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THE ON GUARD

Volume XXVII, No. 5

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

February 1998

Guard helps break the ice

■ Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Maine called out

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The afternoon may have been uncomfortably frigid, but the heartfelt sense of duty displayed by the Sgt. Steven Mitchell would have warmed even the coldest of bones chilled by Ice Storm 98.

"We aren't here to make any money," said the Vermont Army Guardsman while clearing fallen trees for new power lines on Lake Champlain's northern Isle La Motte. "It's the sense of satisfaction you get from helping the people you live with."

He was not alone. Thousands of National Guardmembers in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York bundled up, then fired-up chain saws, generators and every winterized vehicle they could climb into to help their neighbors recover from a storm that devastated the Northeast before January's second weekend.

They went door-to-door looking for people who could not or would not leave their homes as temperatures fell to dangerous levels. A snow storm compounded their relief efforts the following week.

"First," explained Maine Army Guard Maj. David Duehring, "we're trying to keep people from freezing." He teamed with his state's Emergency Management Agency to coordinate the Guard's activities.

Schools were out and so was everything else. Lights, water, furnaces and milking machines. More than a million people -- friends, neighbors, farmers and other folks they did not know -- needed help. Now.

Many Guard men and women left their families in dark, chilled homes to help others thaw out as well as dig out. Maine Army Guard SFC Daniel Fortin's wife and 12-year-old daughter remained in their rural North Whitefield home outside Augusta while Fortin was on duty.

"We're collecting rain water and boiling it on our wood stove for bathing," Fortin said. "We're sharing my brother's generator with five other families to keep the perishable food from spoiling in our refrigerators and freezers."

How bad was this storm?

A five-day torrent of rain and ice crippled eastern Canada and turned parts of the four states, including upstate New York and Maine's most populated regions, into a winter wasteland of broken trees, snapped utility poles and grounded power lines.

Nearly 600,000 people lost their electricity for days on end in Maine where 15 of the 16 counties were de-

clared a federal disaster area. Vice President Al Gore flew in Jan. 15 promising \$28 million in immediate federal assistance.

A half-million New Yorkers also were afflicted in five counties declared disaster areas by President William Clinton. The storm hit less populated areas in Vermont and New Hampshire, but tens



Photo by MSgt. Toby R. Youngs

GIVING A LIFT - Maine Army Guard Spc. Shawn Murray operates a bucket loader while a public works employee trims an ice-coated branch.

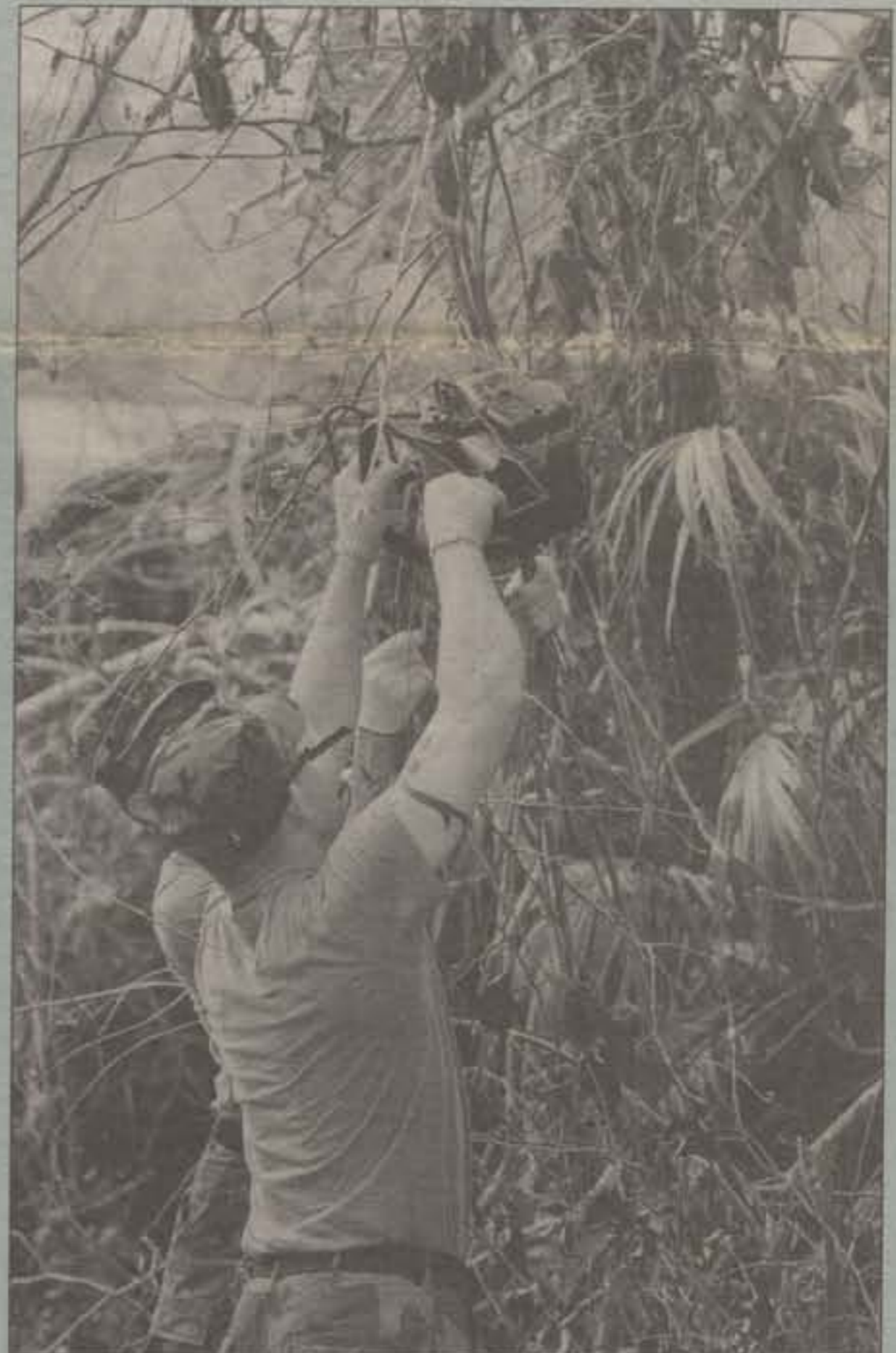


Photo by Sgt. Edward I. Siguenza

TYPHOON FOLLOW-UP

Guam Army Guard PFC Daniel Crisostomo (front) and Spc. Vincent Flores, members of the 1224th Engineer Detachment, use a chain saw to clear debris left by Supertyphoon Paka in mid-December. See story on page 11.

■ See ICE STORMS, Page 13



COMMENTARY

• Anti-Terrorism • Safety Concerns • Alaska Rescuers

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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GUARD MAIL

Fighting Anti-Journalism

Congratulations on an excellent article, "Guard to fight anti-terrorism," and also for taking subtle double-negatives to such a new height. We are now developing the trainology to seek out and find the enemy. And they are us. Sign me up to go fight those nasty anti-terrorists.

Seriously, we can be proud of our ability to stand and fight side-by-side with everyone else in uniform. When terrorists attack any one of us as a symbol of this country's success, they attack us all. Let's keep our guard up.

SFC Allan R. Hach

New York Army Guard

Editor's Note: We received several calls/letters about that headline -- Guess we'll launch a campaign against anti-journalism.

It's a Ring Thing

You probably hate those letters that begin "I really like your newspaper, but ..."

On page six of December's issue is a picture of a woman working under an F-16 jet with a ring on her right hand ring finger. This is not the image of safety we should be sharing with the world. Your staff could do us all a favor by watching for these kinds of safety violations.

This picture could be better used in a safety magazine as an example of what not to do.

The article itself was great. We were in Turkey (Operation Provide Comfort) last Christmas and are returning this spring. It reminded me of the things we accomplished when there last, and the challenges of this upcoming deployment.

CMSgt. Rick Lederman
Ohio National Guard

'nto'ition

I've been a member of the Montana Air Guard for 27 years. I recently had the pleasure of reading a story concerning New York's tuition assistance bill (Dec. 1997).

This article is just the ammunition that I need to get to our state legislature here in Montana. We have no tuition assistance bill in Montana and we are suffering losses to neighboring states just as New York was.

Could you possibly send me 17 issues of the December issue. I will see to it that it is distributed to our 17 state representatives.

MSgt. Larry Wilda
Montana National Guard

Rescuing the Truth

I was pleased to see the significant efforts of the Alaskan rescue community mentioned in your Year in Review issue. Since assuming rescue alert in 1990, the Alaska Air Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron and the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center (assigned to Headquarters, Alaska ANG) have worked around-the-clock, every day of the year, to save people in distress.

Likewise, Alaska Army Guard units are often critical to saving lives in the vast reaches of our country's largest state; most recently, in the sovereign nation of Russia.

One note though ... your photo of the dramatic helicopter rescue of snowmobilers who fell into a glacier crevasse was attributed to the Alaska Army Guard. While we in the 210th applaud the often heroic accomplishments of our Army Guard comrades, the helicopter and crew pictured were members of the 210th based at Kulis ANG Base in Anchorage.

Thanks again for the mention, and for your fine publication.

Maj. Chuck Foster
Alaska National Guard

Editor's Note: The airmen and women of the 210th were credited with saving 110 people last fiscal year, bringing their total to almost 400 lives since being activated in 1990.

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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"Around these parts, we call him the 'Ei-Ei-Eo' manager."



IN THE NEWS

• Change of Command • Fallen Brothers • Move to Maine

Arnold takes over 1st Air Force

■ Former Air Guard director, Maj. Gen. Killey, passes flag, retires

By TSgt. Dave Somdahl
North Dakota National Guard

When Brig. Gen. Larry Arnold assumed command of the 1st Air Force Dec. 18, he joined a short but growing list of Air Guard officers to be selected to key command positions atop the U.S. Air Force.

Ironically, the man Arnold replaced as commander, Maj. Gen. Philip Killey, was the first Air Guard officer in recent history to assume command of a numbered Air Force when he took over the position at Tyndall AFB, Fla., four years ago.

Arnold, the former assistant Air Guard deputy director at the Pentagon in Washington D.C., also will take command of the Continental United States North American Aerospace Defense Command Region (CONR). It, too, is headquartered at Tyndall.

