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THE ON GUARD

Volume XXVII, No. 4

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

January 1998

Hamre announces major changes

Guardmembers to be issued green ID cards

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Dr. John Hamre brought some powerful medicine and some remarkable gifts to the National Guard's 361st birthday party on the first Friday in December.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense -- second only to Defense Secretary William Cohen -- told nearly 300 Army and Air National Guard leaders what their organization means to their country and what their country will expect from its oldest military force well into the 21st century during his first, memorable visit to the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

Credibility. Respect. Validation. Those were the gifts with which the Department of Defense reinforced the half-million member National Guard's presence within the total force on that festive day.

"Today, as we approach the next century, America is relying on its citizen-soldiers more than ever," Hamre told Lt. Gen.

Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the other celebrants.

Hamre's message made the biggest impression on those concerned with the Army National Guard's relationship with the U.S. Army.

"Today we began the real integration of the active Army and the Army National

Guard," beamed Baca. "History was actually made today."

The high points:

- Six of the Army Guard's 15 separate combat brigades will be formed into two integrated divisions under active Army commanders. The divisions will consist of units from the Southeast and Midwest. They are expected to be fully operational by October 1999.

- National Guardmembers will play an active part in helping their communities respond to the grave threat of chemical and biological weapons.

- The position of Deputy Director of Military Support will continue to be filled by a National Guard general. Iowa Army

Guard Brig. Gen. Roger Schultz now holds that position. "The Director of Military Support (DOMS) is our '911' service for communities facing natural or man-made disasters," Hamre explained. "And when communities call DOMS for help, DOMS calls the Guard."

National Guardmembers, with others in the reserve forces, will be issued green identification cards -- like the cards issued to active duty personnel -- over the next five years. Cohen announced that change on the same Friday.

"No longer will the first-rate members of the Guard and Reserve be made to feel like sec-

ond-class soldiers when they show their badge at the door," Hamre told the crowd who welcomed his words with a standing ovation.

"This is the culmination of two and a half years of hard work to finally take a



"No longer will
first rate
members of the
Guard ... be
made to feel like
second-class
soldiers"

Dr. John Hamre



Photo by SSgt. Ed Holt

GOPHER STATE GUNNERS

A two-man Stinger crew with the Minnesota Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 216th Air Defense Artillery prepares to launch a live missile during training at Fort Bliss, Texas. The Gopher State gunners, many live-firing for the first time, recorded eight-out-of-nine hits.

See CHANGES, Page 13



COMMENTARY

• Active-duty soldier takes issue with 'Weekend Warrior' tag

ABOUT the PAPER

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

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Guarding against labels

By SSgt. Eric Lobsinger
U.S. Army

Weekend warriors. Pretend soldiers. Civilians in BDUs. I've heard all those descriptions and more used in reference to Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers.

Sure, a lot of the comments are made in jest. Some regular Army soldiers probably even think that it's nothing more than trading friendly jibes -- particularly when in training environments.

Such was the case recently when I was in one of the training areas on post (Ft. Campbell, Ky.). A group of young soldiers were teasing two others because they were "only" reservists, or so the conversation went. And because they were reservists, the group members contended, they were not equal.

The conversation made me chuckle because the reservists had gone through the same training as the active duty soldiers. They were equal, albeit just as naive and unproven. It was because of that naiveté that these young men could not realize that what they were saying was simply untrue.

Many people find it natural to poke fun at things they don't understand, and I think that was the case here.

The problem, however, is that some soldiers tend to believe these jibes. Several friends of mine, throughout their military careers, have become

even more adamant in their belief that there is no comparison between the two components.

The truth may open some active duty eyes. National Guard soldiers, for example, have fought in all major U.S. military operations since 1637.

"Wait a minute," you may ask, don't they enlist to serve the state they are assigned to? Yes, but the National Guard is also a deployable reserve force that fights alongside we active duty types in times of war and strife.

In fact, the Army National Guard now consists of 367,000 soldiers, making up almost half of the total Army's ground combat force, as well as almost one-third of the support force.

As far as the Army Reserve is concerned, including the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve and the Retired Reserve, they consist of more than one million soldiers who can be called to active duty in time of need.

These are staggering numbers when you consider the active duty Army consists of roughly 495,000 soldiers.

It's true that reservists aren't on active duty every day. They have civilian jobs, and they don't wear BDUs for a living. However, the same people who consider those aspects important must also understand a key fact -- we cannot do our jobs without them.

Those who think otherwise must be doing their impression of a scared ostrich; keeping their heads hidden in the sand when something frightens them. In

case those people have failed to notice, we've lost almost one-third of our active duty personnel to cutbacks.

Some people may consider that and still be offended, because their Guard and reserve brethren are not required to complete short tours -- such as Korea -- like active duty soldiers. However, when I'm sent on temporary duty or deployed overseas, I know my job will be waiting for me when I get back.

I wonder how many reservists can say their employment wouldn't be affected by a 270-day deployment?

Is the label of "Weekend Warrior" appropriate? I think not. The label should be, "Brothers in Combat," or "Fellow Protectors of Peace."

It is time to face the fact that we need the Guard to accomplish our wartime missions, and will continue to depend on them well into the future.

Lobsinger is an active-component soldier based at Fort Campbell, Ky., home to the 101st Airborne Division.

LETTERS POLICY:

The *On Guard* welcomes letters from readers. All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone. Names may be withheld upon request. All letters are subject to editing for style, content and space requirements.

You may FAX your 'Letters to the Editor' to DSN 761-0732 or (703) 681-0732. Letters can be mailed to: NGB-PAI-C, 2500 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2500. Our e-mail address: jmalthan@ngb-emh2.army.mil

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"Don't worry about him. This is the only place he can practice the slalom for the Winter Olympics."



IN THE NEWS

• New Air Director • Thankful Orphans • Dental Plan

Weaver outlines Air Guard's future

■ Maj. Gen. Shepperd awarded prestigious 'Montgomery' Award

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

It will not be business as usual when Brig. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr. becomes the 10th director of the Air National Guard in late January. In fact, his approach to the job will be strictly business with a board of directors and a backdrop for each of his four years on the job.

That was the straightforward message that the 52-year-old New Yorker delivered to 1,043 of his commissioned and enlisted colleagues from across the country during the Air Guard's two-day Senior Commanders Conference in Washington, D.C., in early December.

The conference paid tribute to Maj. Gen.

Donald W. Shepperd who is completing four years as the Air Guard director with a flourish of honors. Shepperd received the National Guard Bureau's prestigious Sonny Montgomery Award during the closing banquet that coincided with the National Guard's 361st birthday.

It was also a coming-out party for Weaver, who has been the Air Guard's deputy director.

"When I take over as your director, you are going to notice a distinct dividing line between the old and the new," Weaver vowed during a 70-minute "Changing of the Guard" address at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

"Just as we in the Air National Guard are changing, so must the leadership of the Air National Guard," added Weaver, sounding as much like a new chief executive officer educated at Pennsylvania's Wharton business school as he did the next major general, with Desert Storm credentials, who will direct the 109,500-member Air National Guard into the next century.

"The vision we have had for the past years was the vision of one man -- our leader," said Weaver. "The vision of tomorrow will be the vision of all of us as one organization."

He described the retiring Shepperd, who cut his military teeth at the Air Force Academy, as a futurist. He described himself, a product of small Ithaca College in upstate New York and Officer Training School, as a pragmatist with an eye on the future.

Weaver's goals include improving communications between the Guard

Bureau and the 1,300 units in the field that feature a New Mexico squadron of night-flying F-16s, a Maine air refueling wing that runs the Northeast Tanker Task Force for aircraft deployed to Europe, and the 193rd Special Operations Wing of EC-130s in Pennsylvania.

■ See WEAVER, Page 11

Guard's 'First Lady' receives unexpected gift

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A National Guard gift that began as a spontaneous gesture last summer in Little Rock, Ark., has brightened the Christmas season for a home in the Philippines where Catholic sisters in the late Mother Teresa's order care for sick children.

The \$3,000 gift will be used to build two large holding tanks for water at the Home of Joy For The Sick Children in Manila.

The home is operated by the Missionaries of Charity, the worldwide order founded a half-century ago by the saintly Catholic nun who died in India last September after devoting her life to serving the poor.

The gift has also reinforced the



Photo courtesy of Rita Baca

FIRST LADY FANS - Grateful Filipino children send a message to Mrs. Rita Baca and the National Guard.

spirits of those who made it possible and the belief that it is better to give than to receive.

The National Guard enlisted association's auxiliary raised the money in one day, Aug. 27, during

the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States' 26th annual conference.

It was a tribute to Rita Baca who has visited and befriended orphans in Eastern Europe and Asia during the past year while traveling with her husband, Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The money was presented during that evening's banquet in Little Rock to the National Guard's astounded first lady who had visited the home in the Philippines the previous week.

Observing that "I have never been more moved in my life," Mrs. Baca

■ See FIRST LADY, Page 4

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Guard employers honored

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recently hosted a reception and an awards ceremony for the nation's most supportive employers.

Charles Machine Works of Perry, Okla., won the second annual National Employer Support Freedom Award, sponsored by NCESGR. The Defense Department-level award was presented to Ed Malzahn, President and CEO of Charles Machine Works during a Nov. 5 Pentagon ceremony.

Four regional winners were also named at the ceremony: East Penn Manufacturing, Penn.; The Home Depot (Tampa District), Fla.; ENTEC Services, Ill.; and, Fred Meyer, Inc., Ore.

"The Employer Support Freedom Award recognizes the great contributions employers nationwide make toward national defense by supporting their National Guard and Reserve employees," said NCESGR National Chair, William Bowen. "These employers are true patriots and deserve our nation's respect and gratitude."

Dental plan revisited

The Department of Defense (DOD) began the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program last October. The program is administered by the Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc.

The dental care program is designed for the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and will require a minimum one-year enrollment period. Family members are not eligible for enrollment.

The dental insurance plan provides a low-cost basic dental coverage with an annual maximum of \$1,000 per enrollment year for covered services. Basic dental coverage includes diagnostic services, preventive services, basic restorative services and emergency oral examinations. The voluntary program costs \$4.36 per month (40 percent of total premium) with no deductible. The DOD pays the other 60 percent of the premium.

Once enrolled, eligibility is verified through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). A list of participating dentists can be obtained by calling 1 (800) 211-3614, or by visiting the Humana website at: www.humana-military.com

The TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program coverage begins the first full month after receipt of the initial four-month premiums.

IN THE NEWS

FIRST LADY

From Page 3

immediately promised the crowd that the money would go to those sick kids in Manila.

The check was delivered to Sister Maria Jose Nov. 10.

"Sister was very grateful to receive the donation and will use it to build two new large holding tanks for water. The tanks they have now are made of porous cement and leak," wrote Colleen Bolander, the U.S. Embassy Club's liaison to the Home of Joy.

"I am excited and very grateful that we could help those needy children half the world away," said Mrs. Baca, the mother of seven children. "It shows the good will of the American people and of the National Guard. I'm sure it will continue."

