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THE ON GUARD

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November 1999

Guard crews escort ill-fated flight

Golfing Great: 'It was a helpless, eerie feeling, knowing this was a tragedy waiting to end'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

An Oklahoma Air Guard officer said a mouthful for everyone, including four Air Guard jet fighter pilots, who helplessly watched a private plane fall from the sky and crash into the South Dakota countryside on Oct. 25.

"They wished they could have done more," said Lt. Col. Bruce Butters following a tragic, 1,400-mile flight that claimed the life of popular golf champion Payne Stewart, 42, and four other people aboard an ill-fated Learjet.

Two F-16 fighters from North Dakota's 119th Fighter Wing in Fargo, and two from Oklahoma's 138th Fighter Wing from Tulsa were on station over rural Mina, S.D., when the Learjet ran out of fuel at 47,000 feet and nose-dived to the earth.

The Oklahoma Air Guard pilots were Lt. Col. Mike Hepner of Broken Arrow, the full-time flight safety chief for that wing, and Lt. Col. Mike Husted, a traditional Guardmember from Tulsa and a commercial airline pilot.

North Dakota citizen-airman pilots Maj. Kent Olson and Capt. Rick Omang, both members of the 119th's "Happy Hooligans," also were involved, reported TSgt. David Soudahl, wing spokesman.

Air Guard officials said the four pilots did not know who was on the Learjet until they returned to their bases. Many of the other people involved in the bizarre chase did not know Stewart, the two-time U.S. Open champion, was on board until they heard it on news reports.

"We just knew that an airplane was in distress," said Butters who supervised the Oklahoma pilots' participation from Tulsa.

That the plane was in trouble became obvious soon after the aircraft took off from Orlando, Fla., at 9:09 a.m., bound for Dallas, Texas. Air traffic controllers soon lost radio contact with the twin-engine Learjet.

Instead of heading west to Texas, it began a northwest track across America's heartland, cutting across the airspace of approximately 10 states and making its fatal plunge into north-central South Dakota about four hours later.

All three continental United States air defense sectors, staffed by Air Guard personnel and commanded by the 1st Air Force at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, tracked the ill-fated plane at one time or another.

"This is just one more example of the 1st Air Force and other Air National Guard and Air Force units working together," said Capt. Don Arias, 1st Air Force spokesman.

The Federal Aviation Administration asked for help and several Air Force and Air Guard jet fighters were scrambled or vectored from routine training flights to check out the aircraft. Air refueling tankers were brought in to fill up the fighters on the fly, and an Air Force AWACS radar control plane helped track the Learjet.

Capt. Chris Hamilton from Florida's Eglin Air Force Base got the first look. He and other pilots reported that the Learjet's windows were fogged or iced over and that they could not see the pilots or anything else inside.

"It's a very helpless feeling to pull up alongside another aircraft and realize the people inside that aircraft potentially are unconscious or in some way incapacitated," Hamilton told *The New York Times*. "And there's nothing I can do

■ See STEWART, Page 4



Photo by SSgt. Bob Jordan

FALLEN FRIEND

The mother of fallen North Carolina Army Guard Spc. Leon 'Reece' Penland Jr., a member of the 210th Military Police Company killed on flood duty, watches solemnly as Guardmembers pay their last respects at her son's funeral. See story on page 3.



COMMENTARY

• O'Ryan O'Mission • Prairie State Pride • Mental Musings

ABOUT the PAPER

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GUARD MAIL

Unforgotten Hero

Your recent article on Maj. Gen. John O'Ryan was an excellent historical piece of one of the more famous members of the 27th. Many of us enjoyed it on the weekend of Sept 25th in Albany N.Y., where the 27th Division Association met. The association is still over 1,000 members-strong, with many soldiers from the current 27th Brigade in attendance.

We enjoyed your article until we got to the last paragraph, where you implied that we in New York do not appreciate the legacy of our past members. This is very far from the truth. We focus on each member of the division, because every one is a piece of our legacy.

Every year we gather on the day the Division was mobilized into World War II to honor the thousands of patriots who served in the Pacific theater. It also allows us to pass on the history of these heroes to our current-day National Guard patriots.

Col. David Wilkinson
27th Division Association,
2nd vice commander

Mentally Beneficial

Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the free copy of your paper I received at the Washington County Fair recently.

I read it this morning, and several of the articles have ministered to me in the

middle of a mini-psychiatric crisis (laughs). Of particular interest were the stories about the treadmill guy (April issue), and the fellow who returned to Cambodia even though it was dangerous for him to do so.

Mary Seefeldt
S. Glen Falls, N.Y.



CSM Harry Reid

Out with the Old,
In with the Current

I was shocked to see just how non-current one of your Newsmakers (Page 12) was in your August issue.

I read about Illinois Air Guard Capt. Duane Hayden winning the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award at the 89th annual convention in Atlanta.

This was of extreme interest to me, because I just received the same honor at their 90th annual convention in New York recently.

I am also a proud member of the Illinois National Guard. It just adds further proof to the level of commitment members of the Illinois National Guard have toward their communities.

CSM Harry G. Reid
Illinois National Guard

Editor's Note: CSM Reid and New York Air Guard MSgt. Carlton Derby received the prestigious Wilkins award.

Reid, the top enlisted man in the Prairie State Army Guard's 33rd Area Support Group, was recognized for his work with the elderly and at-risk chil-

dren in south Chicago. He serves as the general manager for two senior citizen housing complexes developed by the Church of the Good Shepherd on the Windy City's south side, where more than 200 senior citizens depend upon his direction, counsel and guidance.

To offer inner-city youths an alternative to gang life, Reid (the committee chairman for Boy Scout Troop 546) also sought out and reorganized his troop to include them.

Derby was cited for developing a mentoring program that helped improve communication between supervisors and unit members. Frequently sought out by his community, he has addressed several organizations and schools, fostering a better understanding of minority-related issues affecting the military and local community.

LETTERS POLICY:

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

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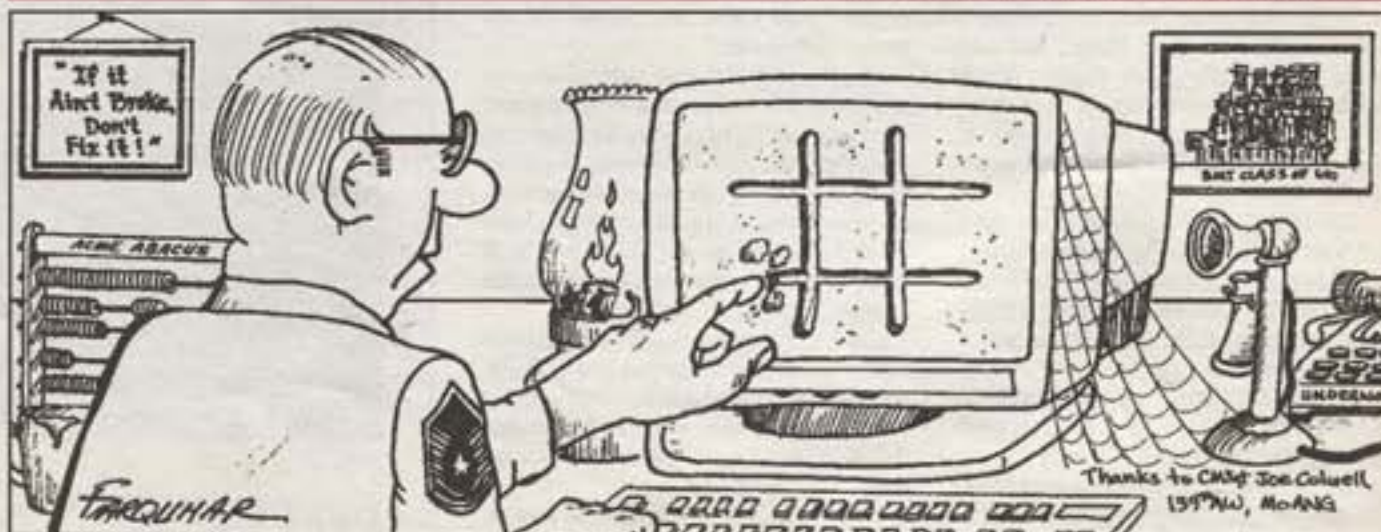
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GUARD TOONS

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"Undaunted by claims that he is technologically-challenged, Sgt. Leadbottom 'programs' a new game."



IN THE NEWS

• All in the Family • Fallen Friend • Crest Concern

Volunteers bring calm after storm

■ Angels of Mercy: North Carolina Family Program volunteers help clean out damaged homes

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Sometimes even angels need help. These angels in need were men and women in the North Carolina National Guard and their families who were among the thousands driven from flooded eastern-region homes in September by Hurricane Floyd's 20 inches of rain and by another eight inches that quickly followed.

The Tar Heel State's Family Program volunteers, directed by Maj. Mark Teachey, lent a heavenly hand with lots of help from active duty soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg near Fayetteville, N.C.

Fifty-four volunteers, including 41 from Bragg, rolled in from across North Carolina on October's first Saturday to clean out 14 homes two days after the rains finally ended so those Guard families could begin rebuilding their lives. They put on bright red "Troopers For Tarboro" T-shirts supplied by the Army Community Service folks at Bragg.

Another 21 Navy and Air Force ROTC cadets from North Carolina State University in Raleigh spent that day helping Guard members direct traffic and move supplies. They also discovered "how the military jumps in to help during a crisis," explained Capt. Brian Lambert, an Air Force instructor.

Family Program people had already taken 110 Guard families into their own homes for at least one night or had gotten them to other members of their own families who were not afflicted by North Carolina's flood of the century.

Angels?