One of four original numbered air forces formed prior to World War II, the 1st Air Force and CONR consist of nearly 11,000 people from the Air Guard, U.S. Air Force and Canadian Forces. They control the airspace over the 48 contiguous states. 1st Air Force defenders were credited with tracking and identifying 677 unknown aircraft in

1996. Those sitings required the "Guardians of America's skies" to scramble their aircraft 52 times.

Arnold, who is expected to pin on his second star in the near future, said he will champion the modernization of the regional air defense sectors to meet current and future needs. As a pilot who flew 153 combat missions flying F4Cs in Vietnam, the General also is bent on ensuring that the Guard's current crop of fighter pilots are given the Air Force's newest aircraft, as they become available.

"The technology of Vietnam was good for the time, but it would be extraordinarily inadequate today," Arnold observed. "It is my job to bring modern technology to our mission, which is protection of the homeland."

The day also marked the retirement of Killey, a South Dakotan and former Air National Guard director. According to Dr. Charles J. Gross, Air National Guard chief historian, Killey's historic March 1994 posting was just the second time in the Air Guard's 50 year existence that an ANG officer has taken charge of a "numbered" Air Force.

Georgia Air Guard's Maj. Gen. George Finch -- a prominent Atlanta attorney, two-time war veteran and aviator -- earned the initial distinction in 1955 when he commanded the 14th Air Force at Robins AFB, Ga. Finch ran the Air Guard from 1948 to 1950.

Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief, praised Killey for orchestrating the transition of primary responsibility for policing



Photo by Lisa Carroll

ARNOLD ERA - Brig. Gen. Larry Arnold (2nd from right) accepts command of the 1st Air Force from Gen. Richard Hawley, ACC commander. Outgoing commander, Maj. Gen. Phillip Killey (right) looks on.

■ See ARNOLD, Page 4

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Distribution center moves

In a way, Col. Joshua Chamberlain and the other soldiers of the storied 20th Maine Infantry Regiment have come home to roost.

You now have to call Camp Keyes in Augusta, Maine, to obtain copies of the National Guard Heritage Painting illustrating the 20th's famous Civil War charge led by Chamberlain down the side of Little Round Top at Gettysburg, Pa., on July 2, 1863.

You have to order copies of that print, as well as the National Guard's other Heritage paintings and a lot of other promotional material, from a lady named Cathy Freeman. She is the printing officer for the National Guard Bureau's Printing and Distribution Center in Maine's capital city.

Eight truckloads of material used to advertise the Army and Air National Guard have been transferred from Maryland to a green warehouse in central Maine because the Guard Bureau's Advertising Distribution Center at the Aberdeen Proving Ground is being shut down.

"Now it's our job to ship this material, such as pencils, pens, pamphlets, coffee mugs, bulletin boards, and promotional displays for conferences, to the states and territories that request it," explained Freeman.

The Maryland operation that distributed National Guard material for more than 20 years has been incorporated into the center in Maine that has earned its stripes by printing and distributing copies of official National Guard documents including 840 different regulations and some 400 checklists.

It is the only National Guard printing and distribution facility of its kind.

The change was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of next March. By the new year, however, anyone who wants more National Guard Heritage prints of Maine's most famous military unit saving the end of the Union line during the pivotal afternoon at Gettysburg had best call Cathy Freeman in Joshua Chamberlain's native state.

Reported by MSgt. Bob Haskell, On Guard senior correspondent

Wisconsin gets troops full tuition assistance

Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson signed into law a state budget recently that provides up to 100 percent undergraduate college or technical school tuition for all members of the Wisconsin National Guard.

The new program doubles the state's previous 50 percent tuition grant.

FALLEN HEROES

Angle (left) and Sheryll Larson (center), the wives of fallen North Dakota National Guardsmen and brothers Steven and Mitchell Larson, clutch U.S. flags during a service held in Hendrum, Minn. The town's population tripled as mourners paid their last respects to the men who fell victim to record Dakota floods last October. Both were members of the Fargo-based 119th Fighter Wing.



Photo by Carolyn Kaster, Pioneer Press

IN THE NEWS

ARNOLD

From Page 3

policing and protecting the United States' air space from foreign attack from the U.S. Air Force to the Air Guard. Citizen-airmen and women completed that transition last October.

"When Phil Killey reflects on his career, he can point with pride to this outstanding organization and say, 'I did that,'" Baca said.

While Killey was justifiably proud of his reign, calling it "the most important mission any military organization can have -- defense of the homeland," he urged those in attendance to ensure that the 1st Air Force remains properly staffed and equipped, despite a dwindling defense budget.

"We must maintain a viable air sovereignty posture capable of deterring and countering emerging threats," warned Killey, noting hit-and-run airborne terrorist attacks, the proliferation of cruise missiles, and the potential use of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons of mass destruction from the air.

That message fell upon important ears, as the change of command was officiated by Gen. Howell M. Estes III, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) commander and the Air Combat Command's top man, Gen. Richard E. Hawley. More than 40 generals from the U.S. and Canada, and commanders from each of 1st Air Force's 10 fighter units and three air defense sectors also got the word.

In a related story, Col. Kenneth Stromquist, commander of the Minnesota Air Guard's 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, was named the 1st Air Force's vice commander.

The former Air Guard advisor to NORAD and the U.S. Space Command will assume his new job as Arnold's chief deputy in March.

Hay haulers 'bale' out New Mexico

By Dave Troyanek
Wyoming National Guard

Five Air National Guard C-130 units helped "bale" out New Mexico by dropping nearly 465 tons of hay for livestock left starving after a series of storms dropped nearly 22 inches of snow.

The units -- Wyoming's 153rd Airlift Wing (AW), Oklahoma's 137th AW, Texas's 136th AW, Minnesota's 133rd AW and Idaho's 189th Airlift Squadron -- responded to a Dec. 30 call from President Bill Clinton. By the time the request for help came, 25,000 cattle had already died.

"I am pleased that the Air National Guard has responded so promptly to this difficult situation," said President Clinton in a release. "It is performing an important mission for many New Mexicans in their time of need."

Within three hours of getting the call, the Cheyenne-based 153rd crew had their C-130 Hercules aircraft and crew of 10 headed to Roswell, N.M., for the drop.

Farmers like Duane Frost, who has a ranch about 25 miles north of Roswell, appreciated the speedy response.

"I've been trying to break through drifts all day and could only get to about 50 of my cattle," he said. "My cattle are in pretty bad shape."

"Without this help," Frost added, "I'd really be in big trouble."

Upon arriving in Roswell, the Wyoming aircrew went about refreshing themselves with the operational aspects of the mission. Their last hay drop was in 1979 near Horse Creek, Wyo. This was their first hay drop outside the state.

Instead of dropping small bales, as they did nearly 20 years earlier, the Wyoming crew were required to drop bales that were 8 feet long, 4 feet deep and weighed



Photo by SMSgt. Bob Watkins

nearly 2,000 pounds.

Working with New Mexico Emergency Management Agency personnel who coordinated deliveries at the Roswell airport, Air Guard crews used coordinates gathered by ranchers and the Civil Air Patrol to pinpoint the areas in most need.

The C-130s were each loaded with about seven one-ton bales of hay. Each bale had already been strapped to a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood to make them easier to handle.

As the aircraft approached the drop points at altitudes of 300-feet, ground crews pushed the bales out the back of the aircraft. Upon impact with the ground, the bales immediately burst open, attracting the attention of the livestock.

Despite the mission's urgency, one Air Guard crew, according to a local newspaper, did experience a lighter moment.

Many of the bales of hay, it was reported, were full of field mice. Loadmasters carefully watched the bales in flight to ensure that rodents didn't make

HAY HAULERS - Wyoming Air Guardmembers with the 153rd Airlift Wing load six, 2,000-pound bales of hay on their C-130.

any unscheduled tours of the cargo bay because mice can chew through wires.

On one flight, as a C-130 was nearing its drop site and with its back door open, a large mouse leaped from a bale. An alert loadmaster set chase, kicking the mouse out the rear of the plane. Caught in the air draft behind the plane, crews recalled watching as the rodent rocked in the air current; its four legs stretched out and its tail straight back. As the mouse began its decent, the amused crew yelled, "Airborne."

Editor's Note: New Mexico Army Guardmen and women logged more than 2,000 "manhours" clearing roads, providing law enforcement and delivering food and medicine to stranded families.



Photo by MSgt. Jim Ober

'TAG' TOPPING

California Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tandy Bozeman, sprays whip cream on a piece of pie with the help of Honorary Mayor of Hollywood, Johnnie Grant, as singer and former member of 'The Fifth Dimension,' Florence LaRue, looks on with amusement. The Golden State Guard treated soldiers and families with Battery F, 144th Field Artillery to a big send off before the unit deployed to Bosnia in December.



PEOPLE

• Celebrating Black History Month

Lt. Col. Nate Thomas teaches troubled teens about the Buffalo Soldiers

Rooted to reaching out

By SSgt. Judy Ojard
Minnesota National Guard

Why would a successful, middle-aged photographer want to uncover the roots of an obscure military unit? And how can his research benefit at-risk teens? Lt. Col. Nate Thomas, a man with deep roots of his own, has answers to both questions.

"Studying the Buffalo Soldiers has helped me to understand my own roots, and the history of African-Americans in the military," explained the Minnesota Army Guard officer. "Learning this helped me, and I thought it could help other young people, as well."

Thomas — a member of the St. Paul-based Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command — has channeled his interest in the all-but-forgotten military unit into a unique program. The Minnesota Cavalry recreates Buffalo Soldier platoons to teach troubled African-American teens discipline and racial pride.

"Someone has to take an interest in these kids," Thomas said, his usual ready smile erased by the seriousness of the topic. "I like to feel I have the capacity to change kids' lives. I want to see kids lead productive lives."

The original Buffalo Soldiers, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, were all-black military units that helped keep order and promote settlement in the western and southwest territories from 1866 to 1891. They also served with two black infantry regiments — the 24th and 25th — during the Indian and Spanish-American Wars. Despite their accomplishments, they have gone largely

unrecorded.

Thomas' interest in the group, and his extensive volunteer work, have brought him a cluster of prestigious honors, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Roy Wilkins Award in 1996. He was one of Minneapolis television station KARE's "Eleven Who Care" honorees the same year. In 1997, Minnesota Congressman Bill Sabo recognized his efforts.

The son of a struggling single mother in Clayton, Ala., Thomas grew up with strong community and religious values, things he feels are lacking today.

"There was a lot more discipline," he recalled. "If you did something wrong, a neighbor might punish you, then your mom would punish you even worse."

Still, he said, poverty and racism left their marks on the young people of the community.