Mississippi's Brooks Marr, president of the enlisted association's auxiliary, vowed that it would.

"We call it the National Guard," said Marr. "But now our members have a world-wide perspective of the things that can be accomplished. We are just thrilled that we could be of help to these children."

She credited Lt. Gen. Baca with lighting the fire while speaking of his wife's concern for the orphans during an impassioned talk to the auxiliary that morning in Arkansas.

"It was totally spontaneous. Gen. Baca stirred up emotions in us. We were so touched we were in tears," Marr explained.

Another Mississippi representative, Paula Carrigan, got the ball rolling with a pledge for \$100, Marr explained.

"The next thing we knew we had \$1,700," she continued. "Then the men finished it off, and we had \$3,000."

The December mail, however, brought heart-warming photographs from Manila in which Sister Maria Jose and 17 Filipino children display a banner reading, "Thank you Mrs. Baca and friends of the US National Guard."

Those photos made it clear that the association's gift to Mrs. Baca had found its way to those children in time for Christmas and reaffirmed the sister's faith that "The giving must come from the heart."

Artillerymen celebrate St. Barbara

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The Catholic Church and the Artillery do not see eye-to-eye about the Feast of St. Barbara.

The Church removed the occasion, formerly celebrated Dec. 4, from its liturgical calendar in 1969 because of questions about the historical accuracy of her legend.

No matter. Nearly 20 years later, the Army's "redlegs" are still honoring the Christian martyr from the 3rd or 4th century who remains the patron saint of the artillery and guardian against sudden death.

More than 100 formally attired National Guard soldiers and their ladies turned out for the St. Barbara's Day Dinner hosted for the third year by the Minuteman Cannoneers in Arlington, Va.

"Sure, we have some fun. But those of us in the field artillery and air defense artillery believe it's important to honor what was really the first technological arm of the military," explained Col. John Slonina, the Cannoneers' president and the Army National Guard's Chief of Readiness.

The company at the Army Guard's Readiness Center included retired Lt. Gen. David Ott, president of the U.S. Field Artillery Association, and his wife Joyce; Col. Rafael Barbudo, military attache to the Embassy of Spain; and Army Lt. Col. David Stanley and Mike Rhyne, Civil War re-enactors who furnished a replica of a three-inch Parrott gun and all of the trappings from Reilly's Battery of the 1st North Carolina Artillery Regiment.

The evening was dedicated to the ladies. Joyce Ott inducted three of them into the Order of Molly Pitcher that memorializes a Revolutionary War heroine



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

who replaced her heat-stricken husband in a Pennsylvania militia cannon crew during the June 28, 1778, Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey.

There were, to be sure, many lighter moments, including the artillery punch ceremony. Measures of whiskey, sherry, sauterne and burgundy wine, and champagne were stirred into a potion that, claimed Col. Tony Demasi, could also be used to "clean a cannon bore or fill an incendiary device."

"It will cure what ails you or ensure that you don't care," added Demasi, the congenial master of ceremonies.

The evening also had its serious side. Cannoneers have traditionally enjoyed the mystique of knowing more than the average soldier, said Ott, the featured speaker who was the Army's chief of field artillery in the 1970s and who is a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Now the Army National Guard's 37,000 artillerymen have to know everything about modern weapons systems, such as the self-propelled Paladin howitzers, Ott added, "because we are entrusting you with 70 percent of our field artillery."

"That includes being up to speed on the new technology," he charged.

"Readiness is absolutely the bottom

INDUCTED - Retired Army Lt. Gen. David Ott (left) inducts Col. Joseph Norberg into the Ancient Order of St. Barbara.

line," Ott observed, "and technology is the key to that readiness."

Two men were singled out for contributing to the Army Guard's artillery readiness.

One was retired Brig. Gen. William Bilo from Maryland who in October finished his 32-year military career as Deputy Director of the Army Guard.

The William C. Bilo Tradition Continues Leadership Award will be presented each year to a battery grade officer and noncommissioned officer who exemplify Bilo's qualities.

The other was Col. Joseph Norberg, the Army Guard's Chief of Staff. He was inducted into the Ancient Order of St. Barbara.

Norberg, an artillery officer since 1972, was praised for his persistence in working issues through Congress, the Department of the Army and the National Guard Association of the United States so the Army Guard could modernize 16 Paladin howitzer battalions and several other major field artillery systems.

"His dedication and commitment have always resulted in the betterment of the Army's field artillery force," it was explained.

St. Barbara, so the legend goes, was beheaded by her wealthy, pagan father after she professed her Christianity by ordering that three windows, symbolizing the Trinity, be built into her new bathhouse.

In honoring their patron saint's memory every December, the Army Guard's redlegs renew their vow to keep their own artillery house in order.

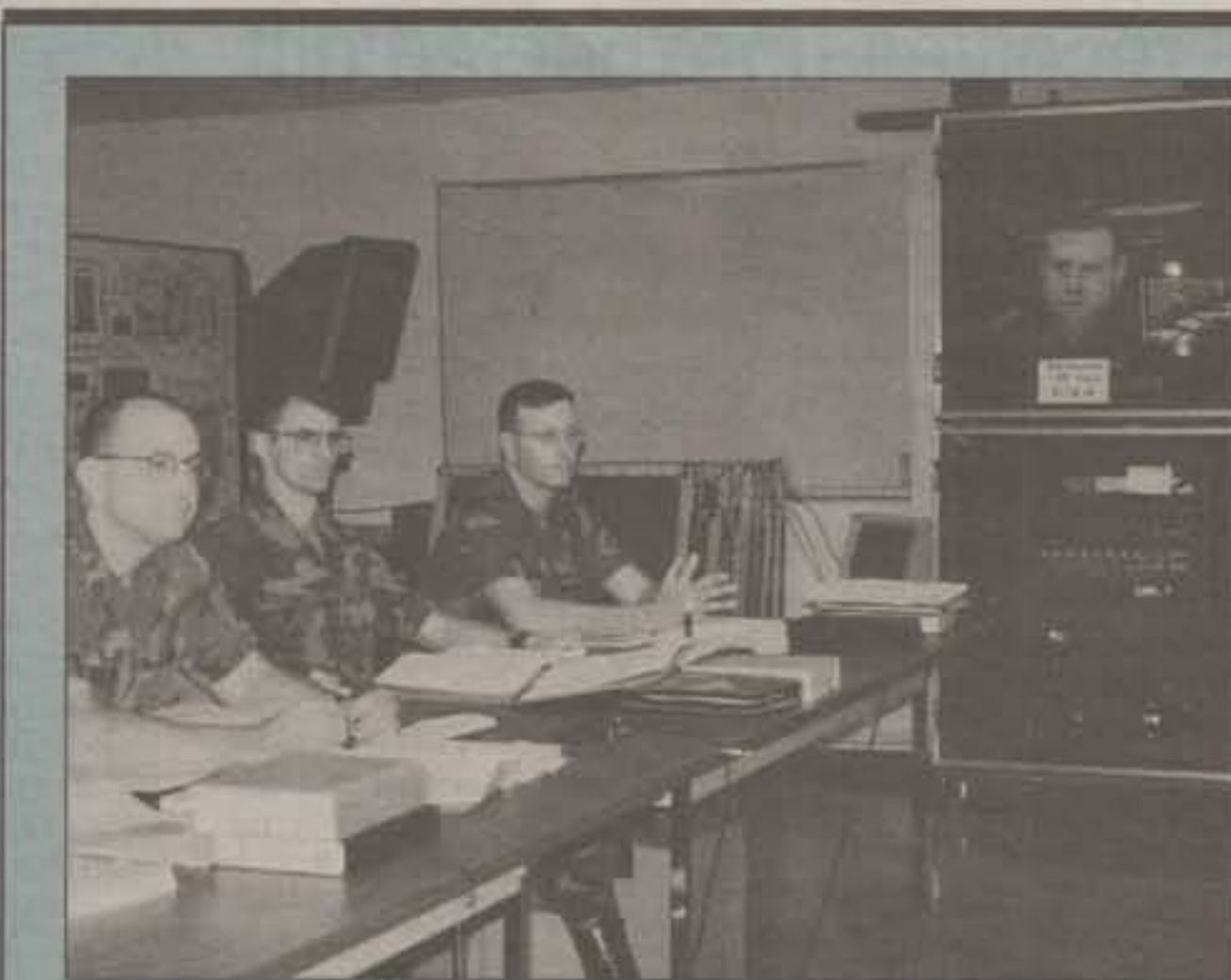


Photo by SSgt. Brenda Benner

WAVE of the FUTURE

Using videoconferencing technology, SFC David Seals (on video monitor), an instructor at Fort Sill, Okla., is beamed into a classroom filled with Texas Army Guardmembers going through a prototype Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course at North Fort Hood. "The standards are the same, the tasks are the same, only the conditions have changed," said MSgt. Daniel Elder. "It's (distance learning) the wave of the future."



PEOPLE

• Virginia Scout • Kentucky Nurse

Virginia's 1st Lt. Rich Holmquist has ridden out storms at sea and in Bosnia

Scouting Adventure

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A hundred and fifty years ago people would have called 1st Lt. Rich Holmquist a scout riding through Indian country.

Times have changed. Horses have given way to four-wheel-drive vehicles, and "Indian country" is certainly not the politically-correct reference to the terrain and tensions that exist along the route from Tuzla to Sarajevo in war-battered Bosnia.

But Holmquist, a 28-year-old junior officer in the Virginia Army Guard, has a Jack London-like knack for finding the kind of adventure associated with settling the old West or finding gold in Alaska. Or, perhaps, adventure finds him.

A recent incident occurred just before dark during his first trip to Europe. The four-vehicle military convoy in which he was traveling to Sarajevo got hung up on Route 17 at a remote roadblock set up by about 50 Muslims who were unhappy with the country's resettlement procedures.

Holmquist's scouting mission was to check out the territory around the Bosnian capital for 34 members of his 129th Field Artillery Detachment from Sandston, Va.

Operating Q-36 radar units that can track enemy mortar rounds as well as small arms fire occupied Holmquist's Guard soldiers during their nine months of peacekeeping duty with the Stabilization Force in the French sector of Bosnia.

"It sounded like an adventure," said Holmquist, who is also a marine biologist. He stands 6-foot-5, and is an unassuming sort whose sense of adventure has taken him north to the Bering Sea where he has ridden out storms on commercial fishing trawlers.

"At first I thought there was an accident," said Holmquist of the roadblock the convoy encountered. "Then I knew it was more serious when the convoy commander told us to put magazines into our rifles."

"Then the major said that we just needed to use some diplomacy and try to resolve the situation," he added. "The major told me to take a lot of pictures with my camera because it seemed to him the Muslims wanted to make sure the media told their side of the story. Everyone was real excited about me taking the pictures."

It took about three hours -- until midnight -- to resolve the situation and reopen the road.

"Most of the time our job was to maintain security for our vehicles and prevent other drivers from interfering with the protesters," said Holmquist of his brush with diplomacy in Bosnia. "It was an interesting experience."