That's what one elderly woman called the 3,900 National Guard members who reported for state active duty to help civil authorities truck and fly civilians to



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

PITCHING IN -- Eunice Eckard, a North Carolina family program volunteer, sweeps up a flood damaged home.

Family Program responded to those needs.

"They'd help us if we needed it. Our soldiers are off on state active duty doing their part, and we're doing ours," said Trudy Smith, who traveled more than six hours with three other 731st Maintenance Company volunteers from Hickory.

One of them was Jack Icard, the 731st's first sergeant until he retired last May after nearly 30 years in the Navy and Army Guard.

"We got some big ol' families, so we take care of each other," observed Icard, a brick mason by trade.

Those four spent the afternoon helping Yvonne Pollard, the mother of North Carolina Army Guard infantry

safety, direct traffic and guard abandoned towns, and haul supplies to public shelters in North Carolina's "hurricane alley" between Interstate 95 and the coast.

"Angels in camouflage. That's what y'all are," the woman told Teachey at a shelter in Tarboro after the swollen Tar River had forced her to vacate her lifetime of memories.

Sadly, not all of the angels could stay above the fray. Guard people are always victims of domestic natural disasters, such as the flood in North Dakota, the wild fires in Florida, and the tornado that cut across Oklahoma, because they live in the same places. Sometimes Guardmembers need just as much help as the others who they want to help.

North Carolina's Fam-

■ See VOLUNTEERS, Page 5

Guardsmen claimed while pulling flood duty

By Maj. Robert H. Jones
North Carolina National Guard

Spc. Leon "Reece" Penland Jr. was remembered by friends, family and fellow North Carolina Guardmembers for paying the ultimate sacrifice.

His Sept. 23 death, the result of a Humvee accident while on a routine beach patrol, was the state's first active duty fatality since 1970.

Penland, a member of Detachment 2, 210th Military Police Company



based in Murphy, N.C., was activated after Hurricane Floyd hit the state's eastern counties Sept. 16. El-

FALLEN SON -- Maj. Gen. Gerald Rudisill (left), North Carolina adjutant general, presents Spc. Penland's mother a flag at the funeral.

ements of the company were dispatched to the Wilmington area and surrounding beaches as part of a security mission.

He joined the Tarheel State Army Guard in 1995 as a 17-year-old high school student. He served with his unit during Hurricane Fran.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Prior service Crest wear concerns Guard leadership

The increasing number of Army Guardmembers with prior service in the active-Army has created a problem with the insignia -- commonly called crests -- they wear on their Class A and Class B uniforms, report National Guard Bureau officials.

The crests, properly called Regimental Distinctive Insignia, or RDI, are worn to show affiliation with a particular organization within the Army.

The problem occurs when officer or enlisted soldiers in the combat arms leave the active-Army and join the Guard.

"They don't realize that they have to change the crest they are wearing," explained Capt. Les' Melnyk, an Army Guard historian at the National Guard Bureau. "AR (Army Regulations) and NGR 600-82 are pretty clear on this."

Basically, the regulations state:

■ Guardmembers cannot affiliate with non-Guard regiments, nor wear active-Army or Reserve RDIs.

■ Combat arms Guardmembers will affiliate with a regiment of their branch in their state, even if they have never served with that unit.

"This is rarely a problem for the combat support or combat service support folks," Melnyk added, "because there is only one regiment for the entire branch, whether you are in the Guard or in the Regular Army."

However, each combat arms branch (infantry, field artillery, air defense, armor and aviation) has many regiments, each belonging exclusively to one of the three components -- active-Army, Guard or Reserve.

Alabama puts Patriot to test

Soldiers with the Alabama Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 203rd Air Defense Artillery based in Athens conducted three live Patriot missile firings at Eglin AFB, Fla., Oct. 16 and 17.

The Patriots were fired as part of a missile defense test.

According to senior officials, the test demonstrated the National Guard's vital role in missile defense, and that the 'Bama missile men are knowledgeable and capable.

"This is great for the state of Alabama," said Maj. Gen. Willie A. Alexander, state adjutant general. "I am excited for the soldiers. They have been training-up for five years for this type of situation."

STEWART

FROM PAGE 1

physically from my aircraft, even though I'm 50 to 100 feet away, to help them at all."

No one seemed to be flying the plane which, officials believe, was on autopilot until its fuel ran out. Rapid depressurization in the cabin was originally suspected for incapacitating the two pilots and, perhaps, all of the passengers.

Federal investigators returned to the crash site Oct. 26 to begin the painstaking task of digging up the remains to determine what had happened.

Hamilton pulled away to refuel and Hepner and Husted, the Oklahoma pilots, picked up the chase over Kansas after breaking off from a training exercise.

They were twice refueled by a Kansas Air Guard KC-135 tanker crew from the Topeka-based 190th Air Refueling Wing. They stayed with the plane for more than 90 minutes until it crashed, Butters explained. They refueled once more before returning to Tulsa. Their originally scheduled 90-minute training flight lasted 4 hours and 20 minutes, Butters added.

The flight of two North Dakota F-16s, piloted by Olson and Omang, caught up with the Learjet south of Sioux City, Iowa, and kept it in sight for its nearly 40 final minutes, noted Soudahl.

The situation was distressing to everyone, including Kansas Air Guard Col. Rufus Forrest who was aboard the 190th Air Refueling Wing tanker that was en route to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. Forrest, 49, is the wing commander.

The tanker was ordered to change course to refuel the Air Guard fighters. The crew saw the Learjet go down, according to the *Wichita Eagle*.

"It was like a ghost airplane," Forrest recalled. "It appeared to be in perfect condition. It was a helpless, eerie feeling, knowing this was a tragedy waiting to end."

Then the plane began its descent, gaining speed as it fell.

"We saw a quick flash, but that's all," Forrest related. "We dropped some altitude and were able to see the hole in the ground. The fighters called in the site."

Guard Y2K expert says 'we will be ready'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Maureen Lischke has a high degree of confidence that the lights won't go out in Georgia — or New York or California — when the clocks across the United States ring in the new millennium at midnight on New Year's Eve.

As the person in Washington who has spent nearly two years overseeing the National Guard's preparations for Y2K compliance and emergencies she is confident that America's Guardmembers will be ready to provide support to the country on Jan. 1 and Feb. 29 and into the 21st century.

"We will be as ready as we always are," said Lischke during an October training workshop in Boise, Idaho, for 300 National Guard public affairs people.

The Y2K syndrome refers to potential problems with electronic and computer systems because some date-sensitive devices may not be able to compute 2000. It stems from the decades old practice of using two digits, such as 98, rather than four, such as 1998, to represent each year.

All of the National Guard's mission-critical systems — from powering airplanes to preparing payrolls — have been tested and will keep on working in 2000 rather than shut down as if it were 1900, said Lischke. She began dealing with the issue in February 1998 in her capacity as the National Guard Bureau's Chief Information Officer.

"We've also fixed most of our non-mission critical systems and eliminated

systems we don't need," she added. "The Guard's high-frequency radio network based in Arlington, Va., is also up to snuff, a September weekend test revealed. It will allow National Guard Bureau leaders to talk to adjutants general and commanders in the 54 states and territories should other communications systems, including the Internet, go down.

Being ready, Lischke added, does not mean declaring martial law, because that is not the National Guard's mandate.

"The Guard is not mobilizing for the New Year's weekend. We're not panicking. We're not coming in and taking over,"

Lischke reminded the Guard's spokespeople.

Indeed, some public affairs people maintained that most National Guard people who will be on duty New Year's Eve may be more concerned with helping civil authorities deal with unruly revelers in such places as brightly-lit Las Vegas, than directing traffic and collaring vandals in blacked-out cities.

Sixteen states will have some Guard people on standby in case they are needed, Lischke explained. Only two places, Arkansas and the Army Guard from the District of Columbia, will have all hands on deck for routine training weekends.

District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams has asked the Guard to help police with crowd control during that city's huge celebration to ring in the 21st century, Lischke explained.

"For the other states, it will be business as usual," said Lischke. She predicted the turn of the century would be a festive New Year's Day for most Americans.

In fact, curiosity about evening-long

celebrations in such places as Boston and Los Angeles seems to have replaced the concerns about possible Y2K emergencies that gripped the country a year ago.

Furthermore, *USA Today* reported in late October that many companies are planning office parties and extra pay for workers who have to be on the job New Year's Eve in case of Y2K computer glitches.

"The public seems to have become comfortable with Y2K. That's the good news," said Lischke. "The bad news is that some companies may have stopped testing for all contingencies."

She also acknowledged that it is difficult to keep running tests without alarming the public that has been repeatedly told that bank machines and power plants will keep right on humming.

"Don't take your money out of the bank. Stock up on batteries for flashlights, several days worth of food and keep a little extra money on hand, as if you were planning for a hurricane or an ice storm," she said.

That, Lischke added, should be enough to carry Americans through any Y2K emergencies during the holiday.

The United States is prepared, she said, for a couple of reasons.

■ *There were advance warnings.* The Social Security Administration and the banking industry tuned in to the problem in the mid-90s and alerted other government and industry leaders in time to test and fix their systems.

■ *It's the American way.* That the Defense Department and other government and commercial agencies have gotten their Y2K houses in order, Lischke added, is another example of the American spirit at work.

"Americans," she said, "always rise to the occasion."



Maureen Lischke



Photo by Spc. Clinton Wood

GETTING
a LIFT

Iowa Army Guard infantrymen board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during annual training at Camp Ripley. The 53,000-acre camp — run and operated by the Minnesota National Guard — is one of the largest in the Guard.



Maj. Mark Teachey, North Carolina family program coordinator.

FROM PAGE 3 VOLUNTEERS

Sgt. Jeff Bell, strip her brown brick house in Pitt County of the furniture, finish boards and paneling that the dirty water had contaminated during the nine days the house was flooded.

