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THE ON GUARD

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Guard, Baltic infantry practice peacekeeping

Foreign First: Soldiers from Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia train on U.S. soil

By MSgt. Bettina E. Puckett
Maryland National Guard

Since the Cold War, American infantrymen have honed their grenade-throwing skills by lobbing blue, metal grenades at green and red practice dummies called 'Ivans'—a common Russian name.

This irony was not lost on infantry troops from three former Warsaw Pact republics and the U.S. being trained with these same Soviet symbols while participating in Exercise Partner Challenge at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Grenade-throwing was just one skill tested by soldiers from the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and Guardmembers from their partner states of Maryland, Michigan and Pennsylvania. These six platoons of 30 soldiers each traveled to Grayling for the first-ever, National Guard-hosted, multi-nation exercise conducted in the U.S. through the State Partnership Program.

That program began after the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1991. At that time, the Lithuanian president asked the U.S. for help in converting a portion of the country's military to a reserve force, similar to the National Guard. Since that initial request, the program has partnered 23 state National Guard organizations with 23 countries of the former Soviet Union.

Partner Challenge is based on a previous exercise, Baltic Challenge—conducted in Latvia in 1996, Estonia in 1997 and Lithuania last year. The training fo-

cuses on international peacekeeping.

The rigorous training, language barriers and Michigan's oppressive heat and humidity were not the only obstacles soldiers faced. Many of the Guard troops, training with Baltic soldiers for the first time, anticipated differences. However, after two-weeks of sharing barracks and exchanging patches, they discovered they had a lot in common.

"When it comes down to it, we're all basically doing the same job," said Cpl. Robert Thoma, a member of Pennsylvania's Company B, 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry. "It's really neat to watch these guys during downtime, because they do exactly the same thing we do—they play football, they play basketball and they sit



Photo by Spc. Rhonda Morgan

BALTIC BONDING -- A Lithuanian infantryman keeps an eye out for the enemy during Partner Challenge.

around and joke."

Partner Challenge focused on military operations common to all participants, such as area reconnaissance, security and tactical movements. The six platoons also competed against one another in land navigation, hand grenade tossing, M-16 weapons qualification and a 4.7-mile road march.

According to Col. Joe McDowell, Partner Challenge officer-in-charge, measures

■ See PARTNERS, Page 13



Photo by Spc. Clinton Wood

Corpsman CARRY

Minnesota Army Guard Sgt. Curtis Schrank, a combat medic with Company F, 434th Support Battalion, lifts a casualty from a trench during testing for his Expert Field Medical Badge at Camp Ripley. See related story on page 16.



COMMENTARY

• Farquhar's Funnies Find Fans

ABOUT the PAPER

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Drawn to HUMOR

By John Veissman
Missouri National Guard

Lyle Farquhar got his first break as an artist in the early 1950s when a local butcher agreed to display his work on his shop's white-tiled wall. Exhibit space in Shenandoah, Iowa, was hard to come by then, especially for 7-year-olds.

Some 50 years and several national awards later, Farquhar—a lieutenant colonel with the Missouri Air Guard's 139th Airlift Wing in St. Joseph—hasn't forgotten Bud Kesterson's (his butcher) gesture. It's one of the reasons he teaches art to elementary school children.

"That (exposure) gave me great encouragement," said Farquhar, who makes a point of thanking Kesterson whenever he visits his hometown.

When he's not piquing the interests of aspiring artists, Farquhar lends his trained hand and considerable wit to illustrating "Guardtoons"—the strip that has served as a humorous staple to *The On Guard* for the past five years.

MSgt. John Malthaner, *On Guard* editor, recalled being lukewarm about the idea of including a cartoon in the Guard's flagship publication.

"Before Lyle Farquhar came along, I

would have said that a cartoon would be a waste of valuable news space.

"His insightful takes on Guard life, combined with an undeniable artistic talent, catapult his work to another level," Malthaner added. "His cartoons tell a story. They command a second look."

Although Farquhar had etched an enviable reputation as an artist as a teenager, he joined the Air Force in 1962 as a Morse Code intercept operator.

While that career field gave him the opportunity to see England and listen in on the Russians, it wasn't until he was reassigned to Forbes AFB, Kan., that his artistic talents were tapped.

"There was no need for Morse Code interceptors in the states," he explained. "So they made me a base illustrator. I didn't realize the career field existed."

After his Air Force stint, he went on to earn a degree in art education from Northwest Missouri State University.

That led to a job with the Chillicothe (Mo.) school district, starting out at \$9,200 a year. Realizing the jokes about starving artists had some basis in fact, the husband and father of two sought a way to supplement his income. When a colleague suggested Farquhar join a nearby Air Guard unit, he signed up as an illustrator.

"The Guard has been good to me," said the 139th's Mission Support Flight com-



Farquhar is the character on the right.

mander. "I came in as an E-3 in 1976 with a goal to make master sergeant."

His next goal may be to find more shelf space. For five consecutive years, Farquhar's cartoons have had judges at the Guard Bureau's annual media contest pick him as the Air Guard's best illustrator. He has twice been named the Air Force's and Army Guard's best bet with pen and pad.

Farquhar says his success can be traced to his wife of 36 years, Pat.

"She has always been there throughout my Guard career," he said. "She is the true definition of family support."

Aside from *The On Guard*, the 56-year-old creates cartoons for four other publications. His work also is featured on the Air Guard's web site.

"I was so impressed with his cartoons that I called him and asked if we could create a web site for him," recalled MSgt. Gina Goula, a web systems analyst at the Guard Bureau. "His work has increased traffic to the Air Guard's web site."

Despite his success, Farquhar insists he'll never let it go to his head.

"I get hits (on the web site) from people all over the world who enjoy the cartoons," he happily confirmed. "Then again, if I have the wrong number of lug nuts on a humvee, they let me know."

Farquhar's catalog of cartoons can be seen at: www.ang.af.mil/graphics/toons

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

Comments or ideas: lfarquhar@nsg1.af.mil



"I'm all for going 'Purple,' but I draw the line at singing that 'I Love you, you love me' song!"



IN THE NEWS

• Minnesota Milestone • Cohen Consult • 'Bear' Sighting

Ripley lands DoD-level award



Photo by Steve Kohls, The Brainerd Daily Dispatch

DEER DROP — An anesthetized white-tailed deer is flown to a research crew where it is fitted with a state-of-the-art tracking collar at Minnesota's Camp Ripley.

■ **Gopher State Guardians: Multiple partnerships, community programs spell environmental success**

By Maj. Pauline Geraci
Minnesota National Guard

Marty Skoglund is an environmental warrior who uses cutting-edge equipment like infrared aerial photography and the Geographic Information System to ensure the 53,000-acre Camp Ripley — one of the National Guard's largest training grounds — is preserved for wildlife and Guardmembers alike.

As the environmental supervisor at the Minnesota National Guard camp, Skoglund and his tireless staff are considered the best in the business at managing natural resources. And they have a first place plaque from the Secretary of Defense to prove it.

Rob McKim, the director of the Gopher State's Nature Conservancy, was not surprised by the Ripley staff's first place DoD Environmental Security Award (for natural resources conservation — large installation).

"Camp Ripley's collaboration with the Nature Conservancy of Minnesota has been a shining example of how a seemingly disparate partner can contribute to the protection of biological diversity," McKim said.

The Ripley team monitors a wide range of environmental concerns, such as wildlife, forestry recreation, land use, protected species, pest management, integrated natural resource and wetlands management, land rehabilitation, landscaping, noise monitoring, land condition analysis and training requirements integration.

If not enough, the ambitious staff also plans to tackle erosion control and site restoration projects. Monitoring endangered species such as the gray wolf and white-tailed deer is also on their list.

■ See RIPLEY, Page 11

Guard recruiters advise Secretary Cohen

MSgt. Kelly Smith knows something about recruiting and Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen wanted to hear what she had to say about bolstering the military's all-volunteer force.

Smith, the Air Guard's Recruiting and Retention NCO of the Year, was summoned from her Brunswick, Ga. base to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. She was joined by 16 other top active and reserve component recruiters from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

While each was presented a Secretary of Defense coin for their recruiting efforts, Cohen used the occasion to pump the group for ways to combat sagging recruitment.

"I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for what you do and all you mean to the country in terms of attracting talent from that talent pool that is so competitive right now," he told them.

