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THE ON GUARD

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March 1998

Gulf build-up aided by Guard

Show of Force: Several Air Guard units provide muscle for Desert Thunder

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The image of an Air National Guard KC-135 refueling aircraft climbing above the treetops of central Alaska as the sun was setting on a mid-February day was yet another sign that clouds of conflict had gathered over Iraq.

Air Guard refueling aircraft from five states, with Air Force Reserve KC-135s from Indiana and Oklahoma, formed a reserve component task force at Eielson AFB in Fairbanks that pumped more than 654,000 pounds of fuel into B-52 bombers flying from Louisiana to the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

"The most significant fact about this tanker task force was that it consisted of all Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve aircraft. That indicates the trust senior Air Force leaders have in our ability to do the job," said 1st Lt. Carl Alvarez, spokesperson for the Alaska Air Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing.

"We were given the task as the lead unit to complete our portion of the air refueling, and we completed it to perfection," Alvarez explained.

Air Guard staffs also directed tanker task forces based in Bangor, Maine, Ports-

mouth, N.H., and near Spokane, Wash.

By the end of February's third week, Air Guard units from across America had taken up global positions to support Operation Desert Thunder bombing missions into Iraq should President William Clinton decide that push had come to shove in the search for Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

Guardmembers were relieved, however, about the diplomatic developments that curtailed the need for military force. Clinton endorsed the agreement with Iraq fostered by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan that gives international inspectors access to places Iraq had declared off limits.

At the same time, American forces steeled themselves for a possible confrontation, as the commander in chief gave Defense Secretary William Cohen the permission to call up about 500 selected members of the National Guard and Reserves. Their mission: to assist with deployments in Southwest Asia.

"The Guard stands ready to support any operations, but we're relieved that diplomacy has apparently worked and action at this time is not required," said Col. Robert Mabius, the Air National Guard's director of operations.

More than 1,000 Air Guardmembers



"They believe
in us.
They believe
in our
capability"

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr.



Photo by MSgt. Jerry Bratton

'ABLE'
AMBASSADOR

When Colorado Army Guard Sgt. Jon Youngblood, a member of the 220th Military Police Company, wasn't supporting the Task Force Able Sentry peacekeeping force in Macedonia, he took time to visit orphans in Skopje.

See THUNDER, Page 3



COMMENTARY

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ABOUT the PAPER

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Death, taxes and the PT test

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

You know the feeling. You came back to work after the holidays, ready to dig into the challenges of the New Year, and the waist band of your trousers or your skirt fit a little more snugly.

Then you took another look at your calendar. Uh-oh. April is only a month away.

Income tax time. And, for most people who work full-time for the Army National Guard, the dreaded Army Physical Fitness Test -- and the weigh-in that goes with it.

For cryin' out loud, hadn't you been comfortably below your maximum weight limit in October? Hadn't you run the two miles in something like 15 minutes?

You know what happened. You couldn't resist that extra helping of stuffing and gravy and pumpkin pie with the high-test whipped cream at Thanksgiving. Then there was the fudge and the eggnog and the ham and lasagna at Christmas. And, oh by the way, you stopped running your three or four miles a few times a week; and you cut back on the pushups and the sit-ups to maybe once a week; and you spent too much of your free time shopping. What the heck, it was Christmas.

Been there? Done that? Me, too.

Well, it's time to get serious again about weight control and physical fitness. It's time to get back to apples and salads.

It's time to get back in shape.

Here are three good reasons.

• Those pounds we piled on during the holidays will not go away on their own, especially for those of us who are into the prime of our lives known as the 40s.

• The Army Physical Fitness Test standards have just gotten considerably tougher for most of us.

• And the boss -- Lt. Gen. Edward Baca -- who has always been bullish on physical fitness, put a lot of us to shame when he took the test Dec. 8.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, while many of us were happily mired in holiday excess, peaked out at 320 points -- 20 points above the maximum score. He was tested by SFC Terry McKinzie, the Bureau's cut-no-slack master fitness trainer. As legend goes, attempting to slip a shabby pushup past McKinzie -- whose body fat appears to be four percent -- is like trying to sneak the sun past a rooster.

Before her trained eye, Baca pumped 57 pushups (one bonus point), knocked out 68 sit-ups (two bonus points) and blistered the two-mile run in 14:14 for 17 additional bonus points.

McKinzie did not care that the Chief was 59-years-old, coming off a knee injury, or that he outranks her by several pay grades. Baca, furthermore, expected McKinzie to be tough because few things upset him more than having members of the Guard accused of being out of shape.

"I believe that physical fitness is an extremely important part of being a soldier," Baca explained. "National Guard

soldiers have come a long way from the Guard that I grew up in with regard to physical fitness.

"As a general officer, by excelling, by running marathons," he added. "I've been trying to do my best to erase that image."

Baca pushed himself for a month while preparing for his December test. He ran four, five or six miles a day. He pyramided his pushups and sit-ups, doing repetitions of 30, then 20, then 10. He lifted weights, did leg extensions and used exercise machines.

In short, he sweated a lot.

He did all of it while maintaining a pace at the Pentagon that most people merely read about in Tom Clancy novels.

The Chief also did it so that those of us who had trouble pushing ourselves away from the table from Thanksgiving until New Year's Day have even more incentive to excel on their fitness test.

Enough writing. Some of us have to face Terry McKinzie next month.

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

Comments or ideas: lfarquhar@postguard.af.mil

To no one's surprise, Sgt. Ross was recognized for having the cleanest stretch of highway in the state



IN THE NEWS

• Leadership Conference • Meriting Medals • Soldier Survey

Army Guard leaders plot course

■ Power Meeting: Weapons of mass destruction mission tops priority list for National Guard

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Two hours. One hundred-twenty minutes. That's the new standard, and the challenge, for responding to the modern threat to the homeland that was presented to the leaders of America's minutemen in Arlington, Va., during the final days of January.

Reacting to the impact of a chemical, biological or nuclear weapon of mass destruction on two hours notice anywhere in the country was the sobering mission considered by 500 Army National Guard leaders, including 116 generals, during the 1998 Senior Leadership Conference.

It was held across the Potomac River from one of the potential targets -- the nation's capital -- that could appeal to terrorists in the mold of Oklahoma City murderer Timothy McVeigh or convicted unabomber Theodore Kaczynski.

"Based on surveys with first responders, the task for first military responders is to be on the scene in less than

two hours," said Iowa Army Guard Brig. Gen. Roger Schultz, who is the Deputy Director of Military Support.

National Guardmembers are beginning to train many of those first responders, including local firefighters and emergency medical personnel. They also are gearing up to get to the scene as fast as possible to assess the cause of the problem and the risk to others, Schultz told the attentive crowd.

Congress has given the National Guard Bureau \$10 million this year to develop fully-coordinated response plans with the Department of Defense and other federal agencies.

Another \$49.2 million has been earmarked for 1999 to, among other things, include reserve component units in the response plans and begin forming prototype rapid detection teams in 10 states.

"We have to start training and equipping the Guard's first responders, such as our chemical units, just as well as other first responders are being prepared," cautioned Schultz, who has been on temporary duty at the Pentagon from his job as Iowa's deputy adjutant general since September.

At 52, Schultz is a Vietnam veteran with the Silver Star who

is in a unique position to speak for the Department of Defense. He is the first National Guard general to serve as Deputy Director of Military Support (DOMS), a job that has been designated for the Guard, Deputy Secretary



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

PLOTTING THE COURSE - Maj. Gen. William Navas, Army Guard director, addresses senior leaders.

■ See CONFERENCE, Page 13

THUNDER

From Page 1

were already primed to do their bit in what initially promised to be extensive air attacks by the Air Force and Navy after the Winter Olympics had concluded, and when February's new moon would mean dark nights over the desert.

"Our folks are still operating at a pretty high tempo to sustain the forces that are already in place," Mabius added.

Army National Guard units were not called up, it was explained, because a ground attack was not part of the plan, as it had been during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, when the objective was to drive the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait.

"We are taking a much more methodical look at getting the system ready to do things," explained Col. John Slonina, the Army Guard's

Readiness Division chief. "Other than identifying some specialized technical units, we are more focused on priming the pump."

Meanwhile, two teams from the New York Air Guard's 139th Aero-medical Squadron and another team from West Virginia were sent to the Persian Gulf in case casualties had to be evacuated from the front lines.

It was more of the same for some of the 139th's nurses and other medical personnel who were deployed to Southwest Asia in December 1990.

While Air Guard tankers from Mississippi, Nebraska, Wisconsin and California joined the task force in Alaska, other Guardmembers reported to duty stations in such diverse places as Diego Garcia, Saudi Arabia and Okinawa.

They hoped for the best after Cohen's observation on Feb. 6 that diplomacy is still the best way to handle the Iraqi situation. However, they prepared for the worse because Cohen promised the air campaign

would be "significant" if the crisis was not resolved.

Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., the director of the Air National Guard, offered a fresh perspective about their capabilities. He commanded New York's 105th Airlift Wing that ferried people and equipment on massive C-5 transports to the Persian Gulf in 1990-91.

"Desert Shield and Desert Storm was America's reaffirmation of using our military force when needed to protect our nation's critical interests," Weaver observed. "This was a direct result of the participation and involvement of our National Guard and Reserve forces. We brought the citizens of our great country to the war-fighting front."

"They believe in us," he added. "They believe in our capability."

So does the Air Force.

"Nowadays," assured Air Force Col. David Reinholz at Rhein-Main AB in Germany, "we rely on a total force team effort to get the job done."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Humanitarian Medal awarded

The Secretary of the Army announced approval of the Humanitarian Service Medal for Guard men and women who participated in the disaster relief operation North Central United States Floods 1997 in the following locations:

- North Dakota -- April 7 to June 3.
- South Dakota -- April 7 to May 6.
- Minnesota -- April 9-29.

Trowell-Harris honored at African-American celebration

Brig. Gen. Irene Trowell-Harris, the Air National Guard's first black female general, was honored Feb. 5 during a Department of Defense African-American History Month celebration.

Trowell-Harris, the co-chair for the Air Guard's Human Resources Quality Board, was on hand for the Pentagon ceremony in Washington, D.C., when an exhibit featuring her picture was unveiled. The display was called "African-Americans in Defense of our Nation."

Army surveys troops in March

For those soldiers who feel left out of the decision-making process, your chance to be heard will be granted in March.