1st Lt. Rich Holmquist

Holmquist was one of five Army Guard people who took part in a leaders' reconnaissance for their units.

Maj. Peter von Jess from North Carolina, Capt. Steven Holguin and Capt. Maureen Fry from Texas, and SFC Jamie Johnson Jr. from Arkansas also checked in with the outfits their citizen-soldiers will replace in such places as Slavonski Brod on the Sava River in Croatia, Tuzla, and Taszar in Hungary.

Holmquist may still be learning the military ropes, but he is not bashful about testing his intellectual, emotional and physical limits.

He is pursuing his master's degree in marine biology from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. He is considering a couple of offers to pursue a doctorate in oceanography. He recently married Julie Lambert of Richmond, about a month before he left for Bosnia.

Holmquist has already been seasoned during six months of basic officers training on the artillery ranges at Fort Sill, Okla. And he has logged eight months as a government observer aboard 200-foot fishing trawlers on the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

He took that sea-faring job after earning his degree in biology and history and his ROTC commission from Virginia's College of William and Mary in 1991.

It involved being at sea for a month at a time and monitoring the species of fish caught in the expansive nets towed behind the trawlers. It involved getting along with 45-member crews of tough American and Japanese fishermen. It involved riding out storms that kicked up 25-foot waves and that tossed around the trawlers as if they were surf boards off Waikiki.

"I've always had broad interests," said Holmquist.

It was not so surprising, therefore, that one of those paths would lead this lieutenant from Virginia to a roadblock on a highway in the middle of Bosnia.

Angel of MERCY

By SSgt. David W. Altom
Kentucky National Guard

When most people meet Jennifer Garda, they can't help but smile. Whether she's wearing a nurse's uniform at her civilian job or a set of BDUs, visitors are greeted with a knowing twinkle in her eye or a light-hearted joke. Next thing they know, they're smiling right along, as if old friends.

Actually, it's kind of contagious, which is ironic, considering the job she does.

A veteran of the Persian Gulf War, Lt. Col. Garda currently runs the preventive medicine section for the Kentucky Army

Guard's Detachment 5, Headquarters, State Area Command.

This has meant going overseas in support of medical missions more often than many of her active-duty counterparts. Her passport is stamped with such remote locales like Barbados, Dominica, Guatemala and Ecuador, yet the pride she shows when talking about her adventures in those impoverished countries is as real and natural as the hard work it took to accomplish those missions.

"Working in countries like Dominica and Ecuador, was neat," she said. "Our people were able to help improve the level of health care there, teaching them the basic skills that most of us take for granted."

"It's exciting, but it's also an opportunity to make a difference for people who don't have access to proper facilities or resources," she added. "Just getting some of the simple things, like motrin, is a big deal to them."

Coming home from trips to



Photo by Maj. Phil Miller

Third World countries, Garda said, is always something of a culture shock.

"Get me home to air conditioning and access to a shower and I'm pretty happy," she said. "It certainly makes me appreciate what we have here."

In her civilian job at Cardinal Hill Hospital in Lexington, Ky., Garda helps the physically handicapped. Like some of the

pain," she explained. "We use a lot of humor therapy to help them get through their difficulties."

Although she works mostly with adults, Garda expressed a fondness for helping handicapped children.

"I worked a lot with preschool handicapped children, which was actually fun," she said. "Those kids are great. They cope

CARING HANDS - Lt. Col. Jennifer Garda's (center) work has taken her from the hills of Kentucky to the mountains of Ecuador.

better than adults."

For her work in that field,

Garda was recently named Case Manager of the Year by the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses.

Garda said she appreciates how closely her civilian and military careers intertwine.

"Being in the Kentucky Guard has definitely helped me with my civilian job," she observed. "The leadership training I received provided a positive boost in building my management skills."

"In the 19 years I've been in the Guard," Garda continued, "I've done a lot of things that I wouldn't have been able to do if I hadn't been in the military."

Then, with that sparkle in her eye and that smile on her face, she made a confession.

"And you know what?" she gushed. "I still love it."



Photos by MSgt. Ben Delaney

Californians join Ukrainians
in unique computer exercise

Shielding for PEACE

By MSgt. Ben Delaney
California National Guard

Sometimes keeping the peace is harder than going to war. At least that was feeling of some of the 50 Ukrainians and their California National Guard hosts after testing their command skills against a computer software program during the recent PeaceShield 97 exercise at Camp San

Luis Obispo, Calif.

Ukraine, a former Soviet Republic, is partnered with the Golden State Guard as part of the National Guard Bureau's Partnership for Peace Program.

The five-day simulated exercise was run from inside buildings on maps using a highly sophisticated computer training software called Spectrum.

Spectrum, officials noted, is a computerized training simulation software package designed to train commanders and their staffs in command and control procedures, decision-making and interagency coordination and communication, while executing military missions and operations other than war.

Spectrum also simulates a political, economic, cultural and geographical environment susceptible to regional instabilities.

"Who would have ever thought 10 years ago, as we faced each other as warriors on opposite sides of a Cold War that lasted over 50 years, that today we would be participating together in an exercise of peace?" asked Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief.

The computer-driven scenario of

PeaceShield 97 involved the fictitious country of Govinia. Multiple scenarios were invented.

Peacekeepers were told that Govinia had a history similar to Bosnia, that the threat was comparable to Desert Storm, that political and religious organizations were simultaneously making requests for medical and humanitarian aid, and that a medical epidemic existed.

Other variables complicated the exercise scenario. Ukrainian soldiers and Guardmembers also had to deal with the changing military structure resulting from U.S. military downsizing, and the increasing participation in U.S. and NATO programs



KEEPING THE PEACE - Soldiers with the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense (top photo and above) team with Guardmembers from California during the five-day PeaceShield 97 computer-simulated exercise.

such as the Partnership for Peace program.

With the background in place, PeaceShield planners presented players

the following scenario ...

After years of ethnic violence, NATO sends troops into Bosnia in 1996 to stabilize the region until the various religious factions can negotiate a peace agreement. One of the factions,

however, grows in power and threatens war with the other factions as NATO pulls out its forces in 1998.

Threatened factions ask NATO for resources to block the warring factions' threats. NATO calls in the United States, which activates the 40th Infantry Division with supporting elements from several other California Air and Army National Guard units.

The United Nations also calls on Ukraine.

Each day of the exercise required Ukrainian and American troops to coordinate their efforts. The peacekeeping battalions constantly faced new problems: sniper fire, medical evacuations, run-ins with aggressive groups, providing force protection and freeing hostages.

Peacekeeping operations, said one U.S. soldier involved in PeaceShield, are more difficult than war.

"In battle," he observed, "we know who the enemy is and what tactics to use. But here, your head spins -- it (the program) creates problems you would never have imagined."

Several of the Ukrainian officers were already experienced in conducting real peacekeeping operations, having spent considerable time protecting the peace in the former Yugoslavia.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired Gen. John Shalikashvili, was one of several dignitaries mindful of PeaceShield's importance.

"We should share our experiences, both good and bad," he said. "We soldiers need to know as much as possible, and keep this experience in mind when bringing peace to regions in conflict."

"Experience is most valuable because it makes us courageous," the General added. "And the courageous, as everyone knows, can more easily enforce peace."

"In battle, we know who the enemy is and what tactics to use ... Here, your head spins"

New York aviators again answer their community's call for help

Providing a LIFT

A group of New York Army Guard aviators and a UH-60 Blackhawk helped restore a rundown foot bridge on a valued nature trail along the eastern tip of Long Island.

The Ogdens Brook Bridge is being rebuilt by volunteers from the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society. With materials provided by the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Guardmembers from Army Aviation Support Facility #1 in Ronkonkoma, were asked to airlift carefully palletized lumber -- weighing more than 4,000 pounds -- into the remote site, positioning it so the volunteers could complete the project as easily and efficiently as possible. The aviators then airlifted out the old debris.

The Guard effort was led by Col. Frank Intini, the flight facility commander.

"It is the only logical way to do this," said Richard Lupoletti, of the Trail Preservation Society. "Colonel Intini is the answer to a prayer."

"Because the bridge is unusable, hikers are not using the trails," he added. "As a result, the trails were overgrown. It was like a jungle. We cleared and reopened them. Now we have to repair the bridge."

"Without the airlift, we would not be able to carry into the work site the most important materials for the project, the large 12-foot beams that weigh over 150 pounds each," noted John Benedict, the Trail Preservation Society's maintenance committee chairman. "Without these beams, we would have to abandon the plan in favor of finding an alternative route."

The wooden bridge, officials noted, is over 25-years-old and spans a stream entering Oyster Pond. It is about 10-feet-wide and 20-feet-long. Its timbers have rotted and fallen apart through age and exposure, and it has been deemed unsafe for the past four years. The bridge is also an essential link in the Paumanok Path, a continuous 110-mile hiking trail from Rocky Point in Brookhaven to Montauk Point in East Hampton.

Park officials had other concerns. Since the bridge was no longer operable, hikers were forced to take a dangerous detour along Route 27 in order to get to Montauk Point. Restoring the bridge would ensure safe passage for all.

Intini's crews are no strangers in their community. They have conducted numerous airlifts for several Long Island groups over the last year. They helped remove 29 abandoned vehicles in the environmentally-sensitive Central Pine Barrens, have conducted joint firefighting training exercises using sling-loaded water buckets, and airlifted specially constructed concrete structures used to build artificial reefs off the Long Island shore.



Photo by Maj. Paul Fanning

BIG LIFT - A UH-60 Blackhawk, flown by aviators with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, hovers above as riggers unload lumber.

In return, the aviators have received invaluable training, such as low-level flying and sling load operations. In the spring, the facility won a National Guard Bureau environmental award for their Central Pine Barrens effort.

"Doing missions like this gives us the chance to help out in the community while giving our personnel valuable training and experience," Intini said. "This project is an example of the kind of missions we will be doing under a new New York National Guard program called 'guardHELP.'"

That program, beginning this month, will see New Yorkers get more involved with community-related tasks. The acronym HELP is short for Hear, Educate, Link and Partner. Through participation in "quality of life" projects, officials point out, the Guard hopes to learn more about the communities they serve in.

"We want to help as often as we can," Intini insisted.

INSIDE JOINT GUARD

Hitched in HUNGARY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

An Army National Guard family from Texas prayed together and played together on the occasion of Juanita and Andrew Gotts' storybook wedding in Hungary, 5,400 miles from their Austin home.

They exchanged their vows during a formal service in a cozy, new Baptist church in the small city of Kaposvar in the predominantly Catholic country. A Methodist minister, who is their unit's chaplain, performed the ceremony. The Hungarian church's pastor also blessed the American couple during the first wedding held in his church. And the reception at nearby Taszar Air Base featured plenty of music for dancing and enough food to feed -- well -- an army.

That was appropriate because the Gotts and 128 other members of the 111th Area Support Group from Austin and San Antonio are spending this winter as part of NATO's Joint Guard mission that is preserving the peace in Bosnia for the third winter.