Competing with a healthy economy, Smith pointed out, can be difficult for Guard recruiters because many potential recruits see the one-

weekend-a-month drill as a money-losing proposition.

"One of my suggestions was to increase traditional Guardmember's pay to six days of base pay, as opposed to the current four-day scale," Smith said.

The Air Guard's top recruiter also suggested coordinating with the Veteran's Administration to reduce the six-year Montgomery GI Bill requirement.

"Non prior service applicants are

■ See RECRUITING, Page 4

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Mississippi brigade eyes National Training Center

The Magnolia Thunder Joint Task Force is testing its combat skills at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif.

"The rehearsals are over the preparations are complete," said Brig. Gen. Ed Roberts, commander of the 155th Armored Brigade, the task force's core unit. "It's showtime."

The task force includes more than 5,400 troops from several states, with most coming from the Magnolia State's Army Guard. The 155th — the only Guard combat brigade scheduled to train at NTC this year — began its three-week training exercise July 10.

Located in the Mojave Desert, the NTC is home to the Army's most realistic war games. Visiting units face the NTC's highly-skilled opposing force.

Shinseki take Army's reigns

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki was sworn in June 21st at the Army's 34th Chief of Staff.

Shinseki, who had served as the Army's vice chief of staff since last November, succeeds Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, who retired.

Louisiana Air Guard jets intercept Russian bombers

In a rare display of long range air defense probing not seen since 1991, Russian TU-95 "Bear" bombers penetrated the Icelandic Military Air Defense Identification Zone (MADIZ) recently. There to meet them were F-15 fighter jets of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing.

The men and women of the 159th were participating in an unrelated multi-national NATO exercise dubbed "Northern Viking," when their alert status was heightened.

The pilots — Maj. Arthur Hyatt and Capt. John Bond and Kelly Sullivan — scrambled and intercepted the "Bears," lumbering along their course.

The F-15s completed the rendezvous, identified the aircraft and monitored the bombers until fuel considerations dictated a return to Naval Air Station Keflavik. Two additional Louisiana F-15s were then dispatched to continue escorting the Russian Bears out of the area.

The last intercept of Russian bombers to penetrate the MADIZ occurred in 1991.

Members of the 159th Fighter Wing have been patrolling the skies over Iceland since May.

IN THE NEWS

RECRUITING
ROUNDTABLE

FROM PAGE 3

sometimes wary of a six-year commitment when they often have their degree in four years," she explained.

Smith was not the only National Guard recruiter beckoned to the roundtable discussion. Indiana Army Guard SFC Jerrell Wright, assigned to the 138th Signal Battalion in Anderson, and Utah Army Guard SFC Wesley Peterson with the Cedar City recruiting station, were on hand.

The Air Guard's Rookie Recruiter of the Year, TSgt. Virgil Walker, a member of Oklahoma's 137th Airlift Wing in Oklahoma City, also attended.

While it would be impossible to implement all the ideas forwarded by the nation's top recruiters, Smith said the meeting was worth the trip.

"I left the discussion feeling Secretary Cohen was genuinely interested in improving recruiting and that our ideas would bear fruit," she said.

Summit offers responders lesson

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Telegraph Road in Alexandria, Va., seemed a bit off the beaten path for the NATO Summit that consumed Washington, D.C., recently. That, however, was the location and the historic occasion for some timely on-the-job training for eight members of the National Guard's new emergency force designed to support civilian authorities.

Those members of the Guard's 10 regional Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID) teams got a first-hand look at the Defense Department's informational resources at their disposal should they ever have to deal with a nuclear, biological or chemical weapon of mass destruction.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Illinois Air Guard MSgt. Frank Shearer who joined the RAID team based in Peoria last January. "I have always liked to be right on the edge of everything; to bring all of my skills into focus."

They joined one element of the massive security force formed to protect the nation's capital and 42 visiting delegations during NATO's 50th anniversary.

They are called modelers, and they worked with expert communicators and analysts such as Scott Bradley, Ph.D., and Javad Sedehi in a simulation center operated by the recently organized Defense Threat Reduction Agency that is based at Dulles International Airport.

"This is supplemental training during the course of a real-world operation," explained Walter Zimmers, chief of the agency's Weapons of Mass Destruction Assessment and Analysis Center in Alexandria.

The Guardmembers are ideally suited



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

for learning these lessons, added Zimmers, because of their maturity, average education level, and long-time service to their units and communities.

The 2,000-member Defense agency reduces the threat from nuclear, chemical, biological and other special and conventional weapons. It also counters threats posed by weapons of mass destruction. Its roots reach back nearly 60 years to the Manhattan Project that created the first atomic bombs.

Modelers use computer technology to determine the nature of an element such as sarin nerve agent or chlorine gas or anthrax and the degree of danger to first responders and the general public. They create on their computers an image of the emergency.

How hard is the wind blowing? In what direction? How many people are in harm's way? Where are there safe places to set up decontamination centers? Where are the Nobel laureates and other experts who know what this stuff can do? — They are

RAID RANGERS— MSgt. Frank Shearer (left) and SFC Walter Sneed get briefed before summit.

just some concerns taken into account.

The agency was specifically charged with providing that information to the Marine Corps' Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force should the unthinkable occur during the summit.

The Defense Department's security operation was centered at Fort Meade, Md. The Alexandria center was operating in case the people at Fort Meade and the Marines required detailed and timely information because of a terrorist attack.

"We're ready in case something happens," explained Jim Gerding, the center's deputy chief who worked at Fort Meade. "We're all here for 'What if?'"

Members of the Guard's new RAID teams hope they never have to deal with "What if?"

Said Shearer: "We will have succeeded if nothing ever happens."

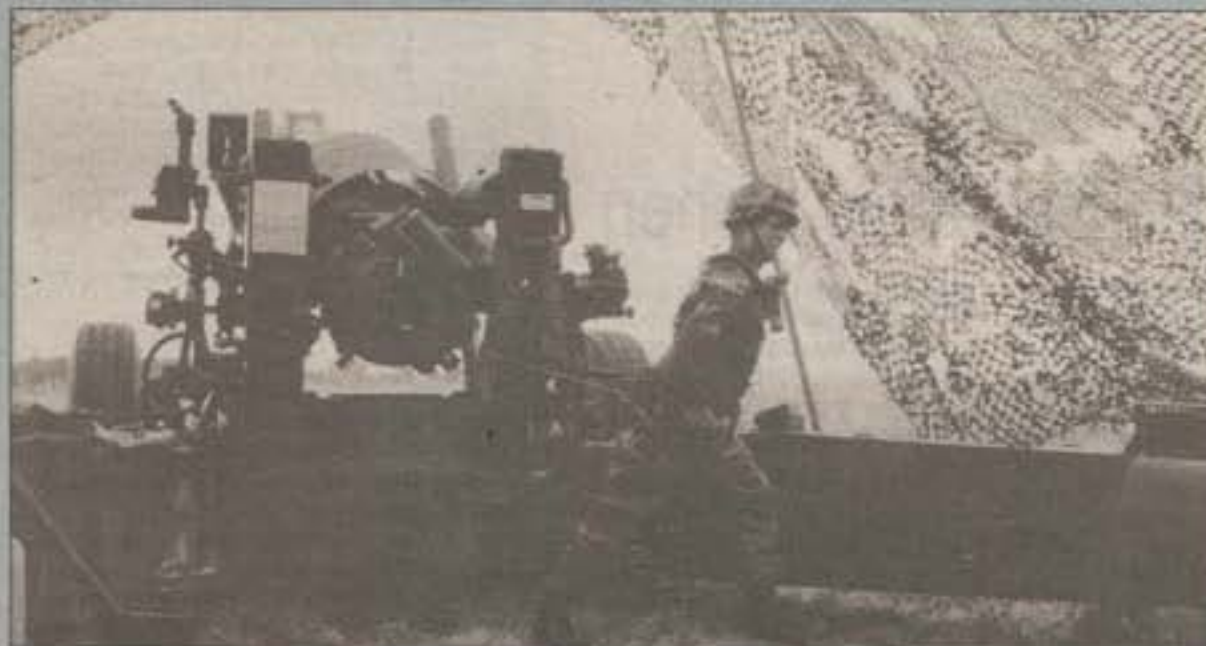


Photo courtesy of the Virginia National Guard

KING of
BATTLE

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, pulls the lanyard of a 155mm towed Howitzer, sending 98 pounds of hot sizzling steel downrange at the Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center in Blackstone, Va. During the Chief's visit with the Old Dominion State Army Guard's 2nd Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, Davis (a Vietnam War fighter pilot) loaded and fired two live rounds.