This month is when the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, located near Fort Bliss, Texas, will distribute an Army-wide survey to approximately 20,000 National Guard, Reserve and active-component soldiers; from privates to sergeants major.

The survey, explained academy officials, will help training managers in the field determine which common tasks soldiers use during their careers; when these tasks need to be taught, and if any tasks should be changed, eliminated or added.

For the first time, the survey will be sent out via a computer disk. This will allow soldiers to complete the survey on a computer at their unit or at home. It also will make it easier for the staff at the Army Research Institute and the Institute of Job and Occupational Analysis to tally the results.

Selected unit sergeants major and first sergeants will distribute and collect the surveys.

For more information on the survey, call Robert Oberlender at the academy at DSN 978-8129 or (915) 568-8129, or e-mail him at: oberlenderb@bliss-usasma.army.mil

IN THE NEWS

Baltic comrades discuss future

By Angela Smith
National Guard Bureau

Residents from three Baltic States recently met with Deputy Secretary of Defense John Hamre, and Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief, to discuss their relationship.

Their visit to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., preceded a Baltic Charter signing ceremony at the White House, where their close ties to three Guard states through the National Guard State Partnership Program, and the international benefits derived from those relationships, was recognized.

Partnered states include: Michigan and Latvia, Pennsylvania and Lithuania, and Maryland with Estonia.

Hamre opened the session by addressing the DoD's appreciation for having a role in supporting democracy, calling it, "a journey all men have to make for their countries."

No one was more aware of this than Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, recalling that, "Latvians and U.S. soldiers served shoulder-to-shoulder in Bosnia."

Encouraging civil-military cooperation, and highlighting the benefits of military support to civilian authorities, is a significant objective of the Guard's partnership program. Partnered countries learn firsthand about the cost-effective use of citizen-soldiers.

Restructuring defense budgets is also a criterion for NATO membership.

"We have made significant changes to our defense budgets," noted Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. "We now allocate 1 1/2 percent of our Gross National Product to this purpose."

Estonian President Lennart Meri said he and his countrymen, like Americans, share the dream of independence, democracy and human rights.

"Before long, your countrymen and ours will tell you that we are very proud of our accomplishments," he said.

By Maj. Sara Hall
Indiana National Guard

The abandoned two-story brick and frame structure that used to stand across from the Catholic church on Monroe Street was once synonymous with a nightmarish trend: Drug use.

In the city of Gary, Ind., there are many houses like the one that once stood at 1128 Monroe — respectable neighborhoods dotted with deserted buildings where drug trafficking abounds.

Today, because of the efforts of Indiana Army Guard engineers, all that remains is a bare lot and a safer place to live.

Armed with heavy equipment, the political muscle of Congressman Pete Visclosky, \$2.3 million from the Department of Defense's counterdrug budget and the blessing of a desperate community, Hoosier Army Guard volunteers helped launch Operation Crackdown, a state-wide effort to demolish crack houses.

The Lake County area — a thoroughfare for the flow of illegal substances between Chicago and Detroit — has seen an alarming increase in drug trade and subsequent criminal activity. Federal officials deem it a "high intensity drug trafficking area."

At the Monroe Street home, intelligence data had reported: "The threat of drug and gang activity is high. Approximately five drug dealers are known to use the address as a distribution point. These subjects are known to be armed."

The Indiana Guard also has firepower, said Brig. Gen. George Buskirk, the state's Army Guard assistant adjutant general. His citizen-soldiers have regularly assisted local law enforcers on drug interdiction teams. They also have helped educate Indiana's youth about the dangers of drugs.



Photo by SFC Dave McCrory

CRACKING DOWN - Indiana Army Guard engineers demolish a home once used by drug dealers.

"We're a community-based organization and proud to take on a mission that represents our dedication to our collective hometowns," Buskirk said.

That commitment was evident to the residents who gathered behind construction tape on a bitterly cold January day, to watch Capt. Pamela Gow — officer-in-charge of the demolition team — and a team of Army Guard engineers level the Monroe Street drug den.

Indiana's 113th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Gary, served as the operation center for the project. Many of the Guard volunteers involved in Crackdown also were from the battalion. Other Hoosier troops hailed from the 376th Engineer Company in Hammond and the 1313th Engineer Company based at Camp Atterbury.

Although Gow reported her engineers were "excited" about performing an important community service, initially, some were apprehensive about how they would be received by the community.

That concern was dispelled after a few weeks on the job, reported Lt. Col. John Banka, project officer. Many residents, he said, expressed their appreciation.

One in particular. "You deserve safe neighborhoods in which to live and raise your children," proclaimed Congressman Visclosky to those gathered. "To those who deal drugs and to those who belong to gangs, I say to you, 'Get out!'"

Sgt. Michael Jones, a member of the 113th's Company B, was happy he stayed.

"I volunteered for the task force because these are my neighborhoods," he said. "I had to be a part of this. It's painful to see what these drugs can do to a community."

Banka estimates that the task force will be going strong through fiscal year '99, as there is no shortage of crack houses to tear down. The goal of Operation Crackdown is to remove up to 150, one or two-story wooden frame structures.

Melvin Caraway, Indiana State Police superintendent, said the drug battle can be won if people help law enforcers.

"Today we tear down a building," he began, "in hopes that we're raising up a community who understands that by working together we can solve the deadliest of our problems."

'ONE ARMY, ONE MISSION'

Sergeant Major of the Army Robert Hall visited the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington Va., Feb. 5 and addressed nearly 200 Army Guard NCOs about pay, promotions, the new nine-week basic training and relations between the active Army and Guard. "For the soldiers in Bosnia, there were no weekend warriors, or that 'we versus they' concept," Hall said. "We're one Army doing one mission."



Photos by MSgt. John Malthaner



PEOPLE

• Patrolling Panama • Family First Aid

Ohio's SSgt. Diana Cloud existed on three hours of sleep and was glad for it

Sleepless in Panama

By Sgt. Pat Johnston
U.S. Army Reserve

A mountain-biking police officer from Cincinnati slept only two to three hours a day for two weeks. And she insists she was glad to do it.

SSgt. Diana Lynn Cloud, a member of the Ohio Army Guard's 324th Military Police Company headquartered in Middletown, deployed with 10 other Buckeye MPs to Fort Clayton, Panama -- located across from the Miraflores Locks, the Pacific entrance to the historic Panama Canal -- to support active duty police based there.

"Many times we only practice the field aspects of our military police duties," Cloud said. "You never get the real world experience; like being out of the country and coordinating what you do according to the policies of the canal treaty."

After her regular shift, Cloud arranged to go on "Charlie Patrol," riding with an active duty MP and a Panamanian National Police officer as part of a long-running, cooperative law enforcement training program between the U.S. military and Panamanian government. The patrols comb downtown Panama City, in areas that are both on and off limits to U.S. military.

These "eyes on the street" help monitor potential law enforcement problems and make soldiers visiting the downtown area feel more secure.



Photo by Sgt. Pat Johnston

TOP COP - Ohio's SSgt. Diana Cloud stands at parade rest as her 324th MP Company is congratulated for their efforts in Panama.

Despite having to cope with the drastic climate differences between Cincinnati and Panama City in January, Cloud quickly adapted.

"I love to get outside. I hate being cooped up," said the four-year veteran of the Cincinnati Police Department's mountain bike patrol.

Ohio MPs spent their last week of duty working special operations. The squads stopped drivers, randomly checking for proper insurance, licenses and post authorization.

One evening, the Buckeye's finest used a canine team to find weapons and drugs. That search uncovered machetes, clubs and a couple of guns.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Don Carter, Clayton's provost marshal, said the contraband checkpoint operated by 324th MPs was one of the most successful he had witnessed.

Cloud, too, has done some witnessing, especially regarding her dual military and civilian law enforcement backgrounds.

"There's a lot of similarities," she said. "except Panama is on a small scale. There's not as much traffic on post compared to the civilian sector."

"Plus, there's a lot more discipline on a military post than what there is in the civilian world," Cloud added. "You don't find nearly as many problems."

A major difference between MPs and civilian police, she noted, is that civilian police officers carry their weapons locked and loaded. Military police do not.

"I think that the MP officers are of equal quality and discipline as civilian officers," Cloud insisted. "It's just that they work in a different environment, and some cases, have a different set of rules."

This was not Cloud's first trip to the Central American country. As a former member of the Wisconsin National Guard, she did not get out much on her first trip. This time around, however, she was determined to experience as much of the Panamanian culture as possible. She went to the post swimming pool almost every day after her night shift. She also went on two culture tours.

"I got off duty and went right to the recreation center," she said.

So if you spot a petite blond with sky-blue eyes and a tan, biking the streets of Cincinnati, ask her about Panama. She knows a lot more than most, and all it took was losing a lot of sleep.

Heroic in HONDURAS

By SSgt. Norman Arnold
Alabama National Guard

Jack and Steve Witherington, a father-son duo from the Alabama Army Guard, became angels of mercy recently when they saved the lives of two people in Honduras.

Trained as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in their hometown volunteer fire department in Grady, Ala., the two take their medical bags with them everywhere they go -- even to Central America.

Jack, a sergeant, and his son, Steve, a specialist, brought their medical bags with them on a recent two-week annual training deployment to provide lo-

gistical support for Nuevos Horizontes (New Horizons) '98. The exercise, which will run through June, includes road building and construction projects in the Intibuca Province of Honduras.

The Witheringtons are members of the 31st Area Support Group in Montgomery. They were part of nearly 1,000 members from units of the Alabama Army Guard's 167th Logistical Command tapped to keep Nuevos Horizontes running smoothly.

It was while transporting supplies from the port of San Lorenzo to Soto Cano AB, that the Witheringtons came upon a head-on collision near Tegucigalpa, the capitol of Honduras. Two men, from one of the vehicles, had gone through their windshield.



Photo by SFC Richard Baker

ANGELS OF MERCY - Alabama's Sgt. Jack Witherington (right), along with his son, Steve, are credited with saving the lives of two Hondurans recently.

"Steve was driving the truck just ahead of me, and we were going up a hill when we came upon the accident," the elder Witherington recalled. "When I got to the scene, Steve was already doing a survey of the injured."

"One of them had a bad head wound and was really losing a

lot of blood," Jack continued. "He would have bled to death without immediate help."

The man also suffered several broken bones and showed signs of internal injuries. The other passenger suffered multiple broken bones and head injuries.

