Joan Dobesh, the contract specialist credited with the Evergreen State USPFO's meteoric success.

Maj. Virginia Schneider, chief of Air Guard aeromedical evacuation plans and operations, was awarded the 1999 Mary T. Klinker Award.

From the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Andrews AFB, Md., Schneider oversaw the participation of more than 1000 Air Guardmembers in exercises and deployments this year. She is credited with revolutionizing aeromedical deployments by single-handedly creating the "lead unit concept," recognized by many as a benchmark program.

Schneider also championed the international aeromedical evacuation portion of RODEO 98, orchestrating experts from 25 worldwide aeromedical evacuation squadrons to demonstrate their war-time capability. She was hand-picked for the Air Force Surgeon General's integrated process team that is charged with outlining operational health support into the next millennium.

A veteran of Operations Just Cause (Panama) and Desert Shield/Storm, Schneider was named the Air Guard's Medical Readiness Officer of the Year in 1997.

The Klinker Award is given annually to recognize significant contributions to the aeromedical evacuation field.

Buck Brown describes what he did for his classmate, Samantha McGranahan, as something he did from a "second sense." It is one of the reasons he was the only 14-year-old to assist his physical education teacher, Debbie Anderson, while others at Honey Creek Middle School in Terre Haute, Ind., panicked.

While Anderson was congratulating Brown for breaking the school pull-up record, they both heard a thud. McGranahan, who had been keeping count of the pull-ups, had fallen between two rows of bleachers from an apparent seizure.

When McGranahan suddenly stopped breathing, Anderson and Brown quickly moved the stricken student to the gym floor and immediately began administering CPR. With the gym teacher giving artificial respiration, Brown administered chest compressions. With a minute, McGranahan was breathing.

"He is truly a hero," marvelled Anderson. "He was so calm."

Brown, who plans to join the National Guard when he comes of age, voluntarily participates in a program designed for future Guardmembers by citizen-soldiers with the Hoosier Army Guard's Company A, 38th Support Battalion in Terre Haute. Buck Brown learned CPR through that program.



Col. Pintler (2nd from left) is reaching woman who own small businesses.



Maj. Virginia Schneider, Klinker Award winner.



Utah PFC Becky Guthrie's quick actions saved lives.

Alabama Army Guard SGM Brenda Kennedy was appointed her state's Command Sergeant Major, the first woman in the Camellia state to assume the post.

Being a "first" is nothing new to Kennedy. In December 1972, then Brenda Spivey was the first enlisted woman to join the Alabama Army National Guard.

The mother of two, Eric and Leah, recorded her second "first" in February 1996, when she became her state's only female sergeant major.

She is currently the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of her state's Drug Demand Reduction and Substance Abuse Programs.

Utah Army Guard PFC Beck Guthrie, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1 Corps Artillery in Salt Lake City, was recognized from her heroic actions after witnessing a car rear-end a truck.

Heading south on interstate 15, Guthrie watched as the force of the crash sent a five-year-old girl through a windshield and pinned the driver in the car.

A recent graduate of the Army's personnel administrative specialist school, Guthrie, 18, quickly grabbed a first aid kit from her car and went to provide assistance. As she hurried to the aid of the driver of the car, she had the presence of mind to direct the truck driver to call 911 and set out flares.

Guthrie then extracted the driver, who was not breathing, and performed cardio pulmonary resuscitation until the driver's breathing was restored.

After stabilizing the driver and treating for shock, Guthrie went to the aid of the girl, bandaging deep wounds that prevented the child from bleeding to death.

She stayed with the child until emergency medical personnel arrived.

"If not for Becky Guthrie's actions, it would have been a lot worse than what it was," commented a Layton City police officer on the scene.

For the third year in row, a member of the North Dakota Army National Guard has won the Sturgis Medal, an award given annually by the Society of American Military Engineers.

SFC Kevin Keefe, a member of Company A, 142nd Engineer Battalion was this year's recipient.

The Sturgis Medal is named in honor of Lt. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, former Chief of Engineers. The medal is offered annually to an enlisted engineer who has made outstanding contributions to military engineering.

Keefe is an instructor with the Regimental Training Institution at Camp Grafton, where he is also the course manager for the general engineering and common engineer tasks classes.

Keefe is credited with developing and employing alternate methods of training for use during periods of inclement weather. The inclement weather training recommended by Keefe has been reviewed and approved by the Total Army School System Division at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



Photo by SSgt. Mark Olsen

SORTING SUPPORT — New Jersey Spc. Antonella Vigorito separates clothing prior to it being shipped.

