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THE ON GUARD

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August 1999

'Horizons' rises in Nicaragua

After the Storm: Ohio Guard leads first exercise in decades to ravaged nation

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

You can do a lot with 20,000 cement blocks and a couple of hundred cubic yards of concrete.

You can build three schools and three clinics to withstand hurricane winds of 120 mph. You can create the centers for new communities where people who have lost their homes can rebuild their lives. You can bring entire countries together.

That is what Army National Guard soldiers from Ohio and Mississippi and 15 other states have labored to accomplish during this summer in Nicaragua where active volcanoes shoot clouds of steam over lush tropical rain forests.

A New Horizons '99 military task force organized and managed by the Ohio Army Guard's 16th Engineer Brigade and overseen by an Army Guard general has done much to overcome 20 years of tense relations between the United States and that Central American land.

The diverse mix includes medical people from Illinois and helicopter crews from Puerto Rico.

The cement blocks used to help Nicaraguans in the central highlands rebound from last fall's crippling blows of Hurricane Mitch may become the building blocks for long-term diplomatic, cultural and military friendships.

"These are the emissaries who are just starting that process," said Charles Cragin, the U.S. Defense Department's under-secretary for reserve affairs, of the nearly

3,000 U.S. troops who are taking part in Task Force Esteli, named for the remote province where the work was progressing smoothly.

"You can be proud of what you have accomplished here," Cragin told 257 of those citizen-soldiers who left the capital city of Managua July 24th after spending two weeks laying block and attending to their new friends' medical needs.

"We expected to provide humanitarian assistance and secure excellent training," Cragin explained. "We also wanted to demonstrate to the Nicaraguan people that we are good neighbors."

You would be hard pressed to find a



Photo by Oswaldo Rivas

RAPID RESPONSE — Pennsylvania Army Guard Capt. Denis Sullivan, a member of the 328th Support Battalion, offers snacks to children visiting a Guard work site.

better neighbor than John Dragani, 41, of Columbus, Ohio, if you needed help in a hurry. That Army Guard sergeant holds a civil engineering degree from Ohio State and is a self-employed design technician. He left his wife and daughter in early June to become the technical engineering supervisor for the buildings going up in Nicaragua.

"I love this part of the world. I just had to come back," said Dragani who met his wife Nancy in 1989 when he was an

■ See NICARAGUA, Page 11

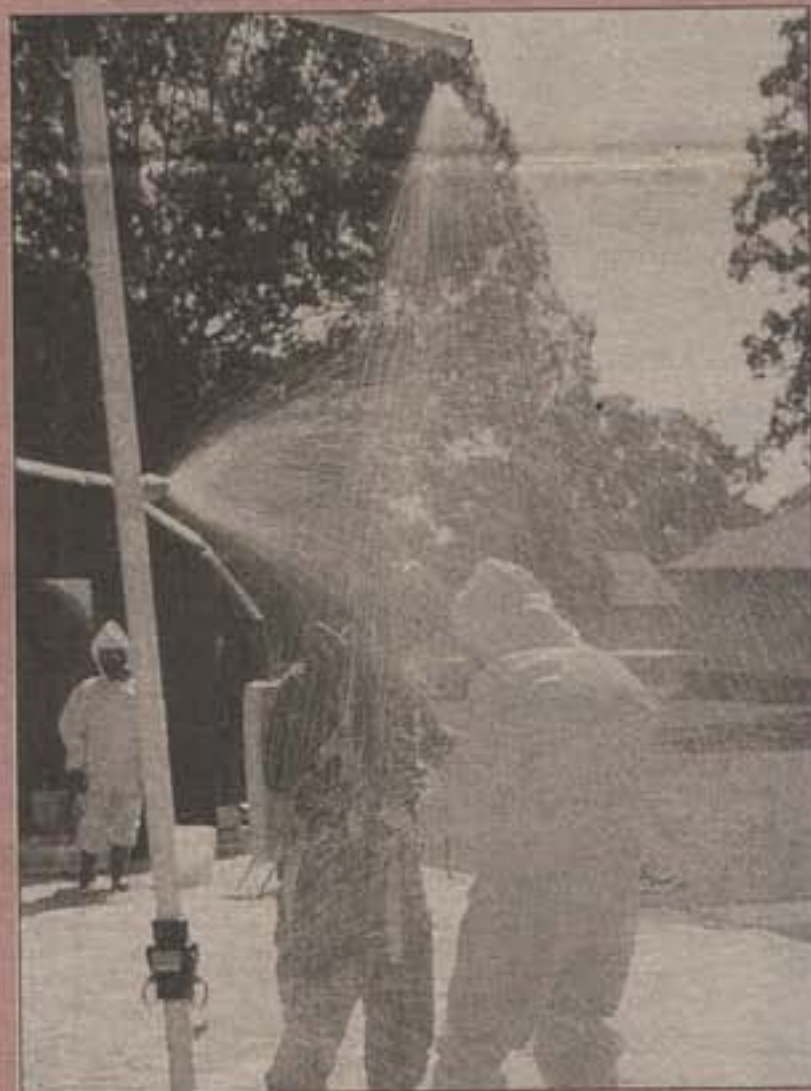


Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**AWASH
in 'WMD'**

Members of the Colorado National Guard's Military Support Detachment, based in Aurora, practice decontamination procedures at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Nearly 220 Guard troops were there learning how to deal with Weapons of Mass Destruction attacks. See Pages 6-7



COMMENTARY

• Iowa Infantrymen • Gulf Gaffe • Boffo Band

ABOUT the PAPER

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GUARD MAIL

Without a paddle

I'm writing regarding the photo that accompanied the "A well-built legacy" story that appeared in the June issue (page 6).

The top photo is of the 194th Infantry Long Range Surveillance (airborne) Detachment out of Camp Dodge, Iowa. We're not from Illinois!

The first man on the port side (the left side of the boat) is Capt. Royka, commander of the detachment. I was the third man port side.

Don't get me wrong it was a very good piece. Thanks for time.

Spc. Aron Fritz
Iowa National Guard

Desert Deception

I am a full-time exchange officer from Arkansas serving in the readiness division at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. Prior to my arrival in November 1997, I had served with the Arkansas Army Guard and the 39th Infantry Brigade since 1969.

In reading the June issue, I have a concern regarding a brief about Arkansas on your "States" page. The units from Arkansas that are supporting Operation Southern Watch came from the 39th Infantry Brigade, not the 38th brigade.

The opening statement, "Eight years after serving with distinction in South-

west Asia as part of Operation Desert Storm," is inaccurate.

While Arkansas sent 3,300-plus soldiers and airmen to the Gulf in 1990-91, there were no units from the 39th deployed as a whole like the comment would lead you to believe.

You may have been referring to the Arkansas Army Guard's 142nd Field Artillery — which was comprised of two, eight-inch cannon battalions, their Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and an attached Multiple Launch Rocket System battery from the Oklahoma Army Guard. This brigade served with distinction in support of V Corp and the British combat troops in particular. The British commander had stated that the supporting fires were "the most accurate he had ever witnessed."

While the 39th (and myself) stood ready to respond to the call to serve in the desert, we were never given the opportunity. Both of these infantry companies are currently on station.

Thank you for your efforts in producing a fine newspaper. I always enjoy each issue.

Maj. Barney G. Smith
National Guard Bureau

Music to their Eyes

Editor's Note: The following was written by Chestnut Hill Local music critic Michael Caruso, renowned by area pundits for his unyielding reviews.

The concert in Pastorius Park, featuring the 553rd Air Force Band of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard led

by Maj. Patrick Jones, was one of the most enjoyable outdoor programs I've experienced in nearly a quarter-century of concert-reviewing.

The weather, the venue and the performers all combined to offer an unalloyed evening of pleasure.

I simply can't recall hearing as large an ensemble as the 553rd Air Force Band play so consistently well from a purely technical standpoint. And not only were the solo efforts so beautifully accomplished, but the ensemble playing was no less refined and efficacious; textural balance and rhythmic precision were virtually flawless.

Again, I hasten to add that the playing wasn't merely technically impressive, but it was musically memorable, as well. Maj. Jones led his players with a deft, sensitive hand that offered an extraordinary amount of soft, lyrical playing; wisely balanced with playing characterized by power and energy.

Maj. Patrick Jones
Pennsylvania National Guard

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GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"Only history, and a few modifications, would validate Ethan's forays into advanced weaponry."



IN THE NEWS

• Mojave Maneuvers • Technicians Touted • JFK Searchers

Texans 'capture' attention at NTC

■ Outsmarted: *'They had their boots off and were still eating chow when we got there'*

Capt. Danny Blanton
Mississippi National Guard

Shock turned to anger and embarrassment for three "Krasnovian" soldiers on a reconnaissance patrol as they were outsmarted by a Texas Army Guard scout team.

The team from Company B, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry, based in Floresville, were protecting members from the Mississippi Army Guard 155th Armored Brigade's combat team from Krasnovian infiltration when they identified, charged and captured their unsuspecting enemy.

"They had their boots off and were still eating chow when we got there," recalled Spc. Raman Marcias, a member of the scout team. "They were stuck in their tracks and didn't know where to go."

The scouts were part of a 29-man platoon from the Lone Star State Army Guard's 49th Armored Division, who joined 21 other states supporting the three-week "Magnolia Rotation" at the National Training Center (NTC) in Fort Irwin, Calif.

Nearly 5,500 National Guard soldiers were involved. Marcias said he was familiar with popular opposing forces (OPFOR) hiding places after having served as an OPFOR combatant at the NTC four years ago.

"It's kind of fun going up against these guys after being OPFOR, but it's a lot harder being on this side of the tracks," he said.