"I realized at an early age that economics dictate who you are, black or white. By the time I grew up, many of the kids I knew were dead," he said.

Keenly conscious of racial inequality by the time he graduated from high school in 1964, Thomas joined civil rights demonstrations in Selma, Birmingham and Montgomery. He also marched with Martin Luther King Jr.

With his mother's urging and partly on his own, Thomas vowed to educate himself. He took classes at Miles College in Birmingham, studied art by correspondence, and convinced a local professional to teach him photography. Pursuing another special interest, history, he discovered inexplicable gaps in the textbooks.

"Except for slavery, there was almost nothing about Afro-Americans in history books. I found two authors



Photo by SSgt. Judy Ojard
Lt. Col. Nate Thomas

with 3M.

Throughout, Thomas has worked toward bettering race and gender relations. His small platoon of teenage "Buffalo Soldiers" meet regularly and appear, in uniform and on horseback, at parades and special events.

Recently, he gathered 18 African-American boys, ages 8-11, identified by their teachers as "at-risk," for a weekend at Camp Ripley. Thomas organized a group that included a registered nurse, a fire inspector, a youth parole officer, community leaders and several business owners, to share their expertise. Activities included classes in CPR, fire safety, environmental awareness, drill and ceremonies, hiking, story-telling and sports.

Nor has he forgotten his geographic roots. For the last 10 years he has spent two weeks each summer teaching photography and African-American history to "at-risk" teens in Selma, Ala.

"I tell them, that it's no tragedy to fall short of your goal," he said. "The tragedy is having no goal."

Living a DREAM

By Lt. Col. Mike Milord
District of Columbia
National Guard

As she worked on the family farm in rural Forrest City, Ark., 13-year-old Barbarnette Bolden dreamed of becoming a lawyer.

Although that dream would eventually become a reality, it was her decision several years later to join the National Guard as a personnel clerk that reaped a richer harvest.

Bolden was recently promoted to the rank of colonel in the District of Columbia National Guard, where she serves full-

time as the chief personnel officer.

She's had other titles and jobs during her career, including mother, Boy Scout leader, Webelos den leader, and, for a brief time, lawyer.

"I really didn't know exactly what I was getting into, but a man I worked with invited me to join," recalled Bolden about her decision to join the Guard. At the time she was a college senior at Arkansas State University and part-time employee at Sears-Roebuck in Jonesboro, Ark.

Understandably, her mother was not a fan of military life.

"She discouraged us from serving in the military," Bolden explained. "I think she was afraid of losing a son or daughter in combat, because my brother was injured in Vietnam."

In fact, she didn't tell her mother for a long time that she had enlisted in the Arkansas Na-

tional Guard.

After graduating from Arkansas State in 1975 with a masters degree, she went to Washington's Howard University Law School and continued her part-time avocation in the D.C. Army Guard.

She also worked part-time as a congressional staffer, and with several Washington-area firms specializing in tax law.

Shortly after getting commissioned at officer candidate school, Bolden graduated from Howard with a Juris Doctorate.

But there was a dilemma. Fully credentialed to fulfill her dream, she placed her life as a barrister on hold to accept a full-time position in the D.C. Guard.

"Having worked in several law firms, I decided that I didn't



Col. Bolden

really want to be a lawyer," Bolden said. "The more I got involved in the National Guard, I found it was something I really wanted to do."

That early decision has stretched to some 20 years now. Along the way

she met her husband, Rodney, and together they raised four children, Tomeka, Allen, Rodney and Douglas.

"Pursuing a military career and raising a family can often be at odds, especially where it involves travel," Bolden noted. "And while my duties have required me to be away from home for extended periods, being in the National Guard makes it easier to be with the family because of its hometown orientation.

who had written about the Buffalo Soldiers, though. I read everything I could find."

The Vietnam War interrupted Thomas' studies and political activism. He used the experience to his advantage.

As a young Air Force photographer, he found himself accompanying Marine units on reconnaissance missions. His job was photographing casualties.

"That's how they did body counts," he said. "Whatever happened to those Marines, I recorded it."

When Thomas returned home, he used the GI Bill to earn a degree in business management at the University of Alabama. His photography skills eventually landed him a job



ON THE BORDER - U.S. Army infantrymen depart a 'White Hawk' flown by Illinois Army Guard pilots in Macedonia.

Colorado, Missouri and Illinois' troops deploy to former Yugoslav Republic

'ABLE' BODIES

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

How will it play in Peoria? It's a litmus-test phrase Charles Colson often pondered as a prominent member of President Richard Nixon's White House staff whenever that administration embarked on a new course.

This should play pretty well. Twenty-two National Guard soldiers from an aviation unit based in that central Illinois city are flying and maintaining three snow-white Army helicopters in the European nation north of Greece this winter as part of a United Nations peace-keeping force.

Their objective is to be seen and heard as much as possible so that anyone thinking about expressing their cultural differences in a violent manner will think again.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's northern border is where they go looking for attention on most days when the winter's cold, penetrating morning fog gives way to crisp, clear skies just right for flying from the capital city of Skopje up to mountainous, wind-swept ridges toward Serbia.

"These are non-tactical missions. You can't paint a helicopter white and then fly 200 feet off the ground and be invisible. We fly high so a lot of people can see us," said rangy Warrant Officer Kevin Callaway, who pilots the big UH-60 helicopters usually called Black Hawks. These three birds are called White Hawks.

"It's a lot different than the way we were trained," added Callaway, who learned to conceal helicopters by flying considerably closer to hills and valleys



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

during his 11 years in the active Army. He joined the Illinois Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation in Peoria two Octobers ago.

That's not the only thing that is different for this Prairie State unit that has become the mobile air asset for the Army's 350-member Task Force Able Sentry. Infantry soldiers man four observation posts and watch over a 50-mile stretch of the Macedonian-Serbian border. The job is to help the UN prevent conflicts that have torn up nearby Bosnia from spreading to other parts of the Balkan region.

The 106th is among the first three National Guard outfits from America's heartland serving for six months with the UN force that has been keeping the peace in Macedonia since July 1993.

Thirty-four combat engineers from across Missouri and nine military policemen out of Golden, Colo., are also engaged in the mission until late February.

The Army has shut down four of its eight border observation posts since last November and has reduced its force from 500 to 350 soldiers, explained Lt. Col. Robert Pidgeon, commander of the 1st Armored Division's infantry battalion based at Camp Able Sentry. The peace-keeping mission is slated to end Aug. 31.

This has hardly diminished the 65 Guardmembers' resolve to help keep the peace in the ancient area of Alexander the Great that *USA Today* has identified as one of this year's 10 potential international flashpoints.

"This is every bit as important as



DIGGING IN - Missouri soldiers with the 35th Engineer Brigade (above) dig into Macedonia soil, while a Colorado Army Guard MP, PFC Paul Durnez, checks a motorist at Camp Able Sentry.

Macedonian communities.

"These guys are better, without a doubt, than young active Army engineers who are just finishing their training," praised Pidgeon. "I've got master electricians and real-world carpenters here. When they're not serving in the Guard, they're framing houses.

"The heavy equipment operators know how to run four or five pieces of equipment," Pidgeon added. "Their work ethic is great. They know how to get it done."

That fact has not escaped Maj. Gen. John Havens, Missouri's adjutant general. He has promised to try to arrange interviews with civilian employers for those engineers who are returning home without a job.

Aviation Sgt. Mark Kincaide, a helicopter crew chief, is a classic case of good timing. He received his associate's degree in aircraft maintenance from Rock Valley College on a Friday last August. He reported for duty in Peoria, bound for Macedonia, the following Monday.

"It's warmer here than what I'm used to. But it's foggier. It reminds me of London," said Kincaide who learned about Europe during four years in the Army.

1st Sgt. James Erickson is a 15-year infantry veteran who became the aviation unit's top sergeant three days before it was mobilized.

"I had never dealt with women or war-

Bosnia," insisted Missouri SSgt. David White of the Macedonian mission that has not generated the attention that NATO peacekeepers have received.

The fundamental difference is that NATO troops have ended a deadly and destructive civil war in Bosnia, whereas UN troops have deterred warring factions in Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece from interfering with tiny Macedonia that became an independent nation in 1991.

"Keeping the peace in a country is important, no matter what the country," White observed.

At 34, he is a full-time Guard worker and a 12-year Army veteran who sharpened his skills in Germany and Korea, and at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he was a heavy equipment instructor.

The Missouri Guard troops from the 35th Engineer Brigade have spent most of their time tearing down the four observation posts and one base camp and have expanded two of the remaining outposts to accommodate twice as many soldiers. By early January, they had completed 86 percent of their 923 work orders that have included repairing roads for two remote



KEEPING THEM FLYING. Sgt. Mark Kincaide, an Illinois Army Guard Black Hawk crew chief, sheds some light on a problem.

rant officers in my units before. It has been quite an education," he said. "I've learned a lot about how much these aviators have to know and how much time they spend to keep those birds flying."

Camp Able Sentry is where the unit lives and works in white, trailer-sized cargo containers. It is a gritty, former Yugoslavian Air Force base that is bordered by new barbed wire and stumpy, concrete pyramids. It is punctuated by white observation towers and sandbagged fighting positions.

The UN force may be there to keep the peace, but it is prepared for war. It's a philosophy Guardmembers have adopted.

Most of the aviation missions, for example, involve flying distinguished visitors -- including a Congressional delegation led by Missouri Representative Ike Skelton -- to the border observation posts, or inserting four-man Army infantry patrols along the border and then extracting them a few hours later.

"It challenges our navigational skills," said CWO2 Jason Gerald, who has logged more than 1,000 Black Hawk hours. "We do not want to cross the border and cause an international incident."

Otherwise, the flights are fairly routine "ash and trash" missions. That means they haul just about anything -- from water canisters to toilet parts.

And, should fighting break out, they are set to mount two machine guns in their helicopters along with 400 rounds for each gun and fly an eight-man quick response team to any spot along the border within 30 minutes. They mounted the guns, loaded a team and took off in seven minutes during a recent drill.

Yes, they are eager to return to their homes and families and their civilian pursuits as computer programmers, truck drivers, mail carriers and law enforcers, later this month.

But the time in Macedonia is passing quickly enough, Erickson noted, because their mission requires someone to be on duty all day, every day.