REFUGEES

FROM PAGE 1

The work went on through June's first weekend as leaders in Europe tried in vain to agree to a Russian-NATO peace plan that would withdraw Serbian military forces from Kosovo and end NATO's 11-week air campaign.

Meanwhile, more than 500 Air Guardmembers from New Jersey and Maine air refueling wings were standing by to join the Allied Force air operation over Yugoslavia or to support a peacekeeping mission armed with 20 KC-135s, should their services be needed.

By then, New Jersey Army Guardmembers and Health and Human Services officials had been overwhelmed by their own people's generosity.

They had to ask people to either stop giving or to limit donations to such items as luggage, men's shoes and soccer balls.

"There is no way you could expect what I walked in to," said Sgt. Shawna Frey of the ocean of boxes hauled by Guard vehicles, commercial trailertrucks and private vans to the warehouse. She helped oversee Guard soldiers who separated the used merchandise.

"Ninety percent of it was good," Frey said. "There were 20 televisions. They all worked."

"For those of us in the refugee business, this is unprecedented," said Michael Kharfen who accompanied Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to Fort Dix on June 4.

"The coverage by so many news organizations of the ethnic cleansing and of the refugees' courage and resilience has registered so deeply with the Ameri-

can people," Kharfen added.

The quantity and quality of material impressed the refugees who were leading productive lives of their own before being driven from their homes.

"You have so much," said a young man named Sammy who came to New Jersey with his wife, his parents, an aunt and uncle and cousins. They had been given five minutes to leave their home in Kosovo's provincial capital of Pristina, Sammy explained. They got out with the clothes they were wearing and the few items they could carry, Sammy said.

Donations included 10 cases of new bras, used bicycles, a truckload of new sneakers and enough women's shoes to impress former Philippines First Lady Imelda Marcos.

"One company told us they were sending 40,000 boxes of juice. They asked us where we wanted them," explained Spc. John Klewicki, a limousine driver for an Atlantic City casino.

A box of new baby clothes included a note that read: "A baby shower was held by the parishioners of Holy Savior Parish in Norristown, Pa., to benefit the Kosovo refugees on May 23."

Second and third-grade pupils in one New Jersey community heard that the refugee children needed new socks, McClure explained. They collected nine cases, and the Guard soldiers distributed them.

School children in Somerville, N.J., sent a box of 100 hand-drawn posters. "We hope peace will come soon. Sadness is in the past. Happiness is in the future," read one of them.

Those posters struck an emotional chord among all who saw them. Said McClure: "These kids make me feel funny."

INSIDE the REFUGEE EFFORT

'The mother of the bride and groom sent letters of thank you to the Pentagon'

Deployed to the ALTAR

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

It wasn't as if TSgt. Wesley Morris Jr. didn't have enough to do during the first week in June. He was, after all, preparing to deploy to Turkey with 400 other members of the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Air Refueling Wing determined to support the Operation Allied Force air campaign over Yugoslavia.

So why not get married?

That is precisely what Morris, 37, and his fiancée of nine years, Jill Goodman, 34, decided to do.

They agreed on Monday evening, May 31, to take their Catholic vows the following Saturday afternoon, five days later. That is exactly what they did in the main chapel at McGuire Air Force Base, which is also home to the 108th.

"They didn't have much time to be nervous," 108th Chaplain (Maj.) Alphonse Stephenson told the 60 guests while presiding over the ceremony that appeared to have been planned for five months rather than five days.

The bride was beautiful in an off-the-shoulder, A-line gown. The groom was dashing in his dress blue uniform. And Stephenson reminded everyone that "even with the threat of war, a sign of genuine love can come out of it."

Love certainly conquered all. Among other things, Morris learned on Thursday that he was expected to deploy that Satur-

day morning as a systems specialist in the wing's 40-member avionics shop.

His departure was initially postponed until the following Monday after Morris told his supervisor about his wedding plans. Then the entire deployment was put on hold for four days while leaders in Europe tried in vain to hammer out the details of a peace accord.

"It was God's way of getting us married after nine years of engagement," said the bride after becoming a certified member of the National Guard family.

"It was the only wedding I've ever done where the mother of the bride and the mother of the groom sent letters of thank you to the Pentagon," cracked Stephenson who has been a priest for 25 years.