Once the Texas scouts spotted the fictitious Krasnovian soldiers, they called on soldiers from Mississippi's Company A, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry, based in Tylertown, to assist them in securing their capture.



Photo by Maj. Dennis F. Smith

GAME GUARDSMEN -- A trio of Army Guardmembers were among a group of saavy warriors to distinguish themselves at the NTC.

"They arranged for some other guys to go up the back of the hill and trap them. We charged the hill from the front and captured them," Marcias explained.

SFC Juan Benadidez, a Bradley Scout Vehicle commander also from the Floresville unit, said the capture would not have happened without the assistance of his wingmen.

"I brought my entire section. My wingmen came up one side of the hill, while the infantry came up the other," he added. "They were trapped. They had nowhere to go."

"At first they were shocked," Marcias recalled of the captured foes. "Once they got over the shock, they were angry. They could not believe this happened to them."

The "Magnolia Rotation" was a 21-day exercise conducted in the harsh environment of California's Mojave Desert. The 155th contingent conducted the most stringent force-on-force training that the U.S. Army has to offer -- training that is expected to improve the combat skills of nearly 5,500 Army Guard soldiers from 23 states.

The rotation ended July 31.

Technician force celebrates 30th year

By SFC Lorna Geggis
National Guard Bureau

A recent cake-cutting ceremony at the National Guard Bureau, where Lt. Gen. Russell B. Davis praised the contributions the Guard's technician force has made, highlighted the 30th anniversary of the passage of the National Guard Technicians Act.

"We have been able to grow and perform effectively as a force," said Davis, "because of the technicians holding down the fort."

The ceremony celebrated the

implementation of the National Guard Technicians Act of 1968. That legislation standardized the pay and benefits extended to the Guard Technician force, and provided them with Tort claims protection. It made them Federal employees of the Army and the Air Force, but retained control of the workforce at the State level under the Adjutant General.

This provided technicians with Federal job stability and protections and made available a pool of long-term experienced personnel for the Guard. According to National Guard Human Resource Director, Stephen

P. Stine, the legislation was unique and ahead of its time because it provided for a customized force, federally paid and protected, but completely available for state service.

"Our full-time technicians are absolutely key to the readiness of the National Guard," Stine said. "They are the bridge between the traditional m-day soldiers and the day-to-day requirements of our National Guard units."

The full time technician force performs the necessary maintenance,

■ **TECHNICIANS, Page 4**

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Arkansas infantry companies make Persian Gulf history

Two Arkansas rifle companies recently became the first National Guard infantry units to serve in the Persian Gulf region.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry from Batesville is in Kuwait, while Company B, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry from Fordyce is in Saudi Arabia.

Both units are spending the summer guarding Patriot anti-aircraft missile batteries as part of efforts to enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. The Arkansas units are part of the enhanced 39th Infantry Brigade.

The units mobilized in late May. Their first stop was Fort Carson, Colo., where they received their final training and participated in the reactivation of the 7th Division, a unit formed from enhanced infantry brigades from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Oregon.

"I am excited we're getting the chance to do this mission," said Capt. Christopher Campbell, Company B, 2nd Battalion commander. "We're ready to serve, highly motivated and ready to go."

Another unit from the 39th and one from Oregon's 41st Infantry Brigade are set to replace the two rifle companies in the fall.

New York, Massachusetts liars assist JFK Jr. recovery

When search and rescue efforts for the downed aircraft with John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and his sister-in-law on board began, elements of the National Guard moved into action.

At Langley AFB, Va., a routine alert message crossed the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center desk at 2:42 a.m., July 17.

The center dispatched the New York Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing. The unit operates the only rescue aircraft in the northeastern U.S. capable of aerial refueling: the HC-130 Hercules and the HH-60G Pave Hawk.

The Massachusetts Guard also assisted the effort. A UH-1H helicopter and three-man crew from the 126th Aviation spent three days combing the waters off Martha's Vineyard, Mass., for signs of the aircraft. In addition, Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod was the base of operations for the entire effort.

At the end of last month, the recovered wreckage of the aircraft was being stored in a base hanger as federal transportation officials tried to determine the cause of the fatal crash.

Compiled by National Guard magazine.

TECHNICIANS

FROM PAGE 3

administration and preparation needed for effective training and mission response.

By performing the day-to-day functions and essential leadership and staff roles, technicians relieve traditional Guard members to train for the Guard's warfighting and peacetime missions.

Their institutional knowledge, he added, has been proven to impact unit readiness.

That institutional knowledge has also served the Guard senior leadership well. Davis, Army Guard Director Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz and Army Guard CSM John Leonard have served in the technician force. Each understands the importance of full time trainers and administrators to unit readiness.

"Unit readiness NCOs and technicians are often a clearing house of information and the initial point of contact for families," Leonard said.

"The 'full timers' know the soldiers and often know family members as well," the CSM added. "Families' questions can often get answered in one stop without getting lost in a what can be an intimidating military maze."

Stine added that technicians also provide the continuity necessary for smooth operations, especially during rapid transformation and change in force and weapons systems.

"As we acquire more sophisticated equipment our requirement for technical and intensive maintenance increases," he said.

Full time manning, which includes both the technician force and the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) forces, is an issue of growing concern. Diminished funding has resulted in only 54 percent of validated positions being filled in the Army Guard.

This difference of approximately 3,000 technicians and 1,600 AGRs, Stine noted, has placed significant pressure on the Guard's leadership and unit members to bridge the gap.

"We need to be sure that our technicians and AGR soldiers are supported and protected from an over-reliance on their talents and dedication," Stine observed. "We need more full-time manning."

Maine engineers get busy at border

Border Barrier: 133rd Engineers build fence, move dirt, upgrade road

By SFC Daniel Fortin
Maine National Guard

At first glance, you might think that you were looking at a picture you've seen before in a magazine of the Great Wall of China, twisting and turning through those ancient hills. Your eye continues to follow the barrier south to the horizon where the image disappears in a ripple of heat.

However, soon you realize that you're standing in western California along the Mexican border. At closer inspection, you notice that this structure is made of steel, not stone.

The "Scandia" fence, so named because of its geographic location, is being constructed by members of the Maine Army Guard's Company C, 133rd Engineer Battalion based in Lewiston. The 118-person contingent recently spent two weeks in San Diego, Calif., as part Task Force Grizzly.

The task force was developed to help support the U.S. Border Patrol's efforts to curtail the illegal drug trafficking and immigration problems along the 147-mile Mexico/U.S. border.

When completed, the fence will span 14 miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Otay Mountains in San Diego County, explained California Army Guard Col. Robert L. Klein, task force commander.

"The barrier is part of a double barrier system to halt illegal vehicular traffic across the border," he said.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense



Photo by SFC Daniel Fortin

Reserve Affairs Charles L. Cragin said the use of Guard units is mutually beneficial.

"Operations such as Task Force Grizzly give these Maine Guard members a chance at some great training, while providing a great product for America," he said.

Some of that training, according to Capt. Dwaine Drummond, Charlie Company commander, required 133rd engineers to use someone else's equipment.

"It is very realistic that units such as the 133rd would fall onto equipment not our own," he said. "When we get there, we will have to make do with what we have."

The fence is 15-feet high and made of steel poles set in six-foot-deep footings. Steel sheathing bolted from the inside makes up the barrier portion of the structure. The fence does not consist of any harmful materials like barbed wire.

SSgt. Michael Mowry said that the work was intense.

"The fence crews have been working really hard," he reported. "We've been

THUMBS UP — At a multi-culvert site, soldiers with Maine Army Guard 133rd engineers position concrete pipes prior to pouring the transition box and headwall.

averaging approximately 170 to 200 feet of fence per day."

Company C was tasked to assemble and erect 1,000 linear feet of steel fence. At the end of their rotation, the Maine soldiers had finished approximately 1,500 linear feet. The Pinetree State engineers also upgraded nearly 1,200 linear feet of road and constructed two multi-culverts.

Along with the other projects, the 133rd engineers performed a massive "cut and fill" mission by moving a large volume of soil and rock. They removed and redeposited an average of 5,000 cubic yards of dirt per day.

"The Maine engineers moved and graded more dirt than any other rotation to date," Drummond noted.

YOUNG GUN

A toddler is a little gun shy as a member of the Montana Army Guard's 2nd Battalion, 163rd Armor explains the finer points of the .50 caliber machine gun. Members of the Big Sky State's Army Guard were out in force recently at the Montana Madness Blue Angels Air Show providing several static displays and free water.



Photo courtesy of the Montana National Guard



PEOPLE

• 'The Bug Catcher' • Caldwell's Command

BUG
CatcherBy MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Carpenters and plumbers, electricians and truck drivers are the typical jobs held by 39 Army National Guard utility engineers who have traveled far from their Wyoming homes to remodel three single-story buildings at an Army training post in Hohenfels, Germany.

Oh, yes, there's also an entomologist. That's the guy the other members of the Wheatland-based 197th Engineer Detachment call "the bug catcher."

An entomologist? A bug catcher? In an engineer unit? Check.



Spc. Glen Lorenz, preventive medical specialist,

Meet Spc. Glen Lorenz of Guernsey, Wyo. He is 28 and a former field artilleryman in the Marine Corps. He now holds one of the most unusual jobs to be found in any Army line unit. Technically, he's a preven-

tive medical specialist. Lorenz literally gets to the test the waters -- and the insects -- before the others in his unit get to drive the first nail or run their first foot of wire in a place they don't know.

Making sure that the water is fit for drinking, examining mosquitoes for malaria and ticks for Lyme disease, and checking the paint for lead content would be his responsibility should the detachment commanded by Capt. Sam House be sent to a remote location.

Those are not common concerns at the Combat Maneuver Training Center's modern complex of buildings located a few miles west of the Czech Republic border.