When it is over, however, they hope to return to Illinois confident that the bit they did to make the white UN helicopters visible signs of peace over Macedonia also will play well in Peoria.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

INSIDE ABLE SENTRY

Army Guard CSM John Leonard went to Macedonia to meet deployed troops

Enlisting FEEDBACK

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

March was the traditional town meeting month when John Leonard Jr. was growing up on the Maine coast. That's when the voters in country towns gathered to argue and vote, sometimes late into the night, about spending precious tax dollars for their roads and schools over the next year.

Now, any month will do, including January, for John Leonard Jr. who presides over town meetings in such far-flung places as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Leonard is a command sergeant major who is beginning his second year as the Army National Guard's senior enlisted advisor.

He reports to Maj. Gen. William Navas, Director of the Army National Guard. He can't be everywhere at once, and he can't wait until March to find out what is on the mind of thousands of Army Guard enlisted people serving around the world.

So CSM John Leonard Jr. holds town meetings wherever he is and whenever he can.

In January he was at the Camp Able Sentry dining hall near Skopje, Macedonia's capital city, surrounded by 48 Army Guard people from Missouri, Illinois and Colorado who are part of the United Nation's peace-keeping force. They are spending the winter in the new nation north of Greece, helping to prevent the cultural conflict that has torn up nearby Bosnia from spreading to other parts of the Balkan region.

"Thank you for what you're doing," Leonard told

MEETING IN MACEDONIA - CSM John Leonard (center) fields questions from deployed troops.

them as he opened the town meeting. "There's a lot of turmoil in this part of the world. Because of you and other people like you, it is being kept under control."

Then he persistently persuaded the Guard people to relax, sip on their coffee and open up to him.

What did they want to talk about? You name it.

- More training with the active Army before deploying to Europe.
- More military schools for advancing their National Guard careers.
- The effect that mandatory anthrax vaccinations for all U.S. military personnel will have on Army Guard retention.
- More leadership training for young officers and NCOs.

• The Guard's new mission back home of responding to the threat of chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction.

• New uniforms for soldiers with short arms and short legs.

Missouri Spc. Donny Boyle brought up that issue. He stands 5-foot-3.

Significantly, the citizen-soldiers who came to Macedonia last August expressed few if any concerns about their pay, their families back home, or the prospects of returning to their civilian jobs next spring.

Leonard drew on a wealth of first-hand knowledge that included a whirlwind tour of active Army units in Europe with new Sergeant Major of the Army Robert Hall during the previous week. In Bosnia alone, they visited 31 units in three days.

The lack of funds for defense in general and the National Guard in particular was Leonard's candid explanation for some of the concerns he heard in Macedonia. Looking sharp and conducting themselves like professionals was his uncompromising advice to the Guard members for maintaining good relations with the active Army soldiers with whom they serve.

Leonard did not claim to have all of the answers. If he didn't know, he said so. He also promised to find out.

That seemed to satisfy this town meeting crowd.

"It's important for the enlisted people, especially the young ones, to know that someone like CSM Leonard is concerned about them," said Colorado SSgt. Matthias Stewart. "It's also important for the sergeant major to see what the Guard troops are going through."

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

GIVEN the OPPORTUNITY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Most people would argue that Matthias Stewart has done all right for himself. He is, after all, the provost marshal -- the military chief of police -- for the U.S. Army's Task Force Able Sentry in distant Macedonia.

Stewart, 35, is a staff sergeant, an enlisted citizen-soldier in the Colorado Army Guard, who this winter is holding down a job normally earmarked for officers. The task force commander respectfully calls him "Kojak" even though Stewart hardly resembles the late Telly Savalas, who portrayed the tough TV detective.

Stewart is mild of manner. He has a full head of closely cropped hair. He is an African-American.

He is in a unique leadership position during this 50th year since President Harry Truman integrated the armed forces in 1948 and, in effect, initiated this country's civil rights movement.

Stewart is the leader of eight other men from the 220th Military Police Company out of Golden, Colo., who are

overseeing the safety and security of 350 American soldiers watching over 50 miles of the Macedonian-Serbian border in southern Europe. The MPs put on blue berets and reported for United Nations peacekeeping duty outside Skopje, the Macedonian capital, late last August. They expect to leave later this month.

Matthias Stewart, a casino chef from the Denver suburb of Westminster, has made a significant mark within the military police fraternity. But he has a different perspective about his station in his life. He says he could have done better.

After 17 years of active Army and reserve component duty, Stewart believes he could be a sergeant first class by now, a platoon leader in his MP company. He believes he could be well on his way toward becoming a sergeant major.

He knows he is responsible for who he is and what he has not yet become during his five years in the Army Guard. He does not hold anyone else responsible because he is black.

"I wanted to blame it on someone, but I had to step back and take responsibility

for myself," he candidly observed at Camp Able Sentry, the UN military community where he is the top cop. "I know I would have progressed further if I had applied myself more to my NCO schools. The Army is changing. I'm an old soldier who didn't know all of the new ways."

February is Black History Month for America. Matthias Stewart is an unabashed advocate for the equal opportunity cause that February embraces.

He believes all minority members of the armed forces -- African-Americans, women and people of Hispanic and Asian descent -- should continue to get equal consideration for the schools, promotions, and leadership positions that define a military career.

"I reached this level based on merit," he insisted. "The Army gives equal opportunities for everyone to succeed. All you have to do is apply yourself."

Significantly, five of the task force's eight Army leaders whose photographs are displayed inside the Camp Able Sentry headquarters are African-Americans. All four senior NCOs are black.

Stewart also believes EO should continue to be stressed.

"Even though we screen them, white supremacists -- like Skin Heads and people in the Jewish Defense League -- still filter into the military," he said.

The equal opportunity policies ensure that no one can prevent a soldier from improving themselves.

"They must judge you on your job performance," he noted.

That is how he has

been judged in Macedonia.

"He's highly skilled. He's very mature and he's even-handed," said Lt. Col. Robert Pidgeon, the U.S. task force commander. "I trust him."

Yes, Stewart acknowledged, there are reasons why he waited until he was 32 before attending the basic NCO leadership course. There are reasons why he has not gone to the advanced course that can still be his stepping stone to promotions and more responsibility.

"My wife and I both work. It would have been too stressful on our family," said Stewart who has an 8-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old son.

He also believes he can be an example to others about the importance of taking advantage of every opportunity.

"Others can learn from me," he said. "If you're a sergeant, go to a basic NCO course. Don't hold yourself up. In the Army, the best qualified people are promoted."

Emphasizing equal opportunity, he is convinced, makes it possible for everyone to take charge of their destiny.



SSgt. Mathias Stewart

'Don't be so busy practicing your right to dissent that you forget to contribute'

LEVELING the FIELD

By Spc. Aaron Reed
Texas National Guard

When Brig. Gen. Daniel James III was appointed Texas's adjutant general more than two years ago, it was historic for several reasons.

James, previously the vice commander of the Texas Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing, is the first "blue-suiter" to command the more than 17,000 soldiers and 3,500 airmen of the Lone Star State Guard. He also is the first African-American to hold the post.

He brought to the position a unique background that, he says, has profoundly influenced the way he approaches the job. After serving as an enlisted airman in the Air Force Reserve, James earned his commission through ROTC in 1968, and served on active duty for the next 10 years.

As the son of Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen and the first African-American to earn four stars in any service, he had first-hand memories of the men who opened the doors of combat aviation and military leadership to minorities.

His own career is distinguished. James is a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours in fighter and trainer aircraft, including two combat tours in Southeast Asia. He has twice earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In a recent interview in his office in Austin, James spoke at length about his experiences as a warrior and an officer who happens to be black, about equal opportunity in the Texas National Guard and about his future vision.

The organization he inherited is 49 percent white, almost 16 percent black and 23 percent hispanic in its enlisted ranks. Of the officers, 82 percent are white, only 6.5 percent black and 9.1 percent hispanic. In a state where 12.75 percent of the population is black and 21.14 percent is hispanic, James said that those numbers fall short.

Q: How has your background shaped the way you approach the job of adjutant general?

James: I'm a fighter pilot. That means I am a warrior. As a warrior, I tend to approach things from the perspective of our primary mission; that is, when called upon, we have to go to war. I've always thought of combat readiness as my top priority.

I must have a strong, balanced, harmonious environment for my soldiers and airmen so that we can succeed in combat.

If you are providing opportunity; if you are training people and giving them something to do during drill so that they can serve their community and their nation; if you are rewarding them for excellence; holding them accountable for substandard performance; providing them with proper facilities and getting them paid on time; it will be reflected in your retention rates.

Q: Where does equal opportunity fit into that?

James: Equal opportunity is right there in the very beginning. Women, people of color, people of an ethnicity that reflects the community that they serve, should be found, in the same percentages, in organizations in that community.

For example, if you look at the population of San Antonio -- let's say it's about 49 percent hispanic -- then you look at a unit in San Antonio, in the maintenance sections, and you'll see that it reflects that. I want the fighter squadron, which has two -- only two -- hispanic pilots, to reflect the community.

Q: How do you do that?

James: We do that first of all by focusing on the suppliers. We go to Texas A&M and we talk to the alumni association and the corps of cadets and the professors of military and air science; and if you are looking for African-American candidates, you can't leave out Prairie View or Texas Southern.

Q: There's a lot of talk in the media these days about the tough time the Air Force, in particular, is having in keeping pilots. Does that impact the National Guard?

James: Sure it does. But it doesn't necessarily increase the pool of minority candidates if the Air Force hasn't done a good job bringing them in. We have identified the need to find and attract minority pilots to our organization. Female pilots too. We've been successful in two of our units; one of our units is a little slow. They're going through a cultural change.

When someone walks into an orga-

"When sensitive we will r

nization -- whether it's IBM or the National Guard -- his or her impression, good or bad, right or wrong, will be formed in the first 15 minutes.

One of the things a person of color, or a female, does when they walk in, is try to find someone in the organization who looks like them.

Once they identify someone who looks like them, they ask the question: "What position is that person in?" They make an immediate assessment, valid or not, as to what their acceptance and what their vertical mobility will be in that organization.

Q: What impact has your position made? When a young black man comes into the Texas Guard and sees that the top guy is African-American, what difference does that make?

James: I think anytime a person of color goes into an organization and sees that the leadership of the organization has people of color in it, it sends the message that you have the potential to go as far as you want to go.

When the majority becomes more sensitive to EO programs, that's when we really make progress"

It does not mean that blacks are going to get special treatment. We have to offer opportunity to everybody.

Every American should be able to look at a position that he would like to hold someday and say: "If she can be that, that means I can be that."