They are believed to be the first two American soldiers to be married while serving together during the two-year operation.

"We figured we'd get married in our new house in Austin after we got home next year," said Juanita who her friends call Janie and who has been engaged to Andrew since June 1996. "But the other people in our unit talked us into getting married while we over here."

"It made sense because the National Guard brought us together," said Andrew who met Janie 10 years ago when they were medical specialists in an Army Guard field hospital.

The Gotts, both 36, now are noncommissioned officers in the Texas unit that is sending American troops, supplies and equipment in and out of Bosnia through Taszar until next March.

Andrew, a staff sergeant, is in charge of 23 escorts who guide other U.S. units through the Intermediate Staging Base.

Janie, a sergeant, is the unit administrator for the Texans who reported for seven months of duty in Hungary July 31.

They began planning their wedding in

late August. They began cutting through a lot of red tape so they could tie the knot in the foreign land.

- Their birth certificates had to be translated into Hungarian.

- They had to postpone their wedding for two days, until Nov. 7, to avoid a conflict with the Hungarians' traditional Celebration of the Dead.

- They had to be married in a civil ceremony before they could have a church wedding.

They took that step Oct. 24 during a ceremony at the city's ornate courthouse where, they were told, they became the first American couple to be married in Kaposvar.

"We learned that if you're going to get married during a military deployment, there's going to be lots of red tape," said Janie. "We cut it pretty close to make that Nov. 7 deadline."

It all came together for a wonderful wedding. Members of their National Guard family served as surrogate parents, the best man, the maid of honor, and other members of the wedding party. Nearly 200 people witnessed the ceremony.

"This gave our entire outfit a big boost in morale," said Col. Maurice Mayfield, the 111th's commander. "This is what the Guard is all about."

The dark-haired bride was beautiful in her white satin antebellum style gown trimmed with Hungarian lace. The fair-haired groom was handsome in his black Hungarian tuxedo.

Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Ewing, who performed the ceremony, and other officers who served as ushers wore their dress blue uniforms. Lt. Col. Erick

Matthys, the 111th's deputy commander, gave away the bride.

Sgt. Verna Davis charmed the congregation as the soloist.

And Pastor Attila Tisza explained the ceremony to the 100 curious members of his Baptist congregation who attended their first American wedding.

"It was very beautiful," said Katalin Dragos, a Hungarian interpreter. "It was maybe a little shorter than a wedding is in this country. But that is good, because nobody likes long ceremonies."

Newlyweds do, however, like long honeymoons. The Gotts were looking forward to four days in the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

"Budapest is the most romantic city in the world," said Andrew. "Paris has nothing on Budapest."

The Gotts still plan to exchange their vows, for the third time, during an intimate family ceremony after they return to Austin. It is safe to say that the wedding in Hungary will be a hard act to follow.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

The Gotts: Janie and Andrew

Remaining VIGILANT

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The years have been kind to an old stone fortress, reportedly built by the Turks, that stands vigilant and stately above the bustling town of Srebrenik in northern Bosnia. The stones are still solidly in place, and the fort seems to have been spared the harsh hand of war.

It is hard to imagine, as the sun sets behind distant mountains and a tranquil twilight falls over the rolling countryside, that anything could be amiss in this land.

Members of the Texas Army National Guard, including 46 artillerymen from the 49th Armored Division, have come to know a different Bosnia.

An hour's drive farther north along the "Arizona" highway toward Doboj reveals the grim side of the troubled Balkan nation. The 46 Guardsmen out of El Paso have settled in for their winter of Operation Joint Guard peacekeeping duty in the 2.5-mile wide Zone of Separation that divides the Serbs from the Croatian-Muslim Federation.

The zone meanders through the countryside like the unpredictable Mississippi River. Sometimes it is quiet. Sometimes it is not.

"Emotions can run very high, very quickly here," said personable Maj. Steven Holguin, spokesman for the Texas artillery unit that has assumed the fire support mission for the five-nation Nordic-Polish Brigade in the northern sector that is under the U.S. 1st Armored Division's jurisdiction.

In short, the Texans are working for the European brigade that is working for the Americans who may sustain a force in Bosnia for a long time after the Texans' mission ends next April.

Specially-tailored Army Guard fire support elements from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Virginia have taken their turns handling that mission since early 1996.

Now the Texans are where burned and blown-out houses cast ghostly shadows in the headlights. They are where entire families have been murdered in their homes in the name of ethnic cleansing. They are where land mines still claim an occasional victim. They are where

Croatian and Muslim people displaced by nearly four years of fighting are determined to rebuild their lives.

The nine Texas fire support teams are primed to direct laser-guided Copperhead artillery shells or barrages from attack helicopters and other aircraft onto specific targets while avoiding civilians. The 46 men are based in eight camps spread over a Delaware-sized 1,700 square miles just in case their military muscle is needed to help protect their allies and to restore the uneasy peace that has lasted for two years.

They are as vigilant as the old Turkish fort because they know, as Holguin and others have pointed out, that the absence of war must not be confused with the presence of peace.

Indeed, the Texas citizen-soldiers were on full alert on the second Monday morning in November. Some 750 troops led by a Danish mechanized infantry battalion persuaded a Serbian special police detachment in Doboj to disband and turn over its weapons, vehicles, communications equipment and files after violating Dayton Peace Accord provisions in early September.

The immediate threat imposed by Leopard tanks, helicopter gunships and 155-millimeter howitzers left the detachment little choice but to surrender quickly and quietly.

"The only thing they respect down here is the person with the biggest gun," said Lt. Col. Jan Grunberger, the Danish battalion's chief of staff.

"I am completely sure they would go back to fighting if we pulled out," he added. "There is so much hate down here. They want to get even."

There was universal relief that the



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

TROUBLED HORIZON - Texas's Spc. Aaron Reed (left) takes in the Bosnian countryside.

else is going to pull out also," said Spc. Fabian Groff who hails from San Antonio where 189 men sacrificed their lives in 1836 rather than surrender the Alamo to the Mexican army.

Sustaining the NATO force "would be good for this country," observed finance Spc. Dion Moore at Camp McGovern. "I would hate to see war break out again."

But they do long for the people and the homes they have left behind.

Groff misses his girlfriend who he calls about once a week. Moore, an accountant for the Texas

Department of Health, misses watching the Pittsburgh Steelers who he has followed since attending Penn State University.

"How're the Spurs doing? 'What have they had for concerts?'"

"What're people wearing back home?" Such were the questions that the citizen-soldiers asked their hometown news people who visited in early November.

Many of the Texas artillerymen live fairly comfortably in steel freight containers that have been fashioned into two-people rooms. They eat well in dining halls that are always open. Indoor latrines and showers are close at hand.

"In some ways, it's like being on a college campus," said CSM John Peterson, a special agent for the U.S. Customs Service who is the Texas unit's father figure and top enlisted man.

"They're really friendly people, and they serve really good food," said the 20-year-old Groff, who has been assigned with seven other Texans to a Norwegian battalion in Modrica.

He was a homeless street kid who joined the National Guard three years ago in hopes of improving his own life. He volunteered for the tour in Bosnia, he explained, "because this is something I've always wanted to do."

Now Groff works the radios in the operations center. He embodies the spirit that the Texans have brought to the Zone of Separation where they are doing their bit for the Bosnian people eager to get on with lives of their own.

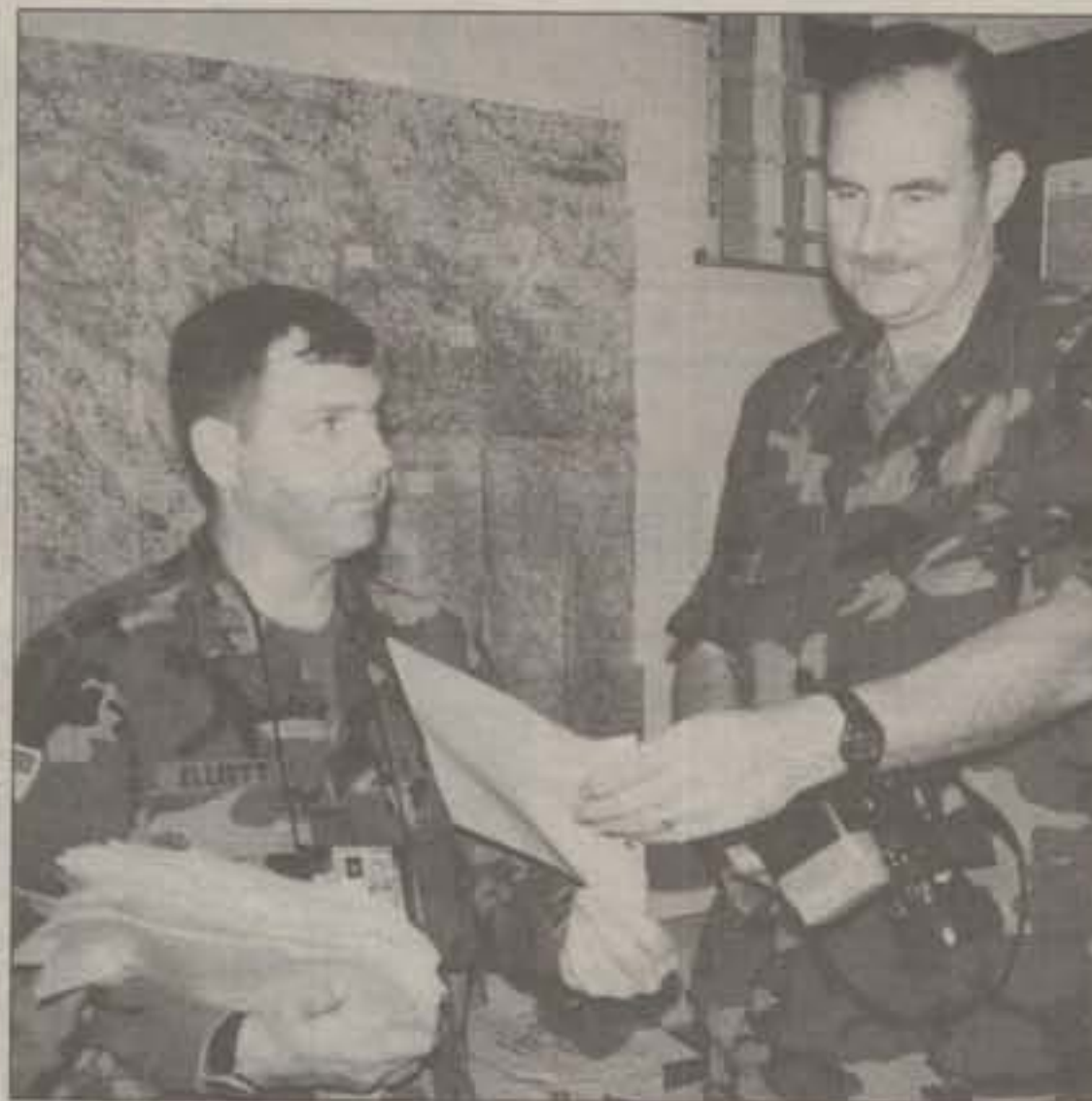


Photo by MSgt. Terry Brown

Washington historians document Joint Guard

Pitted against POSTERITY

By MSgt. Terry Brown
Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Sgt. Tamara Brathovde, SFC Donald Green and Maj. Sheridan Elliott are helping Army soldiers and their units involved in Operation Joint Guard make history.