MSgt. Oscar Lamb witnessed the Witheringtons at work.

"I didn't even know Jack had brought his medical bag with him, until he ran back to the truck and got it out of his duffel bag," Lamb said.

While the Witheringtons are well versed in emergency medical care, there was something they forgot to stuff in their duffel -- a Spanish dictionary.

"The biggest problem for Dad and me was the language barrier, because neither of us spoke Spanish," Steve explained.

Luckily, several Spanish-speaking U.S. Army officers assigned to the American Embassy in Tegucigalpa were traveling in the convoy. They served as interpreters.

"This slowed us down some, because we had to ask through the interpreters where the patients were hurting most," Steve said. "But we would have been much worse off without them."

After two hours on the scene, the injured men were taken to a hospital by a civilian vehicle.

U.S. Embassy officials in Honduras said later that both men had survived the injuries, thanks to the Witheringtons.

Both father and son say they are uncomfortable with being labeled heroes. They insist that they were just doing what they're trained to do.

As for their medical bags, the two adhere to the catchy slogan of a well-known credit card: They never leave home without them.

Defense Department civilian leaders spend week getting an appreciation for Guard

Pitching the PRODUCT

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

If this were a movie:
• H.G. Wells would have fired up his time machine.

• Steven Spielberg would be the director.

• It could be called *Men (and Women) in Black*.

Such was the adventurous look through time that the National Guard provided 58 mid-level civilian managers from the Department of Defense during a 6,500-mile odyssey that consumed the second week in February.

Maj. James Conway commanded the time machine, a Mississippi Air National Guard jet cargo plane. Veronica Cruz directed the trip that was part of this year's Executive Leadership Development Program. Cruz manages the executive program.

It was Guard Week 98 for these supervisors from across the country who are taking part in the 12th annual program because they are considered the future civilian leaders of the Defense establishment.

Army and Air Guard leaders and other representatives in Washington, D.C., Massachusetts, Arizona, Florida and Puerto Rico put their best feet forward during the sixth year that Guard Week has been part of the package. They provided plenty of insight into the past and present of America's oldest military force.

• How the Minutemen stood up to British regulars at storied Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts in April 1775;

• How Army and Air Guard aviators in Arizona train military pilots from around the world to fly attack helicopters and F-16 fighters;

• How other Air Guard fighter pilots and ground control personnel directed by the 1st Air Force in Florida are responsible for keeping America's skies free from foreign intruders;

• How citizen-soldiers and airmen help federal and local law enforcers wage the fight against drugs in Puerto Rico.

Those were among the lessons offered to the 35 men and 23 women who were distinctive in their black clothes intended

to give this group of professionals a sense of uniformity.

The lessons erased many of their perceptions that the nearly half-million members of the National Guard are merely weekend warriors. Many were surprised to learn the Guard now serves as a full-time force.

"The participants gained an appreciation for what the Guard is all about. Prior to this training experience, most of them did not know the significant role the Guard plays in the total force," said Cruz who was most impressed with the Army Guard's attack helicopter training facility -- the Western Army Aviation Training Site -- outside Tucson, Ariz.

"I used to think the Guard was a supplemental group of people who could be prepared to support our defense efforts faster than the average citizen," confessed Deborah Davis, director of the Family Support Center at Luke AFB, Ariz.

"Now I understand that the Guard has a day-to-day mission that's critical to our national security," she added. "The Guard people are not 'weekend warriors.' They are a primary component of our national defense force."

It is a fact Maj. Gen. William Navas Jr., Army National Guard director, was eager to elaborate upon when he addressed the group at the Army Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

GUARD LESSON - Army Guard Director, Maj. Gen. William Navas (above), shares with civilian managers (inset) the role of today's National Guard. SSgt. Hal Chandler, (left) a member of Arizona's 162nd Fighter Wing, acquaints Wendy Burkett with a F-16 cockpit.



"We used to be a force in reserve. Now we're a force in being, totally integrated with our active Army counterparts."

"Ten years ago we stayed at home and flew around the flag pole," added Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., the Air Guard's director. "Now we are deployed everywhere that the Air Force is deployed."

That three Air Guard fighter units were on duty in Southwest Asia, as the United States girded for action against Iraq, illustrated his point. "They are trained and ready to do whatever may be required," Weaver vowed.

Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief, regaled the leaders with a story about Guardsmen from his native New Mexico helping to hold off the Japanese Army in the Philippines for four agonizing months in 1942.

"Don't tell me that members of the National Guard cannot fight and die for

their country," he implored. "That is our duty. That is our right."

The Guard's message found attentive ears. The members of the class, including five National Guard people, are already accomplished Defense professionals with law degrees and a wide range of other academic backgrounds, including logistics, meteorology, aeronautical science and human resources.

Their nine months of training, that will end in June, is intended to increase their knowledge of the nation's warfighters and the demands placed on the commanders in chief of the unified commands.

"We want to sensitize every civilian to the fact they support the warfighter and increase the readiness of our military people," explained Joseph Snow, a retired Army armor officer who is the master trainer for the leadership program.

The students will spend individual weeks learning about the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and Marines following their week with the National Guard. They will wear chemical suits in a gas chamber, tour submarines and fire automatic weapons as part of their curriculum.



STARTING AT THE BEGINNING - With Lexington Mass., as a backdrop, Joseph Snow, leadership program master trainer, tours the site where Minutemen took on the British.

"Very few of the civilian workers have military backgrounds, so the best thing is to put them out with the warfighters," Snow added.

They appreciated what the National Guard people had to offer.

"I was impressed with their enthusiasm and their professionalism," observed inquisitive James Russell, a retired Navy master chief, who is an electronics engineer who works with Army program managers acquiring new weapons systems. "They like what they do, and they do it very well."

Even the Guard workers learned a thing or two.

The grass-roots perspective gave him an insight "you don't get through the chain of command," explained Dennis Chung who has worked in the Guard Bureau's logistics directorate for a dozen years.

The knowledge opened doors to future cooperation.

"Now that we are deploying Guard members on a full-time basis, they, too, are our customers," said family-support advocate Davis. "We need to support them on a full-time basis."

That fit in nicely with the Guard leaders' efforts to sell their service to these Defense managers who one day will be setting policies at the Pentagon.

Col. Ronald Shoopman, the 162nd Fighter Wing's vice commander, put the Guard's pitch in a nutshell while he addressed the group in Arizona.

"Remember us," he charged, "when you assume the positions in which you have to decide what is the right thing to do for America."

INSIDE GUARD WEEK

Massachusetts historians recall harrowing gunfight in Bosnia

Walking with their FOREFATHERS

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A singer and a newspaperman can tell you a lot about the National Guard's single most defining day — April 19, 1775, when nearly 2,000 members of the Massachusetts militia faced off against British soldiers during the battles of Lexington and Concord.

They can tell you how and why the Minutemen sent the regulars packing back to Boston during the first battle of the American Revolution.

They ought to, because they are military historians in the Army National Guard in Massachusetts where the seeds of today's National Guard — the country's oldest military force — were planted in 1636.

They can also tell you a lot about a more current historical event that didn't make nearly as many headlines as the battle with the British. The difference is that these two men were there.

It happened during a potentially deadly encounter in far-away Bosnia two Octobers ago, and it also defines the role that members of the National Guard are still willing to play for the cause of their country.

The singer is Maj. Michael Pacheco of Millville, Mass., commander of the six-man 126th Military History Detachment based in Worcester. He is the lead singer for the nine-member rhythm and blues band Rhythm Coalition. He is also the full-time Army Guard operations officer for the Bay State's counterdrug program.

The newspaperman is SSgt. Dan Moriarity, managing editor for the 6,000 circulation *Westfield Evening News*.

They found themselves in the crossfire of a brief gunfight between Serbian and Muslim factions in Bosnia on Oct. 12, 1996, during the first year of the NATO peacekeeping operation. Then they had to gather the information about the incident and file a report with the commander of the U.S. Forces there.

They were in harm's way for a few anxious minutes while traveling with members of a military police com-

pany who were ordered to put some distance between the Serbs and the Muslims in the Zone of Separation near the city of Celic in the volatile northern American sector.

"It was pretty tense. It was the only time I was over there that I had a round in the chamber, the safety was off and I was ready to shoot," recalled Moriarity, one of the three members of the 126th who served in Bosnia from July 1996 until the following February.

The fact that American soldiers were working with the Russians jacked up the tension, Moriarity explained.

"The Muslims didn't like the Russians because they thought the Russians sided with the Serbs," he remembered with a soldier's candor. "The Serbs didn't like the Americans because they thought we were arming the Muslims."

"Firing had been going on in the area all day. We went in with the MPs to collect information," explained Pacheco about a military history detachment's primary function on a battlefield.

It was about noon, he added, when the Serbs began shooting at the Muslims from a ridge. The Muslims returned the fire, Pacheco added.

The heavily armed U.S. convoy of six vehicles was not the target during the exchange that lasted for a few minutes, he insisted. But those few minutes made a lasting impression.

"We all dove out of the vehicles and took cover behind them," said Moriarity. "Then the Serbs walked up behind us, their weapons pointed to the ground, pointing at us and laughing as if nothing had happened. Two Russian combat vehicles and a Bradley (Fighting Vehicle) showed up a while later. We were all real relieved to see them."

Two days later, the Massachusetts historians were interviewing the American troops to get their perspectives on precisely what had happened and when. Their report was

forwarded to the U.S. commander, Maj. Gen. Montgomery Meigs, and ultimately to then Secretary of Defense William Perry.

During a crisp, sunny Monday morning in February, Pacheco and Moriarity, and the other members of the 126th, detailed the battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts for 58 Department of Defense civilians participating in this year's Executive Leadership Development Program.

They told of Paul Revere's famous ride and how eight Minutemen were killed in Lexington. They offered plenty of insight into the British staff's lack of command and control that resulted in the rout back to

Boston and 273 Redcoat casualties. They took plenty of pride in their forefathers' decisive victory in 1775.

Pacheco also used the occasion to let the future leaders of the Defense Department know, in no uncertain terms, why it is important to keep the National Guard trained and equipped to defend this country.

He knew from his own experience in Bosnia, during that tense day with Dan Moriarity two Octobers ago, that members of the National Guard are still likely to find themselves in harm's way.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

MAKING HISTORY - SSgt. Dan Moriarity (top photo) and Maj. Michael Pacheco (above, with hand raised), members of the 126th Military History Detachment, came under fire as peacekeepers in Bosnia.