Lorenz, therefore, is spending his duty days helping the unit's eight carpenters remodel two office buildings and trans-

form another building into an open-bay barracks.

Yet, his singular specialty gives him a unique distinction among his citizen-soldier peers.

"It's interesting to be able to be responsible for the health of the other people in my unit so we can get on with our mission," said Lorenz who is an interesting man in his own right.

He stands 5-foot-2 and weighs 120 pounds. He's a small man by military standards. But that is not the measure of his heart.

A former high school guidance counselor, Lorenz related, told him he was too small to make it in the armed forces; that he should find something else to do after he graduated.

"I decided to join the toughest outfit I could find," said Lorenz who had to get a waiver because of his size before he could spend four years in the Marines and become part of a 155mm howitzer battalion at Camp LeJeune, N.C.

He has since gone to work for

the Wyoming Premium Pig Farms near Wheatland. He is a poet who has been published twice by the National Library of Poetry in California. He plans to be married in August.

Lorenz has also made his mark as a citizen-soldier in the well-traveled engineer detachment that served in Panama in 1996 and that expects to return to Germany next year.

That cross section of Americans includes postal workers, a surveyor, a couple of ranch hands, a professional engineer, and another former Marine, Spc. Ben Blatz, who drives 85-ton trucks at a quarry near his Cheyenne home. SSgt. Borgia Noel, an electrical inspector for the Wyoming fire marshal's office, supervises the crew of eight military electricians.

And if anyone should wonder if it's okay to drink the water, the first person they'll probably ask is their own "bug man," Spc. Glen Lorenz. He'll undoubtedly tell them the water in Germany is just fine.

Bridging the Gaps

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

James Caldwell was an Army National Guard general eager for a new adventure when the telephone rang in his Worthington, Ohio, home last Feb. 18.

Retired as a full-time Guard technician at the time, he had spent his days helping his wife, Gail, run her business communications consulting firm and traveling to bridge tournaments.

That was before the fateful call asking him to command three New Horizons '99 task forces being organized to help people in three other Central American countries recover from last fall's devastating hurricanes.

The robust general said "yes" the next day.

Five months later, Ohio Brig. Gen. James Caldwell, 57, has made his mark as a high-profile, hands-on commander for thousands of National Guard and Army Reserve troops who have helped give new schools, new clinics, new wells, new roads and new hope to hurricane and earthquake victims in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador.

"I was thrilled at the idea. I was ready for a new challenge," said the Oklahoma-born Caldwell from his headquarters at the Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.

He is in charge of the U.S. Southern Command's Forward Command Element until mid-September when all construction operations will shut down. This Army Guard general has learned as much about international



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

diplomacy and about being a general as he already knew about military engineering.

Caldwell commanded a New Horizons task force in Honduras in 1989 as a colonel. He has encountered many challenges this year as a general.

■ He has overseen the first major U.S. military operation in Nicaragua since relations between the two countries were stretched to the breaking point in 1983.

■ He has ensured that Guatemalan people hurt and left homeless by a 6.6 earthquake on July 11 got all of the help possible from Army Reservists nearby.

■ He has flown countless miles over an area the size of New England while overseeing the construction projects and medical relief missions that have involved more than 1,200 citizen-soldiers at a time.

■ He has told his joint military staff of 100 people in no uncertain terms that, as much as he needs their help, he also needs to take care of the most important issues on his own.

It's a lot like bridge, the card game that has consumed many off-duty hours during Caldwell's 33-year career.

He is like a director for a duplicate bridge tournament where team members are playing at several tables at once, often in different rooms. The director's job is to

DOUBLE DUTY -- With Acting Secretary of Reserve Affairs Charles Craig (left), Brig. Gen. James Caldwell addresses troops in Nicaragua.

make sure the play proceeds smoothly and to settle any disputes. The director has the final word.

The big difference is communication. In bridge, players are forbidden to talk to their teammates. However, in a military operation where the distances between sites is measured in hour-long flights or daylong drives over mountain roads, communication is vital.

Nicaragua was considered the most sensitive of this year's New Horizons sites. The United States has had a strained relationship with the country since the early 80s when they supported anti-Sandinista contra guerrillas while the Nicaragua government was aiding leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

Could a National Guard humanitarian task force help heal those old wounds? Caldwell maintains it has.

"They've been as pleasant to work with as any country in the region," he said. "We couldn't ask for better support from the Nicaraguan army."

July's earthquake, followed by a tropical storm, in eastern Guatemala thrust work-starved Army Reserve engineers from Illinois into a new role.

"The Reserve soldiers were no longer looking for work after that earthquake hit," Caldwell said. "They've been real heroes in that neighborhood."

"Complicated agreements," he observed, "are more often encountered in duplicate bridge, where the players are often long-standing partners who have devoted considerable effort to agreeing to their system."

It's a premise that has served James Caldwell well at the bridge table and in Central America.

The Guard's Military Support Detachments are the 'tip of the military's response spear'

Preparing FOR THE Inevitable

By SFC Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

TSgt. Jane Bonner used to watch TV reports about natural disasters and bombings wondering if there were any way she could help.

She found a way.

The Washington Air Guard hazardous modeling specialist was among nearly 220 National Guard troops from across the nation being trained to help civilian authorities rapidly react to potential Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) terrorist incidents.

"Now I'm doing something to help the country," said Bonner, a member of her state's 10th Military Support Detachment (MSD) headquartered in Tacoma.

The 10 Military Support Detachments will be trained in nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological sampling, detection, decontamination, air re-breather and protective wear functions, emergency communications, medical, and other civil-military coordination operations.

Primarily, the rapid responders are training with civilian subject matter experts. Their progress also is being scrutinized by observers and controllers with the First and Fifth Army. Officials with the Consequence Management Program Integration Office based at the Pentagon in Washington D.C., along with other Department of Defense agencies, observed the training.

"The Military Support Detachments are equipped with chemical, biological and radiological protective and monitoring equipment, along with advanced communications and automation equipment to provide assistance and augmentation for the (first-responding) incident commander on the ground," said Maj. Tammy Miracle, the National Guard Bureau public affairs officer for WMD.

"Detachments will serve as the tip of the military response spear to WMD attacks," Miracle added. "These detach-



Photos by SFC Eric Wedeking

ments will help local responders assess the situation, determine possible responses and request state or federal aid. Specifically, the detachments can survey an attack area to determine the nature and extent of contamination. They are equipped with the latest, commercial off-the-shelf technology."

Currently, 10 National Guard detachments are spread throughout the nation. Each is based near a regional Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, to ensure the fastest possible response to a terrorist attack. Their locations also coincide with areas national emergency think-tank planners are convinced the country will eventually suffer terrorist incidents similar to the Oklahoma City bombing or the Tokyo subway sarin gas attack.

Besides the experts, MSD citizen-soldiers and airmen are convinced that preparedness is essential.

"It's not a matter of if it's going to happen, but when an attack is going to happen," said Illinois Army National Guard Sgt. Harold Cubillo, a junior com-

puter and political science major at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and a survey team specialist with the 5th Military Support Detachment based in Peoria.

Guard's MSDs that are expected to be up and running by the end of this year include: Natick, Mass., Scotia, N.Y., Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Marietta, Ga., Peoria, Ill., Austin, Texas, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Aurora, Colo., Los Alamitos, Calif., and Tacoma, Wash.

Georgia Army Guard Capt. Jeff Allen, a survey team leader for the 4th MSD based at Dobbins Air Force Reserve Base, said the detachments are brimming with subject-matter experts in nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological issues. Many, he added, also possess civilian and military-acquired skills relating to homeland defense.

"This equipment we use is high-speed, low-drag stuff, so we have to have quality people in this unit," said Allen, who resides in Atlanta and gave up a top government position as a senior scientist with the Georgia Environmental Protection

Division to join the Peach State's newly forming detachment.

"I left a good job on the civilian side to be on the team," he added. "But this is something I really wanted to do."

Like so many others serving with the newly forming detachments, Allen eagerly awaits the day he and other detachment members are able to train alongside the first-responding police and fire agencies they are preparing to support in the event of disaster or terrorist incident.

"We're looking forward to getting our equipment, and doing our individual and collective training on the new equipment at home station," he said, "and working with them (police/fire fighters) to let them know what we're capable of."

Part of that capability includes having the 10 MSDs located near an Air Guard base in case people or equipment need to be deployed quickly.

"We have a huge reach-back capability," Allen confirmed, referring to the Guard's ability to tap into extensive military assets when different terrorism or disaster scenarios require it.

INSIDE MILITARY SUPPORT DETACHMENTS

Volunteering for Deadly Duty

By SFC Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

Sgt. Kimberly Ferraro and others like her have had their sanity called into question. Their family, friends and military counterparts believe them to be "crazy."

After all, who in their right mind would volunteer to venture into a potentially deadly nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological disaster area?

More than 200 full-time National Guard men and women who comprise the 10 newly formed Military Support Detachments (MSDs), that's who.

Each has his or her reasons to be on the front lines of a possible terrorist attack.

"Sure, people still think I'm a little crazy, but this is something I've always wanted to do ... to be a part of an elite unit," said Ferraro, a decontamination specialist with the 2nd MSD based in Scotia, N.Y.

Stepping into harm's way, or the unknown, appealed to some.

"To go right out into the jaws of the beast as it were, they said I was nuts," said Washington Air Guard TSgt. Jane Bonner, a hazard-modeling specialist with the 10th MSD. "My family and the people in my old unit are very proud of me, but they still think I'm crazy."

Rather than claiming insanity as a qualifying factor for becoming a member of one of the National Guard's premier units, rapid responders cited love of country, a sense of adventure, camaraderie, and personal and professional growth as reasons for signing on.

Many citizen-soldiers and airmen, especially those who have educations and experience relating to nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological specialties, wanted to put their training to the test.