PEOPLE

• Portrait of a Performer



Country music star
pays homage to his
military 'Heroes'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Country singer Lee Greenwood makes no bones about who are his heroes.

He has pumped pride into millions of their hearts with his Desert Storm anthem "God Bless the USA." He sings even more eloquently of them in his new song "Heroes" that he performs most nights at his \$10 million theater in the Smoky Mountains resort of Sevierville, Tenn.

His heroes are the people in military service and the veterans who wore the uniform during war and peace. While Greenwood, 56, has never bore arms himself, he has learned of the rewards and demands of military life during a dozen tours as a USO celebrity performer.

"I'd give any break I could to military people," said Greenwood. He will do just that during August by reducing the admission fee for members of the National Guard and Reserve forces who want to see a production of this year's musical "Portrait of America" at the Lee Greenwood Theater.

Greenwood is making that gesture in tribute to the Air National Guard's Year of the Enlisted Force. He has flown overseas with the Tennessee Air Guard, he explained, and he's always been impressed that "no matter where we flew, the Guard knew exactly what they were doing and handled the job, from the loadmaster to the pilot."

"Portrait" is an energetic, entertaining family program that celebrates this country's musical history. It features Green-



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

LIVE LEE — Greenwood belts out a tune during his 'Portrait of America' set at his new Tennessee theater.

Red, White and GREENWOOD

wood most of the time, when he's not playing elsewhere, and a lively troupe of 10 versatile men and women who punctuate the Vegas, Hollywood and Broadway routines with slapstick humor and classical dance.

It also features the precision, the order that Greenwood admires in military people and which, he claims, would have served him as well in uniform as it has in show business.

"I would love to have been in the military. I'd have done very well, I think, in that arena," said the athletic entertainer who has the lean, compact build of a Marine colonel. "I get seasick and airsick, so I probably would have been a grunt," he laughed.

Having children to support when he was a young man made him ineligible for the draft and

required him to stay close to home, Greenwood explained.

Instead, he has done his bit with the USO. He began working West Coast service clubs when he was breaking into the business. His new theater and next-door restaurant showcase his trophies as a celebrity performer: a dagger from the 16th Air Force; a silver tomahawk from the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry "for musical patriotism and morale"; a 1988 photo of himself and Bob Hope aboard the battleship Missouri; and many photos with President George Bush, the commander-in-chief during the Gulf War.

His own war stories include an aged veteran giving Greenwood his Purple Heart following a performance in New York, and meeting two soldiers in

Okinawa on the beach where their fathers were killed late during World War II.

Therefore, he could not, would not overlook "the legions of nameless men and women that I have met" in his "Portraits of America."

"They represent themselves well," Greenwood said. "They look great in their uniforms. They're good ambassadors."

The final segment is dedicated to America's service people and climaxes with his signature song "God Bless the USA" that earned the Country Music Association's Song of the Year honors for 1985. It hit platinum in June 1991 as the universal theme for a nation honoring its troops who had swiftly and decisively defeated the Iraqi army. It captured the spirit of Desert Storm

in the same way that "Over There" and "God Bless America" reflected America's resolve during World Wars I and II.

"I thought the time was right to say we're proud of who we are," explained Greenwood who had written an anti-government song, "America," during the Vietnam War.

"USA" touched a real big nerve," he reflected. "It really opened the flood gates for people to be able to say we've finally put Vietnam behind us. We're going to move forward as a country."

His new song pays tribute to Greenwood's heroes still serving in the active and reserve ranks because, he sings: "When you stand for freedom, you sometimes stand alone, defending our America on shores so far from home, and a flag that points the way, on this lifelong journey of a hero for today."

For information about the discount for National Guard and Reserve members to see "Portraits of America," contact the Lee Greenwood Theater at (423) 933-8080 or (800) 686-5471.



BLASTING ABROAD — Wyoming Spc. Ben Blatz takes a sledgehammer to a building his unit, the 197th Engineer Detachment, was remodeling.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Germany is fast becoming a training ground for skilled Guardmembers

'Deutsch' DUTY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

David Burk of Wichita is a first lieutenant and a second-generation Kansas Army National Guardsman who in June joined the new generation of citizen-soldiers serving short tours of duty in Germany.

He is 26, and he is embracing his first opportunity to see some of Europe and to help train combat engineers from eastern Kansas who are rebuilding tank ranges for the U.S. Army in Grafenwoehr, about 20 miles west of the Czech Republic border.

"This is an excellent chance to train in Europe. Our missions on this range are very close to the missions our unit would be doing in a combat situation," said Burk when 36 men from the 891st Engineer Battalion and 226th Engineer Company

trucked and bulldozed tons of sand and gravel while building a 350-meter berm on Range 117.

"Plus, it's a spectacular country and it's full of history," enthused Burk who is overseeing three two-week rotations of troops from his state to picturesque Bavaria. Church bells toll every hour and a 10th century castle tower looks over a high-tech training ground for soldiers ordered to help keep peace in the Balkans.

Serving overseas has become a family tradition. Burk's father, Larry, is a master sergeant who was a helicopter door-gunner in Vietnam before joining the Kansas Army Guard 27 years ago.

Singing the praises of Guard duty in Germany has also made the younger Burk a full-fledged member of Lt. Col. Robert Williams' choir.

Williams, an Army Guard infantry officer from Michigan, is the reserve component liaison officer to the 7th Army Training Command that directs the Army's major training programs in Europe. It is based in Grafenwoehr, and it operates the Combat Maneuver Training Center to the south in Hohenfels.

Williams is doing everything he can to tell everyone in the Army Guard and Army Reserve that there are plenty of chances to train and work in Germany.

"Commanders need to have the 7th ATC in their toolboxes of training assets," said Williams who claimed 7,000 reservists could serve there each year.

More than 5,400 citizen-soldiers, 75 percent from the Guard, will serve there during this training year, a 10-fold in-



SHORT TOUR TOIL — Virginia Army Guard Spc. Jennifer James (above) repairs a humvee. Spc. Kip Straub (left) wires a building in Hohenfels.

crease since 1992. More than 1,000 spent two or three weeks there in June. There's room for many more.

"We have grown as fast as we can orchestrate it. We're doing a division's worth of training every two years," explained Army Guard SGM Thomas "Butch" Darras II in Grafenwoehr.

It has been 10 years since the Berlin Wall came tumbling down. It has been nearly a decade since the REFORGER exercises that annually brought thousands of reserve troops to Germany have become history. It has been less than a year since three former Warsaw Pact nations have joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Despite those developments, Williams maintains that the drastically down-sized U.S. Army needs all of the help it can get from reserve component troops because it no longer has enough full-time soldiers to do all of its work. That, he added, is good for the Guard.

"The 7th Army Training Command has mission and training opportunities for over 7,000 reserve soldiers every year," he recently stated. "We all know

that good training leads to good recruiting and retention. The combat training centers in California and Louisiana are certainly closer to home.

"But any time a unit deploys overseas, it's a big plus for unit readiness," Williams added. "Schedule your unit to train in Germany, and watch your recruiting and retention improve."

He is making that pitch with a new series of promotional videos that are being distributed to the major reserve commands across the United States.

That the Army needs mechanics and lawyers, infantrymen and military police, engineers and medical personnel to repair its equipment, rebuild its installations and train and care for its troops was obvious to everyone during the June week when NATO declared that the war in Yugoslavia was over and that another peacekeeping mission had begun.

"Without their support, our soldiers would be more overworked than we could imagine," said CSM Gerald Parks. He is the top enlisted soldier at the training center in Hohenfels where a sophisticated computer network and two 63-member teams of observer-controllers monitor the give and take of soldiers training for battle and show what leaders are doing right and wrong over 60 square miles of maneuver area.

"I used to have a bad taste in my mouth about the National Guard and the Army



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

DIGGING IN -- Kansas Spc. Jeremy Carriger, part of a 36-person contingent from his state's 891st Engineer Battalion and 226th Engineer Company, helped bulldoze tons of sand and gravel while building a 350-meter berm on a tank range in Germany.