ENVIRONMENT

An ounce of P2 is worth a ton of IRP, say environmentalists

PUMPED on PREVENTION

By Len Barry
National Guard Bureau

An ounce of P2 is worth a ton of IRP.

That's the response David Van Gasbeck, the Air Guard's environmental division chief, gives you when characterizing the direction his program is headed.

Translation: A little pollution prevention (P2, in environmental lingo) will preclude a lot of cleanup at contaminated sites (managed under the Installation Restoration Program or IRP).

While cleanup efforts are expected to continue through 2010, Van Gasbeck said the Air Guard's environmental focus is shifting to its other major concerns: compliance, planning and P2.

The results are already evident.

"The Air Guard has gone from 63 NOV's (notices of violation) in FY '93 to one in FY '97," he reported from his office on Andrews AFB, Md. In layman's terms, this 98.6 percent reduction means that Air Guard units have practically eliminated instances where they were cited for violating environmental regulations.

Van Gasbeck says he knows why.

"Each unit has to instill an environmental culture from the senior leadership on down that lets everybody know their job includes being a good steward of the environment. That's how you establish environmental awareness, and a lack of environmental awareness is by far the leading cause of NOV's."

Simply providing commanders with the tools, money and support, Van Gasbeck noted, is not enough.

"If the airman, who's working on an airplane, knows that his commander is going to be awful mad if he spills five gallons of fuel, he's going to pay attention," he insisted.

By increasing the investment of time Air Guard environmentalists put into pollution prevention and planning, Van Gasbeck believes violation notices will become extinct.

"If we're smart and creative enough, we'll make those investments pay off by avoiding having to deal with compliance issues in the future," he added.

One investment that has paid dividends was establishing hazardous material (hazmat) pharmacies nearly two years ago. Currently, nearly 50 bases are in some stage of pharmacy development.

The pharmacies offer many benefits, Van Gasbeck said.

"Let's say a base has 17 maintenance shops that use a particular solvent," he began. "Instead of having a 55-gallon drum in each shop, you just keep one drum at the pharmacy. The shops go there to get what they need."

By doing so, he noted, the chances of spills are reduced.

"From a business standpoint," he continued, "when you have only one drum, you've saved the cost of buying 16 extra drums."

"And if the solvent is like many materials that have a short shelf life, you can consume it all before it expires, thereby eliminating waste." The cost of disposing expired solvent, he added, is normally three times the purchase price.

While every Air Guard base has been granted up to \$300,000 to construct a pharmacy, Van Gasbeck reports that some



Photo courtesy Capt. Roxanne Lastoria

CHEMICAL COUNT - Illinois' SMSgt. Stephen Schneider, a 182nd Airlift Wing hazardous material specialist, performs a shelf-life inventory at his unit's hazmat storage area.

have been built for much less.

"I've just come back from Springfield, Illinois, and they've constructed a great stand-alone building for \$170,000," he said.

It's not the first time Air Guard men and women from the Lincoln State have made environmental news.

One of the first Air Guard independent hazmat pharmacies resides at the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria. It was there in October 1994 that the base's Environmental Protection Committee resolved that logisticians and environmental managers would take on the endeavor.

"The team decided that the lack of a building, computer tracking system and additional personnel would not hinder implementation of the hazardous materials pharmacy concept," recalled Capt. Roxanne Lastoria, the 182nd's environmental manager.

After getting Guardmembers used to the concept of using the pharmacy as the single ordering and dispensing point for all hazardous material, Lastoria and com-

pany had 182nd maintainers turn-in their solvents.

Since then, the base has cut in half the types of hazardous materials it uses. They have also become a beacon for other ANG units looking to set up a pharmacy.

One place where P2 has taken a firm hold is at the Utah Air Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing at Salt Lake City International Airport.

The wing's environmental manager, Capt. Jack Wall, said members of the 151st have genuinely embraced his award-winning program.

"We've really incorporated P2 as part of our culture," he said. "It involved educating people one-on-one, shop-by-shop on how to cut waste and ways to make their work areas healthier for them and better for the environment."

Funding to purchase a glycol recovery system -- used to prevent water pollution -- and a cardboard compactor, have also helped. So has carpooling and switching to high volume, low pressure paint guns.

State and civic organizations also liked the smell of the unit's P2 efforts.

"What's done it the most is just the enthusiasm and the hard work of the folks out in the shops," Wall insisted. "I can train them, teach them the value of the program, but they're the ones who make it happen."

In spite of his enthusiasm for pharmacies, Van Gasbeck is quick to praise another "oldie but goodie" weapon in the Air Guard's environmental arsenal: the Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP) inspection.

"It's still the biggest bang-for-the-buck tool that we have in reducing NOV's," he said. "It helps you find the current issues that need to be resolved, as well as the opportunities for future improvement."

Changing the products that are used, Van Gasbeck said, has reduced potential compliance and pollution problems.

"If we can find a non-toxic substitute for a toxic material," he explained, "we don't have to worry about complying with the law or causing pollution."

Worries about the environmental policies instituted at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Mass. -- home of the 104th Fighter Wing -- are less of a concern to nearby residents. They are now part of the process. Once knee-deep in cleanup issues, Barnes' volunteer Community Advisory Board now addresses compliance and P2 issues.

"We've gone from a feeling of mistrust between the community and the Air Guard on environmental issues, to a feeling of partnership," reported Gary Hinkle, the Air Guard environmental division's restoration branch chief.

There is another transformation Van Gasbeck is looking to make.

"Our goal is to have the best environmental program in the Air Force," he said. "I think we're well along."

Giving a nod to NATURE

By Len Barry
and Dalena Kanouse
National Guard Bureau

The contest between nature and mankind is like a football game with only two minutes to play. Mankind has the ball and the game is theirs to win or lose. The irony is, if nature loses, so does mankind.

Fortunately, that irony has not been lost on those men and women in today's Army and Air National Guard. Many Guard units across the country have planned a series of Earth Day activities to demonstrate their resolve in taking its role in natural conservation seriously.

Earth Day is observed each year on April 22.

Earth Day is an international event demonstrating concern and mobilizing support for the environment. It was first celebrated on April 20, 1970, and rallied more than 20 million Americans to become involved in environmental "teachings." This event was the largest grassroots movement in U.S. history and created what has become the environmental movement.

The event also sparked the first major pieces of environmental legislation: the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. In 1995, more than 200 million people in 141 countries participated in Earth Day's 25th anniversary.

The day is a call for public attention to turn to environmental issues. It's also an opportunity for National Guard units to show their neighbors how they practice environmental stewardship.

People like Dr. Marc Imlay, the natural and cultural resource manager for the National Guard Bureau's Environmental Programs Directorate, insist that Earth Day can be celebrated every day by maintaining the natural order of our environment.

This year's Earth Day theme for the National Guard is "Promoting the National Guard Commitment to Environmental Stewardship."

This, according to Imlay, reflects the Guard's commitment to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources while maintaining a high degree of military readiness.



File photo

COMMITTED TO CLEAN - Volunteers based at the Army Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., helped clean-up a park last Earth Day.

"We know that all aspects of nature must work together or we will begin to fall by the wayside one at a time," Imlay said. "The military has made great strides in the successful application of our ecosystem management practices."

"The military," he added, "has accomplished a great deal of work in environmental stewardship and is rightly proud."

But, Imlay noted, more can still be done.

The National Guard Bureau has published a 1998 Earth Day Planning Guide to help units plan, coordinate and conduct Earth Day activities. It includes recipes for a healthy environment, a "how-to" guide on backyard composting and many more ideas.

Last year, the Air Guard's Environmental Division at Andrews AFB, Md., observed Earth Day with a restoration project at Piscataway Park on the Potomac River. By clearing out intrusive non-native plants, they helped restore natural flora.

This year, the Air Guard's Civil Engineer Directorate, including the Environmental Division, will participate in a community improvement project called "Christmas in April," by restoring a house for some underprivileged residents.

Soldiers based at the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., plan to visit a local elementary school to discuss ways children can help preserve and protect the environment.

Once again, citizen-soldiers and airmen in the National Guard have found a way to prevent the clock from running out on them and Mother Nature.

Looking for an environmentally-safe way to train? Land managers, soldiers and researchers are ...

Getting into DODGE

By Nedra De Lima
National Guard Bureau

Troops, researchers and Mother Nature have found common ground at Iowa's Camp Dodge Military Reservation, where sensitive natural resources thrive and Army Guardmembers continue to train.

Over the past 10 years, the 90-year-old camp — located at the end of the last glacial advance and situated in a river valley — has almost doubled in size to 4,300 acres.

This growth, according to Mary Jones, Dodge's Natural and Cultural Resource manager, drove the need for cost-effective land management plans.

One of the first steps taken, she said, was to divide the installation into three military training lanes to be used in rotation.

This led to the partnership between land managers at Dodge and the state of Iowa. The public and researchers also joined the fold.

The first partnering project, Jones recalled, was a plant survey, where land managers selected areas soldiers could and could not train. Almost 600 different plant species also were identified.

A second survey called upon the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Geological Survey Bureau (GSB) to prepare extensive computer-generated maps that will provide a useful information repository for land managers. In addition to intensive soil boring, the GSB placed a network of groundwater wells to monitor the position of groundwater levels across the facility.

"As the first detailed study of this kind," Jones said, "it provides the environmental science community with information that can be applied to a host of land use and groundwater contamination issues over a large part of the upper Midwest."

The data also will help archeologists pinpoint areas where potential prehistoric cultural artifacts exist.

A third project is a wetland survey and restoration project unique to the central

United States. Researchers from many different agencies are conducting surveys on a variety of wetland aspects — plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies, damselflies, other invertebrates, geology, water quality and hydrology.

The relationship of plants, water levels and wildlife, pointed out Jones, play a vital part in a wetland's health and development. This project allows researchers to look for relationships between these parts.

"While it is easy to understand and appreciate ponds and lakes, it is more difficult to convey to the public the importance of wetlands that come and go with the seasons," Jones said.

Many of the rarest of wetland species, including some amphibians, songbirds and waterfowl, require these types of areas to survive.

An existing prairie pothole wetland, be-

The site has already become populated with many of the same reptiles, amphibians, birds and insects.