"Hey, I prepared my whole life for this," said New York Army Guard 1st Lt. Thomas Benton, a survey team leader with his state's 2nd MSD, who served with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Department of Energy as a radiological control technician. He also has been a "first-responder" and captain with a local volunteer fire department near his home in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Others believed they were given a chance to be a part of something special.

"I'm just glad I got selected for this opportunity to get involved in a history-making event for the National Guard and the country," said Texas Army Guard SSgt. Michael Sullivan, a survey team specialist with the 6th MSD in Austin.

"I think I'm doing something useful," added the 22-year nuclear, biological and chemical NCO veteran. "It's dangerous, but that's part of being a soldier."

Illinois Army Guard Spc. Harold Cubillo, a survey team member with the Peoria, Ill.-based 5th MSD, said he was willing to delay getting his degree in both computer and political science from Northern Illinois University.

"I tell people that somebody has to be crazy enough to do what we do," Cubillo said, "but it's

great training on some high-tech equipment and a great experience."

But the universal reason given by citizen-soldiers and airmen for taking on a potentially fatal duty, is a strong desire to help people.

"It's like a firefighter's mentality. Somebody has got to do it and I feel I'm up to the challenge," said Massachusetts Army Guard Sgt. Anthony Carriere, a survey team specialist with the 1st MSD in Natick.

Prior to becoming a full-time detachment member, Carriere had received his criminal justice degree from the University of Massachusetts and was working as an emergency medical technician.

"I want to be there to save people and protect the country," he said.

RAPID RESPONDERS—Members of one of the National Guard's 10 Military Support Detachments (opposite page) practice removing a decontaminant from their protective suits. A Guard rapid responder (left) assists a teammate in removing her garb. An MSD member (below) gets acquainted with using a breathing apparatus.



Contrary to some perceptions, the 10 detachments are being created solely to deploy to WMD events, advise civilian-first responders and facilitate their requests for further assistance.

"We don't get involved in intelligence gathering or chasing after suspected terrorist groups," Allen noted. "That would be illegal."

"We train our people to be analytical thinkers," he added. "We don't train them to bust down doors."

Most MSD team members are somberly aware that they could easily be called upon to work in life-threatening conditions.

"It's dangerous business, but being a soldier — that's part of your job," said Texas Army Guard Staff Sgt. Michael Sullivan, a survey team member with the 6th MSD in Austin. "It's why our training is extremely important."

Despite the inherent dangers, civilian trainers reported that citizen-soldiers and airmen embraced their new mission.

"They have been great. They seem to be enjoying the training and they're enthusiastic," said Robert Mayhew, an instructor with Stafford, Va.-based Prime Vendor.

Mayhew also commended National Guard leadership for establishing high

standards for those seeking to become MSD members.

"They looked for soldiers who we're mentally and physically ready to handle this," he added. "They weren't just pulling people off the streets and putting them in slots. It was a strict selection process."

To delineate Mayhew's point, Pennsylvania Army Guard 1st Lt. James Gerrity, the operations officer for the 3rd MSD in Annville, said the 10 detachments bring a wealth of civilian and military-acquired rapid response skills.

"Not only do we have NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) NCOs, we also have medical people, physician's assistants, EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), and people who worked at fire departments as first responders or EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians)," Gerrity said.

In addition to those technical specialties, other detachments boast people who work as chemists, physicists and nuclear technicians, just to name a few.

It's because of this vast experience, and in-house assets, that Gerrity believes makes the Guard a key component in helping local police and fire departments during an actual crisis.

"We're ready to go and make it happen," he said.



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking

BRUSHING UP—Guard MSD members practice removing decontaminants at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

INSIDE OPERATION ALASKAN ROAD

Operation Alaskan Road presents Guard engineers unique challenges

Rugged ROAD

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Military people know they have two fundamental missions: fighting wars and training to fight wars.

A road-building project on a remote island off Alaska's southern-most city is being hailed as a training opportunity for military engineers on a par with the training for infantry and armor troops conducted at the Army's combat training centers in Louisiana, Germany and California.

To 1,850 residents of Metlakatla, the 14-mile Walden Point Road could mean more tourists and more jobs for Annette Island when the highway is finished sometime during the next decade.

To people like Maj. Gen. Thomas Whitecotton III, it holds the promise for training many construction and combat engineers for working and surviving on some of the world's toughest terrain.

"This can be for our engineers what the National Training Center in California is for our armor brigades," said the deputy-commanding general for the reserve forces in the Fifth U.S. Army.

Whitecotton is partial to engineers because he commanded the Missouri Army Guard's 35th Engineer Brigade, based at Fort Leonard Wood, before taking on the Fifth Army post in February 1997.

"It separates units into the capable and the less capable," added Whitecotton who visited the Alaskan site recently with Maj. Gen. John Havens, Missouri's adjutant general, and Gary Kempker, the public safety director who oversees the Show Me State's National Guard forces.

"They told me you were up here building a road. That is an understatement," Kempker told the Missouri troops after touring the 2.3 mile-stretch that has been cut and blasted out of a mountain valley during the past two summers.

It is, in short, a tougher job for military engineers that most of the humanitarian

missions that National Guard troops routinely fulfill beyond expectations in Central America.

"There is so much rock, and rock is hard to push around," said SFC Joe Holloway, a heavy equipment platoon sergeant from Missouri's 1140th Engineer Battalion. Holloway has also helped build roads in Panama and Honduras.

"The rock grinds up the equipment," added Holloway following a two-week tour to Alaska. "Our maintenance people were a lot busier up there than they were in Honduras and Panama."

"It will point up the cracks in any outfit who comes here," projected Whitecotton.

He helped develop the project that is into its third year and that is funded by the Defense Department's Innovative Readiness Training Program.

That puts the focus on training the military people rather than pressuring everyone to finish the road quickly.

"We emphasize safety first and training second," said Naval Reserve Capt. Douglas Barber, the joint task force commander. "Production will take care of itself."

Furthermore, Col. E. Tracy Beckett, who now commands Missouri's 35th Brigade, and others are considering the idea of tackling just as tough a project in another place when Operation Alaskan Road is finished.

Qualified observer-controllers similar to those at the NTC and the Joint Read-



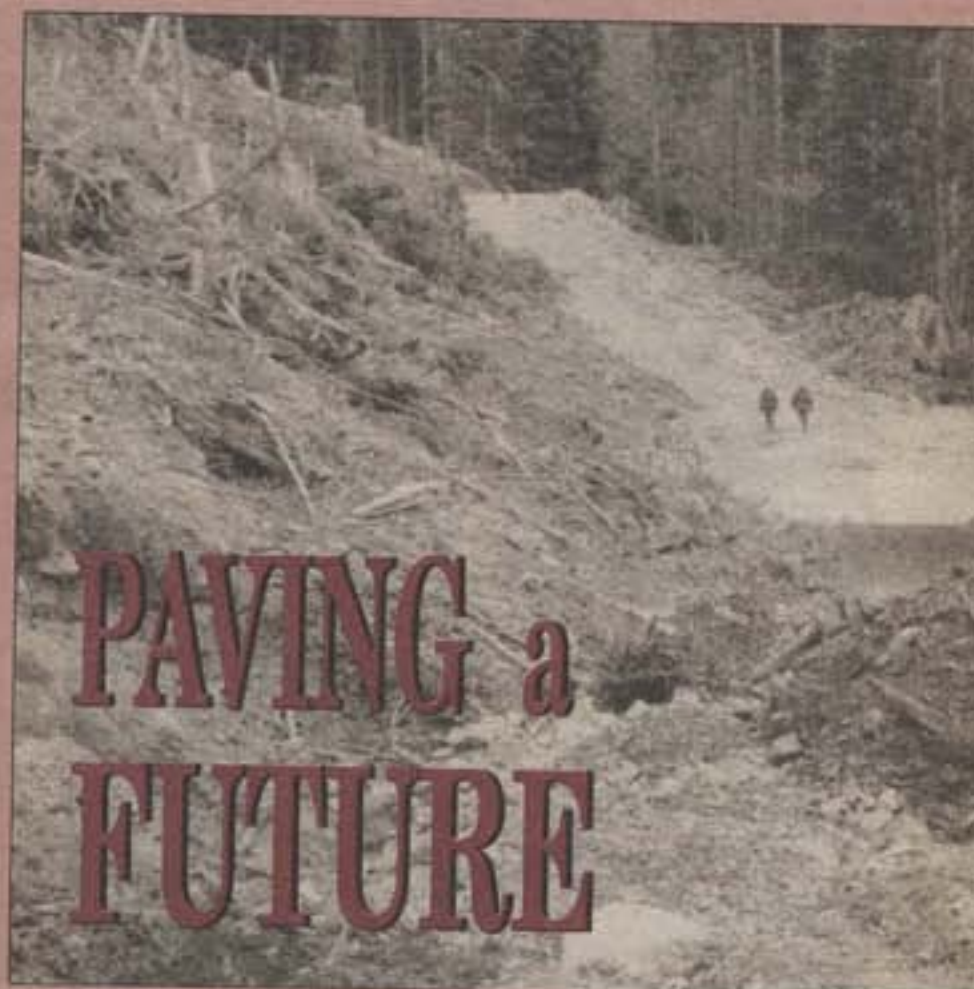
Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

TOUGH TERRAIN — Alaska offers some of the most demanding engineer training around, say those in the know.

ness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., would have to be included in the scenario to make sure that all of the people — from surveyors to maintenance crews — are trained to military standards while engaged in a real-world project, Whitecotton observed.

Training to standards on engineering and survival techniques is critical, Havens told the Missouri citizen-soldiers, "because we never want to have to put you on an airplane and send you against an opposing force without having those skills as sharp as possible."