"My world went from everything to nothing in a heartbeat," said the weepy Pollard as the volunteers fed a bonfire out back with the trappings of her home that was also her daycare center.

It was a lousy job, but someone had to do it. Ten soldiers from Fort Bragg made the work go faster.

"I just wanted to help people," explained Haiti-born PFC Joseph Jean-Louis, 26, from the 623rd Quartermaster Company about giving up his Saturday. "Where I come from, we got that thing every year. We lost everything [in 1989] during Hurricane Hugo. People came to help me. Now it's my turn to help them."

There was at least one silver lining around some tear-filled clouds. Sgt. Bell said he is seriously thinking about staying in the Guard after putting in eight days of state active duty.

"I've almost finished my first six years," said the Tarboro High School science teacher. "I'm considering 20 now. The National Guard is a wonderful organization."

So is North Carolina's ambitious Family Program, infantry Maj. Mark Teachey, 39, has learned during the year he has overseen the volunteers affiliated with that state's 148 units.

The volunteers have put in 24,080 hours while conducting 430 events, he related. He got more offers for help than he needed when he put out the word following Floyd that he did not want Guard families staying in public shelters.

Nearly 50 homeless families were taken in by other Guard families, Teachey said.

"All families were housed with fellow National Guard families or picked up at the shelters and transported by National Guard members to be resettled with their own kin folk out of harm's way," he reported.

Meanwhile, he was tending to his own wife and two children in Selma who spent six days without electricity.

He earned the undying gratitude of Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, chief of Family Programs at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

"I can only imagine how busy you are," she encouraged Teachey. "I cannot tell you how proud I am to have you in this program."

He hit his peak on October's first Saturday when the volunteers arrived to help the Guard families clean their damaged homes in hopes of getting a fresh start. He had organized that operation in four days.

Teachey formed the volunteers into five teams and sent them to people who needed them.

"It worked out better with that number of people than I had anticipated," said the satisfied officer after a long day of helping some of the National Guard's angels.

INSIDE FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

Lawyer James Early Jr. helped ease the strain of retrieving caskets

COUNSEL to CATASTROPHE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

You've Been At It For 20 Years, Now What? is an article that North Carolina lawyer James Early Jr. had published in early 1997.

Early, who has actually been a domestic and civil trial lawyer for 35 years, discovered a new twist to "now what?" in late September. He volunteered to counsel and work with North Carolina Army National Guard soldiers who had to cope with the stresses of state active duty during and after Hurricane Floyd.

The Winston-Salem lawyer grew especially close during September's final week to the 20 Guardmembers who volunteered for a disaster mortician (DMORT) team. That unit recovered a reported 181 caskets that turbulent flood waters had sprung loose from a graveyard in Princeville, a town of 1,900 that was built by newly-freed slaves after the Civil War.

A history of childhood asthma forced him out of the Army Reserve six months after he had joined while he was in high school. At 60, however, James Early became a friend indeed to many of North Carolina's citizen-soldiers in need.

"They discovered early on they already had a plate full of stress when they got here," he explained. "They had to get the stress from their own homes off their plates before they could put the stress that they encountered here on their plates."

Early has studied and written about stress management during the decade he has served on the North Carolina Bar Foundation's Lawyer Effectiveness and Quality of Life Committee.

Managing stress, he explained, improves people's quality of life; and a high quality of life

means people will work more effectively.

He delivered that message in his mild manner to the two or three groups of Guard soldiers he talked to every day in Tarboro during a long week of disaster relief. He offered some nuts and bolts techniques for managing stress.

Get as much rest as possible. Try to maintain a healthy diet. Have faith in your family's ability to get along while you are away, and lay down your armor when you get home. Seek professional help if some self-help steps do not work, because stress can be as deadly as cancer.

"Mr. Early made a lot of our Guardmembers feel better about themselves so they could go about the business of helping other people," praised Maj. Robert Jones, North Carolina's National Guard spokesman.

Early has filled his life with hunting and fishing, raising dogs, racing boats and flying World War II fighter planes. He has also dealt with his share of stress -- a drawn-out divorce that ended his own marriage; cancer and triple bypass surgery; and the end of a 16-year law partnership.

Then he encountered the stress experienced by the Guard's DMORT volunteers who recovered the caskets that were floating on the water and stuck in the mud around the Princeville cemetery so they could be

hailed away and buried again.

The stench was awful. The mud was knee-deep. Many of the caskets were filled with water. Some of them were open. Pouring rain and clouds of mosquitoes made the gruesome job even more miserable.

And James Early saw for himself how people deal with stress while performing dismal duties because he went to that cemetery every day.

"Nobody could be prepared for what they encountered, but

I never heard anyone whine or complain about their duty. They developed a strong sense of camaraderie because this was their job. They maintained a sense of humor because a good laugh will relieve stress just as well as a good cry. And those guys would not cry. They just kept on working.

"And they treated the dead with all of the dignity and respect that anyone could expect," marveled Early who was deeply moved by the experience.

"I will never forget what I saw and what I smelled that week. I will never forget the opportunity to work with those fine soldiers," said the lawyer who stepped up to help make the Guardmembers' demanding jobs a little easier.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

HOLDING COURT — North Carolina lawyer James Early Jr. helped Guardmembers cope with stresses related to retrieving nearly 200 caskets uncovered by Hurricane Floyd.



Photo by MSgt. Joseph Pittelli

Rescue at the POLE

New York crew with Schnectady-based 109th Airlift Wing makes daring dash to South Pole to airlift doctor with cancer

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Hello, *Guinness*? The people who keep track of all of those records? The New York Air National Guard has another milestone for you to consider.

A daring dash to the South Pole in a ski-rigged cargo plane on October's third Saturday to rescue a doctor with a lump in her breast appears to be a flight for the books.

The 6 1/2-hour, 1,680-mile roundtrip from the Antarctic coast in bitter cold may have been "the earliest flight into the South Pole in the history of the program," claimed Maj. Bob Bullock, spokesman for the

COOL CUSTOMERS -- A crew member (above) with the New York Air Guard's 109th Airlift Wing inspects the wing of a ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules before take off in Antarctica.

Schenectady-based 109th Airlift Wing. The plane reportedly landed at 12:33 p.m. Antarctic time on Oct. 16.

That, officials claimed, may make it the earliest landing at the South Pole following any Antarctic winter since U. S. Naval Cmdr. Richard Byrd and three others first flew over it nearly 70 years earlier -- on Nov. 29, 1929.

This October's mission, however, was not a publicity flight to the coldest place on Earth by the Air Guard outfit that has been flying people and supplies

on its specially-equipped planes to Arctic and Antarctic outposts since 1975.

The objective was to fly the only physician for the 41-member National Science Foundation research team, that spent the winter at the domed Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, back to civilization as soon as it warmed up enough for a 10-member, LC-130 Hercules crew to risk the trip.

Warmth was a relative concept. The temperature had to be at least 58 degrees below zero so the plane's fuel would flow and

its hydraulic systems would function properly during the flight and while the plane waited for 22 minutes, with all four engines running, at the bottom of the world.

Mission accomplished. After waiting two days for the weather to warm to 58-below, the New York aviators flew a replacement doctor to the South Pole and brought the 47-year-old woman back to McMurdo Station so she could return to New Zealand and then go home to the United States.

"The risk factor was eight or nine out of 10," Maj. Robbie McAllister, the pilot, told the *Associated Press*. "It was at the limits of the operational ability of the plane."

"Dr. Jerri Nielsen ... has safely arrived at McMurdo Station, where she will prepare for her return to the United States as soon as possible and practical," stated Dr. Rita Colwell, the science foundation's director, following the Saturday flight.

"Since Dr. Nielsen's discovery of a breast lump in June, our priorities have been her health and safety, and her desire for privacy during a very personal process," Colwell added.

"I applaud the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard for its successful completion of the roughly six-hour roundtrip from McMurdo to the South Pole, and the smoothly executed pick-up and transport of Dr. Nielsen, under very difficult operational conditions," Colwell said. "Since the beginning of this mission, the Air National Guard has displayed the utmost professionalism, efficiency, and concern for Dr. Nielsen."

"People were just really pleased we were able to get in and get her out," said Col. Graham Pritchard Jr., the wing's commander who oversaw the historic flight.

Other crewmembers were Maj. David Koltermann, the copilot; Lt. Col. Bryan Fennessy, the navigator; CMSgt. Michael Cristiano, the flight engineer; and SMSgt. Kurt Garrison and TSgt. David Vesper, the loadmasters.

Maj. Kimberly Terpening, flight nurse, and CMSgt. Michael Casatelli and MSgt. Kelly McDowell, medical tech-

nicians, made up the medical team.

An Air Force C-141 crew from Washington state logged some 6,500 miles and air-dropped six bundles of medical supplies and equipment, with fresh fruits and vegetables, to the polar station on July 11 so the doctor could begin treating herself.

But only the New York Air Guard has the large, ski-equipped planes that could land on the South Pole's icy, three-mile landing strip and get her.

More than 30 members of the wing, with two airplanes, took part in the October mercy mission. They arrived in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Sunday, Oct. 10. The pair of planes flew to the Antarctic coast the following Wednesday.

Even though the Antarctic is now getting more than 20 hours of sunlight each day, the region's extreme cold grounded the planes for two days before the

"The risk factor was eight or nine out of 10. It was at the limits of the operational ability of the plane"

MAJ. ROBBIE McALLISTER
Pilot, 109th Airlift Wing

chosen crew flew one of the planes to the center of the world's coldest continent and back on Oct. 16.

The mercy flight occurred nearly two weeks ahead of the scheduled resumption of flights to and from the South Pole, where the doctor and 40 other researchers and support staff had been isolated since the last flight left last Feb. 15, *USA Today* reported.