However, only the more aggressive, invader plant species remained after the many years of farming. Because of this, part of the area was seeded with plants gathered from other areas. Not only will these efforts surround the wetland itself,

but also the surrounding upland. Plants, seeds and trees will be planted to provide wildlife cover, as well as tactical concealment for troop training.

"Just like wildlife," Jones observed, "soldiers need places to hide from the enemy."

With the recommendation of Iowa State University, a hibernaculum (winter residence) was created to provide an underground snake habitat. Using fox snakes rescued from a well closure site, University

researchers studied their progress for a winter before bringing the reptiles to their new home at Camp Dodge.

"Because their scales were DNA-typed," said Jones, "they and their descendants can be tracked in the future if the need arises."

A bird survey, and the conversion of the surrounding land from row crops to grasslands, has created a marked increase

in the presence of grassland birds, many listed on the Audubon Society's "watch list." The list includes bobolinks, dickcissels, yellow-headed blackbirds and grasshopper sparrows.

While Dodge land managers have benefited from the information learned through their partnership, the Iowa Army National Guard also seeks out environmental success stories.

The Polk County Conservation Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have provided information on their land management tactics. The National Weather Service shares climate-related updates, while the Polk County Natural Resources Conservation Service provides survey and erosion control data.

"The Boy Scouts and the Youth Conservation Corps assisted us in a tree-planting and stream-bank stabilization project," Jones continued. "(Iowa State) University classes also have created plans for additional reclamation areas, including a forest restoration project."

Jones is happily aware of the irony that exists at Camp Dodge.

"Military installations have long been perceived as noisy nuisances," she observed. "Camp Dodge is one of the few remaining areas in the central part of Iowa where researchers can record the sounds of wetlands without interruption."

"Just like wildlife, soldiers need places to hide from the enemy"

Mary Jones



Photos courtesy of Iowa National Guard



DODGE DEEDS - An advisor (top photo) demonstrates to a Boy Scout how to prune a stake for use on a streambank stabilization project at Camp Dodge. Carol Thompson (above), a hydrologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Geological Survey Bureau, prepares ground samples for transportation and testing.

lieved to be about 13,000-years-old, has survived settlement, farming and a natural gas line put down the middle in the 1930s. Researchers have discovered a rare diversity at the site — a balance of many species.



SPORTS

• Jose Morales gives his best shot

New York boxer takes world title

Champ: Morales earns World Boxing Congress Light Heavyweight belt

By SSgt. Jose Azola
New York National Guard

From toting a machine gun in the rain and wind of Iceland to the bright lights of a Las Vegas boxing ring, Spc. Jose Morales went from infantry training to being crowned the new World Boxing Congress' Light Heavyweight champion in less than two weeks.

Morales, 32, a part-time civilian emergency medical technician and a member of the New York Army Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, recently captured the title with a fifth-round knockout.

Although the end of his unit's two week deployment to Iceland was just a week from his title shot, Morales embraced the challenge.

"The tough training actually helped me get ready for the fight," he said.

Undefeated in 28 bouts, Morales had already won the World Boxing Organization's Middleweight title in Germany last July with an impressive first-round knockout. That same month, he placed the World Boxing Association's Light Heavyweight belt around his waist after knocking out his opponent in just 22 seconds.

"It's (boxing) not really a violent sport," observed the M-60 machinegunner. "In fact, I think hockey is more violent."

Trained by world-renowned Sandy Sadler, a one-time boxer and an old school taskmaster, Morales began boxing at the age of nine. He was a three-time Golden Gloves champion, and has held Metros' and New York State championship boxing titles.

His record with the National Guard, he insisted, is equally important to him. Only once in nine years has he missed a drill due to a boxing match, and that was for a championship.

"I make time for the Guard and never miss drill," Morales said. "I want to be a role model for the other guys to stay and reenlist."

"There are a lot of good guys in my unit," he added.

The Flushing, N.Y., resident believes

the Guard's team work and emphasis on discipline has helped him stay focused, and led to his success in the ring.

Capt. Greg Warren, his company commander, is a fan of Jose Morales, the Guardsman.

"He is a good soldier and does a good job. I trust him and rely on him," Warren reported. "He's got a great drill attendance record, volunteers for a lot of extra missions, like recruiting demonstrations, drives the deuce-and-a-half (2-1/2-ton truck) when needed, and quietly goes about his business. He gets it done."

"Most of the other guys," he added, "didn't know he was a boxer."

The three-time title holder sees similarities between pugilism and the sweet science of citizen-soldiering.

"To do well in boxing, I have to have my technique down," he observed. "It's like the Guard. You have to train hard because your mind is always on point—there are no second chances, unless you are ready to lose."

Until recently, the "traditional" Guardmember worked as a New York-certified EMT for a private company providing respiratory care for home-bound patients. He now devotes that time to his wife and infant son, boxing, helping young people and serving in the Guard.

Proud of his Bronx and Queens roots, Morales is eager to share the path he's taken with his community.

"I want to work with young people and help keep them away from drugs," he said.

When he's not training with the Guard or in the ring, Morales spends time with the substance abuse counselor at Public School 190 in Queens, where he leads small boxing clinics.

He said the sport offers youths impor-

tant life coping skills.

"I use boxing as a way for them to get rid of stress and learn some discipline," Morales said. "I show them how to productively vent their energy, and I tell them there is no room for violence at school or at home."

Bernardino Cuavra, the Russell Sage Public School substance abuse counselor, said Morales' work with children also scores a knockout.

"All the kids are naturally attracted to

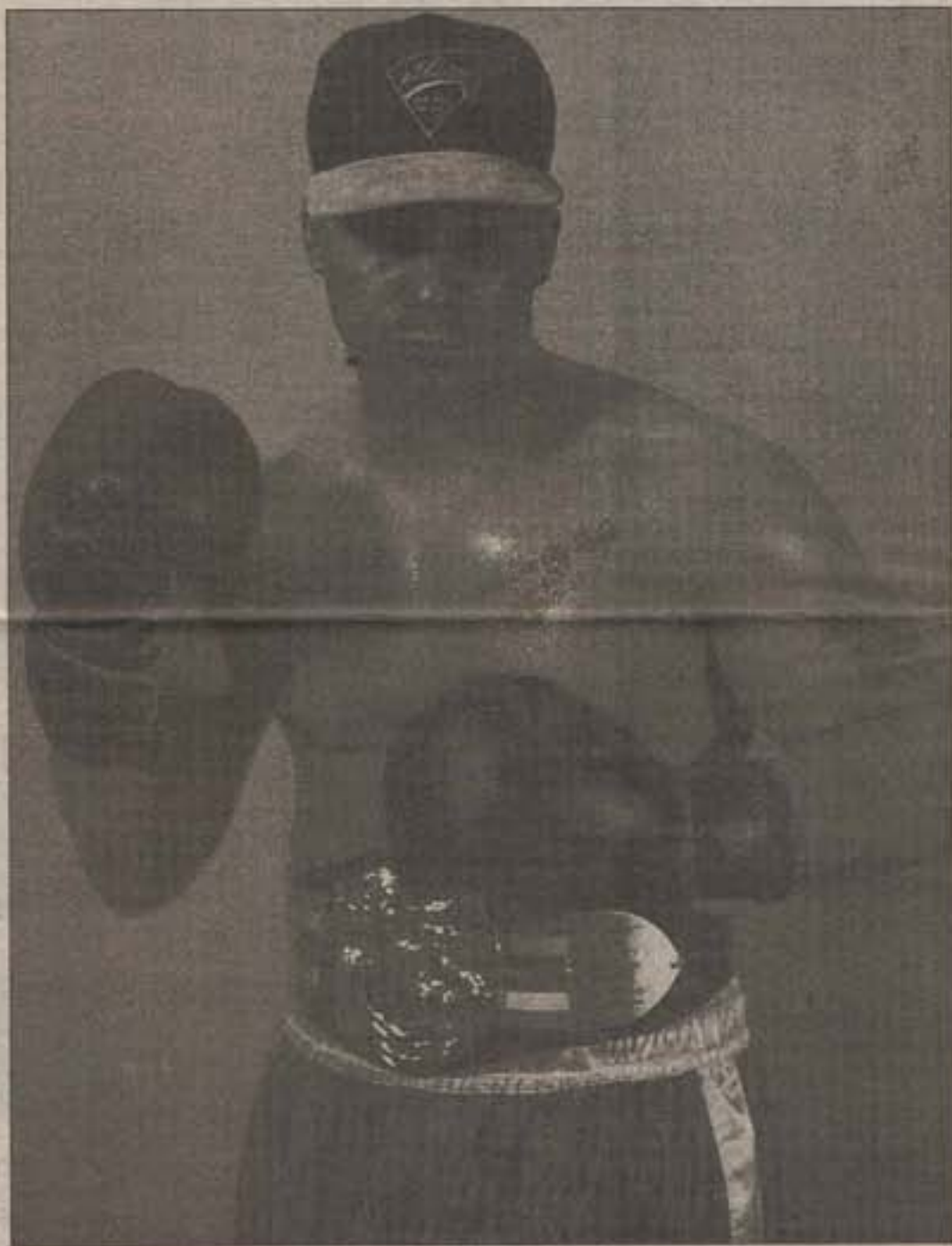


Photo by Sgt. Paul Janey

THE CHAMP - New York's Spc. Jose Morales, a machinegunner with the 1-105th Infantry, captured his third world boxing title.

him. He connects with them, because he is so much like them," Cuavra said. "His role as a Guardsman is something he is proud of and speaks about."

"We could use a dozen more just like him."

Virgin Islands recruits go through pre-basic training to help deal with culture shock

Island BASIC

It was a wet, rainy, miserable Saturday morning as 17-year-old Nakisha Joseph gingerly stepped between piles of cow manure and struggled through clumps of thorny acacia brambles.

But she, and eight other Virgin Islands Army Guard recruits who followed the same trail, seemed oblivious to the rain soaking her as she focused on her map and compass.

All nine were engaged in the territory's unique pre-basic training, a program aimed at helping them graduate Army Basic Combat Training.

"This program eliminates culture shock, not only the shock of moving from civilian life to military life, but from Caribbean life to stateside life," said SFC Emile James, an instructor at the 210th Virgin Islands Regional Training Institute (RTI).

James said recruits receive

training in nuclear, biological and chemical weapons defense methods; drill and ceremonies; claymore mines; hand signals; weapons cleaning and rank familiarization. The instruction, he added, comes directly from the Initial Entry Training Handbook used by active component drill sergeants.