"Any time you can have a competent, external evaluation, it helps the entire unit," stressed Whitecotton who knows where more Army Guard engineers can go to be tested to their limits. They can go north, to Alaska.



Nearly 700 Guard engineers are connecting an isolated community

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Few parts of America, besides Texas, have been as celebrated in story and song for their remote, rugged appeal as Alaska. Celebrities as diverse as novelist James Michener and singer Johnny Horton have stirred the public's imagination about the adventure to be found in our 49th, largest and still most unsettled state.

Members of a combined military task force that relies heavily on Army National Guard engineers can tell you first-hand just how hard it is to tame Alaska's majestic wilderness in the name of progress.

"This is as much wilderness as you can imagine," marveled Missouri Army Guard Sgt. Jesse Boyer.

Construction and combat engineers from the active Army and Reserve, the Navy and Marine Corps, as well as the Guard, are cutting and blasting a two-lane, 14-mile road around snow-capped mountains along the western shore of Annette Island about 18 miles off

Ketchikan, Alaska's southern-most city.

Operation Alaskan Road is a seven-year Innovative Readiness Training Program undertaken by the Department of Defense. Its objective is to connect a Tsimshian Indian community of 1,850 in Metlakatla to a new ferry terminal planned for the east side of the island. Metlakatla, which means "calm channel," depends on fishing for its livelihood. It is accessible only by water and air.

Officials hope the new Walden Point Road will entice tourists and new businesses to their town that, now, is isolated for much of the year.

"There is one ferry a week between Metlakatla and Ketchikan during the winter," explained Naval Reserve Capt. Douglas Barber, who has commanded the task force for the past two years. "This road will give the island's residents access to Ketchikan and the rest of the world every day."

"It's quite overwhelming to think we're building a road through these mountains," said Army Guard Sgt. Mike Pierson, a high school math teacher and assistant track and football coach from Fredericktown, Mo. "It's been a lot of hard work. But it's been good training for us loggers. You've got to go to bed early so you can be ready for the next day."

Pierson labored with a chain saw for two weeks in June and July as a



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell



PAVING the WAY — Missouri Spc. Aaron Francis (left) helps cover a culvert. Sgt. Mike Pierson (below), a member of the Missouri Army Guard's Company A, 1140th Engineer Battalion, saws through trees blocking a new Alaskan road.



logger with Company A, 1140th Engineer Battalion out of Farmington, Mo. He helped cut the right of way through a forest of tall trees and treacherous ledges.

Those are just some of the natural challenges that task force troops must overcome to fulfill a promise that the Department of the Interior made to the island's Native American community 50 years ago.

The troops call the 180-square mile island "The Rock" for good reason. It is downright hard work for those who report to the Wy Wuh base camp to operate 100 pieces of heavy equipment, including military bulldozers and dump trucks and commercial excavators, in the name of training.

The duty is tougher on people and equipment than anything the Guard engineers have encountered in Central America or as civilian bulldozer and truck operators in Missouri, said SFC Joe Holloway, a heavy equipment platoon sergeant.

They must contend with up to three feet of muskeg, a layer of decomposing earth, that covers much of the island. Rain is a constant concern in the area that gets about 10 feet of precipitation most years. Ledges and boulders must be blasted and crushed into rock for the roadbed after the loggers clear out the trees.

Progress is measured in yards. About 2.5 miles of road was opened

July 31 when the second season of construction ended.

"We emphasize safety first and training second. The production will take care of itself, and this road will be built," stressed Maj. Jerry West, the project's operations officer from the Missouri Army Guard's 35th Engineer Brigade.

Working on the project provides engineer units with as much tough training as armor outfits receive at the National Training Center in California, observed Col. E. Tracy Beckett, that brigade's commander.

The military engineers are a stubborn, sturdy lot. Up to 300, including a 77-member duration staff, have worked on the project at any given time since mid-April without a serious injury.

By mid-July, 700 Army Guard engineers from Missouri, Massachusetts, Utah, Guam and Hawaii — split into seven two-week rotations — and 200 active Army and Reserve troops had hauled 130,233 cubic yards of rock and muskeg.

Two dozen Navy Seabees from Japan had drilled 19,167 feet of holes for high explosives and blasted ledge into 37,496 cubic yards of rock.

A half-dozen other Army Guard soldiers from North Carolina and Missouri had helped crush 14,000 tons of rock at a quarry.

The tally was an impressive 204,057

cubic yards of rock and 77,176 yards of muskeg hauled during the first two construction seasons.

Still, the going is slower than originally anticipated because of the rock and the terrain.

"This is the first time we have been around so much blasting. Five or six blast sites can be going on at the same time," said Capt. Andre Edison, commander of the Missouri citizen-soldiers from Farmington. "And we're building this road to 50 mph, federal highway standards. It is more precise than what we've done in the past."

But no one intends to sacrifice safety along the road where men and heavy equipment work closely.

That was stressed during a recent weekend visit by Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens and Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, National Guard Bureau chief.

"It was gratifying to hear them say that the training mission is succeeding, and that we should not compromise training or safety to achieve faster production," Barber said.

The Naval Reserve captain understands the value of the training for the troops as well as the value of the road for the Alaskans.

He is a civil engineer who has served in Seabee battalions and in the Navy's Atlantic and Pacific commands for 25 years. He has also worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. He spent three years on the

Petersburg City Council, including one year as mayor.

The project is also near and dear to Solomon Atkinson's heart.

"This road will open up a different way of life. People have been looking forward to this road," said the councilman and project coordinator for Metlakatla.

He explained that high winds and heavy seas make it hard for the island's people to consult with medical specialists, get bank loans, or seek legal counsel in Ketchikan from late fall through early spring. They cannot go to a movie or commute to a local college.

"The younger generation realizes the advantages of this road," Atkinson added. "There is no holding them back."

There is also no stopping this generation of citizen-soldier engineers who have come to accept duty in distant places like Honduras and Panama as part of their military adventure.

The fact that three gray landing craft crewed by Army Reservists from Tacoma, Wash., are the main way out to The Rock and back, as well as the main supply line, adds to the adventure in Alaska.

"Training like this is the reason that most of these people join the Guard," Edison observed. "It is another chance to see the world in a place that only the military can take you."



Photos by Maj. Tim Franklin

Illinois employers deploy to
Fort McCoy, Wis., to watch
their part-timers at work

A Day for the BOSSES

By Maj. Tim Franklin
Illinois National Guard

After a day that included a helicopter ride, firing a machine gun and eating an MRE, Deborah Ryker was eager to return to the high school students she offers career advice.

She was among the nearly 120 teachers, business leaders, elected officials, news media and other community leaders from across Illinois that experienced a day in the life of an Illinois Army Guard soldier. That opportunity came while visiting the 2,000 Prairie State troops conducting field exercises during their recent annual training at Fort McCoy, Wis.



"I'm just excited to be able to share the experience with my students," said Ryker, who teaches a career program for high school seniors called "Jobs for Illinois Students" at Benton Consolidated High School. "I'm going to take my pictures back and put them on the wall of my classroom."

She added that she plans to share what she's learned about the career opportunities offered by the National Guard with her students.

The Illinois Guard's VIP Day, an event they host each year during annual training, is aimed to give Illinois community and opinion leaders a glimpse of what its state's citizen-soldiers do one-weekend-a-month with the Guard. The goal, according to officials, is to give Guard employers a greater appreciation of the com-

mitment Guard men and women make on behalf of the state and nation. It also lets them see that dedication first hand.

Maj. Gen. Richard G. Austin, Illinois Adjutant General, welcomed the contingent by saying they would get a "snapshot" of the Illinois National Guard's people, equipment and training.

That "snapshot" included rides in an Army helicopter, humvee and other military vehicles while visiting Prairie State soldiers training on McCoy's thousands of acres.

Community leaders and educators also got a hands-on look at some of the weapons and equipment citizen-soldiers use. They fired automatic weapons like the .50-caliber and M60 machine guns and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. The VIPs also pulled the lanyard on one of the

BOSS BASH—Deborah Ryker, an Illinois high school teacher (above), pulls the lanyard of a 155mm howitzer. A group of Illinois civic leaders board a Chinook.

Illinois Guard's 155mm howitzers. The Guard guests were treated to a Meals Ready to Eat field ration, or MRE.

"I'm very impressed with the Illinois Guard of today. I wish we'd had the level of sophistication in the Guard that you've got now," said Leroy Karsten, commander of American Legion Post #396 in Sparta, Ill., and former Guardmember.

First-time VIP Day participant, Bob Baue, a Sparta city commissioner, was impressed by the soldier's professionalism and teamwork.

"(I was struck by) the way the soldiers come together and work as a team," he said.

Along with news media, teachers, guidance counselors, business and community leaders, the group included State Comptroller Daniel Hynes and state representatives Gwenn Klingler (100th District) and Dale Righter (106th District).

Speaking on behalf the group, Hynes said he came away with a greater understanding and appreciation of the men and women who serve in the Guard.

"The Guard is a good investment for the state of Illinois," he observed, "and it's a good investment for the nation."



Photo by Oswaldo Rivas

CEMENTING RELATIONS — Members of the Ohio Army Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion build a wall for a three-room school in Casa Blanca, Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA

FROM PAGE 1

Army Reservist helping an Army Guard task force build a road in Honduras.

He knew all about the challenges presented by what he called a "short-fused project."

It was organized as an additional New Horizons mission in 45 days before the first construction crews hit the ground in late May. It brought together many people from different services who had never worked together. It involved buying all of those blocks from local contractors who made them by hand. It meant bringing in engineer and medical units that had not planned to do their annual training in Central America. It meant working well into the winter rains, and another hurricane season, that can turn the terrain downright dangerous.