Q: You often say that you want the National Guard to reflect the communities it serves. What's the difference between being proactive for making that happen and affirmative action?

James: Affirmative action is probably the most misunderstood program out there. People think affirmative action is supposed to give someone who is not qualified to do something an advantage over someone who is. That's not what affirmative action is about. Affirmative action is about leveling the playing field. I don't ever want to put someone who is not qualified in a position solely because he or she is a minority.

But, because of the way we have operated for so many years, the system has biases built in.

For example, as a warrior, I have a bias toward people who have put themselves in harm's way. So if I'm sitting on a board, I'm going to rate the guys

who have been warriors higher than those who haven't.

In the Texas National Guard we have some natural biases that have been the norms for a long time that are no longer valid today.

When I talk about institutional bias, I think everyone looks at the EO positions and says: "We've got a sharp minority officer, let's put her in there." Quite frankly, I think you need a sharp majority officer. Because when the majority becomes more sensitive to EO programs, that's when we will really make progress.

It's like when you go to the Black Heritage Month festivities and you see



Photo courtesy of Texas National Guard

predominantly people of color there. When you see the room full primarily of members of the majority, then you know you are making some progress.

I equate that with adding an alloy to steel. It strengthens it, makes it more functional. So America, Texas, and the National Guard, they are strengthened by not just accepting, but embracing diversity.

Q: It sounds like you would like to put your EO staff out of a job.

James: I would love to. I would like to see my sergeant major and my captain down in the EO office be the equivalent of the Maytag repairman, waiting for the phone to ring.

But that doesn't happen, because the first group of individuals who should be taking care of these issues is the leadership within the units -- the NCOs, the mid-level managers and supervisors and the senior officers.

We will never be really successful until we properly train and hold accountable the people in leadership

positions within the National Guard. As a matter of fact, I am going to request that the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute come in and do an evaluation of the entire Texas National Guard, and then we're going to have regularly scheduled training for our leaders.

I think there are two things that happen: either people don't have the training and the understanding, or they are modeling previous behavior that was bad behavior. If that is the case, then my job is to train them. My job is to provide good role models and good behavior through trained, aware people.

Q: Why did you put the EO officer on your personal staff?

James: Very simply, you can't have a person who is handling a job that is this important -- in a state the size of Texas -- working for the human resources office.

I think that's the way to go. I moved everyone who is in the complaints business onto my personal staff. Therefore, they cannot be intimidated or manipulated by anyone in the chain of command. They get their guidance from me. When they walk into a situation, they know they are speaking directly for the adjutant general.

Q: That puts you on the blame-line, doesn't it?

James: Believe me, from the day I raised my hand to accept this job, I realized that it is a blame-line job. And that's the challenge of it.

The reward of being the boss is having the opportunity to make the impact that you

wanted when you were a junior officer. You have the chance to come up with some innovative ways to make the organization better.

Q: In 1978, did you ever imagine that you would be sitting in this chair, in this office?

James: No, I did not. I originally came to the National Guard because of my love of flying. I left the Air Force at the 10-year point to join the airlines, and I really thought I would fly a few more years, do my 20, retire as a lieutenant colonel, and that would be it.

Q: Because of the role models you had -- your father and others -- did you always know it was possible for you to be the adjutant general?

James: You know, one of the things my father always handed down to us was, when the train of opportunity pulls into the station, you have to have your bags already packed. You can't run back and try to pack your bags and make that train.

You have to have your bags packed with knowledge and proficiency and integrity and drive -- all the things that you need to be successful. When it's time to make the selection, you have to be the logical candidate.

So what you need to do, as a minority individual in this world, whether you're in the business world or the military world, is to be constantly putting things into your suitcase, your bags. So when it's time, you can't say: "Oh, jeez, I need to go back and take that course."

Q: In the speech you gave to the Tuskegee Airmen's Institute, you said that your father often mentioned that you have to be so qualified that anyone would be ashamed to turn you down.

James: In his day that was true. That's the difference between now and then. In his day you had to be so qualified that it would just be a travesty if you were not selected.

In my day, you still may have to be better qualified than your contemporary, but the margin of difference is not as great as it was.

My father said something else I've also always believed. He said: "Don't make a profession out of being a minority. Don't be so busy practicing your right to dissent that you forget your responsibility to contribute."

Q: What are some of the differences between 1968 and 1998 in the military?

James: I think that in 1998 people have higher expectations. In 1968 they didn't see many people of color in leadership positions. It was kind of an unwritten law, that for a person of color, to make full colonel was a very successful career.

Q: What would you say to a person thinking about joining the National Guard?

James: I think the Guard is really a unique opportunity. The one thing that builds self-esteem in a young person more than anything else is service. This is a great place to do it. And that self-esteem, that self-image, is one of those things that goes into that suitcase I was talking about.

What you will get back from being able to live as a citizen and a soldier will be much more than what you give up. It's like having the best of both worlds -- the civilian and the military.

Q: Can you promise someone coming into the Texas National Guard a level playing field?

James: When I am finished as the adjutant general, I want to be able to tell you that the Texas National Guard has a level playing field. We're not there yet, but that's my goal.

It has to be one of my primary goals, because it's taking care of the soldier and airman. When I do that, everything else falls into line.



SPORTS

• Winter Olympics Preview

Guard athletes make Olympic team

■ Biathletes, bobsledders, coaches head for Japan

By Harriet Rice
U.S. Army

When the sun rises on Nagano, Japan, for the XVIII Winter Olympic Games, 13 Army and Air Guard men and women will be among the 200 athletes and coaches representing the United States.

Seven biathletes (one alternate) and four bobsledders (one alternate) -- most members of the Army World Class Athlete Program based at Fort Carson, Colo. -- qualified for the Nagano games during Olympic trials held Dec. 26 - Jan. 4.

Three women and three men qualified at competitions conducted by the United States Biathlon Association in Jericho, Vt.

In the women's biathlon, Spc. Kara Salmela, a clerk with the Vermont Army Guard's HHC, 1st Battalion, 103rd Aviation, came away from four days of cross-country skiing and small-bore rifle shooting with the highest composite score.

"I'm definitely happy," said Salmela, 26, who came in first in one of two 15-kilometer (about 9.3 miles) individual races. "I told myself this wasn't a big deal even though it's the Olympic trials. I told myself I had to have 20 good shots and I hit 17."

Spc. Kristina Sabasteanski, a clerk with the Vermont Army Guard's HHC, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery, came in third overall. The women raced in two 15K individual events and two 7.5K sprints. On the last day, Sabasteanski was in 6th place. She decided to go for broke, winning the sprint in 26:10, while missing no targets.

"I had nothing to lose," she recalled. "Not only did I have to beat four people, but I had to beat them by about one minute." The 29-year-old is no stranger to Olympic trials. In 1994, she finished one place shy of a trip to Lillehammer, Norway.

A1C Deborah Nordyke, a policewoman with the Alaska Air Guard's 142nd Security Police Squadron, overcame a 15th

place finish on the competition's first day to finish fifth overall and earn a spot on the team.

"This is the realization of a lifelong dream," she said.

For Idaho Army Guard Spc. Ntala Skinner, who earned her trip to Nagano based on her performance during the 1997 biathlon season, the chance to represent her country doesn't seem real.

"It really hasn't sunk in," she confessed. "When I see the Olympic rings, it's like, Wow! That's actually me." Skinner is a personnel records specialist with the Idaho Army National Guard in Boise.

In the men's biathlon, Sgt. Daniel Westover -- a transportation specialist assigned to the Vermont Army Guard's Company A, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry -- clocked winning times in the 20K and 10K races. He was 30 seconds faster than teammate and fellow Guards-



man 1st Lt. Rob Rosser. Rosser is an engineering officer with the Oregon Army Guard's Company A, 1249th Engineer Battalion.

"Right now I'm so excited," said Westover, 23. "I'm really looking forward to the (Olympic) races; to see how I stack up."

2nd Lt. Curtis Schreiner, an infantry-



Photos by J. Loud

GOING to NAGANO

BIATHLETES

Spc. Kristina Sabasteanski, Vt.
Spc. Kara Salmela, Minn.
Spc. Ntala Skinner, Idaho
A1C Deborah Nordyke, Alaska
1st Lt. Robert Rosser, Ore.
Sgt. Daniel Westover, Vt.
* 2nd Lt. Curtis Schreiner, N.Y.

BOBSLEDDERS

Spc. Garrett Hines, Ga.
Spc. Daniel Steele, Ore.
Spc. Darrin Steele, Ill.
* Spc. Tuffield LaTour, Vt.

COACHES

Capt. Chuck Lyda, Calif.
1st Lt. Bill Tavares, N.Y.
* Denotes alternate

man with the New York Army Guard's HHD, State Area Command (STARC) in Latham, made the team as an alternate. Capt. Chuck Lyda, an engineer with the California Army Guard's Company C, 132nd Engineer Battalion, will head to Japan as the men biathlon team's assistant coach.

Olympic bobsled trials were held in Park City, Utah. Spc. Darrin Steele, his brother Spc. Dan Steele and Spc. Garrett Hines were selected as crew members on each of three USA four-man teams. Vermont Army Guard Spc. Tuffield LaTour, a carpenter and mason

assigned to Headquarters, STARC, made the team as an alternate.

Hines, 28, a medical specialist in the Georgia Army Guard's 151st Medical Battalion, will serve as the brakeman on the USA I four-man sled. A six-foot, 210-pound track athlete, Hines pushed the

OLYMPIANS - Idaho Spc. Ntala Skinner skied and shot her way to Japan. Spc. Garrett Hines (inset), a track athlete, earned a spot on the U.S. bobsled team.

two-man USA II sled to three World Cup medals during the 1996-97 season.

Dan and Darrin Steele, 28, are twins from Moline, Ill. Dan, a truck driver with the Oregon Army Guard's HHC, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, is a pusher with the USA 3 bobsled team. Darrin, a clerk with the Illinois Army Guard's HHC, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery, will push for USA 2. Darrin placed fifth in the decathlon at the 1995 U.S. Track and Field National Championships and was a member of the U.S. Olympic decathlon team at the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta.

New York's 1st Lt. Bill Tavares, an infantryman assigned to New York's HHC, 142nd Aviation, will serve as a driving coach for the U.S. bobsled team.

"Most of us wouldn't be here without the (World Class Athlete) program," Sabasteanski insisted. "The support we've gotten from everyone has been amazing."