Reserve. Not anymore," added Parks, a 28-year Army veteran. "These guys come here with a sparkle in their eyes. The support they provide and the love they have for their country make us help them do what they want to do -- be a part of the total Army."

Even though most troops get to see part of the country and sample German cooking, they are not on vacation. The workload during one week in June was a good example.

Thirty-one Army Guard maintenance men and women from Virginia helped Army mechanics repair and maintain armored vehicles and a fleet of 400 Humvees at Hohenfels.

"These units really tear up some equipment," marveled CWO1 Anthony Daniels who supervised one seven-member crew. He sent some of his mechanics into the training box to adjust and replace alternators and voltage regulators on trucks so they would not have to be towed back to the shop.

Daniels' team included Spc. Roger Colby, a highly-regard frame and alignment shop foreman from Richmond, and Spc. Geneva Tucker, a full-time mechanic on Greyhound buses.

Those are the civilian skills in the Guard that the Army has learned to love.

"My people get really excited when they hear the Guard people are coming," said MSgt. Daniel Panui, a Hohenfels motor sergeant. "Overall, they're very knowledgeable. We give them a job, and they tell us when they're done."

Meanwhile, 39 carpenters, plumbers and electricians from Wyoming's 197th Engineer Detachment were remodeling three, single-story buildings in a barracks and office complex at Hohenfels.

A three-man design team from

Tennessee's 194th Engineer Brigade prepared plans for remodeling two more of those buildings in another year.

Maj. Daniel Kozlowski, a civilian real estate lawyer, and Spc. Leslie Heshelman from Indiana's 38th Infantry Division legal office prepared wills and powers of attorney for active Army troops going to Kosovo.

Thirty-eight members of California's 670th Military Police Company, including a dozen civilian police officers, patrolled the streets and enforced the law in the U.S. military communities in Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck.

And 140 soldiers from Virginia's 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry helped members of the Army's black-uniformed opposing force at Hohenfels fine-tune 1st Infantry Division troops for peacekeeping duties in Kosovo.

"Every time these Guard troops make life hard on those soldiers, it's one more lesson they're going to use down range," Parks pointed out.

Training themselves and others for combat remains the Guard's most important mission, Williams maintained.

"We need more integration with the active duty soldiers even though the Berlin Wall has come down and the REFORGERS have gone away," he said.

The fact that leaders from Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division have conducted two V Corps war-fighting exercises in Grafenwoehr during the past year is a significant achievement, he pointed out. But more can be done.

"We really need to integrate active and reserve soldiers where they sweat and bleed," Williams added. "That's in the combat arms."

And that training, he stressed, can be conducted in Germany.

INSIDE 'DEUTSCH' DUTY

Calling 'Sgt. K'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

There are many reasons why Pennsylvania Army Guard SFC Laura Klimowicz stands out at the U. S. Army's tight-knit training post near the German town of Hohenfels.

■ She is one of the few active duty women working full-time at the expansive Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC) where thousands of men each year rehearse and refine their war-fighting skills in the Bavarian hills beside the Czech Republic's border.

■ Until this spring, she was the only advocate in residence for the National Guard and Army Reserve troops selected to train and work at one of the Army's two major field training areas in the Europe.

■ Her name -- pronounced "KLIM-ovich" -- twists so many tongues that she is universally known by a single letter. She is "Sgt. K."

The 36-year-old from the coal-country city of Mount Carmel, Pa., has become an institution within the 7th Army Training Command's Hohenfels community since reporting last October as the Army Guard's operations NCO and liaison for the Reserve Components.

"Getting all of the resources that the CMTC has to offer and applying them to the troops deploying here," is her nutshell job description that involves seeing to the needs of the 4,167 Guard and Reserve citizen-soldiers expected to spend time at Hohenfels this year. 3,500 belong to the Guard.

The endless list includes arranging for driving tests and requesting ordnance for the maintenance and infantry and civil affairs reservists coming from all over the United States. She conducts as much business on a portable telephone as she

does in person.

Although the liaison office was reinforced with three male officers in April, Sgt. K is the established old hand.

"I go to her before I make a move," said New York Army Guard Capt. Calvin Robinson, one of the three new officers. "She keeps this office going."

Maj. Robert Black from Georgia and Wisconsin 1st Lt. Eric Leckel are also helping to smooth the reserve soldiers' road to Hohenfels.

Klimowicz understands the ways of the Army. Her late father, Leonard, served in Japan, Korea and Vietnam during a 26-year career. Five of his six brothers were soldiers during World War II. Her older brother Lance, who will soon finish medical school, spent four years on active duty and became an Army Reserve captain.

Sgt. K joined the Army Reserve when she was 17, served in California while attending San Francisco State, and be-

came a full-time Army Guard recruiter in Pennsylvania six years later.

Many of the people she recruited for the Keystone State's 121st Transportation Company saw Desert Storm duty in the Persian Gulf.

"They were gone, and I was back in the armory. It was awful," Klimowicz

recalled. "But at least I knew I had been honest with them about the possibility of being activated."

That candor, coupled with a quiet persistence, has become her trademark during the 28 months she has served the Guard in Europe.

"She does whatever it takes to make sure our soldiers get the most out of their training time in Germany," praised Army Guard Lt. Col. Robert Williams, the reserve component liaison officer to the 7th Army Training Command.

"I like working behind the scenes, doing things for soldiers that they may not even know about," said Klimowicz. She has requisitioned mattresses for bunks and wall lockers for barracks so Guardmembers can be a little more comfortable during their temporary duty at Hohenfels.

"If what I do is not benefiting everyone," she insisted, "it's not worth it."



'Sgt. K' at work.

COMBAT MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Tennessee Army Guard design team help map out future of Germany's Combat Maneuver Training Center

Plotting the COURSE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

After 19 months in the Tennessee Army National Guard, Blake English, a private first class, is doing the jobs of three people.

Surveying terrain with a laser gun, analyzing soils, and drafting plans on a computer are the three distinct jobs that have been condensed into a single specialty at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., the U.S. Army's Engineer School where English got his first true taste of military life.

Furthermore, the civil engineering freshman from Brownsville, Tenn., has gone to Germany to help the Army remodel two single-story buildings at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels.

That's a pretty good start for a young man of 19 who traveled to Europe in June for his first two weeks of annual training with the Army Guard.

He was the rookie on a three-man design team from the 194th Engineer Brigade out of Jackson, Tenn., that is preparing plans for future projects based on U.S. military requirements and German building codes.

Lt. Col. Cary Henderson and SFC Frank Shelton were the considerably more ex-

MAPPING IT OUT -- Lt. Col. Cary Henderson (left), shares a lighter moment with PFC Blake English (center) and SFC Frank Shelton. The three-man Tennessee Army Guard design team from the 194th Engineer Brigade was in Germany planning building projects.

perienced team members who plotted the electrical, plumbing and carpentry work for the 3,434 square-foot structures located in a complex of office buildings and barracks that other Army Guard engineers are remodeling a few buildings at a time.

"It's a hand-in-glove relationship," explained Henderson. "National Guard engineer teams do the design work, and other Guard engineers come in and do the work a year or so later. The Army doesn't have enough people in Europe to do all of the work it wants done. We're glad to come over and help them."

Henderson works full-time for a railroad, dealing with waste water and hazardous waste issues in places like Atlanta and Chicago for CSX Transportation. Shelton designs three-dimensional maps from aerial photos for the Tennessee Department of Transportation so civil engineers can calculate, among other things, how much gravel and asphalt a road project will require.

They also belong to their brigade headquarters' construction management section that this summer is rotating two dozen people to Germany to do the design work on Army construction projects. One involves surveying a tank range in Grafenwoehr for new target areas, firing points and a road system, Henderson explained.

It may be old hat to people like Shelton who once mapped out a 15-mile highway project.

But it has considerably expanded the horizons for Blake English who considers this year's trip a promising start to his military and civilian careers.

"This is good training for what I want to do," he said. "Plus, this is my first annual training, and I'm in Germany."



By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

BROTHERS IN ARMS -- SSgts. Mark (left) and Michael McGhee are twins with dual combat experience. A Company B soldier (above) sprints to his next objective.