It included going to a country where U.S. troops had not served since the early 1980s, following the Sandinista Revolution, and where no one was sure just how well a large American military force would be received.

In a nutshell, the blocks have been made, the schools and clinics have been built, wells have been dug, and the Nicaraguan people have opened their arms to the Americans.

"We're not thinking in terms of war here. Those things are in the past," Secondino Lopez Baez, a community leader in Casablanca, told *The Christian Science Monitor*. "We really appreciate what the Americans are doing. They're working on the really important things."

"It's like a parade every day going to the job sites," said Dragani. "The adults are gracious and the kids always come out. If you treat people with respect they will treat you accordingly."

Anyone traveling in that part of the country sees why Nicaraguans need help.

A harmless stream that Mitch churned into a violent river carried away as many as 400 homes near an abandoned Nicaragua army post that the Americans have converted into their base camp, pointed out Lt. Col. Alan Rogers, the task force commander.

"They still don't know what happened to all of the people," said Rogers who has traveled to Central America for the first time to command his first task force. "Now entire villages are being moved to where we are building the schools and clinics and digging wells on higher ground."

There remains some resentment toward Americans, observed Marine Lt. Col. John Sumner, who lived in Nicaragua for his first 16 years. Some people have not forgotten how the U.S. supported Contra rebels against

INSIDE NEW HORIZONS

Remembered for SACRIFICE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A Louisiana Army National Guard medic was remembered as a solid soldier and a gifted wildlife artist the Monday following his untimely death July 17, in Honduras.

Sgt. Francisco Morales, 36, was found dead of gunshot wounds in coastal Trujillo where he was serving as a translator and medic with Joint Task Force Aguan. That is one of the New Horizons task forces organized to help rebuild the Central American country following last fall's devastation by Hurricane Mitch.

Robbery was suspected as the apparent motive for Morales' death.

He died on the same Saturday that many Americans began coping with the death of John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the late president, after his plane had crashed into the ocean off Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

News of Morales' death stunned his many friends in the Guard.

"He was a model soldier," said MSgt. Curry Reed, the top sergeant for the medical detachment with the Louisiana Army Guard's state headquarters in New Orleans where Morales was assigned.

"He worked as a lab technician in our clinic," Reed added. "If no one else could work with a



Sgt. Francisco Morales

patient, Morales could. Everybody liked the guy."

Morales lived in New Orleans with his wife Luz. He was born in Puerto Rico. She came from Colombia. They had been married for one year in June. Other survivors include a daughter from a previous marriage and his widow's two children.

"Art was his passion. He painted a lot of waterfowl and wolves and bears and whales," said SSgt. Gary Ballier, a New Orleans firefighter who had known Morales during his three years in the medical unit. "He wanted to exhibit his paintings."

Ballier said he had worked closely with Morales in Honduras before returning to Louisiana in mid-June.

"He was the most popular guy at the base camp. If someone was singing, Morales would grab a guitar and play along," Ballier added.

"Whenever someone needed a translator, they called on Morales. He was a talented man."

"I will remember him as my number one love, as my best man. We were very much in love," his widow said.

"He was good at everything," added Luz Morales who displayed 15 of her husband's paintings in her home for visitors to admire. "I don't know which he loved more, the painting or me."

"He had a big heart, and he was happy to go to Honduras to help the people," she said.

Morales joined the task force on Feb. 6 when the Louisiana Army Guard commanded it. He was promoted to sergeant during the spring, and he stayed on the duration staff when Missouri took charge in May. He planned to remain until the job was finished in August.

"He would have been one of the few to see the operation through from beginning to end," said a National Guard Bureau spokesman.

Morales was a technician and repairman for Sears, and he was a former civilian security and correctional officer. He served a total of 13 years in the active Army and the National Guard.

the forces of former President Daniel Ortega.

"Remnants of the former Sandinista regime try to use us for their own nationalistic purposes," Sumner said. "For the most part, people know we are coming in peace and to help. We are not only welcome, we are needed."

"Ninety-five percent of the people are really receptive. We even have local people volunteering to work at the base camp," said 1st Sgt. David Mitchell from Mississippi's 223rd Engineer Battalion that is supplying about 500 troops for the final four of six construction rotations.

"It took me two weeks to make up my mind about coming here," added Mitchell who joined the duration staff in mid-May and who will remain until early August. "I'm glad I did. It makes you appreciate what we've got back home."

No one is taking the Americans' well-being for granted. Nicaraguan soldiers armed with automatic weapons escort the citizen-soldiers everywhere and constantly guard the base camp, project sites and the Managua airport where the troops arrive and depart.

"They don't let anybody near us," said Ohio Army Guard military police SSgt. Yulona Clay, a Cleveland

police officer who helps oversee the security.

"We keep our guard up at all times. We tell the soldiers to travel in pairs."

The six rotations should put the Nicaraguans at ease, offered Ohio Brig. Gen. James Caldwell, commander of the Honduras-based Forward Command Element that is directing task forces in Guatemala and El Salvador besides Nicaragua.

"They see us rotating troops every two weeks, so there's obviously no intention of a long-term presence," Caldwell said.

That the mission could do a lot of good in the long run was not lost on Spc. Jeffrey Hewitt, a 35-year-old truck driver from Philadelphia who arrived July 24 to work for two weeks in the base camp's supply room.

"If this country gets back on its feet, I can say I had a small piece of it," said Hewitt who was clearly savoring his first look at a foreign country. "And this lets me know I'm part of the U.S. Army; that I'm not just a weekend guy. Finally, I feel like I'm doing something important."

All it took was 20,000 cement blocks, a couple hundred yards of concrete and the will to build something good with them.

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Illinois Air Guard Capt Duane Hayden joined an elite group of African-American military leaders recently after receiving the prestigious Roy Wilkins Service Award.

Hayden, 35, received the honor from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its 89th annual convention in Atlanta, Ga. Named for the NAACP's fifth executive director, the Wilkins Award salutes those who continue to advocate equality in the Armed Services and in their communities.

"It was a great honor to be in the company of these dynamic African-American leaders," Hayden said. "But for me, this award is not solely an individual achievement, but an achievement that I would like to share with all members of the Illinois Air National Guard."

As commander of the 126th Logistics Support Flight, Hayden was integral in his unit's consecutive "excellent" ratings on organizational readiness inspections.

"He is the best of his generation," said Col. John Hughes, commander of the 126th Logistics Group. "If people haven't noticed, Capt. Hayden is a person to model yourself after."

Hayden, who spends much of his free time working with at-risk youths, said he hopes his example is one all can follow.

"I want to be an example for all people, not just African-Americans," Hayden said. "I enjoy wearing the uniform and serving in the Illinois Air National Guard. I just want to give back."

Hayden, after serving four years in the active duty Air Force, joined the Illinois Air National Guard in June 1986 as a KC-135E crew chief.

North Carolina Air Guard SMSgt. Grady Sharps was named the Air Guard NCO Academy's Outstanding Graduate of the Year.

A customer service and training superintendent assigned to the 145th Logistics Squadron in Charlotte, Sharps has been a site instructor for the Knoxville, Tenn.-based academy since it began offering professional education to Air Guard members through satellite distance learning in 1994.

An ordained minister who serves as a church pastor, Sharps has made a difference in his community through such initiatives as Operation Santa Claus, School Tools and the Lunch Buddy Program.

Sharps joined the U.S. Air Force as a supply apprentice in 1964. He enlisted into the North Carolina Air Guard in 1972. He and his wife Geraldine have a son, Malcolm, and daughter, Loretta.

Members of the Minnesota Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery based in New Ulm, were invited to participate in a parade in Comfrey, Minn., a year after that town was devastated by a tornado.

The artillerymen worked rescue and recovery missions shortly after the twister demolished Comfrey. The 125th also was instrumental in helping the town rebuild.



SMSgt. Grady Sharps, the NCO Academy's Graduate of the Year



Minnesota Army Guard MSgt. Ron Lutz (left), SSgt. Jan Davidson, SFC Wayne Sullow and Maj. Larry Herke joined the New Ulm parade.



Minnesota Army Guard Sgt. Scott Nathe talks to Boy Scouts at Camp Ripley.

The Kansas Air Guard 190th Air Refueling Wing's Services Flight is enjoying a double helping of accolades this year for their dedication to excellence, not just in the kitchen, but for their ability to perform its wartime mission as well.

The Air Force 1999 John L. Hennessey Award, along with the Air National Guard Food Service Excellence Award, are the highest awards attainable for an Air Guard services flight. The 190th won both in a nationwide competition. The awards are given annually to the flight that best prepares and serves food, facility appearance, customer satisfaction, and preparations for their other wartime taskings also are factored.

"This is the best readiness section I've ever seen," insisted Capt. Nelson Russell, officer-in-charge of the Hennessey Award Evaluation team. "Their checklists and documentation were superb. Out of the three years I've been on the team, the 190th was the most pleasurable to visit."

When TSgt Kim Long and SSgt Larry Herrera made the long walk across the Thunderbird hangar for their patching ceremony recently, they walked into history.

In the team's 46-year history, Long and Herrera are the first two Air Guard members assigned to the renowned aerial acrobat team who are not active duty.

Long is a member of Oregon's 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. Herrera was assigned to New Mexico 150th Fighter Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base. Both are F-16 crew chiefs.

The idea of assigning Guard personnel began last year as a Year of the Enlisted initiative. After a year of working closely with the Thunderbirds and the Air Force Personnel Center, the National Guard Bureau authorized two positions.

Herrera, a standout high school wrestler, recalled seeing the Thunderbirds perform as an eight-year-old in 1979. That was when he knew he wanted to be part of the Air Force's elite team.

"Like most of the other people on the team, it's always been a dream of mine," he said.