The Army World Class Athlete Program is an activity of Morale, Welfare and Recreation operated by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

Guam's Guard helps restore order after a supertyphoon strikes

Weathering the STORM

By Maj. Raymond C. Diaz and Sgt. Edward I. Siguenza
Guam National Guard

During the heart of Guam's most severe storm that sent coconuts crashing into homes at more than 200 miles-per-hour, Peter Cawili awoke. It was nearly midnight and howling winds and spear-like rains violently pounded every window and door in a house blanketed by darkness and on the brink of ruin.

"I got up and told my family not to worry. Our home has lasted through several typhoons, and it'll get by this one, too," recalled Cawili, a fireman by day and Guam Army Guard specialist by right.

"But I was worried about other people -- my friends, relatives," he continued. "This typhoon was different than others. This one really wanted to destroy us."

And it nearly did. Supertyphoon Paka devastated the tiny U.S. territory and home to the youngest National Guard force on Dec. 16-17, inflicting over \$100 million in damage.

Its widespread fury compelled Guam's Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez to mobilize his National Guard.

"Our assessment shows that virtually every family suffered damages to their homes, belongings or crops due to the supertyphoon," Gutierrez reported.

Cawili and more than 500 Chamorro soldiers and airmen responded to their Governor's call Dec. 18. The order came on the heels of President Clinton's federal disaster area declaration.

Mired in an island-wide black-out, Guardmembers scoured a landscape littered with hundreds of concrete power poles that were snapped like toothpicks and power stations battered out of



Photos by Sgt. Edward I. Siguenza

commission. Thousands of residents flocked to nearby schools designated as typhoon shelters. Most lost their homes completely. The island also struggled without potable water for days.

"Some areas really looked like bombs fell over and over again," Cawili said. "Trees were uprooted, 60-foot containers were tossed around like pizza dough."

"Look around," he instructed. "It's like every fifth house in a block had its roof ripped off and tossed into their next-door neighbor's living room."

Despite Paka's powerful punch, not one of Guam's 150,000 people was killed, although several minor injuries were reported.

Even before the typhoon made its way inland, Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, Guam's adjutant general, had his staff begin emergency preparations. Plans for debris cleanup, water distribution, traffic control, security missions and mass feeding were mapped out.

"He (Gutierrez) knows our capabilities," Paulino said.

Flexing their muscles:

- The Army Guard's 1224th Engineer Detachment sent its grader and dump trucks to help clear Guam's main highway.

- The Air Guard's 254th Civil Engineering Squadron and Services Flight began clearing debris at "Liheng Ta" -- a Chamorro phrase meaning *Our Shelter* -- a temporary refuge for thousands left homeless.

- Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry helped direct traffic, provide medical assistance and clean up as well. They also deployed 400-gallon water trailers to several villages.

- The Army Guard's 909th Quartermaster Detachment set up its Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU) to produce drinkable water.

- Area Command administrative troops assisted the Ameri-



PITCHING IN - PFC Michael Topasna (in truck) and Sgt. Mark Schlosser remove debris from Liheng Ta, a shelter used to house those left homeless.

can Red Cross in filing for disaster assistance such as emergency food stamps.

- The Guard's U.S. Property and Fiscal Office's armory played a key role, serving as the distribution center for Federal Emergency Management Agency supplies such as cots, tents, blankets and water containers.

The Guard's biggest mission, according to Col. Robert Cockey, Guam's assistant adjutant general for the Air Guard, was getting the temporary billets at Liheng Ta operational. The six, three-story, concrete structures were worn down through years of neglect. Then the supertyphoon hit.

"It's a lot of work, but we really have motivated airmen and soldiers who know the importance of their jobs," Cockey said. "We have to clear out all of the debris first, then get in there to drain water out of each room. Then we have to build partitions for rooms that don't have any. It's going to take a while."

Army and Air Guard men and women worked side-by-side to

get Liheng Ta ready. More than 50 soldiers from Company C, 411th Engineer Battalion, undertook construction projects. Two major private businesses also were asked to help.

"With our National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, active duty military and business community working together," the Governor promised, "we'll make this shelter a safe and hospitable place to live."

The Guard also was tasked with feeding those housed at Liheng Ta. Three mobile kitchen trailers were erected to provide meals three times a day.

"They said to prepare for at least 800 people. Instead, we're ready to feed more than a thousand," said Air Guard Maj. Kenneth Uyehara, officer in charge of food and facilities. "We've done this several times before."

The last time Guam's Army and Air Guard handled a similar crisis together was in 1992 when Typhoon Omar left thousands homeless and hungry.

Located in the Pacific Ocean east of the Philippines, Guamanians are no strangers to nature's brutal force. Following Typhoon Omar -- the first of five typhoons from May to November that year -- the island was hit with an earthquake that registered 8.3 on the Richter scale. In November 1996, Typhoon Dale unleashed his fury just off Guam, causing \$3.5 million in damage.

Paka was ranked as the most powerful storm ever to strike land with winds clocked at 236-mph, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

Removing debris, left in Paka's wake, is expected to continue for weeks, noted Tony Quinata, Guam's Department of Public Works director. In the first 10 days following the typhoon, more than six million cubic yards of debris was collected.



CALLED IN - Guam Army Guard soldiers with the 1224th Engineer Detachment (left) clear roadside debris left by Supertyphoon Paka. Spc. Frank Castro (above) entertained motorists using 'advanced' traffic directing techniques.

"It's like we only touched the surface," Quinata lamented. "We're so fortunate to have the Guard help us transfer debris. Without their help, our mission will take much longer."

Other territory officials were similarly impressed. James Marquez, Guam's chief of police, reported that Chamorro Guardmembers were keeping traffic flowing at 22 intersections without a single accident.

"Outstanding" is the best way I can describe them," he added. "Every day I go out there and check them. They did better than some of my own officers."

The public's appreciation of the Guard was elevated as motorists watched with amusement as several soldiers directed traffic using exaggerated hand signals. Those more rhythmically-gifted treated drivers, passengers and pedestrians to an impromptu boulevard boogie.

"In times like this," observed Lt. Col. Dennis Santo Tomas, a battalion commander, "people need a little stress relief."

"Our soldiers maintained their professionalism," he added. "At the same time, they entertained people and let them know there's still a lot of good in the bad that just happened to us."

To be sure, many of the Guard men and women called up to help their neighbors weather Paka's aftermath, also suffered.

"Some lost their homes entirely," said Capt. George Charfauros, a company commander, "but they felt that others were in more need of help."

The Army Guard's Fort Juan Muna sustained structural damages in excess of \$600,000, Paulino said. The Air Guard incurred \$500,000 in damages.

"In a storm of this magnitude, we could have lost so many lives, but we didn't," Paulino said. "Now, so much is dependent on the Guam National Guard. By whatever means, we'll assist."

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

The expertise of fuel handlers and security forces from the Missouri Air Guard's 131st Fighter Wing was needed by a higher authority recently.

Normally tasked to support F-15 fighters at Lambert Field in St. Louis, 131st Guardsmembers were called upon to fuel and provide security for a VC 25-A, better known as Air Force One, during President Bill Clinton's visit to the area.

Three members of the 131st Security Flight assisted the Secret Service and Air Force security specialists traveling with the President.

Fuel handlers from the 131st brought a fuel track from the base to top off the commander-in-chief's aircraft, although its tanks were far from empty. According to an Air Force fact sheet, VC-25As have a range of 9,600 statute miles and are capable of inflight refueling.

Air Force One is actually two separate aircrafts, Air Force tail numbers 28000 and 29000. Both are specially-modified Boeing 747-200B jumbo jets. When the president is aboard either aircraft, or any other Air Force aircraft, its radio call sign is "Air Force One." The aircraft in St. Louis was tail number 28000, first used by the Air Force in September 1990. Its younger twin was put into service in early 1991. Prior to that, modified Boeing 707s served as presidential aircraft.

New Jersey Army Guard SFC William G. Norman, a maintenance instructor at the Regional Training Site Maintenance at the Training and Training Technology Battle Lab, N.J., has been awarded the Ordnance School's highest instructor certification — Master Instructor.

Norman is believed to be the first Army Guardsmember to receive this distinction.

CWO4 Blake Broadway, a member of the Naval Reserve for 30 years, recently transferred into the California Army Guard's 240th Signal Battalion.

Broadway was the most senior, most experienced and most decorated data processing technician warrant officer in the Naval Reserve before being sought to fill a critically-needed position at the Compton-based battalion.

One person's bad fortune is another's good luck. That's how it turned out for Nevada Air Guard CMSgt. Ron Vernon when he accompanied fellow firefighters of the 152nd Civil Engineering Squadron to Tyndall AFB, Fla., for training.

The crew ended up responding to an actual emergency involving an F-15. They were credited with saving a \$30 million airplane from being completely destroyed by fire. It is just one of the reasons why the Nellis AFB-based firehouse earned the prestigious CMSgt Edward W. Wolbert Air National Guard Fire Department of the Year Award.

The firehouse was chosen the best of 84 Air Guard departments nationwide. With each firehouse boasting an average of 24 people, 152nd crews beat out a pool of nearly 1,200 firefighters.



Blake Broadway trades Navy blue for Army green.



The Air Guard's best firefighters call Nevada home.



1st Sgt. Garrett Roll is a man his peers would want as their 'first shirt.'



SSgt. Henry Shenkel had the answer for thirsty Native-American women.

Texas Air Guard's 1st Sgt. Garrett Roll, a member of the 136th Airlift Wing in Dallas, earned the Commandant's Award at the U.S. Air Force's First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell AFB, Ala. He was selected by his peers and the commandant.

The Commandant's Award is presented to the individual classmates would most like to be their first sergeant, and for whom the commandant believes best personifies integrity, ethics, trust and vision.

Roll is the "first shirt" for the 136th Security Forces Squadron.

Amid the roar of the students and cheers from their families in a high school auditorium near Phoenix, more than 100 at-risk teens received a second chance for success in life.

Project ChalleNGe graduates endured a grueling four-and-a-half month quasi-military training program to earn their GED diplomas and 15 college credits. Administered jointly by the Arizona and Nevada National Guard, it was the eighth class to graduate in four years.

"Some were bad kids. Some were kids who just stopped going to school," reported 2nd Lt. Justin Rianda, Nevada's ChalleNGe coordinator. "We try to get kids before they're too far down."

The students came from many economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds, but they shared one important belief. They knew their lives were in trouble and they wanted to change.