At 31, Virginia Army Guard SSgts. Mark and Michael McGhee are already old soldiers. They are also squad leaders in a storied infantry outfit that is still earning its stripes.

The fact that the identical twins from Christiansburg, Va., have served together throughout their military careers -- from basic training in 1986 to airborne school to combat jumps

on the same night into Panama; from Desert Storm duty in Saudi Arabia and during three years in the Virginia Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry -- certainly makes them unique.

The fact that they have been willing to put themselves in harm's way does not.

They belong to Bravo Company that is based in Christiansburg. Those 140 men are peppered with citizen-soldiers who have paid their own infantry dues in places like the Persian Gulf and the Sinai Peninsula; who two winters ago served with their battalion's heavily publicized Charlie Company on a Sava River bridge connecting Croatia to war-torn Bosnia.

Storied Virginia infantry company takes on Combat Maneuver Training Center

Following their FOREFATHERS

It was Bravo Company's turn to show its stuff in June.

The company commanded by 1st Lt. Erik Gordon reported to Hohenfels, Germany, about 20 miles west of the Czech Republic border, to help active Army soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry train other troops at the Combat Maneuver Training Center. Some of those other soldiers belonged to the 1st Infantry Division and were gearing up for peacekeeping duties in Kosovo.

That mission did not keep the Virginia citizen-soldiers as busy as they had anticipated. Still, it gave them nearly three weeks to train on 60-square-miles of wooded and hilly Bavarian countryside that is the Army's European version of the 1,000-square-mile National Training Center in California's Mojave Desert.

"They told us to have our own training plan when we got here," explained Gordon during a recent combat exercise. "We're getting ready to go to the National Training Center next year, so this is working out fine."

The CMTC is wired tight with lots of observer-controllers and with sophisticated computer systems that can plot the give and take of soldiers and armored vehicles in battle and show what the leaders do right and wrong.

But at the end of the day, computers don't make a grunt's job any easier. It is still back-breaking work. It means walking with weapons and water and back packs that grow heavier by the mile. It means communicating with hand signals so the soldiers can move through the woods more quietly than a breeze caressing the leaves. And it means laying in the same place for long hours before engaging an opposing force for 20 minutes.

Many of the men in Bravo Company are college kids — students at Virginia Tech. Their training in Germany illustrated one important thing: They still make 'em like they used to. They are men willing to do the jobs that go with belonging to what World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle lionized as "the goddamned infantry."



OLD-SCHOOL SOLDIERS — Members of the Virginia Army Guard's Company B, 1-116th Infantry (left and below) patrol Germany's CMTC.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

"When there's only yourself and your buddies to rely on, when you don't have that Bradley or field artillery backing you up, it's as straight and simple as it can be," pointed out Mark McGhee following a two-hour patrol. "Kill or be killed."

The McGhees were prepared to do just that on the night of Dec. 20, 1989, when they parachuted 500 feet into Panama with other soldiers in the 82nd Airborne to help launch Operation Just Cause and overthrow the government of Manuel Noriega.

They now own small heating and air conditioning and construction companies in Christiansburg, across College Street from their unit's armory. And they still have the lean, hard look of men willing to put everything on the line for their country. Michael McGhee, the construction boss, was named the Army Guard's 1999 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the 1st Army region.

Plenty of other Bravo Company soldiers make similar commitments.

■ Spc. Mark Gross, 26, of Falls Church took a year off from Virginia Tech to serve in an Army Guard battalion that monitored the Israeli-Egyptian border in the Sinai from January to July of 1995. That duty, he explained, helped him develop leadership responsibilities and reaffirmed his faith in his teammates. "Everyone here has to do their job to make the whole system work," he said.

■ Spc. Trevor Farmer of Virginia Beach, a management science senior at Tech, spent the winter of 1997-98 on the Sava River as a rifleman with Charlie Company. "It helped me learn to pay a lot of attention to detail, to be prepared for anything," he related.

■ SSgt. Michael Hanna, 45, of

Travelers Rest, S.C., got in on Charlie Company's quick reaction force.

"Keep alert and keep alive. Complacency kills," are the fundamental lessons the active Army veteran from 1976-79 stresses to those in his squad. "If they didn't go, they don't know," Hanna observed.

The 116th, part of the 29th Infantry Division, has a heritage of going.

It's lineage includes Virginia's famed Civil War "Stonewall Brigade" that was commanded by Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and that held its ground during a pivotal point at the first battle of Bull Run. The 116th U.S. Infantry Regiment led the D-Day assault on Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944.

"The success of that landing on Omaha Beach is due to the courage and leadership that the 116th displayed that day," said retired Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk, the National Guard Bureau's former chief historian.

It received a Presidential Unit Citation. Twenty-four soldiers were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. One got the Medal of Honor.

In June, the unit took full advantage of its trip to Germany to refine its war-fighting skills for the 21st century.

"These guys pick it up fast. Like anything, practice makes perfect," assessed Mark McGhee. "Compared to the guys on active duty who train all of the time, our Guard soldiers are a seven on a scale of 10."

Good leadership is the key element, stressed his brother.

"The Guard's tempo is going up, and more troops want that leadership," Michael McGhee added. "Good leadership encourages more good leadership. We're part of the chain that will pass that on to the next generation."



SPORTS

• Herman the German Meets Herbie Husker

Nebraska marksmen gun down international title

TOP GUNS — SFC Ron Harter (right, with German G-3 service rifle) and SMSgt. Larry Schmid (below, firing German HK handgun) were members of the historic Nebraska team that was on target in Germany.



Photos by Lt. Col. Rod Loos

Herman the German: Husker team first U.S. squad to take home coveted trophy

By 2nd Lt. Kevin Hynes
Nebraska National Guard

Herman the German... meet Herbie Husker.

Four members of the Nebraska National Guard Marksmanship Team registered a shocker of international proportions, recently, when they became the first American team to capture the team title at the 19th International Bielsfeld Competition in Germany.

"I've never seen a group of Guardsmen more ecstatic than our guys were after they learned they had won the team title," said Lt. Col. Rod Loos, officer in charge of the 14-person team. "Even the Germans were happy for us."

Winning the competition were Nebraska Army National Guardsmen SFC Ron Harter, SFC Robert Harpst, SSgt. Todd Wagner and SMSgt. Larry Schmid.

By winning the team competition, the Nebraska Guardsmen won a large traveling trophy with a statue of a medieval

German warrior, more commonly known as "Herman the German" by the competitors. It is the first time the trophy has been won by a non-European team.

According to Loos, the two day competition consisted of individual and team shooting contests using the Germany G-3 service rifle, the MG-3 machinegun and the HK handgun. Teams from 18 nations attended the marksmanship matches.

The Nebraska team, which had competed in the matches last year, were selected to represent the National Guard after placing second at the 1998 Winston P. Wilson marksmanship matches.

Loos said that the two biggest problems facing the Guardsmen were shooting unfamiliar weapons and having to deal with the language barrier.

"All the commands and coaching were in German, so we basically had to watch the teams in front of us to figure out the course of fire and what we were supposed to do," he said.

Harpst said that the competition reinforced the idea that training and strong shooting skills is vitally important.

"It shows that you go out on the battlefield and pick up a weapon that you are totally unfamiliar with and still use it accurately," he said. "It all comes down to using the shooting mechanics that we've developed in training."



MIGHTY MARCHERS

National Guard soldiers (right) honored the heroism of World War II Bataan Death March veterans (above) by enduring a grueling 25-mile course at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., recently. Guard teams from Missouri, New Mexico and Nebraska won separate team categories.



Photos courtesy of the New Mexico National Guard

Testing their trauma training

By SSgt. Shannon Scherer
South Carolina National Guard

By combining elements of the television series *M*A*S*H* and *ER*, six Air Guard flight surgeons are now better able to treat battlefield casualties.

The doctors, members of the South Carolina Air Guard's 169th Fighter Wing, put their civilian practices on hold to participate in a three-day Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, S.C.

Although all military flight surgeons know how to care for trauma victims, notes Col. Gerald Harmon, some National Guard doctors do not specialize in emergency medicine. Many Guard physicians, added the Palmetto State's Air Surgeon, are ophthalmologists, pediatricians, dermatologists — specialties not related to the battlefield.

Harmon said his state's military doctors wanted to sharpen

their wartime skills and fulfill a National Guard Bureau edict requiring that all flight surgeons have a trauma course by the end of the year 2000. Flight surgeons are also required to take advanced cardiac life support refresher training every four years.