That prompted plenty of questions about whether this New York Air Guard venture could be the earliest landing ever at the South Pole following an Antarctic winter.

Although no one was immediately sure, everyone involved was certain that it was one of the earliest, one of the coldest, one of the most dangerous, and one of the Air National Guard's finest efforts.

INSIDE THE ANTARCTICA LIFT

Meeting the PRESS

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Hi, Bob. It's Jill." Jill Neff, who books interviews with people in the news for CNN, became a familiar voice on New York Air National Guard Maj. Bob Bullock's telephone during two memorable weeks in October. Introductions were not necessary.

Jill was one of many media people from around the world who called Bob Bullock at all hours of the day and night at his Air Guard office in Schenectady, N.Y., and at his home in Saratoga Springs. All were following the 109th Airlift Wing's efforts to fly a National Science Foundation doctor with a lump in her breast out of the South Pole on a ski-rigged LC-130 Hercules cargo plane.

Bullock, an animated, 43-year-old public affairs officer, was the man in the middle for a high-profile National Guard story that was unfolding at the bottom of the world and 17 time zones away. If it was 5 p.m. on Thursday in New York, for example, it was 10 a.m. on Friday at McMurdo Station on the Antarctic Coast.

"This is absolutely the biggest breaking story I've ever dealt with," said Bullock, who is no stranger to public relations. He seized every chance he could to schedule network TV interviews for the Air Guard wing's leaders, and to give everyone who called the latest information.

He had many opportunities during the October days when New York's Yankees and Mets were in the thick of the Major League Baseball playoffs.

The Times of London called him early on a Sunday morning. The *New York Daily News* woke him at 1 a.m. TV reporters and producers called from Brazil and Germany. He talked frequently to the *Associated Press* and *The New York Times*. He talked on the air to radio audiences in Phoenix and Cleveland.

The man whose father and grandfather graduated from West Point and whose family's military lineage stretches back to the War of 1812 insisted "it's important that people know how strongly the Department of Defense is committed to this mission."

Bullock quickly acknowledged he was not

flying solo. Capt. Victor Hines, an Air Force public affairs officer out of Hawaii, worked just as diligently at Christchurch, New Zealand, the international scientific community's gateway to Antarctica.

Bullock collaborated with National Science Foundation spokesman Peter West in an effort to maintain as much privacy as possible for the woman doctor who became the center of all the attention.

And Brig. Gen. Archie Berberian, the New York Air Guard's chief of staff, and Col. Ed Fleming, the 109th wing's vice commander, stepped up to meet the press every time Bullock asked them to.

Col. Graham Pritchard Jr., the wing's commander, fielded his share of questions in New Zealand.

The frantic fortnight validated Bullock's decision to give up his personal consulting business in December 1994 and become the full-time public affairs officer for the wing that was focusing its attention on flying people and supplies to Arctic and Antarctic military and scientific research installations.

Bullock graduated from Potsdam College in New York in 1978 and cut his public affairs teeth during a four-year hitch in the Air Force that ended in 1983. His assignments included managing the public affairs program for the world's first F-16 fighter unit.

He completed a summer history program at England's Oxford University in 1992, and he earned a master's in business administration from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., the following year.

All the while, Bullock worked for such diverse civilian firms as the Retail Council of New York State, the Samaritan Hospital in Troy, and the Northeastern Association of the Blind in Albany.

But he missed wearing the uniform and serving as an Air Force spokesman.

"I realized I had left something that was very important to me," said Bullock who has found his professional home in the New York Air Guard. "I know I'm not one of the guys turning the wrenches or flying the planes. But telling the American people what we do and how we do it gives me more satisfaction than anything else I have ever done," he explained.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would be working a story that is so visible," said Bullock about becoming the middleman for the New York Air Guard's Antarctic mercy mission.

Then he apologized and said he would have to end the interview. He had gotten another call from London. He had to talk to the *Daily Telegraph*.



Maj. Bob Bullock

INSIDE PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

Guard extends goodwill at Lake Mladost in Macedonia

BEACH POLICE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Routing troops and equipment north into Kosovo may occupy much of their time, but members of the Arizona Army National Guard have also established a beachhead of their own in Macedonia. They have cleaned up a beach.

"We wanted to show the Macedonians that we're here to help," explained Maj. Gina Dixon who is spending the next few months at Camp Able Sentry beside the Macedonian capital of Skopje with the Army Guard's 852nd Rear Area Operations Center from Tucson.

Dixon and Army Guard Lt. Col. Charles McDaniel from Indiana organized more than 150 people, including Macedonians, U.S. soldiers, and Spanish and Dutch troops, to pick up bottles, cans and other trash from the beach at nearby Lake Mladost on September's final Saturday.

They policed up more than three truckloads of trash from the rocky shoreline of Lake Mladost, or "Youth Lake," in conjunction with the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia, Dixon reported.

It was additional voluntary duty for the soldiers who wanted to work more closely with their Macedonian hosts while supporting peacekeeping operations at Task Force Falcon camps named Bondsteel and Monteith in the Kosovo province of Yugoslavia.

"It would be so easy to overlook this country, because so much of what we do here is focused on Kosovo," said Dixon who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., and who ordinarily works as a research analyst for the Arizona Public Service Co.

"We thought that cleaning up that beach would be a nice gesture here in Macedonia," added Dixon who will be the Camp Able Sentry public affairs officer until the Arizona unit returns home in mid-February.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fairall commands the

37-member Arizona unit that arrived on July 5 and that includes five Guardmembers from Indiana and North Carolina. It is functioning as the installation staff for the camp of 1,800 soldiers that has become the gateway to Kosovo since the air campaign ended last June and the peacekeeping force began moving in.

Fairall is also the chief of staff for Camp Able Sentry that is considerably busier than a year ago when it was the base for U.S. troops merely monitoring the Macedonian-Yugoslavian border.

"We link up troops and equipment before they go down range," explained Dixon.

The Guardmembers know the drill.

"I don't think the mission could succeed without us," said SSgt. Jennifer Staron, who has previously been called up for six months during Desert Storm and who spent four months at Fort Polk, La., supporting this country's 1994-95 peacekeeping efforts in Haiti.

"The active Army is too thinly stretched right now. There are troops in Bosnia, Southwest Asia and a lot of other places," Staron added. "There's obviously a need for the National Guard and Reserve."

Members of the 852nd want to make a good impression in Macedonia for a couple of reasons.

■ This is the first mobilization for the unit that was formed in February, 1993. It

"We wanted to show the Macedonians that we're here to help"

MAJ. GINA DIXON
852nd Rear Area Operations Center



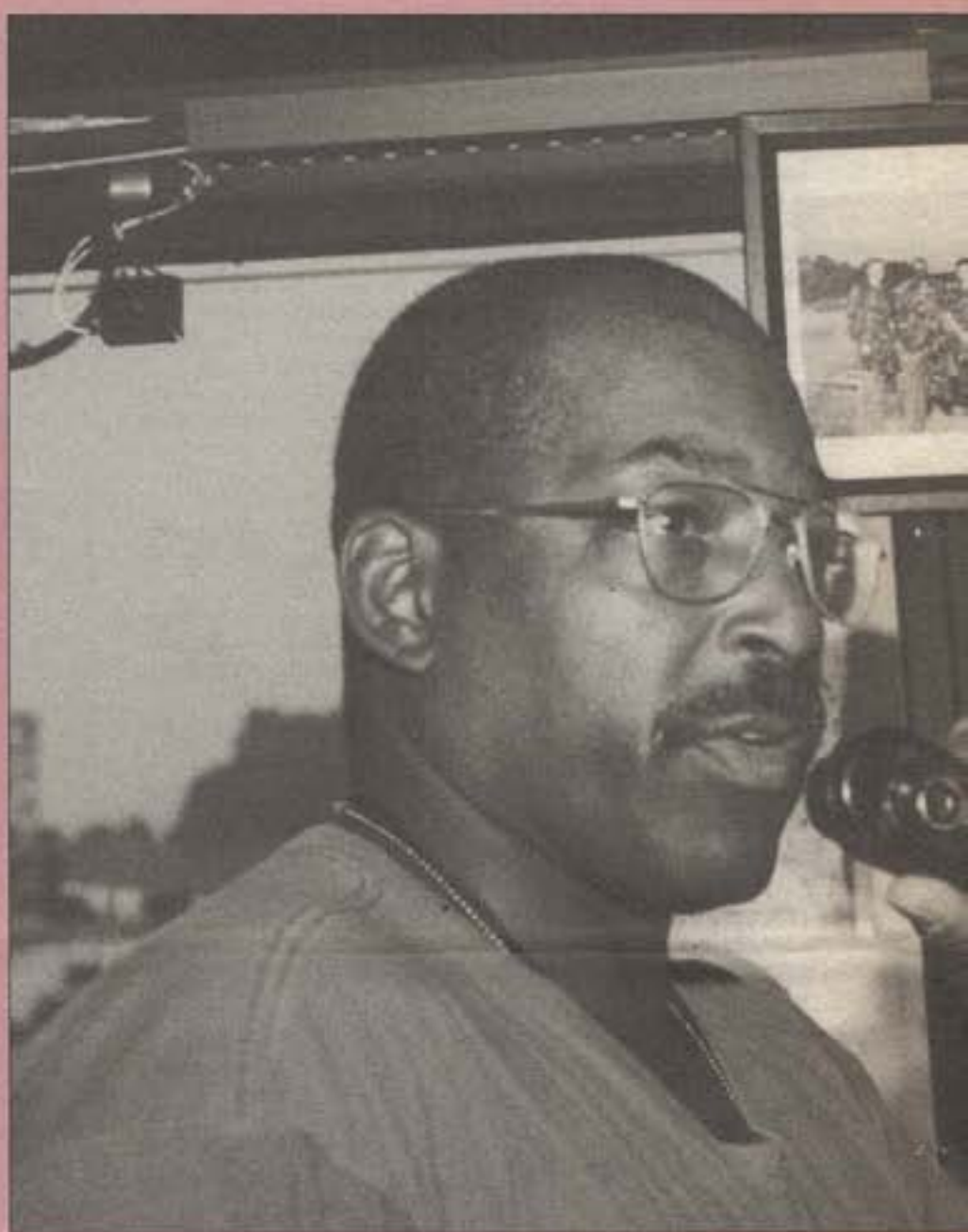
was activated for nine months under the presidential select reserve call-up approved by President Clinton late last April.