As members of the Washington Army National Guard's 141st Military History Detachment they are gathering information, interviewing soldiers and recording the peacekeeping deeds of active, Guard and reserve soldiers in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary.

"A military journalist's job is to get the story today, while an Army historian's job is to record the story — on what soldiers do — for posterity," explained Elliott, detachment commander.

The 141st, he added, is one of 23 such detachments in the Army. One detachment is in the active Army, 16 detachments are in the Army Reserve and five are in the National Guard.

Historians also collect documents, such as unit rosters, logs, journals and operation orders, for U.S. Army-Europe historians. Those historians will write the history of U.S. Army operations in Bosnia as the Dayton Peace Accord's provisions are implemented, and former warring factions are kept apart. The 1995 agreement ended a civil war that began in 1992.

"Tons" of information, in the form of

computer disks, cassette tapes, documents and videos, are being sent to a history office in Heidelberg, Germany, Green said.

"We note the who, what, where, when, why and how of operations," he said before leaving on a convoy from Eagle Base to nearby Tuzla City to observe soldiers performing civil-affairs tasks.

The data, Green added, is also poured over by analysts with the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) based at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

From that data, Green noted, CALL staffers are able to determine what was right and was wrong with an operation.

"We are looking at what civil affairs, psychological operations, public affairs, engineers, infantry, armored and other soldiers are doing in Joint Guard," Green continued. "A lot of our data comes from debriefings following operations. We sort through the relevant things of interest for historical purposes."

After the Gulf war, added the Seattle native, reams of unit records and historical documents were lost when units redeployed or demobilized.

"Records, such as operation logs and rosters, were lost, destroyed or improperly stored," he said. "We can learn from past mistakes, as well as from what went right."

Green also noted one other significant difference between those in his business and the media.

"We're not here to pass judgment," he said. "We are observers, recorders and collectors of military history."

"We can help a unit preserve its history and contributions to an operation," Green added, "such as Joint Guard."

DOCUMENT COLLECTORS -
Washington Army Guard historians Maj. Sheridan Elliott (above, left) and SFC Donald Green sort through Joint Guard data.

hatred did not boil over to bloodshed on that Monday morning — that the special police operation was shut down as quietly as NATO troops had seized control of four broadcasting towers in Serbian territory near Sarajevo Oct. 1.

"You always prepare for the worst and hope for the best," said Texas Maj. Jim Sailors who monitored the operation at the brigade's North Pole Barracks command post in Doboj. "The way this operation went was truly an answer to a prayer."

But there is reason to believe that more of those prayers will have to be answered before NATO forces can leave Bosnia in peace.

The Texans are serving in the most densely mined part of the country, said Holguin, and Bosnian recovery teams still comb the fields around Camp McGovern, near Brcko (pronounced BIRCH-ko), for the deadly land mines.

Serbian special police in purple and black fatigues, along with American soldiers, guard the Bosnian end of the Brcko bridge that crosses the Sava River to Croatia.

That is considered the country's most contested area because of the river port and because Muslims and Croats are steadily returning to reclaim and rebuild their homes.

There is also universal agreement among the soldiers that some form of a NATO force will have to keep the lid on the ethnic factions beyond next June. None of the Texans expressed surprise or dismay at the news that Congress is supporting President William Clinton's deliberations for prolonging the U.S. commitment beyond that withdrawal deadline.

"If we pull out, just about everyone



SPORTS

Guard's best marksmen compete

Shooters find mark at Wilson match

Nebraskan marksmen take team title again

By MSgt. Bernard E. DeLisle
Arkansas National Guard

The record books were rewritten once more at the Winston P. Wilson Championships, the annual competition that determines the National Guard's marksmanship pecking order.

The Wilson match drew 751 shooters from 47 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico who competed in the rifle, pistol, light machinegun and sniper competition.

For the second consecutive year, Nebraska National Guard shooters earned the "Overall State Champions" trophy.

With the active forces relying more heavily on Guard readiness, battle-focused combat "move and shoot" courses of fire are emphasized. As a result, the courses have continued to evolve and change each year to reflect a more realistic training scenario.

The combat rifle individual championship was won by Wisconsin's Capt. J.R. Treharne, who recorded a resounding score of 814. Vermont's SSgt. Larry Reynolds (810) took second, while third place was won by Indiana's SSgt. Mark Richards with a final count of 790.

The combat rifle team championship was won by Vermont's team from Headquarters, State Area Command with a score of 4,161. Nebraska's 1st Battalion, 195th Armor was second and Indiana marksmen with 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry placed third.

Although 1st Lt. Victor Marcelle's Arkansas combat rifle team finished in the middle of the pack, he was pleased.

"It's far better than not competing at all," he said. "You realize once you attend a Wilson match, that if you don't put some of your own time in, you're going to be farther down the pack."

Connecticut's SSgt. Charles Allen took the individual pistol title scoring 1,158 points. He was followed by Vermont's CWO2 Lawrence Grace Jr. (1,108) and Missouri's MSgt. James Schulte (1,108).

Once again, Missouri shooters from Headquarters, STARC in Jefferson City, took the team pistol title recording 5164 points. They were followed by South Dakota's Headquarters, STARC (5123) and Nebraska's 1st Battalion, 195th Ar-



Photo by Sgt. David A. Smith

HOT SHOT - Pennsylvania's Sgt. Scott Manhart, a member of the Chief's 50, quickly reloads his machine gun.

mor (5,079).

Schulte, Missouri's combat pistol team captain, has been coming to the Wilson matches since 1976.

"I feel fortunate," he said. "It's a lot of years of practice, patience and work."

Kentucky's SFC Michael Perkins, a member of Company B, 103rd Support Battalion in Frankfort, won the light machinegun individual championship with a score of 677 points. Texas's Capt. Brian Hoffman, a C-130 pilot with the 136th Airlift Wing in Dallas, was second with 664. Michigan's SSgt. Glenn Culbert, assigned to Detachment 1, HHC 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry in Wyoming, placed third.

In light machinegun team competition, Oregon's SFC Mark Ditzel and SSgt. Benjamin Harrell, members of 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry, placed first notching 1,708 points. Second place was taken by Nebraska's Sgt. Kyle Kramer and MSgt. Larry Schmid, members of the 155th Air Refueling Wing, with 1,680 points. Hoffman teamed with SSgt. Steve Taylor for third (1,612).

The combat sniper team of MSgt. Michael Strasburger and Sgt. Wayne Morgan, members of Nebraska's 1st Battalion, 195th Armor set a new record at the Wilson match, scoring 1,430 points. Minnesota's team of SFC Timothy Weber and Sgt. James Kringlie from Headquarters, STARC in St. Paul, were sec-

ond (1,393), while Colorado's Capt. Kenneth Chavez and SSgt. Darrell Brooks Jr., finished third (1,347).

The combat sniper individual championship was won by Strasburger who totaled 521 points. Weber took second (515) and Chavez placed third (498).

SFC Gerald Hite, of the Oregon sniper team, is a five-year military veteran and member of 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry based in Cottage Grove. This was his first year competing.

"I'm glad to be with this type of community, the sniper community," he said. "It's good to share information. I learned a lot."

1st Sgt. Kenneth Tallant, a member of the Oklahoma pistol team and a recently retired police officer with the Oklahoma City Police, said he has shot competitively at state level, but this was his first chance to compete in a national match.

"The coaches, and even the people from other states, have taught me a lot," he said.

Members of the top three teams in each discipline are now eligible to represent the National Guard in international combat competition.

Col. Dan Short, National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit commander, said that first place teams will be eligible to represent the Guard at the Reserve Forces competition at Bisley, England next August. Second place teams will represent the Guard at the German Skill-at-Arms Meeting in April, while the third place teams will be eligible to shoot at the Netherlands International Shooting Competition in September.

CHIEF'S 50

RIFLE

Capt. J.R. Treharne, Wis.
SSgt. Larry Reynolds, Vt.
SSgt. Mark Richards, Ind.
SSgt. Gary Varberg, N.D.
SFC George Morgan, Pa.
1st Lt. Todd Wolford, Neb.
SSgt. Charles Blackwell, Texas
SSgt. Richard Colley, Vt.
Sgt. Ralph Young, Vt.
1st Lt. Victor Marcelle, Ark.
Capt. Shannon Jordan, Okla.
SSgt. Richard Zolnowsky, S.D.
SFC David Kerin, Pa.
Spc. Douglas Blehl, Ind.
Sgt. Bruce McCauley, Neb.
SSgt. Ronald Fagans, Vt.
MSgt. Nelson Shew, Ore.
SSgt. David Mutziger, S.D.
SFC Ronald Harter, Neb.
MSgt. Steven Fillion, Vt.

PISTOL

SSgt. Charles Allen, Conn.
CWO2 Lawrence Grace Jr., Vt.
MSgt. James Schulte, Mo.
MSgt. Denny Estes, Mo.
Maj. Michael Michie, Va.
Sgt. Derrick Martin, Ariz.
Lt. Col. John Berheim, S.D.
Maj. David Smith, Neb.
SSgt. Bruce Beauregard, Vt.
Sgt. Robert Bishop, N.H.
Maj. Kevin Wold, N.D.
CMSgt. Gary Taylor, Ariz.
CWO3 Ray Gabiola, Ind.
SFC Timothy Delgrosso, Ore.
Capt. Timothy Kean, Texas
SSgt. Robert Jaeger, Hawaii
Capt. William Rhodes, Del.
SSgt. Michael Fetch, N.D.
Sgt. Eric Breyer, Ind.
Sgt. Darwin Hukill, Mo.

LIGHT MACHINE GUN

Spc. Michael Perkins, Kan.
Capt. Brian Hoffman, Texas
SSgt. Glenn Culbert, Mich.
Sgt. Scott Manhart, Pa.
Sgt. Kyle Kramer, Neb.

SNIPER

MSgt. Michael Strasburger, Neb.
SFC Timothy Weber, Minn.
Capt. Kenneth Chavez, Colo.
SFC Benjamin Groves, Pa.
SSgt. Barry Owens, Ark.

"It's not only a competitive event, it's a great training event," Short said. "Marksmanship is a highly perishable skill. It's an acquired skill that you have to learn, and the only way you're going to be adequate is to practice."

"You've got to do it," he added, "in order to survive on the battlefield."

Raised in a Boneyard

By SSgt. Shannon Scherer
Ohio National Guard

What began as a series of questions turned into a history-making international exercise.

The issue: Could members of the Air Force recover an aircraft in the desert with a real aircraft? Was this realistic?