"We decided that we really should be married because of the deployment," said Morris who works full-time for the Defense Contract Management Command. "We figured that if we could close on a house in two weeks, we could plan a wedding in five days. It was an unbelievable. Everything we asked for, we received."

The details included buying floral arrangements, hiring a photographer and an organist, and renting a limousine. Morris's father, Wesley Sr., who retired from the New Jersey wing after 35 years as a full-time technician, had to fly in from South Dakota. The best man, retired Air Guard MSgt. Richard Bock, had to get home from a civilian assignment in Sweden.

There was also the matter of finding a church for a June wedding. The McGuire chapel became available when another wedding scheduled for that Saturday afternoon was canceled. Judith Pates, the chapel's wedding coordinator, then took on the task of making the Goodman-Morris wedding a memorable occasion.

"We are certainly hoping that peace truly means peace and that we can get back to

life as usual," said the remarkably relaxed groom before the ceremony, as the world waited for word that Serbian forces would really withdraw from Kosovo.

"If we have to go, I'm more than prepared to go. It's what I signed on for," Morris added.

By Sunday, just one day into his marriage, the peace talks had collapsed, and it appeared he would have to do just that.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

BONDED by WAR — After a nine-year engagement, TSgt. Wesley Morris Jr. and Jill Goodman tied the knot before he was scheduled to deploy overseas.



STATES

• Hooligan Happening • Desert Deja Vu • Florida Fires

NORTH DAKOTA

Members of the 119th Fighter Wing in Fargo executed one of the last scheduled U. S. military mission to the Republic of Panama.

Since 1990, "The Happy Hooligans" and other Air National Guard units have participated in Operation Coronet Nighthawk, an operation that provided continuous, 24-hour support to Panamanian and U.S. law enforcement agencies engaged in combating illegal drug trafficking through Central America.

The 119th Fighter Wing deployed to Howard Air Base, scheduled to close Nov. 1, to support the Nighthawk mission slated to be moved to Curacao, an island in the Netherlands Antilles chain.

MONTANA

The Big Sky Army Guard, working closely with the Burns Telecommunications Center, established an outreach and distance learning center at Montana State University - Bozeman in developing a recently funded National Guard video network system.

The \$4.6 million project will ultimately establish a multi-use telecommunications network located in every Montana community supporting an Army National Guard armory. The distance learning sites will support Guard training, and communication efforts.

KENTUCKY

PLANES of THUNDER

Some Bluegrass State teens examine a B-1B Lancer at the 10th Annual Planes of Thunder, held at the Louisville home of the 123rd Airlift Wing. More than 47,500 aviation enthusiasts turned out. The 123rd, a C-130 unit, was not the only in-state Guard unit involved. A Kentucky Army Guard Blackhawk also was featured.



Photo by MSgt. Terry Lutz

NORTH CAROLINA

Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi recently visited the Tarheel State National Guard.

It was the president's first visit to the state. A member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Moldova has been linked with North Carolina since 1994 through NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

During his visit, Lucinschi visited Maj. Gen. Gerald Rudisill Jr., state adjutant general of North Carolina.

ARKANSAS

Eight years after serving with distinction in Southwest Asia as part of Operation Desert Storm, two infantry companies from the Army Guard's 38th Infantry Brigade will return to the region.

The infantry units will replace active army units for 120 days at Patriot missile sites in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Nearly 130 soldiers (52 soldiers based in Fordyce and another 75 at Camden) from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry were tapped to deploy first. Another 150 troops from Company B, 2-153rd Infantry based in Batesville and Augusta are scheduled to follow.

They are the first National Guard combat arms units to participate in the six-year operation that went into effect after Desert Storm.

FLORIDA

By Jon Myatt
Florida National Guard

The signs of the wildfire that roared through the area are everywhere. Charred stumps are about all that remain. The visible fire is extinguished. Everything appears normal, but it's not. The danger remains.

Beneath the ground, insulated between layers of muck, are pockets of dry fuel and air, which combine to keep a fire burning, growing stronger as it searches for more fuel and more oxygen -- and a way to the surface. Then, all at once, it bursts up and fire erupts in the woods.

Muck fires are like that. "Like time-delayed fuses on bombs," said one forester in Lake Placid. Twenty-three soldiers from units in central Florida were hard at work recently providing mop-up assistance on a similar muck fire in the

Okeechobee District near Lake Placid.

A 200-acre muck fire was continuing to burn underground when Florida Division of Forestry (DoF) officials asked for assistance from the Sunshine State National Guard.