■ The Arizona Guard unit was one of the few reserve outfits initially called up to support the international peacekeeping ground force in Kosovo that includes 6,300 troops, primarily active duty units.

A total of 52 Army Guard soldiers were on duty by late September, said an Army Guard Readiness Center spokesman in Arlington, Va.

That means the Arizona citizen-soldiers are working many hours to keep soldiers and supplies moving into Kosovo and to establish their own beachhead in the form of good will in Macedonia.

Cleaning up that beach should help that cause.



FORGING a FUTURE

Nearly 18,000 Guard and Reserve troops have kept the peace in the Balkans for nearly four years

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Three snapshots of his little twin daughters stepping off a school bus beside his home in coastal Maryland reinforce Charles Higgins' resolve to watch over Army helicopters during the coming winter in faraway Bosnia.

"I'm doing this so my kids won't have to. God's given me another

chance," said the Maryland Army Guard staff sergeant and air traffic controller about his part in the United States' and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Joint Forge force that has preserved the peace for nearly four years in the troubled Balkans.

"Maybe they'll get the message," added the soft-spoken Higgins about that commitment to keep Serbian, Croatian and Muslim people from killing each other.

The peace dividends include 5,380 displaced families who have returned to their war-ravaged homes this year and another 3,534 who are "cleaning house" so they can also go home again, according to U.S. officials.

"It is peaceful, but there is always the possibility for a spark," cautioned Maj. Gen. James Campbell, com-



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell



KEEPING the PEACE -- Maryland Army Guard SSgt. Charles Higgins (far left photo) keeps an eye on air traffic in Bosnia. Maine Army Guard SSgt. Ed Markey (left) inspects a Black Hawk before a mission in Bosnia. SSgt. Neil Williams (below) makes a repair to a Black Hawk.



side Eagle Base in Tuzla, the U.S. sector's headquarters, on a rainy September afternoon.

Ominous Apache attack helicopters and other dark aircraft built to transport troops and cargo hummed in and out of the aviation center. Others sat silently on the ramp,

primed to prove that this country will support its soldiers.

Still, how do you tell your 4-year-old children that daddy is far away doing something important for his country?

The questions have been asked and answered thousands of times and ways during the nearly four years that 18,000 members of the National Guard and other reserve forces have been ordered to spend nine months enforcing the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia.

Reserve troops can be sent there only once under the presidential select reserve call-up. Therefore, most are going for the first time. Many bring years of experience and a sense of vitality to the U.S. force that has been paired down from a peak of 20,000 troops in 1996 to this year's more modest 5,400, including nearly 800 reservists.

"We scooped up every technician we could. We brought the cream of

the crop," said SSgt. Ed Markey, a seasoned mechanic for the Maine Army Guard's 112th Medical Company that took on the medical evacuation mission at Tuzla in mid-September from the Nebraska Guard's 24th Medical Company.

The Maine aviators responded to their first emergency on Sept. 16, flying two soldiers injured in a vehicle accident back to the camp.

Tuzla, according to Markey's global positioning system device, is 4,096 miles from his home in Carmel.

Those 77 Maine soldiers, with nine Black Hawk helicopters, include SFC Cliff Balstow from Bangor, the maintenance platoon sergeant, who is pulling his sixth deployment since joining the Marines in 1966. He has served in Vietnam with the Marines and in Germany during Desert Storm with the 112th.

He has a University of Maine degree in forestry, but helicopters attract him as a flame draws a moth.

"I missed being a crew chief," shrugged Balstow who became a full-time Guard technician in 1989.

Maryland's Higgins joined the Army Guard in 1975 after learning the air traffic control business in the Air Force from 1968-74.

"I can't fly them. So I might as well tell 'em how to land and take off," he explained.

"I got used to the fast-movers --

F-111s, F-4s and KC-135s," Higgins added. "First they're in the air, then they're on the ground. It's different with these helicopters. It's almost like learning a new language."

The same can be said about this country's commitment to keeping the peace in eastern Europe and about the National Guard's desire to help.

Although officials this fall are talking of reducing the Bosnian force even further, Campbell recently told international reporters that "we will have the same capacity to carry out the mission in every way."

Eleven hundred members of the Texas Army Guard's 49th Armored Division are preparing to take command of all allied forces in the U.S. sector from Campbell's 10th Mountain Division early next year.

"The 49th is going through all of the training we went through. They will do a great job," Maj. Gen. Campbell predicted.

By then, Charles Higgins will be nearing the end of his tour in the Balkans. He will be finishing his time at the busy airport in Bosnia for his country and for the National Guard in the name of peace.

He will be ready to return to his wife and his business. He also will resume his duties as full-time daddy to those pretty twin daughters who he hopes will never have to serve in the same place for the same reason.

mander of the U.S. sector, about the importance of maintaining 100 "presence patrols" every day.

Enter Charles Higgins and other citizen-soldiers who keep putting the National Guard's best foot forward.

Higgins is 50. He is a building contractor with seven employees in Edgewood, Md. He is one of six Maryland Guard people from the 129th Air Traffic Services Company attached to a 37-member unit from Pennsylvania that arrived in Bosnia in mid-August to direct military aircraft in and out of camps named Comanche and McGovern.

His twin daughters, Chelsey and Marki, are 4. They are the apples of their father's eyes that mist over when he looks at those photos taken Sept. 3 by his wife Linda after their first day at pre-kindergarten.

"They wanted to know why daddy wasn't there to meet them when they got home," Higgins explained in the busy tower at Camp Comanche, be-



By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The airplanes will still fly thousands of tons of cargo and fuel and be armed with an intimidating array of missiles and bullets. The fundamental job will be pretty much the same for members of the Air National Guard.

But the way aircrews, maintenance and support people are deployed is being drastically changed this month for virtually all of the Air Guard's units as the Air Force implements the Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF) concept.

"This is the biggest cultural change in the Air Force since the separation from the Army [in 1947]" observed Col. Larry Brooks, the Air National Guard's deputy director of operations in Arlington, Va.

Gen. Michael Ryan, the Air Force chief of staff, intends to restructure the Air Force into a light, lean and lethal service, similar to the Marine Corps' expeditionary forces, which can rapidly respond to any crisis without having to call up people at the last minute.

Beginning in October, volunteers from Air National Guard units will know where and when, months and years in advance, they are going to support the Air Force's demanding overseas commitments.

They will know, for example, if they are going to Kuwait to take part in Operation Southern Watch over Iraq or to Turkey to join the Northern Watch patrols or to support operations over Bosnia and Kosovo.

In short, they will be better able to plan their civilian lives around their military deployments, explained Victoria Van Buren, the Air National Guard's civilian deputy director of logistics.

"The idea is to bring predictability and stability to the Air Force and its reserve components so our people have a home life," Van Buren said, "while still meeting the obligations overseas where we no longer have the base infrastructure that we had during the Cold War."

The Air Force, including the

Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, has divided its entire resource pool into 10 Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEFs), each comprised of equal combat capability.

For the first time, Air Guard and Reserve Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) personnel are included in these forces and will deploy along side their respective aviation packages. The Air Guard has both aircraft and combat support personnel assigned to every AEF.

The deployment concept of operations will work something like this. Two expeditionary

first group and will provide the support infrastructure.

It will take 15 months to complete the 10 AEF deployments.

The 15-month cycle also means that people will not be away from their families during the same holidays, such as Christmas, every year and that they will be able to give their civilian employers plenty of notice about when they will leave and return.

To the maximum extent possible, members of the same units will go to the same theater at the same time. In addition, the current rules of engagement also

Aerospace Expeditionary Forces will allow Guardmembers to give employers more notice

Deploying a new method



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

forces will be deployed at about the same time. Each AEF commitment is for 90 days. However, most of the Guard troops will rotate into their assigned theater for only 15 days in addition to travel time. They will maintain and operate the planes and equipment brought by the

state that ECS personnel will be asked to volunteer no more than once every 30 months.

The Air Guard will take charge of its own operations, Brooks explained.

"We have been a shaping force, not just a reaction force, since 1996," he pointed out. "The

NEW COURSE — Capt. James Noble (left) pilots a C-130 over Bosnia. Missouri Air Guard Maj. Michael McEnulvy (below) charts a course over Bosnia.

Air Force tells us what they want us to do, and we build our own packages to do it.

"Volunteers are the key to success," said Brooks who anticipates the Air Guard would be able to meet its requirements without mandatory call-ups.

"The Guard people will do a good job because we always do a good job," predicted Missouri Air Guard Maj. Michael McEnulvy, a TWA pilot who has logged 5,000 hours on C-130 cargo planes in 13 years and who has served in three conflicts.

"We do this because we want to, not because we have to," said McEnulvy in September during an Operation Joint Forge flight from Germany to Bosnia.

"We will have to rely on volunteers. We can't have a rolling presidential selective reserve call-up for these long-term peacetime commitments. Those are intended only for specific missions," said Charles Cragin, the acting undersecretary of defense for reserve affairs.

The advanced scheduling is

The 1,136 active duty pilots who are hanging up their uniforms at the end of September are walking away with the equivalent of \$6.6 billion worth of training and experience, *Defense Week* reported in its Sept. 13 issue.