James said that 95 percent of the recruits who complete the territory's pre-basic program graduate from basic training.

Fellow 210th RTI instructor, SSgt. Francisco Nazario, said the training gives the recruits a definite advantage.

"With the training they get here, I am willing to match them up against soldiers anywhere," he said. "I'm prepared to watch these soldiers excel."

For recruits like soon-to-be Pvt. Priscilla Clarke, the training was enjoyable, despite the wet weather.

"It was a good experience be-

cause we learned," said the 18-year-old. "and no one is screaming at you."

"It's like individual training," she added.

The recruits are expected to attend their basic training at different times, from February to August. Eight of the nine future soldiers raised their hands enthusiastically when asked if they were looking forward to their upcoming experience. The lone dissenter, not wanting to be left

BASIC BEST - SSgt. Francisco Nazario (left), an instructor with the Virgin Islands' RTI, gives pre-basic training recruits a lesson on the M-16 rifle.

out, eventually reached for the ceiling.

Nazario had no worries about how the Island Guardmembers he helped prepare would do.

"These soldiers are going to be the best," he assured.

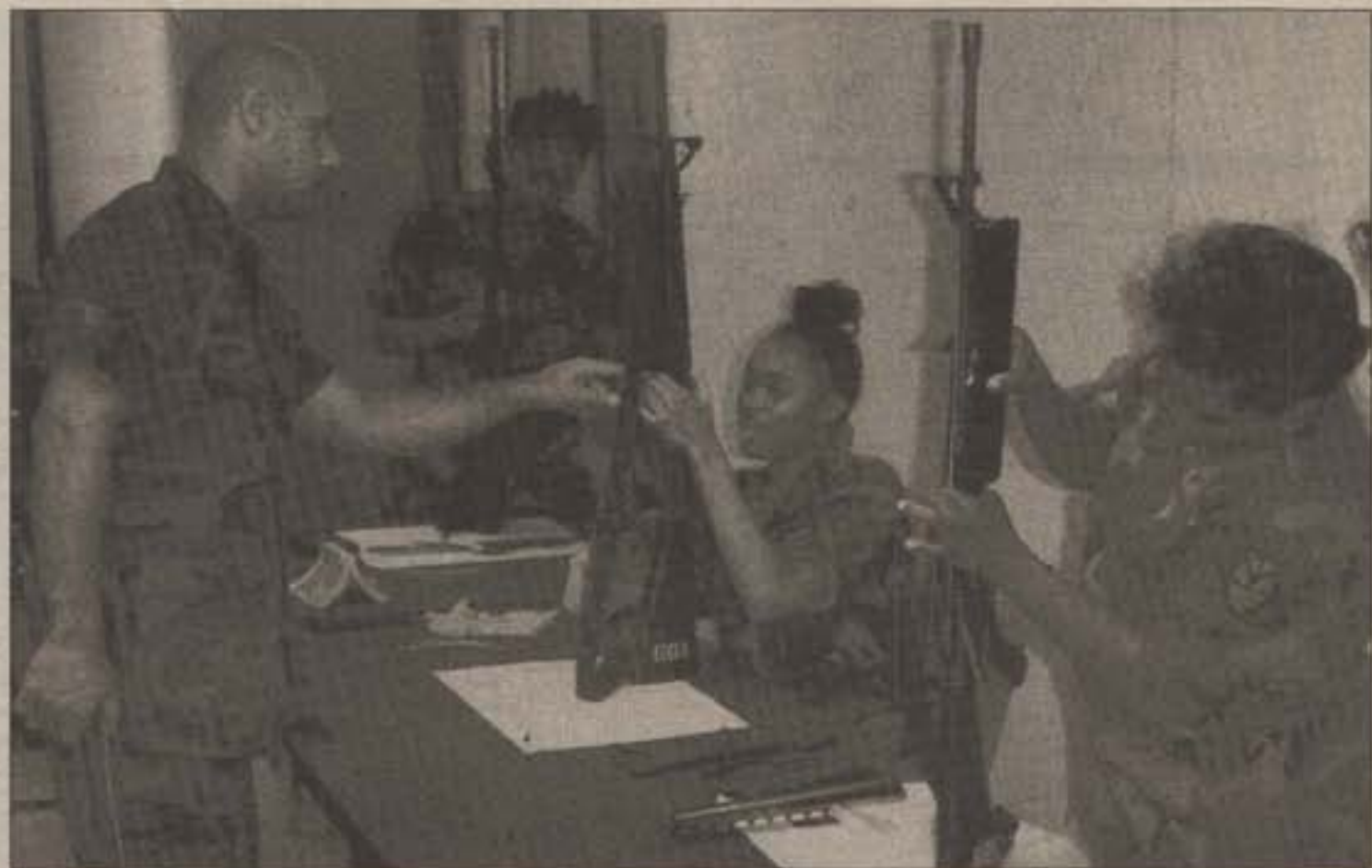


Photo by Maj. E. Richards



Photo by MSgt. Charles Farrow

BIATHLETIC BEST

Guard biathletes (left) take aim the National Guard Bureau Biathlon (skiing and shooting) Championship title during competition held at Camp Ripley in February. The group from Vermont edged out Minnesota and Montana for the team title. In men's competition, Minnesota's Chad Salemele bested Massachusetts' Sergi Vinogradov by just two seconds in the 10-kilometer event. Vermont's Jeremy Teela placed third. New York's Curt Schreiner captured the 20k event over Teela and teammate, Scott Doughty. In the women's 7.5k event, Utah's Dina Newhouse bested Vermont's Jill Trouter and Michigan's Sarah Lehto. Over the 15k course, Trouter took Newhouse, with Lehto finishing third.

NEWS MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Frederick Browne recently won the Environmental Protection Agency's (Region III) Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Partnership (CEPP) Award for his environmental efforts over the past five years.

Browne, the National Guard Bureau representative for CEPP to the EPA's regional offices across the country, has been an integral part of that program. He also serves as program manager for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, spill issues and hazardous material storage tanks.

Browne is credited with spearheading mutual cooperation with the Army National Guard and local emergency planning committees nationwide through his Executive Advisory Group for Logistic Excellence environmental sub-committee.

"I've worked in the area of spill response for 30 years or so," he said. "It is nice to be recognized for hard work."

Alabama Army and Air Guardmembers recently added another successful mission to their list of humanitarian accomplishments.

For more than 25 years, Bama volunteers have assisted the Salvation Army in collecting and distributing food to the needy in central Alabama. This year, they hauled nearly 25 tons of canned goods from 60 schools in Montgomery and Elmore Counties to a central collection point.

MSgt Robert Wood, a C-130 quality assurance supervisor with the Maryland Air Guard's 175th Wing, recently was awarded both the John Levitow Award and the Commandant's Award upon graduating from the U.S. Air Force NCO Academy at Keesler AFB, Miss.

The Levitow Award, named for the only enlisted Air Force Medal of Honor recipient, is given to the student with the highest overall academic score, performance evaluation and leadership qualities. Fellow students and instructors give the Commandant's Award for excellence in leadership.

"Do any job entrusted to you to the best of your ability, and you will succeed in life," Wood said.

CWO5 Boniface Suire Jr. has an unusual position with the Louisiana Army National Guard. As a member of the Headquarters-level Staff Judge Advocate section at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, he is one of only two CWO5s in the nation serving as a legal administrator.

Suire joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1971 after serving four years in the U.S. Navy.

He likened his job of dealing with legal officers to that of being a law office manager, only he wears a uniform.

"It's not so difficult," he said. "I have to make sure that the people and assets we have are being used to their fullest."

Being one of just two of the Guard's highest ranking warrant officer legal administrators is something Suire takes great pride in.

"I'm asked for input on Guard Bureau-level actions now," he said. "That takes getting used to."



Frederick Browne gets nod approval from the EPA.



Alabamans were busy again doing good for the less fortunate.



NFL cheerleader, Sgt. Yvonne Corpening, earns trip to Pro Bowl.



Nevada's 150th Maintenance Company has a handle on abandoned cars.

Indiana Army Guard Sgt. Yvonne Corpening earned a trip to the National Football League's Pro Bowl, Feb. 2 in Hawaii, as a cheerleader with the Indianapolis Colts.

The 12-year Army Guard veteran earned the trip after fellow Colts cheerleaders selected her to represent their squad. She works full-time with the Guard as a management analyst.

As a Guardwoman/cheerleader, the 33-year-old is also active in the Guard's Drug Demand Reduction program that educates youths about the dangers of drug use.

During the Pro Bowl, which features the best players in professional football, Corpening performed special routines with select cheerleaders from throughout the NFL.

"The cheerleader chosen to represent our squad had to demonstrate loyalty, quality, and generally be a well-rounded, All-American girl," Corpening said. "Most of the girls on the squad met all the qualifications. Luckily, I was chosen."

Corpening has been a Colts cheerleader for four years. She and her husband, Indiana Guardsman SSgt. Melvin Corpening, have an 8-year-old son.

Nevada's 150th Maintenance Company lent a hand to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently in an effort to police-up abandoned vehicles from local communities.

Soldiers with the Carson City-based unit recovered six vehicles from an area just south of Gardnerville, Nev., during a drill weekend.

The unit has been working with the BLM since September 1993 to clean up public lands. Since the project began, 150th troops have removed over 200 vehicles.

Sgt. Charles Keller, the unit's lift section supervisor, said the project has allowed Guardmembers to gain proficiency on many of the section's vehicles, to include five-ton trucks, tractors, wreckers, a seven and a half-ton crane and forklifts.

"They've learned to use the equipment in various environments and changing conditions," he said. "This eliminates the need to train in a war-time situation."

The Tennessee Air National Guard recently won the Air National Guard Human Resources Quality Award.

The award is given annually to those states that best represent their communities in the areas of minority and female representation, particularly in the areas of commissioning, promotions and assignments to senior enlisted and officer positions.

MSgt. Kelly Ruff, a bio-environmental engineer with the Ohio Air Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, recently earned the Air National Guard Outstanding Bio-Environmental Engineer Senior NCO Award.

"MSgt. Kelly Ruff has emphasized a strong personal commitment to ensuring the occupational health and safety of his unit," said MSgt. Malcolm Jones, National Guard Bureau bio-environmental superintendent.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

GENERALLY SPEAKING - Gen. William Crouch (above), the Army's vice chief of staff, told Guard leaders like Brig. Gen. Marianne Mathewson-Chapman (right) what the Total Army needs to do to succeed.