Nearly 9,000 Boy Scouts from five states converged on Minnesota's 53,000-acre Camp Ripley to participate in the Ripley Rendezvous, a Jamboree-style event.

"Its goal is to have Scouts practice the scouting skills they have learned to complete tasks and accomplish goals, which are all aimed at learning and having fun," noted Steve Laraway, Rendezvous chairperson. "It will not be easy, but it will give these Scouts a chance to demonstrate to themselves and their peers exactly what they've learned."

Some of the events the Scouts participated in were target shooting with .22 caliber and black powder rifles, archery, running the challenging obstacle course, rappelling, and attempting to earn various merit badges. The Scouts also had time and opportunity to view military displays of past and present-day equipment, participate in drill and ceremony with a frontier reenactment troop and trade patches.



Texas Guard howitzer simulator is redefining training, drawing community interest

Simulated steel on TARGET

By Sgt. Len Butler
Texas National Guard

Things just won't be the same at the armory in Lufkin, Texas.

For more than 50 years, members of the Lone Star State Army Guard's Battery C, 1st Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery have led a quiet, almost anonymous, existence. Nestled in tranquillity on a road lined with tall pine trees, many citizens of this east Texas city didn't even know there was an armory.

That was until the arrival of the Army's new M-109A5 155mm Howitzer Simulator.

Since the simulator's arrival in March, the armory has received extensive news coverage. Curious townspeople now stop by for visits. High school students make field trips. Local leaders have even called to offer support.

"We've had more exposure in the last two months than we've had in the last 50 years," said SFC Rick Higgins. "It's amazing how so many people just come by to take a look."

The simulator was the first of its kind to be delivered in the state and the first of three to be fielded in the country. A second simulator is scheduled for delivery later this year. Higgins said he had no idea how Lufkin got picked to receive it. But he said it has made a huge impact on the "Redlegs" of Battery C.

"Morale has gone through the roof," he reported. "This simulator gives our soldiers a chance to perform realistic fire missions without leaving the city."

The price of an installed simulator runs about \$400,000. A steal, or is that steel,

when you consider that a single artillery round cost thousands of dollars. Multiply that by 200 to 300 rounds, powder used to fire them, fuel and travel expenses to send crewmembers to the live-fire range at Fort Hood, Texas, and the simulator nearly pays for itself. It also allows crews to spend less time on the road and more time putting simulated steel on target.

According to those who have used it, the simulator does everything the actual howitzer does, and then some.

The howitzer turret is real, and functions like an actual M-109. Inside the simulator, dual horizontal gun sights show actual and simulated coordinates. The breech also is fully functional. To ensure realism, the artillery rounds and fuses inserted into the breech are exact replicas and are as heavy as actual artillery rounds.

The propellant charges used to send the round downrange are also identical to the real thing. The howitzer tube even recoils at different lengths when "fired."

"Every scenario and condition artillery will encounter is programmed into the simulator's computer system," Sgt. William Todd said. "In order to maintain a quality gun crew, it's important to train in a variety of applications."

To help artillerymen gauge their performance, electronic sensors are located throughout the howitzer. These sensors verify whether each function of a fire mission was performed correctly. They also ensure proper loading and firing techniques are followed. Video monitors help crewmembers critique their work.



Photos by Sgt. Len Butler



FIRE in the HOLE -- Texas Army Guard Sgt. Rennis James (above) pulls the lanyard to "fire" the M-109A5 155mm Howitzer Simulator. Sgt. William Todd (left) swaps the bore of the simulator while James checks for deflections during a mock fire mission.

Nacogdoches south to Port Arthur, make regular trips to the armory.

He added that the simulator has paid dividends in recruiting as well. High school students from nearby Huntington have made trips to the armory to see for themselves what a "cannon cocker" does.

"We now have the opportunity to expose the students to a more hands-on demonstration of how artillery works, and show them how technical it has become, rather than a recruiter going to a school and just explaining about artillery," Higgins said.

Higgins also has heard from some of the student's parents.

"I get phone calls from parents asking if they can come down to look at the simulator," he said. "These people are our friends and neighbors. We want them to know that the simulator is here for everyone's benefit."

Battery C has even been asked by civic leaders to display the simulator for social events at a nearby municipal park.

"We're more than glad to show the citizens of this city what we do and what we're capable of," Higgins said.

Or as James noted matter-of-factly, "This could be the best thing that has ever happened to field artillery."

When the howitzer simulator is "fired," the propellant charge and round pass through the cannon tube, and harmlessly fall through an opening into two chutes underneath. From there, they are retrieved by a crewmember to be "fired" again.

A computer connected to the simulator displays the information relayed from the sensors, as well as video images from the monitors. The data from the computer details whether the fire mission was performed correctly or incorrectly. It even makes suggestions on how to correct any problems, which may arise. A readout determines if the target was hit, or by how much it was missed.

Sgt. Rennis James said the simulator was an immediate hit with the soldiers.

"There has always been intense competition between the gun crews," he said. "But the excitement the simulator has generated has made everyone more proficient. Virtually every drill weekend, new bragging rights are established as to which crew put the round downrange the quickest, hit the target the most, or performed fire missions mistake free."

Higgins said the other artillery batteries in the battalion, stretched from



STATES

• No longer HARMless • Air Controllers • Caldera Visit

PENNSYLVANIA

Members of the 193rd Special Operations Wing, one of the most frequently deployed units in the Air Guard, returned home recently from yet another real-world mission.

This time the Harrisburg-based unit, equipped with their Com-mando Solo aircraft that beams American news, entertainment and propaganda to television and radio listeners below, deployed to Ramstein, Germany, to fly missions over the Balkans just beyond the former Yugoslavia's borders. While operating over the troubled region, 193rd crews flew 125 sorties while accumulating 945 flying hours. The unit also accomplished a mission first by broadcasting up to six different frequencies simultaneously. This had only been done in training.

The 193rd has taken part in operations in Grenada, Haiti, Iraq and Somalia.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The recent arrival of four high-speed, anti-radiation missiles (HARM) with targeting system pods (TSP) takes the 169th Fighter Wing another step toward its conversion from a general purpose unit to a suppression of enemy air defenses mission.

Two Palmetto State Air Guard pilots — Lt. Col. Dave Thorsen and

ALASKA

'CRAFT CARRY

A HH-60 helicopter crew from the Frontier State Air Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron carries the fuselage of a P-38 that was abandoned during a crash 54 years ago on Attu Island. Although the P-38 sustained only minor damage during a training flight Jan. 1, 1945, it was deemed un-repairable and left. The aircraft was taken to Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage to be restored and put on display.



Photo courtesy of the Alaska National Guard

Maj. Mike Manning — flew the first missions with the HTS pods and HARM missiles attached.

Thorsen and Manning, along with a other HARM-qualified pilots, will now train the balance of 157th Fighter Squadron pilots.

The HTS pod and the HARM identify and destroy enemy missile sites. Once the HTS pod detects an enemy radar-equipped air defense system, it sends the instructions to the HARM, which then destroys the enemy radar by honing in on the radar emissions.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

About 30 members of the 260th Air Traffic Control Squadron were called to active duty for 270 days to help maintain the peace abroad.

They are the first members of the 157th Air Refueling Wing based at Pease Air National Guard base to be called to active duty because of the conflict in Kosovo.

The Granite State Guard men and women deployed with members of the Louisiana Air Guard's 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Alexandria. They will form a combined air traffic control team that will provide tactical air traffic control services to airfields that have no such support.

The 260th currently has 20 air traffic controllers, as well as people involved with radar and radio maintenance, weather, navigation, refrigeration and phone support.

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

By Bradley A. Rhen
U.S. Army

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera recently visited the D.C. National Guard Armory to tour the facilities and get a hands-on look at the technology that is keeping the guardians of the nation's capital combat-ready.

Unlike other Guard units, the D.C. National Guard doesn't have a governor who has the authority to call-up its units for deployment or for emergencies. Therefore, the Secretary of the Army acts as the D.C. Guard's governor.

It was Caldera's first visit to the armory. He came away impressed, particularly with its computerized indoor firing range.

While at the virtual-reality range, Caldera fired an M-16 rifle and a 9-millimeter handgun.

"As we worry more and more about things like environmental impact and impact on neighbors from firing ranges, to be able to have in an urban environment that kind of indoor firing range is really a great way for soldiers to be able to keep up their skills," Caldera said.

Caldera said he also was impressed by the armory's distance learning center.

"I think it has great potential," he added. "Even more important, it's a resource for the soldiers and for the community where they can come and take advantage of all the things technology offers in terms of education and improving military skills."

Caldera also visited the D.C. Guard's command operations center, its counterdrug office, the 274th Military Police Company and its recruiting office.



Photo by Bradley A. Rhen

TAKING AIM — Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera (right) fires an M-16 rifle at a D.C. Armory indoor rifle range.



HISTORY

• New York's Maj. Gen. John Francis O'Ryan



Shouldering a LEGEND

New York Maj. Gen. John Francis O'Ryan was probably the most famous National Guardsman to serve in World War I. As commander of his state's 27th Division, he was the only commander from the 16 National Guard divisions drafted into service who managed to keep his command from start to finish.

But this was not his sole distinction.

He was promoted to major general in 1912 after only 15 years of military service -- the first three as a private. He was the first Guard officer to attend the Army War College, graduating in 1914. When he went "over there" in 1918 he became, at age 42, the youngest American division commander in Europe. He was so well regarded that he became the only division commander in the history of the Army to have his name incorporated into a division's patch.

Born in the Bronx in 1875 to an Irish/Dutch family, O'Ryan attended City College and later got his law degree from New York University. Though a city boy, he had a great love for horses and riding, which would prove valuable later in his Guard career.

O'Ryan's military career began during his last year of law school, when he enlisted as a private in New York City's fashionable 7th Infantry Regiment.