The soldiers, from armories in Haines City, Tampa and Bartow reported to DoF officials to help fight a muck fire in Lake Placid that just wouldn't go out easily, according to DoF firefighters.

The Lake Placid muck fire slowly spread over a little more than 200 acres, all underground, explained DoF officials. However, it threatens more than 9,000 acres of ranchland that contains thousands of cattle just west of Lake Placid.

Guard firefighters arrive at the site early in the morning and leave just before dusk. All day long they continue to pump water into the burning area. "We have to stay on it daily or we can have

flare-ups like the one we had today," said SFC Richard Roush, a Dade City Guardsman. "The only way to get a muck fire under control is to saturate the ground in which the muck is burning, so we have to continue pumping water until the ground is soaking wet."

1st Lt. Kip Hendrix, of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery in Bartow, and the detachment's commander, said it's dirty work.

"We have good people out here and everyone wants to do a good job, but the physical demands are extremely difficult."

More than 420 Florida National Guard soldiers have received training from DoF instructors in the last two years.

Three Blackhawk helicopters from Company D, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation, based in Lakeland, have flown more than 950 mission and dropped in excess of 800,000 gallons of water on the fires.



HISTORY

• Preserving Posterity for Generations to Come

Military History Detachments have performed a unique and necessary mission for many decades

The HISTORY on HISTORIANS

The young captain stood on a small hill directly in the middle of the "Central Corridor." In a sweeping motion, he pointed to the northeast where the "bad guys" had come from, dutifully noting the speed and violence of the battle as it had unfolded — the artillery strikes, the smoke, the tank engagements and the deadly anti-tank missiles.

"It was pretty intense," he said with hands on hips, framed perfectly by the Tiefert Mountain. He explained in a matter-of-fact, emotionless tone how nearly half of his tank company and attached mechanized infantry had been wiped out in less than 20 minutes. Near him, another soldier with a notepad and running cassette recorder in hand, documented everything said — the words, the emotion ... the history.

The battle was not real, but a training engagement fought at Fort Irwin, Calif., in the "big sandbox" known as the U.S. Army National Training Center. The captain could be any soldier who fought and trained there. The other soldier, armed with the cassette recorder, was not a public affairs soldier pursuing a story, but a unique and little known player in the Army's vast scope: a military historian.

The mission and scope of collecting, recording and preserving military history is not a new practice or concept. There have been many great writers and historians of military history through the ages. But not all military historians were serving in the ranks at the time. From the ancient Greeks, such as Thucydides and Xenophon, to the Roman times where Julius Caesar and the Jewish general and historian Josephus documented the travails of their times. These historians, and those of modern times, recorded military history almost immediately after it happened.

In American military history, the Civil War produced the first well-researched and recorded documentary of a war on a quasi-professional level. What came forth was

the renowned, 120-plus volume "OR," or The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.

This research was collected from orders, dispatches, after-action reports, personal accounts and many other sources. However, there were no soldiers following the battles and action recording the history in the role of military historian.

Until World War I collecting and organizing history was an after thought, no matter how detailed and organized it was. As American forces went to Europe, the Army developed a "Historical branch" in the War Plans Division to collect and organize historical documents of the war. Gen. John Pershing also had historical "sections" assigned to his army to assist in the collection and preservation of material. Although it was a rudimentary way of collecting and recording history, the idea and methods were improved as the military historians taught themselves the job.

During World War II, the first bonified military history detachments deployed and followed military forces into combat. The great exemplars of the art of military history were professionals like S.L.A. Marshall, Martin Blumenson and others who served in both theaters. A few days after the first waves stormed ashore at Normandy,



GUARD HISTORY

By Maj. Sherman Fleek
National Guard Historian

In the wars and conflicts after WWII, the process and techniques of military historical units improved to point that historians were assigned at the division level. Historians do not "record the fight" as it occurs, but devour the battle area shortly after the fight is waged.

Currently there are 21 Military History Detachments or MHDs (15 in the Army Reserve, one in the active Army and five in the Army National Guard). Unknown and unheralded, MHDs are tasked to record and preserve the history of battles and campaigns the Army fights.

The Army Guard's five MHDs are based in Kansas (the 102nd MHD), Massachusetts (126th), North Carolina (130th), Missouri (135th) and Washington (141st).

By doctrine and Table of Organization and Equipment (TO&E), a MHD consists of only three people: a major in command; a senior NCO, photojournalist (46Q); and an administrative specialist (71L).