CONFERENCE

From Page 3

of Defense Dr. John Hamre announced in December.

"The Director of Military Support is our 911 service for communities facing natural or manmade disasters," Hamre explained. "And when communities call DOMS for help, DOMS calls the Guard."

Be ready for that call, the Army's Vice Chief of Staff urged the Guard audience of adjutants general, division and brigade commanders and sergeants major.

"You've got to be able to respond quickly," emphasized Gen. William Crouch during his keynote address.

"There is a threat now where potential adversaries, or an adversary with not many resources, has the capability to un-hinge us before we get to the theater," Crouch observed. The Guard is unique, he added, because "you are positioned, you are positioned, to confront it before anyone else, if that happens."

Being on call to deal with disasters is hardly a new mission, pointed out Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Furthermore, the National Defense Panel last year validated the Guard's responsibility for defending the homeland, he added.

"That's a mission that we in the National Guard have had for over 361 years. It is our primary mission," Baca said.

"Think in terms of the evolving threats in the 21st century -- nuclear, biological and chemical; threats from foreign as well as domestic sources," Baca charged. "Think in terms of the organization that is

tailor-made to meet those threats. Think of the institution that literally blankets America, and you think in terms of what we are already doing to protect and defend in all those areas."

The assets include a new information management network that ties together the nation's 3,000 National Guard communities and, Baca projected, can feed information to law enforcement agencies and state and local officials.

"We are doing with electrons what the Eisenhower administration did in the 1950s with concrete," Baca said. "More than ever, now is not the time to be closing armories and cutting the Guard, but to be adding to it and making sure that we can perform our primary function."

Leadership may be the most important factor, indicated Col. Michael Squier, the Army-Guard's deputy director.

Other organizations, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Reserve, would also respond to any catastrophic emergency.

"You can't say we're not going to use every asset out there," Squier acknowledged. "It's important for us to put the infrastructure in place so that we're in charge."

The Army brass clearly wants the Guard ready to assume control, and Crouch admonished the citizen-soldiers' leaders to keep their house in order.

"A cohesive unit will win," maintained Crouch, who commanded NATO's peace-keeping force in Bosnia before returning to the Pentagon. "One that is fragmented by prejudice or harassment will fall apart."

"Discipline is a trained organization that does what's right in the absence of order," he told the roomful of Army Guard leaders. "One part of the most disciplined, reliable and capable Army in the world is right here."



"We are doing with electrons what the Eisenhower administration did with concrete"

Lt. Gen. Edward Baca

INSIDE THE CONFERENCE

Iowa's Brig. Gen. Roger Schultz is trying to make the U.S. a safer place

Prepared for the WORST

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

In 1963, Roger Schultz was a mechanically-inclined farm boy living in northwestern Iowa who wanted to learn more about maintaining heavy equipment. He was 17 when he joined the Iowa Army National Guard and a new mechanized infantry battalion to become a mechanic for armored personnel carriers and other tracked vehicles.

America, especially the Midwest, was considered a safe place to live.

Thirty-five years later, Roger Charles Schultz is an Army Guard brigadier general who is helping his country prepare for the worst, because the United States is no longer considered safe.

The devastating bombings in Oklahoma City and at the World Trade Center in New York have cast a cloud of concern over the entire country about weapons of mass destruction.

Schultz, 52, has labored at the Pentagon since last September preparing the National Guard and the nation to deal with the catastrophic effects of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons that, we all have learned, can place many people in harm's way without warning.

He has stepped in from his job as Iowa's deputy adjutant general to become the defense community's Deputy Director of Military Support (DOMS) that backs up civil authorities in the states and territories when they need help. He is the first National Guard general to hold that job.

His permanent successor in April will be another Army Guard general, and, by October, half of

the military staff members in the 34-member support organization are expected to come from the reserve components.

Weapons of mass destruction are getting a lot of attention. Congress has tasked the Defense Department with providing fire-fighters, emergency medical personnel and other first responders in 120 cities with expert advice about proper procedures.

"We started with a blank piece of paper. We're building the prototype," said Schultz about the process of planning a coordinated and synchronized reaction to events that defy the imagination.

"First responders have told us they need a rapid assessment of the agent or device that cause the catastrophe so they know how much danger there is to themselves and to others who will arrive later," Schultz explained. "People need to know where they can evacuate patients and what areas to avoid."

He is no stranger to the unknown. He was awarded the Silver Star for heroism following a long night in a Vietnam jungle in 1969 when he was wounded and his mechanized infantry team was cut off from its base camp.

"You do things in combat that you wonder about for a long time afterward," said Schultz who does not dwell on that night when he was a young officer.

In 1993 he commanded the task force that dealt with Iowa's crisis from the summer's floods that ravaged 8 million acres in nine states. The challenges included providing drinking water for 250,000 people after Des Moines lost its water treatment plant.

Schultz acquired a bachelor's degree in management and a master's in public administration after serving in Vietnam and before facing the Iowa floods that required the Guard to work closely with civil authorities.

"I've worked with emergency response people a great deal, since my early days in the Guard," said Schultz. He was activated for tornado duty during his first six months.

Now, it can be argued, he has brought his expertise to the Pentagon at the right time to help the National Guard and the nation plan for emergencies that Americans did not consider possible when Roger Schultz was a farm boy in Iowa.



Brig. Gen. Schultz



STATES

• Arctic Mission • Ice Breakers • Keystone Celebration

NEW YORK

The 109th Airlift Wing assumed official control of the U.S. Antarctica Program from the U.S. Navy in a Christchurch, New Zealand, ceremony Feb. 20.

The U.S. Navy ran the program for 42 years.

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) will continue to oversee and support the program, as it has since 1972.

"NSF's support for scientific research in Antarctica remains as strong as ever," said Neal Lane, NSF director.

"We thank the Navy for decades of support," he added, "which has helped to advance research important to the future of our planet studies on the ozone hole, the stability of Antarctica's ice sheets and the dynamics of the southern ocean."

The Scotia-based 109th has more than 10 years of experience flying in the Antarctic and 23 years of flying in the Arctic flying ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules aircraft.

The LC-130's ability to shuttle materials and people to the South Pole will enable replacement of major parts of Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

This project, currently underway, paves the way for building a modern scientific observatory that will stand well into the 21st century.

NORTH DAKOTA



Photo by SFC Eric Wedeking

Building up
BOLIVIA

PFC Robert Stieg (left) hands a concrete block to Sgt. Mike Putnam as they and 200 members of the Peace Garden State's 141st Engineer Battalion helped construct a seven-room medical clinic period in La Victoria, Bolivia. As part of a humanitarian exercise, the engineers used four separate rotations over a six-week period to build the clinic.

MASSACHUSETTS

Twenty-two members of the 101st Air Control Squadron deployed to Maine in mid-January to help restore power outages caused by Ice Storm 98.

Armed with five-ton trucks and several different generators, the Worcester-based unit deployed and operated their equipment from shelters throughout the state.

Three members of the 101st, while in Bangor, assisted in the rescue of a woman trapped in her vehicle after her car had flipped over on icy roads. She was unhurt.

OHIO

As Santa Claus was preparing for his annual deployment around the world, members of Ohio's 200th RED HORSE were preparing to help victims of super-typhoon Paka in Guam.

On Christmas eve, more than 40 Buckeye and Pennsylvania 200th engineers were called upon to help the tiny U.S. territory recover from a wind storm that inflicted more than \$100 million in damage.

"There was no vegetation, trees had been stripped and uprooted," said Maj. James Parent, the 200th's operations officer. "Families had lost their homes and were living in their community's schools."

Guard engineers worked 12-hour days repairing roofs, utility connections and restoring plumbing needs.

PENNSYLVANIA

By Spc. Steve Henshaw
Pennsylvania National Guard

Ben Franklin would have clicked his heels with delight had he bore witness to the Keystone State National Guard's year-long celebration of one of his most important legacies.

Electricity? Urban planning? A wood-burning stove?

All noteworthy, but would you believe the creation of the Pennsylvania National Guard, now into its 250th year.

In 1747, two decades before the American Revolution, Franklin met with about 100 local merchants in Philadelphia to sell his idea of a permanent defense force to protect the colony from French raids on the Delaware River and Indian raids on western farm settlements.

On Dec. 7th of that year, some 600 volunteers assembled at the State House — now called Independence Hall — and marched to the courthouse at Second and Market streets, where they organized themselves into companies.

The Associators, as they were known, formed what is recognized today as one of the first officially-sanctioned state militias in the country — the forerunner of state's National Guard.

Through Franklin's influence, the organization continued even after hostilities subsided.

Col. Richard Matason, who headed the steering committee that urged Guardmembers to plan events celebrating their 250 years of service, was pleased with the outcome.

"More people know about the 250th anniversary of the Pennsylvania National Guard than we ever thought possible," he said.



Photo by Spc. Steve Henshaw

FOUNDING FATHER - A well preserved Benjamin Franklin returned to the site of his Associators' first fortification.



HISTORY

• Air Guard Proves it can Handle Large Aircraft

Fighting for RELEVANCY

With the Cold War's end, the Air National Guard (ANG) has had to restructure its flying unit force structure to meet the Air Force's changing needs and remain a viable component of the armed forces.

This process meant modernizing aircraft with equipment no longer needed by the active duty establishment, and converting a significant number of fighter units to larger aircraft, like airlifters and tankers.

The Air Guard, which had been established as a combat reserve force of the Air Force in September 1947, was no stranger to this role. At the time, its planned flying unit force structure had consisted of 72 fighter and 12 light bomber squadrons. Those organizations also were to be equipped with a small number of liaison, trainer, and transport aircraft. More than 80 percent of that force was mobilized after the Korean War began in June 1950.

Even before a cease-fire ended Korean hostilities in July 1953, Guard leaders had begun looking for ways to strengthen the postwar Air Guard and assure its future in the American military establishment. They worked to include it in Air Force war plans, modernize its aircraft and facilities and institute the same rigorous training and inspection standards as the active force. The ANG also sought out what are now called "real world" missions, where they would train and support the active force on a daily basis.

They also had struggled to gain a foothold in the airlift mission. Acquiring transports was attractive to them for several reasons. Some existing ANG fighter units, equipped with piston-driven F-51s, could not convert to jets because runways at the local airports were too short or local communities did not want to deal with jet noise.