"In the long run, [the expeditionary aerospace forces] may save the Air Force money if through predictability and stability we can retain highly trained people and more efficiently use our limited resources," the Air Force stated.

"This levels the playing field for participation by all of our units," said Brooks who acknowledged the wings that have served the Air Force well in the past have been busier than others who have not been called so often.

"This is the future of the Air Force," he continued. "We have to succeed at this if the Guard is to remain relevant to the total force," he stressed.

Virtually all of the Air Guard's 89 flying wings are already wired into the AEF rotations that will become fully operational by next March.

Fighter wings from Vermont and Texas, cargo carriers from New York and Wyoming, and air refuelers from Maine and Mississippi were among the assets from 28 different Air Guard wings included in the first two expeditionary forces deployed in October.

Twenty-two of the 23 airlift wings have been factored into the first four AEFs, and the Air National Guard's two B-1 bomber wings, in Georgia and Kansas, will be included in the mix beginning next March.

For the first time since Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the Air National Guard will have a significant and sustained participation in combat support to the tune of some 13,000 people every 15 months.

However, not every unit and not every member of every unit participating in each expeditionary force will be sent overseas, the Air Force has indicated.

Brooks made it clear why it is important for this country to continue to keep as much air power as necessary on foreign soil to prevent tyrants from killing innocent people.

"We must never say again," Brooks offered, "that it is none of our business."

Current-day Guardsmen join
World War II vets to review
Normandy invasion

Following their FOOTSTEPS

By Capt. Les' Melnyk
National Guard Bureau

The weather was eerily familiar to the 29th Infantry Division veterans who retraced their steps in the cold Omaha beach sand at dawn recently.

The sky was gray, overcast and threatening rain. Just as it had been 55 years ago, except for the crack of German guns pounding loudly in their ears.

Accompanied by a powerful sense of déjà vu and current day Guardmembers, 29th veterans visited the historic French beach where they first tasted combat. Following in their footsteps, both literally and figuratively, were 60 members of the today's 29th and 35th Infantry Divisions from Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

The group spent four September days in Normandy, France visiting and studying the sites where these two proud Guard divisions fought and bled, while breaching Hitler's "impregnable" Atlantic Wall.

"Veterans like those in the 29th Division are a valuable resource," wrote Brig. Gen. H. Steven Blum, 29th Division commander. "We honor their memory by learning from their experiences."

With veterans and historians setting the scene, Guardsmen gazed at the pillbox-studded bluffs that overlook the beach, especially the heavily fortified Vierville draw. It was clear to all that the draw was one of only a few places where vehicles could make it off the beach.

Later that day, 35th Division veterans took the lead in walking down a narrow, sunken road deep in the heart of idyllic Norman countryside. Fifty-five years ago this road had been part of the German defensive line near Le Carillon. Centuries of farming had built up high mounds of dirt, topped with trees and thick bushes, surrounding every field and along every road. Runoff from the frequent rains had carved gullies -- natural trenches -- on each side of the narrow road. The sunken roads and hedgerows create what the French call the bocage country, where each field is a small fortress unto itself.

"It is the best possible defensive terrain in the world," noted historian Joseph Balkoski, as many on hand nodded in agreement.

Many climbed down into a fighting position dug 55-years ago in the corner of a field for a German machine gun -- an MG 42. Even unsupported, it could have



Photo by Capt. Les' Melnyk
RETURNING HEROES -- 29th and 35th Infantry Division veterans revisited Normandy (above), and were honored (inset) at Omaha beach.

covered the entire field.

Looking at copies of maps captured from the Germans, the soldiers learned more. They were able to see that the machine gun nest they were standing in was well supported by rifles and machine guns on each flank, mortars to the rear and tank-hunting teams. It became clear to current day Guardsmen that their World War II comrades were up against a well prepared German force.

The Army calls this kind of critical evaluation of a battlefield a "staff ride." It has been conducting them, mostly on Civil War battlefields, since the turn of this century. The goal, as the Army defines it, is to "relate the lessons or principles [of war] to specific historical case studies of particular campaigns."

Participants often immerse themselves in the historical figures they are assigned to study, trying to understand the what influenced their actions.

"It is a rare that you get the opportunity to study a battle in the company of the men who had actually fought it," said Maj. Sherman Fleek, the National Guard Bureau's Historical Services chief.

And the soldiers took advantage. Drawn together despite the disparity of age, they bonded with the veterans and plied them with questions:

"What was it like?"; "What kind of information were you provided prior to the invasion?"; and most often, "How did you overcome your fear?"

The veterans opened up to the young guardsmen, describing their experiences to an audience that seemed awed of them.

Leonard Jindra, a private in the 29th Division's Company F, 115th Infantry

Regiment recalled the events that he experienced on the night of June 9-10, 1944.

Standing next to a marker that memorialized the 150 men of his battalion that became casualties that night, Jindra described in halting tones the long, arduous day of advancing and skirmishing through the bocage country. The Germans appeared to be on the run, he recalled. His battalion commander, Lt. Col. William Warfield, finally ordered a halt in the fighting at around 2 a.m. While his exhausted men rested in a field, a German force was readying themselves for a massive counter attack just a few hundred yards away.

Historians have since criticized Warfield for failing to secure a perimeter, but Jindra, who described Warfield as a "tough, but fair commander -- everybody respected him," defended Warfield's actions.

"There wasn't time," Jindra told the assembled citizen-soldiers. When the Germans and their mobile assault guns attacked, the battalion panicked. Warfield, refusing to surrender, was killed trying to rally his troops.

Blum then stepped forward to make a point.

"Combat is a very hard place to learn these kinds of lessons," he told the assembled soldiers, "so learn them now."

Blum added that as leaders, it was their

responsibility to ensure that their soldiers took care of the basics -- like conducting security. Failure, he noted, carries a terrible cost.

"That's why I chose Normandy, to show them how brutal it was," the general said.

In another corner of the Norman countryside, Sgt. John Polyniak -- a member of the Division's Company C, 116th Infantry regiment -- described the moment he was shot.

The near-fatal wound occurred along a nearby road. At first, Polyniak recalled, he barely felt the pain in his hip caused by the sniper's bullet. His most vivid memory, he said, was the death of a good friend, who was shot trying to rescue him.

His story was followed by a number of questions regarding the importance of medics in combat.

Members of the 29th and 35th divisions were not in Normandy only to learn. They also were there to honor their fallen comrades. Joining them in the commemoration were Norman citizens.

Everywhere the vets went, the locals greeted them with open arms. Special respect was paid in the towns of Vierville, La Meauffe and St. Lo, where the Honor Guard unfurled the divisions' flags and carried them alongside French veterans.

In St. Lo, a town 29th and 35th Division soldiers captured after weeks of bloody fighting, the mayor awarded medals to each veteran.

"We must treasure our remaining time with the soldiers who served in World War II," Blum observed. "It is important to emulate the lessons of history and learn from them."

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

A crew with the Alaska Air Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron received the prestigious MacKay Trophy for their heroic rescue of six people from the wreckage of a small plane that crashed at Mount Torbert.

The crew -- Lt. Col. John Jacobs, pilot; 1st Lt. Thaddeus Stolar, co-pilot; MSgt. Scott Hamilton, flight engineer; MSgt. Steve Daigle and TSgt. Greg Hopkins, pararescuers -- battled fierce winds at 10,500-feet while trying to find an opening in the clouds to land their HH-60 helicopter near the fallen Cessna, about 80 miles from their Anchorage base.

Once on the mountainside, Daigle and Hopkins scrambled nearly 600 feet down to the wreckage, chopping snow away from the Cessna's door. They then guided the passengers, including two children, over a snow-covered glacier to safety. The rescue took nearly seven hours.

"This was truly an heroic rescue," remarked Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan at the award ceremony. "Six lives were saved because of this crew's dedication and professionalism."

The award was established in 1912, and is presented annually by the Air Force and the National Aeronautical Association for the most meritorious flight of the year. Previous winners include aviation pioneers, Henry "Hap" Arnold, Jimmy Doolittle and Chuck Yeager.

Alabama Army Guard CWO Malcolm
"Sonny" Hayes made state history recently when he earned the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge.

After receiving the Distinguished Rifle Badge in 1996, earning the pistol badge made him the first "double distinguished" shooter in the Camellia state. Fewer than two percent of all competitive shooters achieve distinguished status in one category.

Hayes joined the Alabama Army Guard in 1991. He had spent 13 years with the U.S. Marines Corps, including four years on active duty as an artilleryman and small arms repairer.

"I set four shooting goals when joined the Guard," Hayes said. "I wanted to make the state rifle team, the All-Guard team, become 'double distinguished,' and go to the Olympics as a shooter."

"I've accomplished three of those goals," he added. "We'll have to see what happens with the fourth."

The Minnesota National Guard's Camp
Ripley hosted the Department of the Army Eighth Annual Integrated Training Area Management Workshop recently.

More than 400 military and civilian warriors from as far away as Germany and Hawaii, participated in a variety of presentations, displays and field trips. The goal of the workshop was to better learn how to balance the training needs of military units with that of the environment they train on.

Retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Vessey Jr., delivered the keynote address.



The 'doubly distinguished' CWO Malcolm 'Sonny' Hayes.



Camp Ripley's training workshop featured a demonstration of a sound muffler for small arms.



SSgt. Eric Evans (left), SMSgt. Roger Wallace, TSgt. Gregory Robinson, SSgt. Toby Smith and SSgt. Gerald Lockwood formed a brass quintet to honor the B-2.

A brass quintet from the California Air Guard's 562nd Air Force Band helped celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the first flight of the B-2 "Stealth" Bomber at the Northrop Grumman assembly facility in Palmdale, Calif.

It was the third time members of the 562nd appeared at events featuring the B-2.