These questions were first asked in April 1996 at the Aircraft Crash Recovery Conference in Dallas, Texas. Repair and Reclamation (R&R) experts from the Air National Guard, Reserves and active component, along with Canadian and British representatives, determined there was a decided lack of instruction and training available to practice a desert recovery.

MSgt. Ed Noce, an R&R supervisor with the Ohio Air Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, did some research.

"The R&R shop is tasked with aircraft recovery," said Noce. "But there has never been any hands-on training for it."

Noce began his journey for information at his home unit. He



Photo by SSgt. Shannon Scherer

made contacts in several different states and countries and gained facts so that he could present his idea of a real life training scenario to the attendees of the second Aircraft Crash Recovery conference in Jackson, Miss., last April.

He informed the audience that he had obtained permission to use a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft at the boneyard in Tucson, Ariz. A boneyard is an aircraft storage facility used by all branches of the service for future use, foreign sale or salvageable parts for other flyable aircraft.

After this international conference — which included the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Germany and Australia — Noce was approached by Dave Herman, a Canadian warrant officer, who suggested the idea of a joint U.S.-Canadian training exercise.

With backing from the 121st, Noce developed the idea and presented it at the Air National Guard Aircraft Maintenance Commanders' Conference in Knoxville, Tenn., last June.

Commanders from 11 units supported the concept by committing people and funds.

"Many commanders were extremely eager to get this training underway," Noce recalled. "They realized their people needed hands-on experience in aircraft recovery and saw this training as the way to satisfy that need."

Within three months, Noce and Herman worked diligently to make this training concept a reality.

"The largest benefit of this training is that we had the equipment and the Air National Guard had the aircraft," said Herman. "The training was beneficial to

both organizations."

The landmark training began Sept. 29 at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center in Tucson. With temperatures hovering around 105 degrees, 21 units from the U.S. and Canada began the first hands-on training for recoverable aircraft in U.S. military history.

Attendees received classroom instruction on recovery of aircraft composites and hazardous materials. Videos of actual aircraft recoveries, both on land and sea, also were shown.

With teams in place, and a thorough explanation of lift theory rendered, airmen assembled the "Cribbing and sledge" systems.

Cribbing, it was explained, is a support system built up under the aircraft to be used as a base for the air bags. The sledge system moves the aircraft from the

GETTING A LIFT - Repair and Reclamation specialists from the U.S. and Canada prepare for the first-ever recovery of an aircraft in the desert.

site after it has been lifted by the air bags.

With the sledge system in place, TSgt. Norm Lyons — a member of the 121st's R&R shop and tug operator — sat anxiously awaiting the radio call to start the pull.

Once the radio crackled the signal, Lyons began the slow journey across the desert. When the aircraft and Lyons reached the end of the cable, triumphant cheers and shouts rang out across the training area.

"We hope that the participants will pass on what they've learned through this training," said Herman. "We all worked together well, sharing ideas and making this a reality."

A unanimous vote at the Air National Guard Bureau's Readiness Center in October allotted funding for a 1998 exercise.

"The next step is to begin preparing lesson plans and standards of training," Noce said.

Editor's note: MSgt. Ed C. Noce, a member of the Ohio Air Guard 121st Air Refueling Wing's Repair and Reclamation shop, contributed to this story.

WEAVER

From Page 3

"I want the relationship from the bureau to the field to change in your eyes," he stressed.

Weaver further vowed to bring cultural diversity to the Air Guard, to reflect the "collage of colors, races, creeds and religions" found in "our individual communities across this nation."

"Probably no one effort is more important to the viability of the future of our organization. For those of you who are not committed to this challenge, maybe the time has come for you to pass the torch to those who are," he warned.

Weaver also promised to work more closely with the Air Force and the Air Reserve and to "protect our force structure, acquire the right new missions, and get the needed modernization to assure our relevancy for the next century."

"Making sure we get the latest modern equipment," he said, "is the life-blood of the Guard."

Weaver has already tapped into a pool of people he believes are committed to his cause.

He has appointed 11 Air Guard generals from New Hampshire to Hawaii to his new board of directors intended, Weaver said, to "bring forth the critical strategic and long-range issues you expect us here at the bureau to act upon."

He has asked CMSgt. Edwin Brown to stay on as the

Air Guard's senior enlisted advisor for an additional two years. Brown will be part of an eight-member core leadership team that will have the authority to promptly deal with burning issues on the new director's behalf.

"It is intended to work much like an efficient corporation in the civilian sector," Weaver explained.

"The team will be attuned to all of the hot daily issues and will be able to respond faster and more effectively without having to wait for everything to clear the office of the director."

"I want to be a party to these changes," explained Brown, 46, who has been the Air Guard's top enlisted man since July 1994. "Gen. Weaver will go out of his way to get feedback from all sources, including the field."

The deeply religious Weaver will depend on chief Air Guard Chaplain (Col.) John Ellington "to make sure I keep focused on controlling the disruptive turmoil that comes with change."

"I trust what [John] tells me," said Weaver. "He is brutally honest."

The new director has already established a wide-ranging agenda for his four-year term.

Weaver will spend his first year making the transition from the Shepperd era to his watch. 1999 will be the year of the enlisted force. 2000 will be the year of the family. 2001 will be the year of the employer.

Brown, Weaver said, will spend his final year as enlisted advisor helping the director recognize the enlisted "men and women who will help us continue to raise our standards so we remain the crown jewel of the

reserve components."

Ellington and Weaver's wife, Cathy Lee, will play vital roles in honoring the families during the third year.

His own agenda may be ambitious, but Weaver vowed to keep his former boss's objectives in perspective.

"I intend to continue to build on the programs that you have instituted," he told Shepperd, "because the vision behind many of those programs was truly a gift that you gave this organization to take it into the 21st century."

It was that vision for which Shepperd, who flew F-100 fighters in Vietnam 30 years ago, was repeatedly praised during his Dec. 4 tribute.

"You have prepared the Guard for the 21st century with your cyber-Guard vision," remarked retired Gen. Ronald Fogleman, the Air Force's former chief of staff, during a videotaped presentation.

"You are a giant of a man who is responsible for creating the best reserve component force in the world," praised Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, while presenting Shepperd with the Montgomery Award, the highest honor that the National Guard can bestow.

Retired Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, for whom the year-old award is named, joined Baca for the presentation.

Yes, his 35-years in uniform have been rewarding, Shepperd acknowledged. But, at 57, he is ready to move on.

"When it's time to leave, leave," he admonished the packed ballroom, "with a smile on your face and the knowledge you have done the best job you could do."

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Four crewmembers of the Georgia Air Guard's 116th Bomb Wing were recently credited with safely landing a malfunctioning B-1 Bomber, a multi-million dollar aircraft.

The crew: Capt. Brian Sizemore, aircraft commander; Capt. John Smithies, pilot; Maj. Tom Wiswell, weapons system officer; and Col. Tom Lynn, 116th vice commander, were participating in a routine exercise over a test range in Utah when the B-1's "swept wings" remained locked in the aft position.

According to records, this situation has occurred only twice in the decade-long history of flying B-1s.

With the wings stuck in the aft position, the aircraft's flaps were unable to go down to slow the aircraft. Without flaps to shave airspeed, the aircraft would literally be driven on to the runway at speeds that later reached over 230 knots.

"When you're flying that fast, you're exceeding the limits of the tires and the brakes," Smithies said. "I was worried about fire breaking out in the brake area." It was a fire caused by landing at such tremendous speeds that destroyed a B-1 with a similar malfunction in the 1980s in Germany.

At 215 knots and with only 10,000 feet of runway left, the pilots applied the brakes. Eight-thousand-feet later, the crew felt the plane decelerate. The bomber finally came to a stop 500-600 feet into the strips' overrun.

"The brakes were so hot they were glowing," Smithies reported, "and the thermal plugs on four of the tires blew from the heat generated by the landing."

In keeping with family tradition, Virginia Army Guard's PFC Melissa A. Fauscett enlisted as a medic in Company C, 429th Support Battalion in Charlottesville.

She recently completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Melissa's grandfather, retired SFC John R. Fauscett served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Her father, SSgt. Robert K. Fauscett, served in Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He is currently a recruiter for the Old Dominion State.

Georgia Army Guard's SSgt. Gordon Spears, was awarded the Valley Forge Certificate for heroism by the National Guard Association of the United States for his response to the Centennial Park bombing during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The Valley Forge Certificate is presented to Guardmembers who perform acts of heroism.

Spears, a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, was working near Centennial Park July 27, 1996 when a bomb exploded following a midnight concert. The blast killed two and injuries over 100 concert goers. Ignoring the possibility of additional explosions and in disregard for his own personal safety, Spears rushed to the scene and immediately rendered first aid to the victims. For the next six hours, he directed emergency rescue teams into the chaotic park and aided police in restoring order.



B-1 heroes: Sizemore (left), Smithies, Lynn and Wiswell.



PFC Melissa Fauscett (right), with her father, Robert, follows her family's lead.



When it really counted, SSgt. Gordon Spears (left), with Gov. Zell Miller, turned in a Gold Medal performance.



Oklahoma ladies honor Women's Memorial.

The historic predecessors of a present-day New York Army Guard unit were recently honored at one of the nation's most famous Civil War battlefields.

In a ceremony described by a participant as "long overdue," the sacrifice of soldiers from the "Fighting 69th" at the Battle of Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862 was honored with the unveiling of a stone monument at the battlefield in Maryland.

Of the three New York (the 69th, 63rd and 88th) and one Massachusetts (the 29th) infantry regiments that were in the Irish Brigade -- the 69th Infantry -- is the only one of the three New York regiments still serving. Modern members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry represented the Irish Brigade and the New York Army Guard at the dedication ceremony.

The Battle of Antietam, also known as "Bloody Antietam," pitted a Union army of 71,000, commanded by Gen. George B. McClellan, against a 40,000-man Confederate Army under Gen. Robert E. Lee. Twenty-three thousand from both sides were killed or wounded that day.

West Virginia Army Guard's retired Col.

Frank Haught was recently presented the Legion of Merit for nearly 42 years of service.

Haught began his service in the Mountaineer State's Army Guard Nov. 15, 1932 by enlisting in the 201st Infantry in Fairmont. He was commissioned an ordnance officer in August 1943. After completing his officer basic training, he was sent to Europe and served in England, France and Germany with the 128th Ordnance Battalion. His World War II campaigns included the Aleutian Islands, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland.

As the National Guard was being reorganized in 1947, Haught returned to Headquarters, 201st Field Artillery Battalion in Fairmont. The colonel served as the automotive supervisor and state maintenance officer for nearly 18 years, before becoming his state's United States Property and Fiscal Officer in 1966. He retired from the National Guard, at age 60, on Halloween in 1975.

The Minnesota Air Guard's 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron recently received the Air National Guard's Outstanding Medical Unit Award. Lt. Col. Karen Wolf, a member of the 109th AES, was named the Air Guard's Flight Nurse of the Year.