Joe Barton of Las Vegas is now planning a career in heating and air conditioning. Armed with three scholarships, Benjamin Deck -- the second best student in the class -- is considering joining the U.S. Navy. Cody Devine is planning to continue in college. Timothy Orr has enlisted in the Marine Corps. And Brandy Shelton and Mason Williams have job offers from Wells Fargo.

The Nevada Army Guard furnished a 400-gallon water tank for a Native (American) Women's Retreat held at an isolated location in Pyramid Lake, Nev.

SSgt. Henry Shenkel, a mechanic for an Organizational Maintenance Shop based in Stead, transported the tank. The remote area chosen for the retreat had no water suitable for consumption.

The retreat, a Sumunumu Substance Abuse Prevention Program activity, came together through support from the community, local businesses, tribal programs and the Nevada National Guard.

Members of the Wisconsin Air Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing flew 38 children with life-threatening illnesses to the "North Pole," where they met Santa and received a gift specially selected for them.

The children boarded a KC-135 -- decorated and staffed by volunteer airmen dressed as Santa's helpers -- for a ride around Mitchell Airport. They were then taken with their families to the 128th's dining hall, decorated to look like the North Pole.



Photo by MSgt. Toby R. Youngs

ICE STORMS

From Front Page

of thousands still needed help.

It was the worst natural disaster many Guardmembers, electrical linemen and ambulance workers say they could remember.

Here's how the Guard responded:

- More than 2,700 New York Army and Air Guardmembers used 330 vehicles to clear roads and transport emergency personnel. They flew a C-130 airplane and helicopters with heat-seeking infrared radar to search 7,000-square-miles for victims stranded in remote areas. One team rescued 16 people from an island on



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

ICE BREAKERS - Atop a mountain, Maine's Spc. David Martin (left) and Sgt. Eric Stanley carry a propane gas tank used to power a relay station. Maine's Spc. Charles Koch (top page) cuts into a log beside a road while electrical company workers try to restore power.

Saranac Lake.

"We've had soldiers tell us these are the worse conditions they've seen in 30 years of disaster relief," Brig. Gen. William Martin, New York's deputy adjutant general, told the *Army Times*.

- Maine's force cleared trees and limbs from power lines; provided 50 generators to nursing homes, public shelters, water districts and police and fire departments; converted an Air Guard hanger in Bangor into an emergency shelter; farmed out

600 cots to other shelters; and filled and positioned 28 water trailers where people needed water.

By Jan. 13, 1,117 Guardmembers worked at 257 different sites in 116 communities. Two hundred were sent into rural Washington County later that week. In one day, 60 of those troops cleared broken poles and other debris so that an eight-mile power line could be restored.

- Vermont's 500-member force amounted to the largest mobilization since 1973 when 786 Guardmembers were called-up for flood relief. Generators became critical for milking cows as well as warming people, it was explained, because cows become sick if they are not milked.

"Luckily," said Alburg farmer Raymond Lewis, "a lot of the farms got generators from the Guard. This really saved a lot of us."

- New Hampshire teams went door-to-door in hard-hit communities such as New London asking if people needed firewood, food and water.

"It's nice to go to somebody's house and have them recognize that you're in the Guard and that you take this responsibility seriously," said Army Guard Sgt. Robert Olson.

The states got help from many military allies. The Massachusetts National Guard trucked 19 generators to Maine, including three 100-kilowatt units and five technicians to operate them.

Also in Maine, Nine Coast Guardmembers arrived from New York with chain saws to help the power crews. And active Army recruiters in Augusta helped staff the National Guard's emergency operations center.

Once again, the Guard's efforts earned a host of new admirers.

"They're the best resource we've had," praised Dena Delucca, New Hampshire's Office of Emergency Management.

"They've helped us tremendously. We wouldn't be getting to these sites without the Guard," added Central Maine Power Company technician Alan Richards after

INSIDE THE STORM

Vermont SSgt. Larry Beaulieu's suggestion may have saved a life

Timely ADVICE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Larry Beaulieu sensed that something was about to go terribly wrong as commercial tree surgeons prepared to cut down a tall hardwood beside an elderly woman's two-story home on Lake Champlain's remote Isle La Motte in northern Vermont.

The fact that the veteran Vermont Army National Guard staff sergeant acted on his premonition of danger and warned the woman to go to the far side of her house may have saved her life a few minutes later.

Long-time resident Decima Homs, 83, escaped from the white, frame house that was quickly consumed by fire when gas from a punctured propane tank exploded on the frigid Tuesday afternoon of Jan. 14.

"I had a bad feeling when they were taking down that tree," explained Beaulieu, a U.S. Immigration worker who lives in nearby Swanton and who was on state active duty helping Vermonters recover from Ice Storm 98.

According to witnesses, the tree, that was being held away

from the house by a boom truck, broke loose and toppled onto the outside gas tank. Gas escaped into the house where it was ignited by a kerosene heater.

Homs got out on her own as heavy smoke and flames poured out of the house. Two civilian electricians helped her to safety, and she was treated at a local clinic for first-degree burns to her face and cuts and bruises. Much of her hair was also singed off, but, overall, she was doing fine, said a relative who is also her neighbor.

Beaulieu had done his bit about 15 minutes earlier, he explained. He had observed the woman watching the crew prepare to cut down the tree through her window. He knocked on her door and warned her to go to the far side of the house.

"When the boom let loose there was nothing they could do about it," added the 23-year Vermont Guard veteran who had been directing traffic for

two days while cutting crews cleared the way for electrical company linemen to restore power to the devastated island.

"The tree fell right across that tank," Beaulieu added.

"There was a loud hissing sound, and then it exploded."

Beaulieu jumped into his vehicle and

drove the half-mile to the island's volunteer fire station to get help. It took fire-fighters an hour to douse the blaze.

He belongs to the 1st Battalion, 172nd Armor, but Beaulieu's skin is not made of steel.

"That poor woman lost her house," lamented the man who a little earlier had given Decima Homs the advice that may have saved her life.



SSgt. Larry Beaulieu

four Maine Guardsmen hauled a dozen bottles of propane gas in a tracked-snow vehicle up to a microwave relay station on Streaked Mountain in western Maine.

That station is critical, Richards explained, because it controls the company's power flow in and out of Maine.

The emergency also tested one of New England's newest Guard leaders -- Air Guard Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville, the country's first woman to be named her state's adjutant general.

It also reinforced her faith in her Vermont Army Guard forces.

"I've been completely impressed with the abilities of the junior officers," Rainville noted. "They took their combat training and applied it in a civilian situa-

tion, and in a non-threatening manner."

The ice storm prompted the second state mobilization during her first year on the job. Sixty combat engineers and security police were called up last July to deal with flooding.

What she learned about the Army Guard from the January storm, Rainville added, "probably would have taken me several years of going to annual training and watching them work."

The following public affairs professionals contributed to this report: Vermont's Spc. Keith Covey, Maine's Capt. Susan Wallace; New Hampshire's Maj. Walter Debany; New York's Maj. Jim Finkle and Lt. Col. Peter Kutschera.



STATES

• District Deployment • Badger-like Cops • Maine Expansion

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Airmen and women with the 113th Fighter Wing recently took their turn at peacekeeping when F-16 jet fighters and air crews deployed to Europe for Operation Northern Watch on Jan. 13.

Northern Watch is the air surveillance mission over the no-fly zone in Iraq, north of 36 degrees latitude.

This is the 113th's second combat rotation to the region in the past two years. The unit performed a similar a month-long rotation over Southern Iraq in 1996 supporting Operation Southern Watch.

WISCONSIN

For the first time in the 10-year history of Foal Eagle -- the largest air base defense exercise ever -- 13 members of the 128th Air Refueling Wing's security squadron prevented "aggressor forces" from capturing a base (Osan AB, Korea) that many military leaders had deemed "undefendable."

The Milwaukee-based law enforcers joined more than 33,000 U.S. servicemembers and thousands of Republic of Korea soldiers for the week-long exercise.

After days of fighting and repeated efforts to overrun the base, the 128th's warrior cops recorded an estimated 30 "kills," while losing only three of their own.

ALABAMA



Photo by Spc. Robert Bishop

ON the JOB

Alabama Army Guard Sgt. Cedric Strong, a member of the 214th Military Police Company headquartered in Alexander City, checks the identification card of a visitor entering Corozal, a U.S. military post in Panama located along the Pacific Ocean entrance to the historic Panama Canal. The 214th spent two weeks in the Central American country spelling active-duty cops who were conducting field exercises.

WYOMING

After becoming the first Air Guard or Air Force unit in history to deploy overseas to fight a fire, aerial firefighters with the 153rd Airlift Wing returned to Cheyenne.

The 47-person team deployed to Indonesia on Nov. 5, armed with three C-130 aircraft -- two equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems -- to battle fires that engulfed the southern half of Indonesia.

The team flew more than 250 sorties and logged more than 300 flying hours, with drops over Jakarta, Mount Ratal, Surabaya and South Samatra.

"There is nothing like flying 150-feet above the ground in a haze of smoke, smog and humidity," said Maj. Iver Osborn, an instructor pilot. "We loved this mission because it cut to the heart of true piloting."

KENTUCKY

Maintenance troops with the 123rd Airlift Wing in Louisville once again set the standard for combat readiness by tackling a 10-day Egyptian training exercise without missing a single mission.

Bluegrass State aircrews flew more than 30 sorties, providing airlift for Bright Star 1997, a mock war that tested the readiness of more than 7,000 U.S., Egyptian and coalition forces.

MAINE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The Maine National Guard has postponed this year's military ball from April until next October when it plans to celebrate the completion of a \$5.5 million construction project around state headquarters in Augusta.

"This will give us room to breath as well as to grow," said Maj. Gen. Earl Adams, Maine's Adjutant General, about the project's 78,357-square-feet of new and renovated space in Maine's capital city.

The nearly two acres of additional space, including a three-story building being built beside state headquarters at Camp Keyes, will enable Adams to move all of his directorates to one location.

"Every part of our department will be located at Camp Keyes," Adams explained.

Workers for a Brunswick, Maine, contractor are steadily erecting the steel and concrete-block structure despite Maine's snow, ice and cold that years ago would have grounded outside construction.

The project includes expanding the west side of the city's two-story armory that was built in 1954 and renovating 33,222 square feet of the interior into additional offices and classrooms.

The state's military ball is traditionally held in the armory, but piles of two-by-fours and other construction supplies and equipment could make it difficult for dancing come April.