No strangers to big events, the Golden State musicians joined two active-component bands on New Years Day in 1997 to lead Pasadena's Tournament of Roses Parade.

The 562nd, based with the 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands Air National Guard Base in Ventura County, also helped the Air Force ring in its 50th Anniversary at the Los Angeles Air Force Base Open House.

As one of 11 Air Guard bands around the country, the 562nd performs regularly as a concert band, marching band and jazz ensemble.

National Guard Bureau Chief, Lt. Gen.
Russell Davis, presided over the New Jersey National Guard's 18th Annual Military Review at its training center in Sea Girt, N.J.

The review featured aerial demonstrations from the Garden State Air Guard's 177th Fighter Wing and its Army Guard's 1st Squadron, 150th Aviation. The state's 63rd Army Band provided musical accompaniment, while members of Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery performed a 19-gun salute.

Specs. Keith and Charles Nichols recently
welcomed their brother, Pvt. Earl Nichols, into the Michigan Army Guard. Each belongs to the 1437th Engineer Company based in Sault Ste Marie.

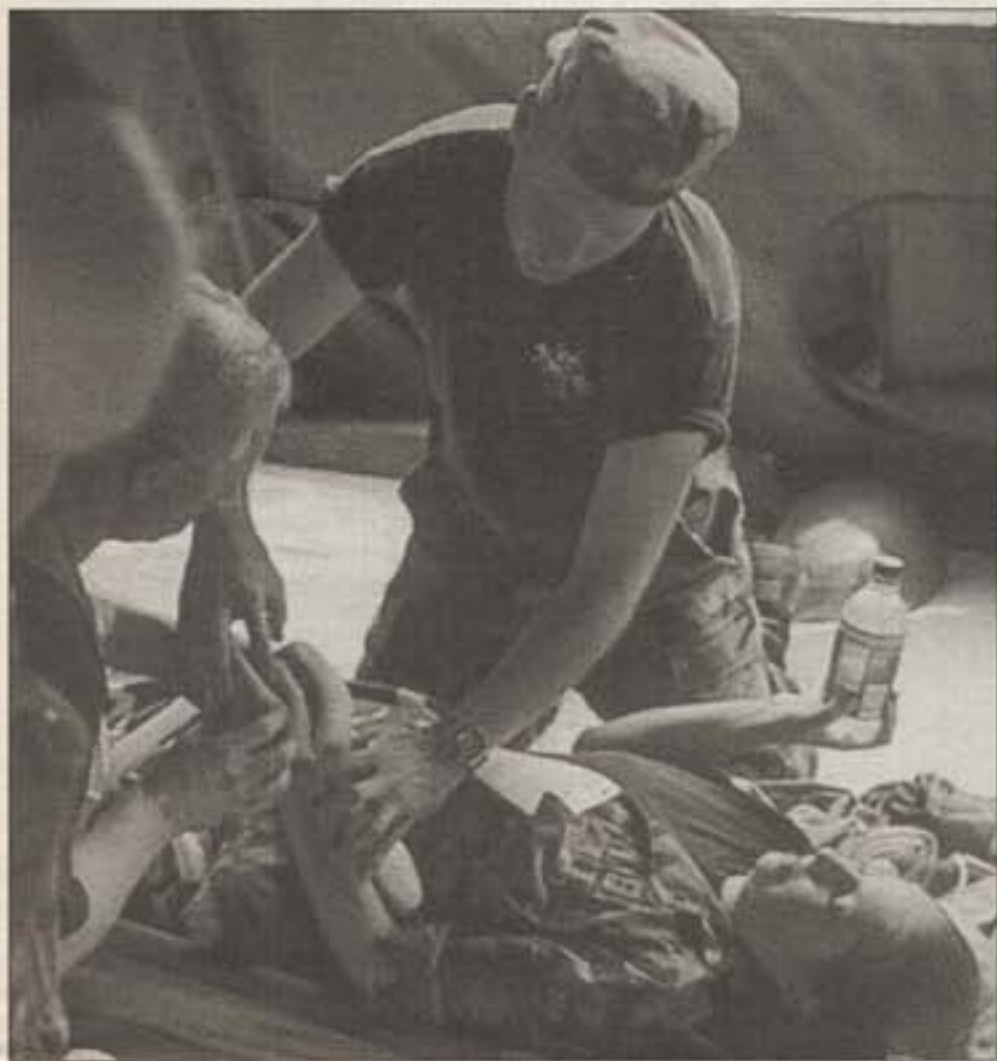
The Triple Nichols also spent the summer on Active Duty for Special Work, or ADSW, at Camp Grayling.

The 1437th is a bridge company with bridge sections that are transported by six-wheel drive trucks and moved into place with special power boats. The bridge placed across the Sava River in Hungary for U.S. troops to cross into Bosnia is an identical structure.

The brothers say they were attracted to the Wolverine State Army Guard for the excitement, and for the chance to work with an engineer bridging company.

The Nichols also were drawn to the Guard's educational programs. Currently, seven colleges and universities participate in the Michigan National Guard Tuition Grant Program, which could save up to \$18,000 over a four-year degree program. In addition to that, Michigan Gov. John Engler recently signed the Michigan National Guard Educational Incentive Act, which could provide up to \$2,000 per academic year. Combining the programs, a Michigan National Guard soldier or airman could potentially complete a four-year degree program without tuition costs and have money left over for other expenses.

Keith and Charles Nichols report that they are pursuing college degrees in the corrections field. Their brother Earl has yet to determine his career path.



KENTUCKY CARE — Maj. Bill Adkisson (left) provides trauma care for a wounded airman. TSgt. Shelby Higgs (below) seeks out the enemy.



Photos by MSgt. Terry Lutz and MSgt. Charles Simpson.

Kentucky's 123rd Medical Squadron practices a different kind of medicine

Outdoor Operators

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Kentucky National Guard

Many medical professionals spend much of their time on drill weekends giving shots and performing other tasks to ensure fellow unit members are ready to deploy.

Such was the case for the Kentucky Air Guard 123rd Airlift Wing's medical squadron, a group who has seen its share of real-world taskings.

However, there was a problem, according to MSgt. Barry Wright, the 123rd's public health manager.

"Because of all the deployments and requests to set up shot lines, we were having a real problem staying proficient in our training," he explained.

The solution, Wright said, was to pack up the squadron's gear and get out of town.

And so, after a week of classroom instruction on everything from the laws of armed conflict to bandaging techniques, 37 Bluegrass State medical professionals deployed to the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center near Greenville, Ky.

For a week the doctors, physician assistants, nurses and medics operated from an Air Transportable Clinic, providing perimeter security and retrieving wounded troops from enemy territory for trauma care and medical evacuation.

In the meantime, members of the 123rd's Special Tactics Flight assaulted them with real tear gas and attempted raids.

"We actually got a whole year's worth of training in that two-week period," said Capt. David Worley, the squadron's education and training manager who helped plan the deployment.

The simulation mirrored a proficiency test the unit is required to take every four years at the Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich.

"We took their lesson plans and taught the same material," Wright related.

Because of that fact -- and because the deployed environment added a dose of wartime realism -- the unit should be well prepared for its next trip to Alpena in 2000, he added.

"There were a lot of new people who

went on this deployment -- a lot of young troops who have never experienced field conditions, put up a temperate tent or drank out of a canteen," Wright said.

"We've used moulage patients on base in the past, but when you've got people shooting at you, or tear gas exploding, or it's hot outside and bugs are biting you," he continued, "it's different than sitting in a comfortable classroom."

That realism included the use of a medical evacuation helicopter, courtesy of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

"There's a lot of ground safety issues involved with working around a helicopter and those rotor blades," Wright noted, "especially when you're trying to carry a patient on a litter and get him loaded on board."

"Simulation won't work with that kind of training," he added. "It's something you actually have to do."

Working with soldiers presented other challenges, Wright said, because of incompatible radio equipment and different ways of accomplishing like tasks.

"Those kinds of things are real-world," Wright said, "so it's good that we had a chance to get some joint-service training."

The medical squadron exceeded the standards of Alpena's program in another area by becoming one of the first Air Guard medical units to provide comprehensive force protection training.

The training, conducted by members of the wing's 123rd Security Forces Squadron, included briefings on cover and con-

LIFT OFF - A U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division helicopter crew provided medical evacuation.

cealment, tactical communications and the rules of engagement.

"The medical squadrons, for the longest time, have never really taught force protection," Wright explained.

"You are required to secure your camp if you deploy, but you were never taught how to do it," he added. "We let the security police teach us how to set up lines of fire and everything else we need to protect ourselves."

The squadron's program was so successful, Wright said, that instructors from Alpena are evaluating it for addition to their curriculum.

Overall, Wright and Worley said they were extremely pleased with the deployment and its training opportunities. Just like in the real world, however, things didn't always go as planned.

But situations like that gave people a chance to exercise a little ingenuity.

"If something didn't work, we had to find another way to make it work," said SrA. Roberta Davison, who joined the unit in May. It was her first deployment with the squadron.

"We had to think on our feet," she added.

As for the unit's 2000 evaluation in Alpena, Wright, for one, is not concerned.

"We're ready for Alpena," he said. "Our folks have already shown that they know what to do."



STATES

• Badger Watch • Coronet Crews • Chinook Power

WISCONSIN

Members of Badger State Air Guard's 115th Fighter Wing, based at Truax Field, deployed to Saudi Arabia recently.

Nearly 180 members of the Madison unit are in Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the United Nations-imposed southern no-fly zone over Iraq.

They will spend two to four weeks at Prince Sultan Air Base.

This is the wing's third deployment in less than three years. The unit served in Kuwait in December 1997 and in Turkey as part of Operation Northern Watch in March and April 1997.