Promotion in the 7th Regiment was slow, but the regiment did have a reputation for providing the cadre for many of New York City's other units, and O'Ryan was a talented young soldier. In 1900, three years after he enlisted, his skill with horses was noted and he was asked to take a commission and teach horsemanship in a field artillery battery. He accepted.

However, since there was no "basic course" for Guardsmen, he knew nothing about being an artillery officer. So O'Ryan taught himself. In time he became an expert on the subject. He rose through the ranks at a steady pace while practicing law in civilian life. By 1911, he was a major and battalion commander.

A demanding officer in a day when the Guard was regarded by many as a social organization, O'Ryan's first action upon taking battery command was to throw out the pool and ping-pong tables. He also required attendance at additional, unpaid drills where he trained his men hard. His battery quickly filled up, as word got out that he was serious about preparing his men to fight.

His training methods drew praise from the Army's Chief of Field Artillery, who visited his armory to see a demonstration. Clearly the officer had great potential, and it was noticed at the highest levels.

Then, like a bolt out of the blue, he jumped four ranks to major general and was given command of New York's division in 1912. O'Ryan said he was as puzzled as anyone at the promotion.

"I had heard rumors about it, but I didn't know anything about it," he said years later. "I didn't know until after I was a General who was responsible for it. I found later, he told me so, that General Leonard Wood [the Chief of Staff of the Army] was the man who made the recommendation."

While highly unusual, this kind of ascension was not without precedent. Occasionally senior officers intervened in the promotion process to pull up a junior man who showed promise. General J.J. Pershing made a similar jump in rank when he was selected to command the Mexican punitive expedition in 1916.

With his promotion to major general, O'Ryan left his law practice and took up his military career full-time. Chief of Staff Wood continued to keep his eye on him, making it possible for O'Ryan to become the first Guardsman to attend the War College in the fall of 1913. He graduated in the top one-third of his class.

A year or so later, O'Ryan was at the head of his division (at that time the 6th Division; it was redesignated in the summer of 1917 as the 27th Division) patrolling the Mexican border across from Monterrey, Mexico.

A renowned disciplinarian, the general outlawed alcohol in his division, and had his MPs posted outside the local brothels. "I was the world's prize son-of-a-bitch, and I knew it," he would remark years later.

O'Ryan took pride in his division's discipline and low rate of venereal disease -- so low that higher headquarters conducted a surprise "short arm" inspection, because they believed the division's doctors were submitting false reports.

Within a few weeks of the division's return from the Mexican border, the men were again called-up -- this time because the United States had entered into World War I. During the war, the 27th (along with the National Guard's 30th division) served with the British and Commonwealth troops under Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. The rest of the American divisions were sent elsewhere to fight in the new American army formed by Pershing.

After some train-up time, the division was ordered in July to seize key high ground near Mont Kemmel, located near the devastated town of Ypres, Belgium. The division made a two kilometer advance against stiff German resistance over the course of four days -- significant progress by World War I standards. It was due in large part to the deadly massing of artillery fire at key points and times. The general's younger days as an artilleryman, and his careful study of artillery employment, paid off.

After a two week break, the 27th took up the offense again in a new part of the front, just north of the French town of St. Quentin. Here, the division helped crack the "Hindenburg Line" at one of its toughest spots -- where an underground canal tunnel cut through a hillside, and was tied into the trenches above by a labyrinth of connecting passageways. This tunnel system gave the Germans excellent protection from artillery. It also helped conceal the routes they used to reinforce their lines.



GUARD HISTORY

By Capt. Les' Molnyk
Army Guard Historian

Nevertheless, at great cost, the men of the 27th stormed the tunnel, flushing out the Germans in the kind of close-quarters, underground combat that foreshadowed the fighting on Iwo Jima and Okinawa in World War II.

Pulled back to reconstitute again, the 27th was thrown into the line for a third and final time at the end October. The fight was over relatively open country at a time the German army was starting to crumble. The 27th swept forward, netting over 1,500 prisoners in four days. The war was over before the division could be committed again.

Just before the war ended, the American Expeditionary Force Headquarters approved the division's shoulder sleeve insignia. The designers of the patch paid homage to the young commander with a

visual pun -- in addition to the monogram "NY" for New York, it shows the seven stars of the constellation Orion -- a homophone, of course, for the division commander's surname O'Ryan.

After the war and a hero's parade down Fifth Avenue, O'Ryan gained notice for his testimony before Congress advocating greater federal control over the National Guard. O'Ryan staked out an independent position, somewhere between the extreme views held by the Chief of Staff of the Army on one side and the leadership of the National Guard Association on the other. His popularity among his peers suffered, but O'Ryan was never one to compromise his opinion.

O'Ryan left the National Guard in the early 20s and returned to his law practice and real estate business. His reputation and popularity made him a natural candidate for civic leadership. Appointed by the governor to the New York City Transit Commission in 1919, he resigned shortly thereafter to become president of Colonial Airways.

His popularity was such that there was a movement in the Democratic Party in 1933 to make him the party's candidate for Mayor, but O'Ryan didn't desire the honor. Instead, he threw his support to another Democrat, Fiorella La Guardia. Not, perhaps, coincidentally, O'Ryan was appointed Police Commissioner shortly after La Guardia won the election. However, their two strong personalities clashed, and O'Ryan resigned the job after less than a year.

Following the U.S. entrance into World War II in 1941, New York state again called on the services of one of its most famous sons when Gov. Herbert Lehman appointed O'Ryan the state's first Director of Civilian Defense. He died in 1961 at the age of 85, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

While O'Ryan clearly had some political sensibility about him, he gained (and kept) his rank through hard work and demonstrated competence -- not political connections. There is no other way to explain his selection as the first Guardsman to attend the War College, or how he was the only Guard division commander to retain his command throughout the war.

Today, few Guardmembers, even in his home state, are aware of his name or legacy. Irony, considering they need only to look at the patch worn by New York's 27th Infantry Brigade (Light) soldiers, to view a tribute to a remarkable National Guardsman.



Gen. John O'Ryan



TRAINING

More than 1,000 Texas Guardmembers train for upcoming Balkans peacekeeping duty

BOUND FOR BOSNIA

By Sgt. Len Butler
Texas National Guard

Sgt. Raul Longoria pulled no punches putting Guardsmen he was training through the peacekeeping paces recently. Even if that meant exposing them to mine fields, artillery fire or ambushes.

Such was the fate for more than 1,000 Texas citizen-soldiers bound for Bosnia-Herzegovina as they kicked off their recent annual training by getting a glimpse of what to expect when the 49th Armored Division deploys to the troubled region next February.

"We're practicing scenarios that the soldiers might encounter in their role as NATO peacekeepers," said Longoria, a trainer at Fort Hood's individual readiness training (IRT) compound. "Our mission is to prepare these guys, using worst-case scenarios."

The Lone Star State Guardmembers practiced a myriad of combat and peacekeeping scenarios at a training area that was constructed with Bosnia in mind. Signs were written in Serbo-Croatian, both in Arabic and Cyrillic characters, as well as in English. In addition to the numerous trainers and instructors guiding the Guardmembers through their missions, other soldiers served as role players, dressed in civilian clothing and acting as Bosnian nationals.

The trainers are all members of the 49th

Armored Division who have been assisting III Corps with the IRT mission since November 1998. They are putting active component soldiers, as well as their fellow Guardmembers through their paces. More than 700 Balkans-bound active Army soldiers recently joined the Texan peacekeeping effort.

One portion of the exercise took a squad-sized group on "patrol." While on patrol, soldiers advanced in tactical formations. They were instructed on methods of identifying and probing for mines, as well as training to recover a wounded soldier in a minefield. Along the route the soldiers encountered sniper fire, ambushes, incoming artillery rounds and civilians on the battlefield.

SSgt. Jeffrey Baker, an IRT instructor, said it's important for the soldiers to respect the rights of the Bosnian civilians.

"I want to make sure these guys learn to respect the rights of the civilian population there," he said. "We are in their country, and we want to ensure their dignity as well as our own."

While groups of soldiers ran the gauntlet on the situational course, other groups practiced search procedures on vehicles



Photos by Sgt. Len Butler

and people at the IRT. Guardmembers also were shown how to encounter the driver of a vehicle, extract him from it, and perform a comprehensive search. Using mirrors to search every nook and cranny of the vehicle, they also were shown that no space is too small to hide a weapon.

In a different location, procedures were taught on how to properly search a civilian for weapons and contraband. Special instruction was given to ensure a non-English-speaking civilian recognized that his rights are not infringed, and he had been given a clear indication of the soldiers' motives conducting the search. The

PEACEKEEPING PACES—SSgt. Jeffrey Baker (right) shows Spc. Brandon Garbers how to enter a minefield to retrieve a wounded soldier, played by SSgt. Raul Longoria. Bosnian role player, Cpl. Eddie Boone (in car, left) shows Texas Army SFC Gilbert Fuentes what can happen if you reach for someone's car keys.

Guardmembers were taught the rules with which soldiers have to comply in order to meet the requirements set by the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

Though the IRT compound and the training the soldiers received was a recreation of conditions in Bosnia, the sweltering heat was typical of central Texas. With temperatures in the 90s, leaders worked hard to ensure no one would become a victim of a heat-related injury.

A huge tent was erected to provide shade for the Guardsmen, and medics saw every soldier one-by-one, asking them how they felt. There were no injuries.

But, as is typical in Texas, the bright sky became shrouded with an ominous dark cloud. Within minutes, there was a torrential rain.

It didn't dampen the spirit of the citizen-soldiers, however. As a group of soldiers marched in the rain to a lanes training course that grew increasingly muddy, several of them yelled: "If it ain't raining, we ain't training."