"We wanted to have completed the training in case we were deployed due to world events," Harmon said. "The course in Columbia is only given a few times a year."

Dr. (Lt. Col.) Jim Chow, a dermatologist at Palmetto Richland, said the training needs of his fellow flight surgeons were paired with the training already offered by the hospital.

The ATLS course, offered through a collaborative effort between Palmetto Richland Memorial and the University of South Carolina's Department of

Surgery for 10 years, is headed by Dr. Richard Bell — a former flight surgeon with the Kentucky National Guard.

The trauma training consisted of lectures, tests and surgical skill stations where doctors put their techniques to the test.

A month prior to the course, the 169th flight surgeons were given a 400-page manual that detailed every kind of trauma — from head to abdominal to thoracic. Prior to attending the ATLS the doctors were tested on the manual.

hostile environment.

"For our ER (emergency room) doctor this is day-to-day stuff," Walters said. "But the only time I'll see this is in a wartime situation or a peacetime emergency. That makes it good training for me."



Photo by SSgt. Shannon Scherer

'HAWKEYE' and 'TRAPPER JOHN' — Dr. (Lt. Col.) J.R. Walters (right) examines Dr. (Lt. Col.) Dana Rawl. Both participated in the three-day Advanced Trauma Life Support course at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, S.C.

Having National Guard doctors in the classroom did not seem to affect the 10 other civilian physicians who attended the course. However, some of the Guard doctor's medical specialties did raise an eyebrow or two.

"This training is mandatory for our trauma residents, ER physicians and surgeons," reported Julie Murray, a Richland Memorial trauma nurse. "We don't normally have dermatologists and ophthalmologists in our ER."

For many of the doctors, the training was a way to brush up on their knowledge and skills, said Dr. (Lt. Col.) J.R. Walters, an ophthalmologist who commands the 169th Medical Squadron. For others, he added, it was a way to learn medical procedures needed in a

RIPLEY

FROM PAGE 3

The Ripley environmental staff is not alone in their efforts. The Minnesota Department of Military Affairs has been instrumental in developing partnerships with a variety of organizations and resource agencies that has proved beneficial and cost effective.

One of those agreements involves using University of Minnesota students to conduct a tactical vehicle study. That deal also includes research on the red-shouldered hawk, black bear and gray wolf. In fact, several state colleges and universities have signed up to secure environmental internships in natural resource management, GIS, pollution control and environmental awareness.

A partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will produce a comprehensive survey of Ripley's flora and fauna.



Photo by Steve Kohls

BEARING DOWN — Black bears are weighed and measured during hibernation at Camp Ripley. It is one of the many efforts that led to camp's environmental staff winning a DoD-level award.

"Camp Ripley's partnerships with the Department of Natural Resources have produced some of the best research on endangered species in the state," insisted Pam Perry, a DNR non-game specialist. "Camp Ripley's environmental staff is top notch."

Ripley's 53,000-acre laboratory has lured a diverse group of environmentalists, Skoglund reported.

The North Dakota State University has conducted a study of threatened species; the Natural Resources Conservation Service developed a native grass management plan and erosion control plan; and the Army Environmental Center looked into ways to improve tactical concealment management.

Add to the list partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi Headwaters Board, the Wildlife Society, the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine and the Army's Corps of Engineers, and you get the feeling Ripley is connected.

If you need information on wildlife, Skoglund said,

studies on everything from the hooded warbler, loons, owls, bats, snakes and frogs — to name just a few — have been conducted. He added that many of these studies focus exclusively on how military activities affect surrounding wildlife.

Technology has also assisted Ripley's environmental efforts. By using first-of-its-kind Global Positioning Systems radio collars, the staff is able to better study gray wolf and white-tailed deer movements. The use of helicopter "net-gunning" to capture wolves and deer for tracking also has proved quick, safe and inexpensive, Skoglund added.

Environmentalists are not the only people Ripley's staff has reached. For the past eight years, students from the community have trekked to Ripley to learn about protecting and managing the environment. One such program — established by a local high school — traded three, one-hour classes in social studies, english and science for a three-hour, environmentally-laden class touching each of those subjects.

Ripley's "Shadow Program" — where students are paired with local professionals and taken to the field to function as apprentices — also has garnered praise.

Guardmembers who train at Ripley are an important part of that camp's success. Along with an M-16, incoming soldiers are issued environmental awareness training through field cards, handbooks, videos and posters.

More important than the recent DoD-level honor, Skoglund insisted, was recent evidence that validated his staff's efforts to ensure both Guardmembers and wildlife exist harmoniously at Ripley. Gray wolf pups, he reported proudly, are thriving in the heart of an active training area.

NEWS MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

A visiting Georgia Air National Guard unit brought smiles to more than 35 Make-A-Wish Foundation children and their families at Nellis AFB Nev., June 1.

Members of the 116th Bomb Wing provided the children, who have life-threatening illnesses, a hands-on tour of the B-1 bomber flown from its home station at Robins AFB, Ga.

More than 200 unit members capped the event with pizza, snow cones and unit T-shirts.

"There was one little girl we had to pry out of the cockpit — literally — after her tour of the aircraft," recalled MSgt. Frank Swails. "These children were just happy to be out having a good time — you could see the overwhelming joy in their eyes. It really gives you some perspective about what's important in life."

The Make-a-Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that attempts to fulfill the wishes of children afflicted with terminal diseases, such as cancer.

According to tour coordinator SSgt. Tracy Tharpe, the visit not only brought smiles to the children, but also touched the hearts of unit members.

"When the guys in the unit actually found out what was actually wrong with the children, they stepped back with tears in their eyes and asked 'how could somebody so small have so many problems,'" Tharpe said.

Members of the Maine Air Guard 101st Air Refueling Wing's Fuels Flight recently won the 1998 American Petroleum Institute (API) Award.

The prestigious award is given annually to the Air Guard's most outstanding fuels flight. Units are judged in such areas as fuels management, accounting and computer operations, quality control and community involvement.

The Bangor-based flight provided fuel service to 1,249 Wing aircraft, as well as 1,053 transient aircraft. This accomplishment encompassed requisitioning, receiving, storing, testing, issuing and accounting for all aviation and ground fuels, liquid oxygen and de-icing fluids. A total of 11,282,088 gallons of JP-8 jet fuel were issued during the same period. Perhaps more telling, the 101st fuels experts, with only 10 KC-135 aircraft assigned, issued 34 percent more fuel than super-tanker units having 20 assigned aircraft.

"Their professionalism, expert skill, dedication and efficiency have propelled them to meet rigorous, increasing work demands, with minimal manning," said Maj. John LeBlanc, 101st chief of supply. "They are the embodiment of 'doing more with less' and without compromising safety."

The Alabama Air Guard's 187th Fighter Wing was recognized by Lockheed-Martin, a manufacturer of the F-16 Fighting Falcon, for recording its 40,000 accident-free hour of flying.

The Montgomery Regional Airport-based unit celebrated its 16th consecutive year without a flying mishap. It is only second time in the F-16's history that the award has been given to a flying unit.



Georgia TSgt. Steve Payne helps a child Make-a-Wish.



Maine Air Guard fueling flight is best in the business.



Alabama Col. Scott Mayes (left) and Lt. Col. Woody Lamar know about safety.



A Maryland Army Guard medic makes a difference in Guatemala.

Col. Scott Mayes, 187th commander, said the entire unit is responsible for the safety milestone.

"I would rather be lucky than good, but I have to believe you can't be lucky in this business unless you are good first," he said.

According to Lt. Col. Woody Lamar, 187th chief of safety, the wing has received the Air Combat Command Flying Safety Award every year for the past 15 years. In the same period, the unit also has received seven Air National Guard Flying Safety Awards and four Air Force Awards for Meritorious Achievement in Flight Safety.

A team of 35 medical professionals with the Maryland Army Guard's Company C, 729th Support Battalion recently returned from a successful relief mission to the Retalhuelu, Guatemala.

The well traveled Catonsville-based medics have provided similar support to the medically underserved in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic in years past.

Over 10-days, 729th medics, doctors and dentists treated 6,277 patients in three villages.