MINNESOTA

Approximately 50 members of the 133rd Airlift Wing returned to its St. Paul base after supporting their second Coronet Oak mission to Puerto Rico this year.

Trading balmy, Caribbean skies for fall frost, Gopher State air crews, maintenance and support people returned home after conducting humanitarian relief missions to the Bahamas; battered by Hurricane Floyd.

The wing worked with an Air Force Reserve unit from Willow Grove, Pa., during its first week, and the Alaska National Guard its second week.

NEW YORK

FACE
LIFT

A New York Army Guard Blackhawk crew lifts an abandoned vehicle off of Fisher's Island, on the eastern tip of Long Island. The Guard aviators with the Ronkonkoma-based unit were removing cars as part of the state's GuardHELP program -- an initiative that uses the Guard's people and equipment for the betterment of Empire State communities.

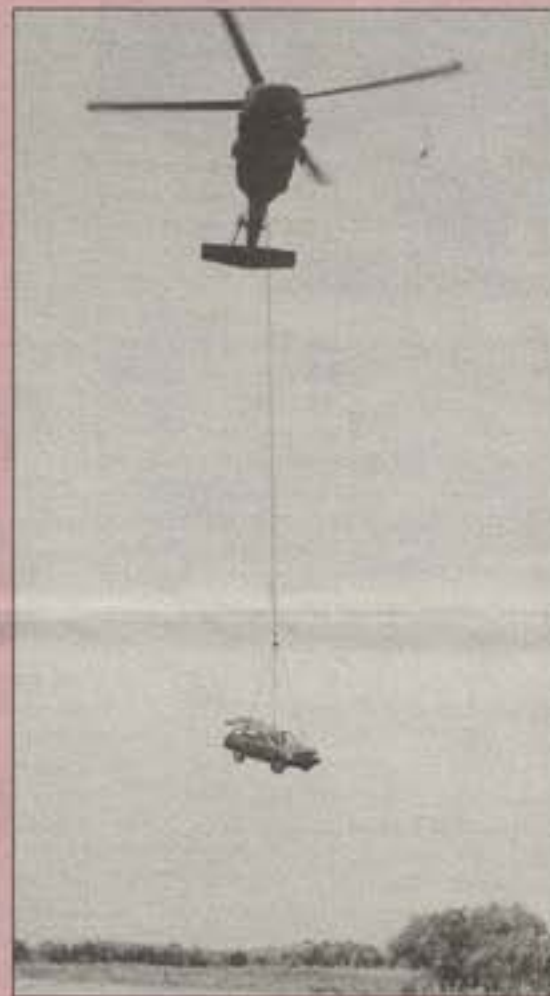


Photo by Capt. Rob Giordano

CONNECTICUT

The Constitution State Army Guard's Aviation Support Facility at Bradley International Airport received the first of its eight new, more powerful and fuel efficient turbine engines to modernize its CH-47D Chinook heavy lift cargo helicopters.

The state's aircrafts were the first in the entire worldwide Army fleet of 472 Chinooks to receive the state-of-the-art T55-GA-714A with the new Fully-Automatic Digital Flight Control. The engines are built by Allied-Signal of Phoenix, Ariz.

The improvements, noted a Guard official, will allow the Chinooks to carry heavy payloads over longer distances.

Used for moving troops and equipment, there are currently 132 Chinooks in the Guard's inventory.

NEVADA

Guardsmen and women helped local firefighters battle wildfires that blackened an area larger than Delaware.

The fires were caused by a barrage of more than 10,000 lightning strikes that triggered hundreds of blazes.

Two Army Guard Chinook crews from Company G, 140th Aviation responded to a 60,000-acre blaze near Lockwood, dropping 70,200 gallons of water.

NORTH DAKOTA

By Maj. Keith Corliss
North Dakota National Guard

Goat meat three times a day doesn't appeal to everyone's pallet, but it wasn't the local cuisine that drew Capt. Roger Pressler to Ukraine recently.

A physician's assistant with the Fargo-based 119th Medical Squadron (part of the 119th Fighter Wing), he deployed to the former Soviet republic to participate in Exercise Peace Shield '99 and visit the land of his forebears.

"My grandmother came from Odesa on the Black Sea," said Pressler, who was invited to join medical professionals from the California Air Guard's 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno to provide medical care for the NATO exercise.

Peace Shield -- aimed at promoting regional

stability in Europe through cooperation among member nations -- involved more than 350 U.S. active and reserve component troops and nearly 650 soldiers from 17 nations.

"The cities were fairly modern, but in the country I saw horsedrawn carts and a man cutting grass with a hand sickle," Pressler said. He added that the medical facilities were several decades behind.

The Guard medical team treated nearly 300 soldiers, mostly for intestinal illnesses related to the vastly different diet.

"Toward the end, most of us were eating just bread and bottled water," Pressler reported. "We were tired of the goat."

PEACE EFFORT -- North Dakota Air Guard Capt. Roger Pressler (right) treats a Polish soldier with an injured finger.



Photo courtesy of the North Dakota National Guard



HISTORY

• 'The Swamp Fox' Francis Marion

Reviled by British officers for his less-than-gentlemanly tactics, Francis Marion -- the Swamp Fox -- helped America gain its independence

MASTER of the UNCONVENTIONAL

A master of guerrilla warfare, Francis Marion -- nicknamed the Swamp Fox -- was so feared and grudgingly respected as a warrior that an enemy officer once balked, "the devil himself could not catch him."

So was the lot of an American original that helped the United States win its independence during the Revolutionary War.

Francis Marion was born about 1732 on a rice plantation near the South Carolina coast. His family was not especially wealthy, and he received little formal education.

As a boy Marion craved the adventure of life at sea. He was cured of this after surviving a shipwreck at age 16, at which point he took up farming. In 1761, however, he found a form of land-based excitement at which he excelled: war.

During the French and Indian War, South Carolina raised a militia force to accompany 1,200 British regulars against the powerful Cherokee tribe. Lt. Marion was given the task of clearing a mountain pass with only 30 men, which he accomplished despite 21 casualties. Marion's reputation in South Carolina was assured.

Marion was elected to the state's Provincial Congress in 1775, and in June was named a captain in the 2nd South Carolina Regiment. Five months later, both the regiment and Capt. Marion became part of the newly-formed Continental Army.

Maj. Marion helped defend Charleston against the British in 1776, and two years later took command of the regiment.

Operations in the Southern theater were limited until 1780. That was the year the British, after four years of fighting in the northern colonies, turned their attention south and laid siege to the third-largest city in America, Charleston.

In America's greatest defeat of the Revolution, Charleston's garrison of more than 3,000 Continental and militia troops surrendered to the British in May 1780. The militia officers and their men were paroled by the British under condition they not take up arms again; the Continentals were confined on prison ships, where many died of disease and starvation.

Lt. Col. Marion, however, was not in Charleston for the surrender -- he was recuperating on his plantation from a broken ankle. From surrounding farms and plantations, Marion gathered up some 20 men and boys, white and black, and headed toward North Carolina to offer his services to newly-appointed Continental commander in the South, Gen. Horatio Gates.

Gates' army consisted of about 1,200 half-starved Maryland and Delaware troops that had not been at Charleston. Ragged as they were, the sight of Marion's even more ragged band prompted laughter. Gates politely sent Marion back to the coast with orders to collect intelligence.

Meanwhile, Patriot sympathizers from Marion's home district had requested that Gov. Edward Rutledge name Marion commander of its local militia. In August of



GUARD HISTORY

By Renee Hylton
Army Guard Historian

1780, Francis Marion was made a brigadier general of South Carolina State Troops. While Gen. Gates' little army was being annihilated by the British at Camden, S.C., Marion was busy recruiting his brigade, which at its height numbered about 2,500 -- although it almost never operated together.

Marion and other militia commanders realized that the surrender of almost all the Regulars in the theater meant that the nature of the war must change. Marion broke his force into small bands and moved into the swamps of the low country, ground unfamiliar to the enemy.

From their hideouts, Marion's men ambushed and harassed the British Regulars and their attached regiments of northern Loyalists. Marion and fellow South

Carolina militia commanders Thomas Sumter and Andrew Pickens also mounted operations against local Loyalists. In fact, perhaps their greatest contribution to eventual American victory was their prevention of effective operations of any Loyalist militia.

Today we call Francis Marion a great practitioner of "guerrilla" warfare; in his own time, he was known as a "partisan." In an age of formalized warfare where officers all knew the rules, guerrilla tactics were not practiced by "gentlemen."

One British officer who lost 20 men and his horse in an ambush complained that Marion would "not fight ... like a Christian." Another told his superiors that "...as for this damned old fox, the devil himself could not catch him!"

This may have been the origin of Marion's famous nickname, "the Swamp Fox."

After the Revolution, Marion was given command of Ft. Johnson, S.C., with a large annual salary that was intended to make up for the total destruction of his plantation during the Revolution. He was elected three times to the state senate, and in 1790 to the state's Constitutional Convention.

He died in 1795.

Marion's fame was assured in the years after his death when Parson Weems, who invented George Washington chopping down the cherry tree, invented wartime exploits for Marion and his men. Dozens of American counties and towns named themselves "Marion."

Today, Marion's fame rests on his skill as a soldier and master of unconventional warfare. His militia were as well-led and well-disciplined as any Regular force, but their tactics were adapted from the military heritage of the American frontier.

In the Revolution's darkest days, Marion and his citizen-soldiers turned that heritage against the British and the Loyalists and helped win America its independence.



"One British officer who lost 20 men and his horse in an ambush complained that Marion would 'not fight ... like a Christian' "



TRAINING



Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning

New York
Army Guard
infantry,
artillery and

EMPIRE



DRUM BEAT -- A tank crew (above) with the Empire State's 101st Cavalry take on Fort Drum's tank gunnery range. Soldiers with New