Once the battle area is clear, the MHDs begin interviewing soldiers about the battle. Depending on the mission and the battle fought, historians normally serve at the brigade level and up. They interview everyone from the brigade commanders to tankers and truck drivers in an effort to provide a chronological, accurate account of the action.

Military historians also gather, collect and preserve artifacts that will help tell the story. Many of the weapons, uniforms, helmets and other artifacts found in national or military museums, are the result of military history units or detachments preserving and cataloging them.

MHDs also compile, organize, analyze and then write a summary, called a monograph, of the battle that may later find its way into a large, more comprehensive, post-war history.

Currently, the Army's Forces Command has developed a three-year training program to train and evaluate MHDs through a unit rotation at the NTC.

After the initial operational phase at NTC, it returns Irwin to begin its recovery phase. This week-long phase requires military historians to gather information, conduct interviews, recover artifacts and write summaries about the brigade-sized rotational unit they're assigned.

Wherever the war or operation, military historians can be found ensuring the exploits of today's Army are documented for generations to enjoy and study.

Editor's Note: Maj. Fleek, the new chief of National Guard Bureau Historical Services, is a Utah Guardsman who has spent most of his career in the active-Army as an aviator. He also is a published historian.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

PROTECTING the PAST — Several Army Guard and Reserve historians gathered in the field at the Army Guard's Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark., last year to practice their combat skills.

Marshall stormed ashore himself and began recording the battle. Other uniformed historians gathered information, interviewed soldiers, took pictures and recovered artifacts. Much of the information, chronicling the war in minute detail, took dozens of civilian and military historians years to compile. It also found its way into the famous Army "green books."



TRAINING

Maryland infantrymen get rare chance to train at Fort Benning's Ranger School

At HOME WITH THE RANGERS

By Capt. Drew Sullins
Maryland National Guard

As darkness loomed over the tall pine trees that envelop Fort Benning's Camp Darby, the primary training area for the U.S. Army's Ranger School, soldiers prepared for an all-night reconnaissance patrol. Nearby, Ranger instructors prowled about seeking to spot-correct any and all errors.

Under normal circumstances, such scrutiny would make a typical Ranger School student nervous, even on edge. But these were not students. They were seasoned infantrymen with the Maryland Army Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry based in Silver Spring.

The battalion's scout and support platoons were recently given the opportunity to spend a weekend at the Georgia post's merciless Ranger School under the watchful eye of some of the U.S. Army's best infantrymen.

The extended weekend was organized by the battalion's executive officer, Maj. Patrick Reardon. He is one of two active-component Army officers currently assigned to the Maryland Army Guard.

Reardon, who once commanded a company at Benning's rugged 4th Ranger Training Battalion, said since the draw-down it is "uncommon" for a Guard unit to train at the school.

"This was a tremendous chance for refresher training for more our experi-



Photos courtesy of the Maryland National Guard



RANGER SCHOOL—1st Lt. Kurt Cook (left, kneeling) briefs soldiers on an upcoming mission using a sand table. Members of the Maryland Army Guard's 1-115th Infantry (above) use one of Camp Darby's outdoor classrooms.

enced soldiers," noted SFC Jerry Blackwell, a scout platoon sergeant and Ranger School graduate. "It is also a chance to familiarize our younger troops with the 'Ranger' way."

Blackwell added that as a result of the experience, a number of young soldiers asked to attend the demanding school.

"This short weekend trip has done ter-

rific things for the motivation level of our unit," he said.

The weekend's instruction consisted of issuing warning orders and operations orders, rehearsal techniques and squad-level tactics. The training culminated with the Guard soldiers putting their training to the test during a reconnaissance patrol.

"This is some of the best squad-level

training around," insisted 1st Lt. Kurt Cook, a scout platoon leader who is Ranger qualified. "Now they'll have a better understanding of the platoon leader's and sergeant's role in combat patrolling."

Spc. Kenneth Claytor, a scout, called the opportunity to train with Rangers one of the "highlights" of his military career.

"The fact that we were just here for the weekend didn't keep the instructors from giving us their full attention. I appreciated that," he said. "They're the definition of dedication."

Ranger instructors like SSgt. Charlie Little, were likewise impressed with the attentiveness of the Guard soldiers.

"We never see any Guard units come and train with us," he said. "These guys gave maximum effort. We were all impressed with their level of knowledge, and with how quickly they caught on to what we were teaching."

"We need to see Guard units more often," Little added.