"To give freely of yourself is the most priceless gift that can be given," noted Maryland Spc. C. Holt. "The members of Company C have once again proven that there is more to medicine than stern faces and a bleak diagnosis."

The Tennessee Army Guard has a new recruiting tool, thanks to Nashville Auto Diesel College and the dedicated efforts of Volunteer State Army Guardmembers.

With personnel strength a major concern for military units across the country, the Guard is always looking for new and innovative ways to recruit young men and women.

Enter the Tennessee Army Guard's "Rolling Thunder," a custom painted, high profile, hard-chargin' mobile recruiting display vehicle.

The Tennessee recruiters obtained the basic Humvee through military excess property channels at no cost and contacted the Nashville Auto Diesel College Custom Paint Shop for assistance.

"It was a great opportunity for our students to have a chance to work on a very unusual vehicle. They were jumping at the chance to be on the paint team," said Tommy Curtis, Custom Paints Class instructor at Nashville Auto Diesel. "It's an exciting project for our students to work on."

Six of the top custom paint students were selected to implement the design furnished by Screen Art in Murfreesboro. Oversize tires, chrome wheels and bumpers and a "killer" sound system will complete the package.

The project took about two months to complete, and was unveiled by Maj. Gen. Dan Wood, adjutant general, at a dedication ceremony June 11 on the campus of Nashville Auto Diesel College.

"Rolling Thunder" will be used as the focal point for Army Guard recruiting activities and will travel to schools and events throughout the state. The attention-grabbing vehicle is designed to help heighten the awareness of the Tennessee Army Guard's involvement in communities.



Photo by Spc. Rhonda Morgan

WOMAN WARRIOR— An Estonian woman (females are allowed to join the infantry there), cleans her weapon with a fellow platoon member after an M-16 competition.

PARTNERS

FROM PAGE 1

were taken during the planning stages of the exercise to ensure their former Soviet partners were comfortable.

"The training and competitions were taken from our training manuals, translated into the different languages, and sent to each Baltic country," he said.

Working together and team building, however, is not something soldiers under communist rule are taught, explained Maj. Burt Francisco, the exercise's training officer.

"Our goals included improving individual and team building skills," he said. "It became apparent during the competitions that both these goals were being met. That shows me that they were really working together."

"The Baltic soldiers will now become trainers to their troops back home," Francisco added. "So the training continues."

Although the six platoons trained separately during the day, the soldiers enjoyed hanging out together in the evenings at the barracks. Thoma said he gave the Latvians a class on the Army's rank structure.

"Their desire to learn really impressed me," he said. "Then we spoke about our mutual disdain for communism."

Thoma's effort to educate did not go unrewarded.

"Two of their troops gave me items from the former Soviet Union. One was a ruble, which has (Vladimir) Lenin's face on it. So I can punch him every so often," he said with a laugh and a punching motion. Lenin was the first premier of the USSR.

"The other (item) was a Soviet hat pin," Thoma added. "I was deeply honored."

PFC Ronnie Loeffler, a 19-

year-old Maryland Army Guard infantryman, said he was surprised to meet a Lithuanian soldier who was only 17.

"He told us they don't get paid. They join to protect their country," he said.

Several other U.S. soldiers were impressed by their Baltic counterpart's intensity.

"Some of the guys have been in combat and they know it's not a joke," said Maryland's SSgt. Peter Lindell.

SSgt. Rolandas Valiokas, a liaison NCO with the Lithuanian National Defense Force, said many Baltic soldiers are determined to remain a democracy.

"Life is 1,000 times better as an independent nation," he said.

Although these exercises bloomed from a desire to help the Baltic nations, American soldiers also benefitted.

"Training with foreign soldiers makes us realize how important our role really is, and that we do make a difference," said Pennsylvania SSgt. Russell Schall, a member of Company B, 1-110th Infantry.

It's a difference McDowell believes could lead to membership into NATO.

"They (the Baltic countries) have a deep national pride. They want to get into NATO," he said. "By training with us, that will enhance their ability to do so."

For McDowell, the contact with his Baltic comrades didn't end at Grayling. The colonel said he continues to correspond with his Baltic friends.

"Just knowing the troubles they went through under the Russian government makes me feel good to associate with them," he said. "It's important to teach them our Democratic values and the way we incorporate our Reserve components into defending our country."

Michigan Spc. Marsi D. Nelms-Daniels contributed to this story.



Photos by MSgt. Mike Arellano

URBAN Warriors



1st Lt. David Escobedo (top photo), a member of the Texas Air Guard 149th Fighter Wing's Security Forces Squadron, looks around a corner before moving out during a recent Military Operations in Urban Terrain exercise at Camp Bullis, Texas. Eight members of the San Antonio-based squadron attended a four-day law enforcement safety and survival training hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "The training taught us to survive in a high-risk situation," said TSgt. Clarence James.



STATES

• Thailand Training • Forbes' 50th • Hoosiers Honor Heroes

UTAH

Elements of the Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group returned from Thailand after participating in Exercise Balance Torch.

The month-long joint military exercise with the Royal Thai Armed Forces also involved special operations units from the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy.

Commanded by Lt. Col. Andrew Burton, the Beehive State group deployed three Special Forces "A" teams and a staff element that had operational control of the exercise.

"Balance Torch allowed the special forces soldiers to train other soldiers.

"This is a unique opportunity to practice those skills in an unfamiliar environment, with students who speak little or no English," noted Lt. Col. Burt Brasher.

Participants also practiced small-unit tactical training, amphibious operations and live-fire exercises at seven locations around Thailand.

NORTH CAROLINA

Maj. Gen. Gerald Rudisill, Jr., adjutant general, met with Dr. H. Nolo Martinez in an effort to improve recruitment of hispanics.

Martinez, the Tarheel state's Director for Hispanic and Latino Relations, noted the disparity between the U.S. (11 percent) and Guard (6%) populations.

PENNSYLVANIA

'Philly' FLIERS

Col. Jim Skiff (right), commander of the 111th Fighter Wing near Philadelphia, led a team of four A-10 pilots to a new four-ship record for flight hours logged. The pilots — Skiff (4,505 hours), Maj. Mitsu Murphy (3,593), Lt. Col. Steve Sischo (3,138) and Maj. Jeff Hoying (2,501) — eclipsed a mark they set last year. The record also marked Skiff's final flight.



Photo by MSgt. Linda Beth

"The North Carolina Guard is a community based organization and if we are to continue to grow and prosper we must reflect the community," Rudisill said.

KANSAS

A B-2 "Spirit" bomber fly over marked the highlight of the 50th anniversary celebration of Forbes Field in Topeka, July 10.

The field is named for Maj. Daniel H. Forbes Jr., who died in 1948 while test piloting the YB-49 "Flying Wing" — the precursor to today's B-2 stealth bomber.

His co-pilot was Capt. Glen Edwards. The crash of the YB-49 is the only single mishap where two Air Force bases were named after the two pilots.

Members of the Sunflower Air Guard's 190th Air Refueling Wing and its Army National Guard's 108th Aviation helped plan the celebration.

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Capt.

Ronald Bandy recently soared over the skies of the Washington metropolitan area in his first F-16-Falcon flight.

As the CAP's National Capital Wing, Cadet of the Year, Bandy was treated to an F-16 ride.

Aircrew with the District's 113th Fighter Wing, based at Andrews AFB, Md., provided the lift.

INDIANA

By Capt. Jenny Lynn Gruehr
Indiana National Guard

Ninety-three Medal of Honor recipients from across the country received a heroes welcome in Indianapolis recently, as the city's unveiled a memorial dedicated to their combat exploits.

The nation's only Medal of Honor memorial consists of 27 walls of curved glass, representing each conflict since the Civil War — when Congress established the Medal of Honor. The walls have a recorded voice that describes the actions of each recipient during conflict.

Just 158 recipients are still living. Three of them — Sammy L. Davis, Melvin Biddle and Paul Bucha — are from Indiana.

Davis, 52, earned the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Vietnam conflict in 1967. He single-handedly loaded and fired a burning howitzer five

times during a heavy enemy assault. Ignoring his injuries and his inability to swim, he rescued three wounded comrades from the other side of a river. Then, refusing medical attention, he joined another howitzer crew and fired until the enemy retreated.