Seventy-six Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard ladies took part in the Women in the Military Service of America Memorial dedication at Arlington National Cemetery Oct 18.

The Memorial was officially dedicated to honor all U. S. servicewomen, past and present. Approximately 30,000 people were in attendance.

Oklahoma was one of only four groups that was selected to march in the opening ceremony parade. Tears flowed when the nation's oldest living woman veteran, 101-year-old Frieda Mae Greene Harden -- she enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1918 -- encouraged all women in the military to, "Go for it."

DIVIDING the DIVISIONS

FIRST DIVISION (Mechanized Infantry)

- Main headquarters company at Fort Riley, Kan.
- Forward element at Fort Jackson, S.C.
- The three Army Guard brigades: 30th Infantry Bde., N.C.; 218th Infantry Bde., S.C.; 48th Infantry Bde., Ga.

SECOND DIVISION (Infantry)

- Main headquarters at Fort Carson, Colo.
- Forward element at Fort Polk, La.
- The three Army Guard brigades: 45th Infantry Bde., Okla.; 39th Infantry Bde., Ark.; 76th Infantry Bde., Ind.

CHANGES

From Front Page

giant step toward integrating the combat structure of the Army and the Army National Guard," said Maj. Gen. William Navas, the Army Guard's director, about the plan to form the two new divisions first announced Dec. 3 by Army Secretary Togo West Jr.

The two-star mechanized infantry and infantry commands will be based at Fort Riley, Kan., and at Fort Carson, Colo. The divisions' headquarters companies, each with about 200 people, are expected to be operational next fall.

The first division will include the 30th Mechanized Infantry Brigade from North Carolina, the 218th Mechanized Infantry Brigade from South Carolina, and the 48th Mechanized Infantry Brigade from Georgia.

"This is an era of change in the military," said Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, South Carolina's Adjutant General whose brigade is among those selected.

"The 218th is a good choice for this new assignment," he added, "due to its previous working relationship as a 'round-out' brigade in years past."

The second division will include the 45th Infantry Brigade from Oklahoma, the 39th Infantry Brigade from Arkansas and the 76th Infantry Brigade from Indiana.

The National Guard brigades will still be expected to train and fight independently, if they are needed, until they become part of the divisions, it was noted.

"The defense of the homeland has traditionally been a mission of the Guard," said Baca who has embraced the new mission of countering the threat posed by

weapons of mass destruction. "Whether it's a defense against a natural or a man-made disaster, the responsibility for that constitutionally belongs to the National Guard."

"Making sure we can respond to any chemical or biological attack is a very high priority for Secretary Cohen and me," Hamre said. "Today the National Guard is answering this call in over 120 cities by training local teams who will be first on the scene of any incident."

"We took on the role of civil defense and riot control in the '60s," said CSM John Leonard Jr., the Army Guard's top enlisted soldier. "I see this as something similar but expanded. It is a much more serious mission. Right now a lot of our citizens don't understand just how vulnerable we are to that type of activity."

Brig. Gen. Schultz, as acting Deputy Director for Military Support, embodies the emphasis that the Defense Department is placing on the Guard's ability to respond to all kinds of emergencies in this country -- from floods to forest fires to the Oklahoma City bombing.

Up to half of the DOMS staff officers will come from the Guard and Reserve. Those new officers will be on the job by next September, Hamre promised.

Replacing the reserve component troops' red ID cards with the green cards carried by active duty personnel, said Leonard, "is a step in the right direction to break down the barriers that Secretary Cohen has asked us to break down."

"Having been a Guardsman for many years, I know the attention that the red ID card sometimes draws when you're in the PX or the commissary," Leonard added. "You're labeled a part-time soldier. And in some people's minds, that does not mean the same thing that it means to you and I -- something to be proud of."

BEHIND THE BIRTHDAY

Lt. Col. Len Kondratiuk uncovered truth about the National Guard's birthday

History MAKER

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

If dates are among the building blocks of history, then historians like Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk are the masons who make sure that dates, such as birthdays, are etched in stone.

It was Kondratiuk who left no stone unturned when he discovered, quite by accident, that the National Guard had been incorrectly observing its birthday on Oct. 10. For the past 15 years, because of his efforts, the Guard now celebrates its 361 years of service Dec. 13.

"No historian in the last 200 years had made the connection," noted the National Guard Bureau's chief historian. The Citadel graduate has been an historian for 17 years.

Kondratiuk discovered the error about the National Guard's birthday in 1982. Two years earlier, the young captain had left behind his doctoral work in military history at Kansas State to become the Guard's first historian.

While researching the history of the old South Regiment -- the North, South and East Regiments were established by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636 and are considered the National

Guard's original units -- the Massachusetts native had noted a glaring omission: The South was not inactivated after the Revolutionary War as previously thought by military historians.

"They (historians) just didn't go back far enough," he recalled. "After that discovery, I started to question everything."

Past historians had also concluded that those units were organized on Oct. 10 because records stated that the Massachusetts colonial legislature, the General Court, met on the 10th day of the 10th month to reorganize its militia companies into the three regiments.

Kondratiuk made two key discoveries. The General Court ordered the regiments to be formed on the 13th, not the 10th. The calendar year back then began in March, not January, so the 10th month was December.

That's how he concluded that Dec. 13 is the National Guard's real birthday.

The discovery was doubly pleasing, Kondratiuk added, because his research connected the South Regiment with the present day 101st Field Artillery, a unit



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton

HAPPY DAY - Because of Kondratiuk's efforts (top photo) the Guard now celebrates (above) their birthday Dec. 13.

he had served with for two years.

With documentation in hand, Kondratiuk stated his case to Lt. Gen. Emmett Walker, National Guard Bureau Chief at that time.

The rest is, well, history.

Hamre and the other speakers gave their listeners many reasons to swell with pride at the Army Guard's readiness center on Dec. 5, eight days before the National Guard's real birthday that commemorates the Massachusetts Bay colonial legislature's order in 1636 to organize its separate militia companies into

permanent North, South and East Regiments.

"Pick any trouble spot, and the National Guard is there, has been there and will always be there," praised Deborah Lee, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "That's not just talking the talk. That's walking the walk."



STATES

• Flood Honor • Golden Employers • Friendly System

MINNESOTA

The Gopher State National Guard was recognized by the Association of Minnesota Counties for its efforts during the floods of 1997.

Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti, the Adjutant General, accepted the "Friends of County Governments" award on behalf of the more than 3,000 Guardmembers who provided assistance to state and local officials. They were credited with rescuing more than 6,300 citizens during those floods.

VERMONT

Members of the Air Guard's 158th Fighter Wing were flying high after their "outstanding" performance during a recently Operational Readiness Inspection.

"The 158th has demonstrated that they are combat ready," wrote Secretary of Defense William Cohen. "I hold them out to the nation as an outstanding example of the units that comprise our Total Force."

The F-16 unit has principle responsible for protecting North American air space against intruders with unknown intentions against the people of the U.S. and Canada. The 1,050 members of the unit are based in Burlington, with a smaller detachment of Guardmembers working at their alert detachment at Charleston AFB, S.C.

MISSOURI



Photo by MSgt. Rennie Davis

BRINGING the HEAT

Missouri Army Guard's SPC. Leroy Koenig, a member of the 1438th Engineer Company in Rolla, repairs a hot water heater used to give troops in the field hot showers. Koenig is currently in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as a plumber supporting Task Force Able Sentry. He is one of 64 Army Guard soldiers from Missouri, Illinois and Colorado deployed there for 270 days.

CALIFORNIA

Forty employers of part-time soldiers in the 3rd Battalion, 160th Infantry were treated to a firsthand view of their employees at work during a joint-service exercise called Kernal Blitz.

The exercise included nearly 12,000 sailors, Marines and Golden State Guardmembers. As part of the 5th Marine Regiment's opposition forces, the Inglewood-based infantrymen defended Red Beach from a massive amphibious assault.

"We go to great lengths to check on our employees," joked George Streb, vice president and general manager of Copper Eagle Security Company. Streb employs SPC. Kris Knutson, a dispatcher with Company C, 3-160th. Knutson uses computers to coordinate security of vehicles at schools and various city properties around Santa Clarita.

"This is a good idea," added William Corbet, Knutson's boss. "The services should train more together. In our day, communication was a big issue. The Navy had different radios than the Army."

Mark Andrieotti, owner of a trucking company in Fontana, and employer of SFC Harold Hanson, said he appreciates the Guard.

"We miss him because he's our head mechanic," said Andrieotti. "But during the 1992 Los Angeles riots, it was better Hanson was on riot duty, than to see everything get torn up in Los Angeles."

TEXAS

By MSgt. Greg Ripps
Texas National Guard

F-16 aircraft flown by members of the 149th Fighter Wing in San Antonio will soon be equipped with a system to help their pilots identify friendly forces on the ground as well as in the air.

"Friendly fire accounted for 17 percent of the casualties in Desert Storm," noted Maj. Joe Lengyel, 182nd Fighter Squadron operations officer. "U.S. forces were shooting at their own. To avoid this in the future, the Situation Awareness Data Link, or SADL, was designed to identify friendly aircraft and ground combat vehicles."

SADL is a network of "enhanced position location reporting system" radios that talk with each other through a coded, jam-resistant wave signal. The pilot of a SADL-equipped F-16 can send a

signal to another aircraft or a ground vehicle through a central control. If the potential target "talks back," it's friendly.

Although combat aircraft have had a system for identifying other aircraft as friends or enemies for decades, it has been unsuitable for ground combat vehicles.

Recently, however, the Army developed the Battlefield Combat Identification System whereby tanks, personnel carriers and command posts can identify one another through a ground transfer control station. Combined with SADL's entry into the network, the pilot's picture of both ground and sky becomes more complete.



Photo courtesy of the Texas National Guard

'SADL UP' - The Texas Air Guard 149th Fighter Wing's F-16s will soon be equipped with the Situation Awareness Data Link. It allows pilots to identify friendly forces.

The SADL system continues to undergo evaluation at the Air National Guard Test Center in Tucson, Ariz. The wing expects to "SADL up" in May.



HISTORY

• Raymond McLain: Corps Commander

Oklahoma's Raymond McLain, armed with an 8th grade education, was given a corps command in World War II

Unlikely LEGEND

When Maj. Gen. Raymond McLain was given command of a U.S. Army corps in Oct. 1944, the Oklahoman became the first citizen-soldier to earn this combat distinction since the Civil War. Most Army senior command positions during World War II were held by West Point graduates.

McLain's rise through the ranks was all the more remarkable given his childhood poverty and lack of a formal education.

Raymond McLain was born a Kentucky farmboy in 1890. His father deserted the family, forcing young Ray to leave school after the 8th grade to help support his mother and sisters.

At 17 he left for the new state of Oklahoma.

McLain quickly found work as a realty title clerk, and in 1912, joined the National Guard's 1st Oklahoma Infantry.

Commissioned after two years, he was mobilized for service on the Mexican Border in 1916. During World War I, Oklahoma Guard units became part of the 36th Division, and Capt. McLain commanded a machine gun company in France.