"The total project will provide additional classrooms, administrative offices, locker rooms, maintenance bays and parking spaces," pointed out Col. Roland LaPointe, the engineering officer.

It also will make the 44-year-old armory completely accessible to handicapped people, make it



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

SHELL OF ITSELF - The steel skeleton of a three-story structure being built in Maine looms large against a December sunset.

more energy efficient with upgraded heating and ventilating systems, and bring it up to current building codes going into the next century.



HISTORY

• African-American Patriots Commemorated

The sacrifice and service of Black patriots like Prince Estabrook and Peter Salem did not go unnoticed

Centuries of SERVICE

During the last several years the important contributions of African-American soldiers in the Civil and Indian Wars have been recognized in films, television and in the media.

The 1989 film *Glory*, which depicted the story of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, made Americans aware of the important role that African-Americans played in the Civil War. A U.S. postal stamp, a number of books, posters, TV movies as well as an impressive monument

at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., has popularized the Buffalo Soldiers, the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiments.

These units fought and served in some of the most difficult campaigns of the Indian Wars and often faced discrimination. Less well known than the black Civil War regiments and the Buffalo Soldiers is the role that black Americans played in the colonial period and during the American Revolution.

During the colonial period, since most Blacks were slaves, whites did not trust them with weapons; fearing a slave revolt. Nevertheless, during times of danger, slaves and the very few free blacks were allowed to join the militia.

In 1643, Abraham Pearse, a black settler, enrolled in the Plymouth Company of the Plymouth Colony militia.

Pearse was probably the first African-American soldier in our nation's history.

In 1652, the Massachusetts Bay Colony allowed blacks to enroll in the militia, but excluded them four years later as the threat of Indian attack lessened. This set the pattern for the rest of the colonial era. When a crisis threatened,

either from Indians or hostile European powers, the colonial militia relied on obtaining additional manpower by enrolling slaves and free blacks. Even the southern colonies enlisted African-Americans for various campaigns.

In 1715 South Carolina was threatened by the Yamasee Indians. The colony was forced to organize militia units made up of slaves. The black militiamen fought well. As a result, some grateful officials granted many slaves their freedom.

In the Northern colonies, despite official prohibition against their service, African-Americans began serving in militia units. In New England communities, freemen and even slaves enrolled in local militia companies. During the French and Indian War (1754-1763), blacks served both as soldiers and labor troops in the provincial forces at-



GUARD HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Len Kondratyuk
National Guard Historian

tached to the British Army.

In March 1770, Crispus Attucks, a former slave, was one of five Americans killed by British soldiers in the "Boston Massacre," one of the episodes that led to the American Revolution.

Attucks' death was not in vain. Many New Englanders deemed his sacrifice as one for the cause of freedom. It may have allowed local officials to begin accepting blacks into militia units in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

With their service in colonial wars, and with a certain amount of tolerance in the Northern colonies, African-Americans took on an increasing role in the looming confrontation with Great Britain.

In the early morning of April 19, 1775, the Lexington Company, Middlesex Brigade from the Massachusetts Militia began forming on the village green. Standing among his white comrades was Prince Estabrook. When fighting broke out between the militiamen and British troops, Estabrook was one of the casualties, making him the first African-American to shed blood in his nation's defense.

As the British force marched to Concord, hundreds of militiamen and minutemen (quick reaction younger militiamen who were better trained) responded to the alarm. As fighting broke out at the Concord bridge, several black minutemen took part in the battle. Peter Saleth fought that day and remained on active duty to fight at Bunker Hill, Monmouth and Saratoga.

The New England militia forces became the basis of the Continental Army organized in June 1775. African-Americans, according to distinguished historian Benjamin Quarles, were in a number of those units.

"In every state a scattering of Negroes could be found in militia units engaged in such local defense duties as guarding the coast, protecting military stores, or manning forts when a raid threatened," he reported. "Black militiamen and soldiers served alongside their white comrades in integrated units."

Even though state and Federal regulations excluded black participation, both militia and Continental recruiting officers ignored the rules and allowed blacks to enlist. Some 5,000 African-Americans served in the Revolutionary War.

After the war their contribution was ignored as discrimination returned. African-Americans were excluded from the militia until 1862.

As the nation observes Black History Month in February, the National Guard will celebrate the role of African-Americans in winning this nation's independence by making available a new poster (left) depicting a black minuteman. A new exhibit in the Pentagon also will document the proud history of African-American Guardmembers from 1643 to the present. In the near future, a monument dedicated to the memory of African-American patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War will be erected in Washington, D.C.

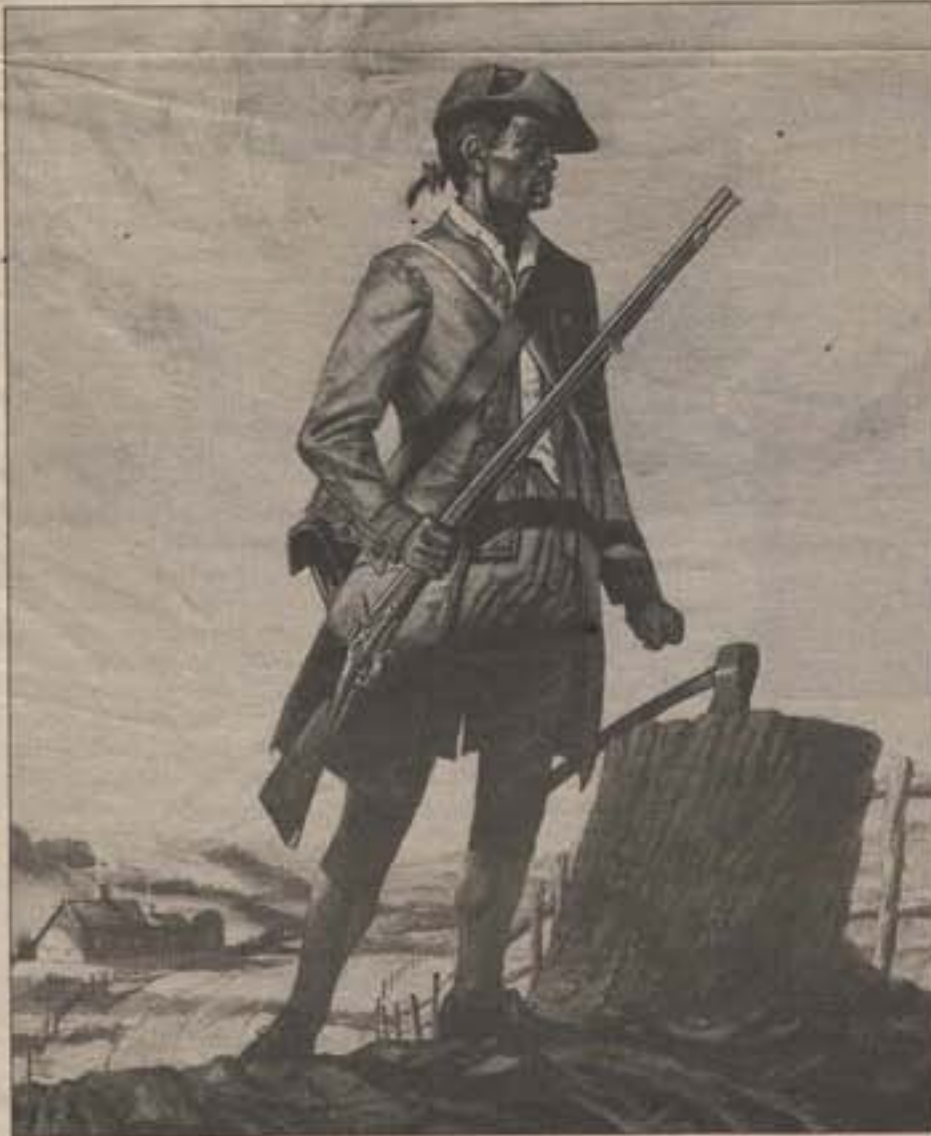


Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

CENTURIES OF SERVICE - A National Guard poster (left), "Four Centuries of Service: The National Guard Celebrates Its African-American Heritage," is available through state public affairs officers.



TRAINING



Photos by SrA. Dale Atkins

Michigan's new 'aircraft' gives firefighters advantage

BURNING for better TRAINING

By Lt. Col. David W. Lubbers
Michigan National Guard

Al Ratz is excited over a new aircraft his state recently purchased that will never leave the ground. SMSgt. Ratz is the fire chief of a Michigan Air Guard unit based at Alpena County Regional Airport. It is also the home of the Combat Readiness Training Center's (CRTC) state-of-the-art mock aircraft that is designed to give military firefighters

from around the country the most realistic aircraft fire training available.

"Now we can offer our firefighters better training than ever," he said. "I expect a number of military units will be coming to Alpena."

Lt. Col. Gary Shutt, CRTC engineer, said the aircraft will give users a chance to practice many firefighting skills.

"This device represents a quantum leap above anything I have ever seen or even heard of," he insisted. "This mock aircraft also is more environmentally-sound, and our firefighters can now practice extracting occupants."

The system -- designed by a Canadian company called Pro-safe Fire Systems of Markham -- was built so that training could be conducted on 10 different areas inside and outside of an aircraft such as the cockpit, passenger compartment, cargo area, fuselage, engine and brakes.

The aircraft also has a number of unique features, including a high wing on one



MICHIGAN'S MOCKUP - The Michigan Air Guard-run Combat Readiness Training Center's newest aircraft allows firefighters (top photo) to attack a blaze from several areas, and to practice extractions (above).

side and a low wing on the other. This, explained Pro-Safe President Gary Joice, allows firefighters to simulate different types of aircraft.

There is another reason the wings are at different levels.

"In the event that the aircraft became airborne on its own," he joked, "it would bank sharply to the right, and ultimately

return to the same location."

To create a more realistic environment, the aircraft can generate smoke. The interior of the aircraft can also be changed so that firefighters can acquaint themselves with the seating arrangements of several aircraft.

"I really like the fact that these propane fires can be shut down in considerably less than 10 seconds," Chief Ritz added. "This safety feature is extremely important in case of an emergency."

"Another unique feature is the high-heat, low-light video camera inside the aircraft," he continued. "We can monitor the efforts of the firefighters while they're inside the aircraft, and later

show them what they did right and wrong."

Col. Terry McKenna, CRTC commander, said the new aircraft provides the "total package" of firefighting training.

"When firefighters leave our base, I want them to be confident that they are ready for any emergency," McKenna said.

"The life they save may be yours or mine."