"We travel together now and for eternity, blood brothers borne of battle and one spirit borne of love. From this spot shall spring the story of sacrifice. From this spot shall grow the evidence of sustaining hope," Davis remarked. "Old warriors will find it a place of sacred reflection. The young will find it a place of inspiration and direction."

"And we," he added, "shall finally be home." Biddle, 75, received his medal from President Harry Truman in 1945. Stationed in Belgium during World War II, Biddle aggressively scouted in hostile territory and led the advance during a 20-hour attack on an enemy-encircled town. He destroyed four hostile machinegun nests, killing or

wounding their crews. He then shot three more enemy soldiers despite heavy enemy gunfire.

Bucha, 55, a captain stationed in Vietnam, led his men on a four-day mission to destroy enemy fortifications. He single-handedly destroyed a concealed enemy bunker with grenades and suffered shrapnel wounds.

"When we wear the Medals, we like to think that we remind you of the potential that exists in each and every person you meet," Bucha said.

SSgt. Mary Pope, a member Indiana National Guard's ceremonial unit, said she will never forget meeting Davis.

"He (Davis) was busy thanking me for me being at the ceremony, and here I was in awe of him," she recalled. "When he shook my hand I could tell he was genuinely sincere."

"This day," she added, "just shows how ordinary people can truly make a difference in this world."



HISTORY

Audie Murphy: Synonymous with Heroism

Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, a real life John Wayne, was reluctant to recount his exploits as heroic

'The real heroes are DEAD'

Two bronze stars, 3 purple hearts, 2 Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor: These are the awards that made a small, skinny kid from Texas the most decorated American soldier of World War II.

Born in 1924, Audie Murphy, the son of share-croppers, grew up "the poorest of the poor." After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Murphy tried to enlist in the Marines, but was rejected because of his size and 5th-grade education. The Army was less selective, and in June 1942 Murphy enlisted.

In basic training he was nicknamed "Baby," and his company commander, thinking him too small and frail to fight, tried to make him a cook. But in February 1943, Private Murphy arrived in North Africa as an infantry replacement.

His assignment to the 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, guaranteed his future. The 3rd Division, fighting first in Italy, and then in France and Germany, amassed the highest number of killed and wounded of any WWII Army division. By the war's end, only Audie Murphy and one other man remained of the original Company B, 1st Battalion that entered combat in Sicily.

Audie Murphy had hunted squirrels as a young boy, and he quickly transferred his hunting skills from squirrels to Germans. He had an immediate grasp of small-unit tactics and, as one man who served with him recalled, reflexes "like a leopard." With an M-1 rifle over his shoulder, a .45 tucked into his belt and a carbine in his hand, at any sound Murphy would "have his carbine up and 3 or 4 shots off before we could even look." His new nickname became (in a reference to George Patton) 'Blood and Guts Junior.'

Murphy's medal-earning streak began with a Bronze Star on the beachhead at Anzio; it ended in Germany in June 1945 when he was awarded the Medal of Honor for an action six months prior. Holding an isolated outpost, Lt. Murphy (he tried to avoid the battlefield commission, but finally had to accept) sent his men back when

German tanks appeared. Murphy remained behind with his radio, directing artillery fire, and then jumped on a burning tank destroyer to turn its 50-caliber machine gun on advancing German infantry. The showdown lasted almost an hour.

At the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, Audie Murphy was the nation's most decorated hero. When his picture appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine, the nation was stunned: the face above the chestfull of medals looked no older than 15 or 16. Hollywood agents began calling immediately.

Written up by the press as the all-American boy, unscathed by the 240 Germans he had personally killed, Murphy was in reality suffering from extreme combat fatigue; he would have vivid nightmares for the rest of his life. At a ceremony in his Texas hometown, Murphy quietly told a friend who called him a hero, "the real heroes are dead."

When actor James Cagney issued a personal invitation, Murphy went to Hollywood. Studio press agents tried to capitalize on his war exploits, but Murphy refused



GUARD HISTORY

By Renee Hylton
Army Guard Historian

to discuss them. Instead he began work with journalist "Spec" McClure on his war memoir, *To Hell and Back*, which appeared in 1948.

To Hell and Back never mentions medals, either; instead, it is a grim depiction of the life of the front-line infantryman. Decades before military historians took up the topic, Murphy discusses the psychology of combat, and the emotional toll of watching his friends die one-by-one.

The book is dedicated to Murphy's best buddies, both of whom were killed in action. One actually died in Murphy's arms, but when *To Hell and Back* was filmed (with Murphy playing himself), that scene was considered too sentimental and cut from the script.

When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Murphy announced, "I want to get all the training I can," and joined the Texas Army National Guard. He was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division, which had fought with the 3rd Division through WWII. One retired Texas Guardsman told biographer Don Graham that Murphy enjoyed his years in the Guard because the men "... didn't make any fuss over him and treated him just like any other soldier."

For the military, he was generous with his fame, agreeing to promotional appearances and talking to the press. He left the Guard in 1956 as a major.

The 1960s were not good years for Audie Murphy. Most of his movies had been low-budget Westerns, and when they fell out of fashion Murphy's contract with Universal Studios was not renewed. There were problems with gambling, and debts, and a strained marriage.

In 1971, while trying to put together a business deal, the man who had cheated death so many times in combat was killed in a plane crash near Roanoke, Va. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Pentagon brass attended the funeral, and so did about 40 fellow veterans of the 3rd Division.

An Arlington gravedigger commented that he was surprised that Murphy was buried in a simple, Government-issue wooden coffin. But the unceremonious burial, for a man described by his regimental commander and fellow Medal of Honor recipient as "the finest soldier I have ever seen," was not an oversight. Murphy had instructed his family to decline the gold lettering authorized for the headstones of those who earned the Medal of Honor.

Except for the list of his medals carved into the stone, Audie Murphy's Arlington headstone is the same as "the real heroes" buried around him.

To HELL and BACK — Audie Murphy (left), a man synonymous with heroism, once told a friend, 'The real heroes are dead.'



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services



TRAINING



Photos by Spc. Clinton Wood

Minnesota, Ohio medics vie for coveted Expert Field Medical Badge

Battle for the BADGE

By SSgt. Ed Holt
Minnesota National Guard

Three out of every four medics who risk the blood, sweat, tears and intense emotion toll necessary to earn an Expert Field Medical Badge will fail.

Still they came.

In all, 67 candidates from the Minnesota and Ohio Guard recently spent two weeks at Camp Ripley, Minn., where they were tested their combat medic skills.

To pin on the badge medics carried wounded soldiers through mud, loaded them on helicopters and carried them across fields; all while being fired upon, shelled, gassed, yelled at and timed. Com-



ing up short at any one task meant failure. Still they tried.

"This is as good training as I have ever had. That includes my time in the Marines and my time in the Guard," said Sgt. Curtis Schrank, a combat medic with Minnesota's Company F, 434th Support Battalion said. Schrank spent eight years on active duty as a Marine before joining the Guard.

"Those candidates that do get the EFMB are not the only ones learning from this experience," he added. "They will still be gaining tremendous experience and ben-

efiting from the atmosphere created here."

In years past, noted Minnesota Capt. Rhonda Evanson, her state's project and liaison officer for this year's training, medics who failed an area were sent home. Not so this year, she said.

"Everyone completed all the training," Evanson noted. "It was an intensely positive training opportunity."

This is the second year Ripley hosted EFMB candidates. Teaming with the Buckeye state, Evanson noted, ensured there would be enough medics to challenge the course.

HEALING HANDS -- A team of Ohio medics (above) move a casualty through a litter obstacle course. Minnesota SSgt. Patrick Connery (left) assists a 'wounded' soldier.

Capt. Allan Thompson, Evanson's Ohio counterpart, said the decision to allow each medic to complete the entire course is a good one.

"Few soldiers actually earn the badge, so a majority of soldiers that participate never see the complete test," he noted. "Now, they will know exactly what is involved."

The EFMB was originated in 1965 to recognize exceptional competence and performance by field medical personnel.

Candidates are tested on 11 "critical performance" areas. This includes taking a written and physical test, navigating a course with a compass, qualifying with a weapon, evacuating wounded, treating a medical emergency, performing CPR and testing survival skills.

Candidates are exposed to automatic weapons fire, simulated artillery bursts and extensive chemical and biological attacks during the field portion of the test.

"This was high-speed training, very battle-focused," Schrank said. "It brought everything into focus for me."