McLain liked the Army, and wanted to remain on active duty after the war. But when he arrived at Ft. Sill, Okla., to take the required examination, the first question was, "where did you go to college?" The test also consisted of academic subjects that McLain had never studied. McLain gave up his ambition to become a regular Army officer. The experience prompted him to begin a rigorous reading program to make up for his lack of formal education.

McLain rejoined the Oklahoma National Guard, and by 1925 was the 45th Division's Chief of Staff.

In 1937 Brig. Gen. McLain took command of the Division's 70th Field Artillery Brigade. Following federalization in September 1940, the brigade and its com-

mander drew favorable notice. But it was in combat that Raymond McLain caught the eye of the Army's top brass.

McLain was the Division's artillery commander when the 45th received its baptism of fire in Sicily. During the landings McLain took personal charge of a lagging infantry battalion and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Gen. George Patton himself.

Promoted to Assistant Division Commander for the invasion of Italy, McLain was nevertheless passed over for division command in favor of a regular Army officer when the 45th's commanding general was sent home for medical treatment.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, would later comment in his diary, "McLain should have been given the Division instead."

The Normandy invasion in June 1944, however, vastly increased the need for good U.S. commanders. In August 1944 McLain was finally given a division -- the troubled 90th. At the time, Patton had described it as "... discipline poor, the men filthy, the officers apathetic."



Photos courtesy of NGB Historical Services

GIFTED GUARDSMAN - During World War II, Lt. Gen. Raymond McLain (above, left, and in painting, right) became the first Guardsman to command a U.S. Army Corps since the Civil War. McLain, with only an eighth grade education, was promoted over many regular Army, West Point graduates.

If that were not enough, Gen. Omar Bradley gave the new commander 10 days to turn around the challenged division.

McLain immediately called 2,000 officers and NCOs together and told them that he didn't care about spit-and-polish appearances, except during inspections



GUARD HISTORY

By Renee Hylton
Army Guard Historian

from higher-ups like West Pointer Patton. He did, however, insist that they fight.

And fight they did.

Patton recommended McLain to Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall for higher command. In October 1944, McLain was given command of the XIX Corps, Ninth U.S. Army -- the highest combat command assumed by a Guardsman during World War II or since.

For a young captain whose lack of formal education had kept him out of the post-WWI peacetime Army, to be commanding tens of thousands of men spoke volumes for his ability to lead.

This time, after the war ended, McLain was allowed to stay on active duty.

After retiring in 1952, he returned to Oklahoma. He died two years later.

McLain is not as famous within the National Guard as he would have been had he not endorsed a 1948 proposal to federalize the Guard by removing its state ties.

Despite the apparent snub of the Guard, his achievements as a leader could not be ignored. In 1987 he became the first reserve component soldier to be inducted into the U.S. Army Hall of Fame at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. In the audience that day were many Guardsmen who had served with him in the 45th Division -- each aware that McLain's time as a citizen-soldier had developed him into one of this country's most unlikely and successful combat leaders.





TRAINING

Maine refueling unit helps
put muscle in Cohen's threat

Gateway to BAGHDAD

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The news from Baghdad that international experts would be permitted to check out Saddam Hussein's dozens of palaces for chemical and biological weapons gave Air National Guard members in Bangor, Maine, more blessings to count over the holidays.

"They knew that their efforts to reinforce the United States' armada of warplanes in the Persian Gulf had helped persuade Iraq to yield to global concerns about weapons of mass destruction—even if it wasn't clear if officials would be allowed to inspect the palaces."

"We have to believe that helping those additional fighter planes and transports get from this country to the theater in Southwest Asia was one of the things that tipped the balance in our favor," said Col. John Bubar, commander of the Maine Air Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing, renowned worldwide as "the Maineiacs."

Once again, Bangor had served as the Air Force's gateway to Baghdad.

Bangor, coincidentally, is the hometown of Defense Secretary William Cohen, who two days before Thanksgiving, warned that any allied attack to compel Iraq to cooperate with weapons inspectors would be overwhelming.

"If it is necessary to resort to force, I think you can be reasonably assured it will not be a pinprick," Cohen promised.

Veteran Maineiacs such as Lt. Col. Jim Trudel and MSgt. Steve McCready helped give the muscle to Cohen's message during Operation Phoenix Scorpion.

Trudel, 51, is the Maine wing's support flight commander. McCready, 53, is the maintenance supervisor for the three-year-old, Bangor-based Northeast Tanker Task Force that routinely routes Air Force planes to no-fly zones over Iraq.

Thirteen Air Guard and Air Force KC-135 Stratotankers from Kansas, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as from Maine, formed the Phoenix Scorpion task force that spent a week refueling other aircraft, including six F-117 stealth fighters,

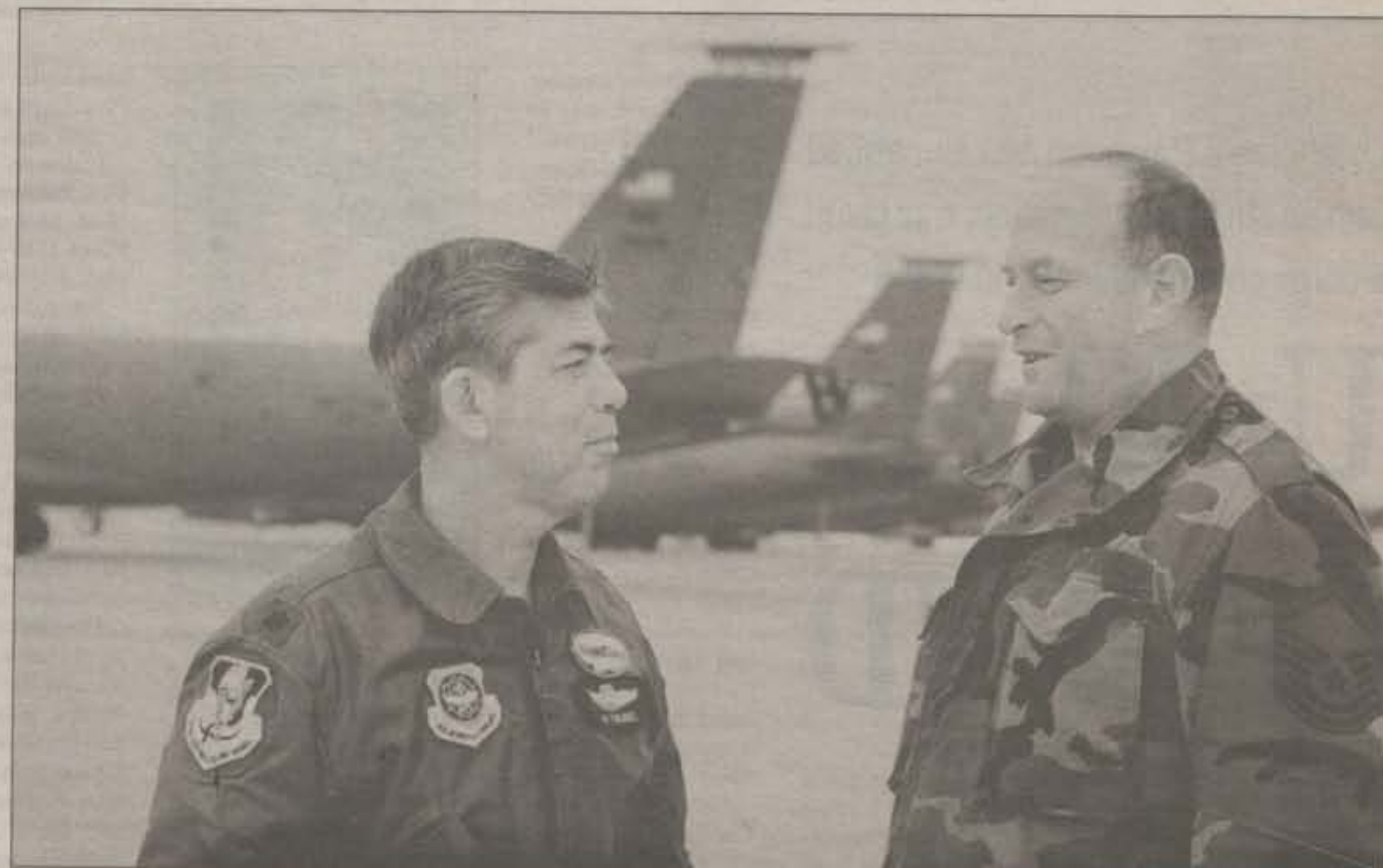


Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell



Photo courtesy of the Maine National Guard

ers, dispatched to the Persian Gulf by President William Clinton.

"We began 24-hour operations about Nov. 18th. We planned the refueling mission and provided the tankers for the F-117s," said Trudel of the first-strike fighters that flew from Holloman AFB in New Mexico to the Persian Gulf late that week.

Four Air Force tankers deployed to Bangor actually performed that refueling, Trudel explained. But 10 Air Guard tankers also took part in the task force that pumped over a million pounds of fuel into the F-117s and C-5 and C-17 transports during 22 sorties.

The tankers refueled the planes while flying tracks over Nova Scotia and from eastern New York to northern Maine, Trudel explained.

Other fighters sent to the Gulf were refueled by tankers out of New

Hampshire's Pease Air Guard Base.

"We always come through, and so do other units when we need them," said Trudel, an electrical engineer by trade who has worked full-time for the Air Guard since February 1992.

"The Air National Guard has 52 percent of all the tanker assets in the Air Force. We get factored into every operation," he said.

Coming through, among other things, meant beefing up the normal Bangor operational crew by about 75 people. That included 20 maintenance people who arrived with the 10 additional tankers as well as two dozen more Maine air crew members and 25 maintenance folks who were called in to hose the early winter's snow off the sleek tankers.

"We participate to the level that people can tolerate," Trudel said. "We're very

MAINE MEN - Maine Air Guard's Lt. Col. Jim Trudel (above, left) and MSgt. Steve McCready, both members of the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, talk over Operation Phoenix Scorpion. A Kansas Air Guard KC-135 (left) sits through a snow storm while waiting to be called into action.

fortunate that we have people who are gung-ho about doing this stuff. Nothing goes without the maintenance people. We missed zero sorties due to the weather."

"There's nothing like a real-world operation to get everyone all pumped up," said McCready, whose Air Force pedigree includes eight years on active duty and 16 years with the Maineiacs.

The Maineiacs have a history of staying pumped up. A few years ago, for example, they sustained 24-hour operations for about eight weeks when the U.S. resorted to fighter and cruise missile attacks to force Hussein to allow United Nations teams to monitor his weapons.

"This was minor compared to that," said Trudel of their recent operation that ended, at least temporarily, the Tuesday afternoon before Thanksgiving.

The next day the Maine crew feasted on a couple of turkeys and all of the fixings at their operations center. That was the day that Iraq announced inspectors would be allowed to visit Hussein's palaces.

Once again, their efforts made the holidays a little easier to digest.