Another factor was the Guard's aging pilot force. Despite its Korean War findings that suggested experience and maturity were the keys to victory in jet combat, the Air Force believed that only relatively young men were capable of performing well in modern fighters. Airlift was considered a viable option for keeping senior aviators in the cockpit.

Finally, with the advent of surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), some observers had concluded that the days of fighter-interceptor units were numbered.

In October 1954, the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) formally requested that strategic airlift units be organized in the Air Guard.

That initiative was rejected by the Air Force.

However, in April 1955, the ANG acquired its first specialized airlift unit when the 129th Air Resupply Squadron (ARS) was federally recognized and two C-46s were delivered to it at Hayward, Calif.

Rather than inactivate the units, the Guard agreed to convert them to special operations missions. They were equipped with a mix of aging C-46s and SA-16 amphibians and trained to support the Central Intelligence Agency and special forces units.

In February 1956, New Jersey's newly-organized 150th Aeromedical Transport Squadron was extended federal recognition and equipped with C-46Ds. It was this first of three aeromedical transport squadrons organized in the Air Guard that year.

During 1957 another Air Guard fighter unit converted to the aeromedical airlift mission. In October 1963, the Air Guard's complement of aeromedical airlift units -- which had grown to nine squadrons -- were all redesignated "Transport (Heavy) Squadrons," increasing the number of such squadrons to 25.

However, Air Guard leaders had not been satisfied with the restrictive nature of missions like special operations and aeromedical airlift. They continued to press for a role in strategic airlift during the late 1950s. That pressure was driven by the availability of surplus aircraft, and the fact that six Air Guard fighter squadrons no longer had validated air defense roles.

To equip air reserve component units for strategic airlift, the NGAUS formally requested that the Air Force purchase surplus piston-engine civilian transport aircraft for the ANG and the Air Force Reserve (AFRES) in September 1957.

That request, like the earlier one, was rejected.

But the Guard persisted. Its leaders in the Pentagon learned in 1959 that the Air Force had planned to phase out 48 C-97 "Stratofreighters" from its inventory before



Photo by Lt. Col. Forest Sorenson

STRATEGIC AIRLIFT - In 1960, Minnesota was one of the first Air National Guard states to transition to the C-97 Stratofreighter.

their replacements were available in order to save money. The C-97s would be retired to the "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Lt. Gen. William Tunner, Commander of the Military Air Transport Service (MATs), wanted to transfer those aircraft to the AFRES. The National Guard Bureau countered with a proposal to send them to six Air Guard fighter interceptor squadrons, whose days were numbered due to the growing reliance on SAMs.

Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, and a strong opponent of the Guard, rebuffed him. LeMay argued that strategic airlift was a poor mission for the Air Guard. He believed that it could never fly and maintain large multi-engine aircraft that required multiple-member crews. He was convinced that the Air Guard was only suited to operate small aircraft.



GUARD HISTORY

By Dr. Joe Gross
Air Guard Historian

Secretary of the Air Force James Douglas, Jr. overruled that decision.

In mid-January 1960, the Guard Bureau announced that it had authorized two wings and six squadrons to convert to the air transport mission. Later that month, six ANG units began trading in F-86s for C-97s. By year's end, the Guard had acquired 48 C-97s.

Air Guardsmen quickly demonstrated that LeMay had been wrong about their ability. In July 1960, Tunner lauded, "the speed and skill with which Air National Guard aircrews and maintenance technicians made the sudden transition from fighters to those heavy, four-engine strategic airlift aircraft."

Air refueling was the next new major Air Guard mission area. Drawing on the lessons of "Big Slam/Puerto Rico,"

a mass strategic airlift exercise conducted in March 1960 that underscored the importance of moving massive amounts of aviation fuel to forward locations, Pentagon officials recommended that tanker aircraft be transferred to the ANG and the AFRES when they became excess to the Air Force.

A "Special Subcommittee on National Military Airlift" of the House Armed Services Committee endorsed the recommendation. Headed by Representative Mendell Rivers, the subcommittee had been formed to examine serious shortcomings in military airlift capabilities. It concluded that within 20 days of either a general war, without warning, or a limited war, that U.S. strategic airlift capabilities would be seriously inadequate.

To help overcome that shortfall, the Rivers' subcommittee recommended that additional C-97 squadrons be established in either the Air Guard or the Reserves, and that KC-97 tankers be transferred to those components.

The Air Guard obtained its first KC-97 aerial tankers between July and August 1961. During that period, the Illinois' 108th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS), Wisconsin's 126th FIS and Ohio's 145th ATs, converted to KC-97Fs.

The increased emphasis on conventional warfare under the Kennedy administration's "flexible response" strategy, and the Guard's desire to preserve all of its existing flying units with the most modern aircraft available, led to a significant number of conversions to tanker and strategic airlift aircraft during the 1960s.

The process of reshaping the Air Guard's force structure to preserve flying units, and meet the Air Force's changing needs, began during the Korean War and accelerated after the Vietnam conflict. Unlike recent unit conversions, it was initially a contentious process that went against ingrained Air Force suspicions about the competence of the Guard to operate large aircraft.

However, in the process of transitioning to a force that once consisted of mostly fighters, to a mixed one, the Air Guard demonstrated its ability to operate a broad spectrum of aircraft.

The Air Force, for its part, has also transitioned. It is now supportive of the Air Guard's need to remain relevant. In some instances, like getting the ANG into the heavy bomber business, it has been the prime force behind expanding the Guard's flying resume.



TRAINING

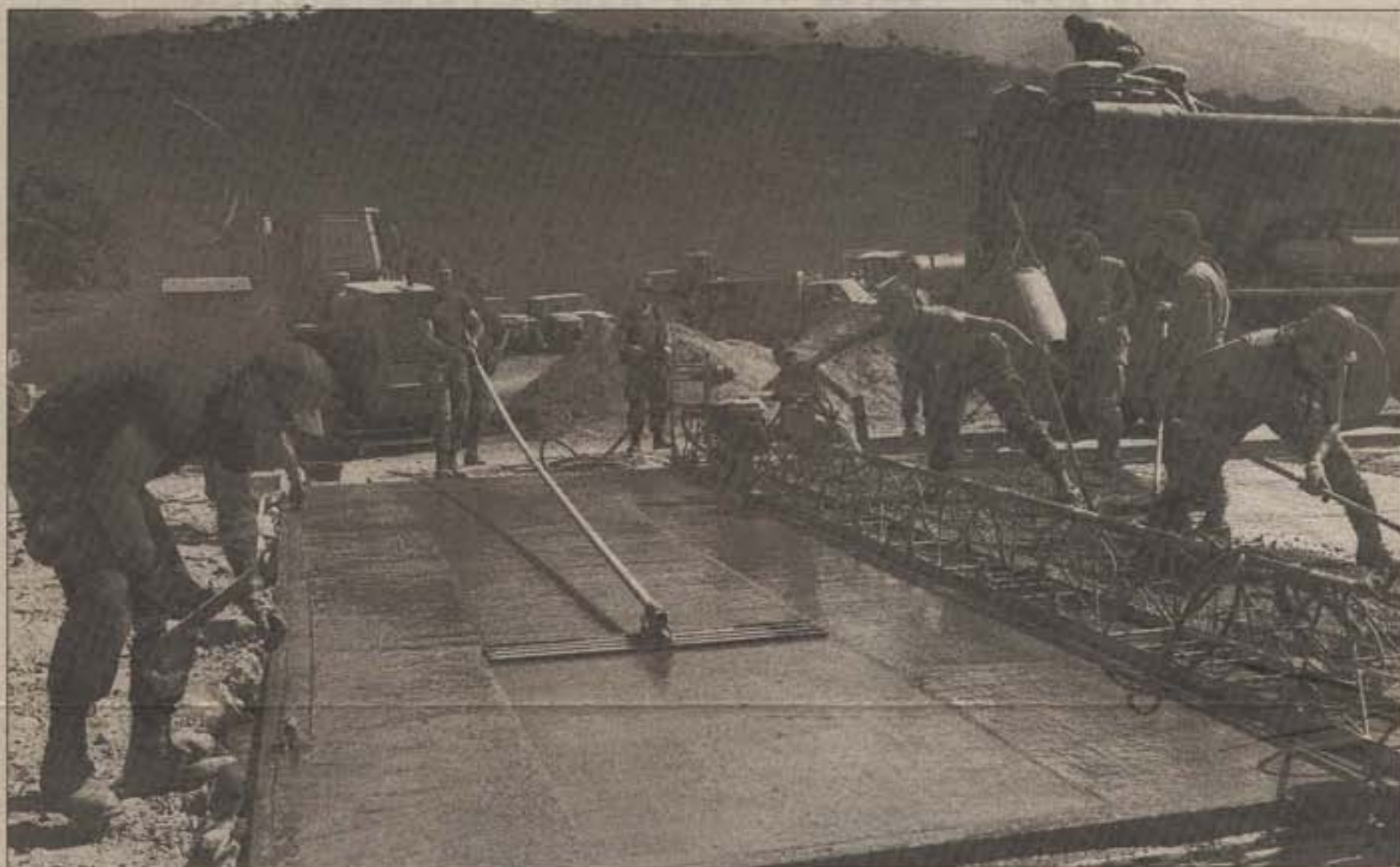


Photo by SFC Donald R. Dunn II

Laying the foundation for a better FUTURE

Montana engineers get New Horizons in Honduras off to a smooth start

By SFC Donald R. Dunn II
U.S. Army Reserve

As Montana engineers carefully skimmed the not-yet-dry concrete surface of a foundation that will one day school Honduran children, it was clear that New Horizons-98 was off to a smooth start.

As the first of 10, two-week rotations charged with constructing new schools, the 819th U.S. Air Force RED HORSE -- whose numbers include several mem-

bers of Montana's Air Guard -- recently deployed to the Central American country for its annual training.

RED HORSE is the military acronym for "Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineering."

While serving in the dusty western Honduran town of Jesus De Otoro, 819th citizen-aiemen helped lay the foundation for three schools. Over the next six months, follow-on units, primarily from the Army National Guard, will construct eight schools and bathrooms, four medical clinics and three fresh-water wells in San Pablo, San Marcos, Los Pozos, Jesus de Otoro, and a number of other remote western Honduran communities.

New Horizons, an Army Guard-run exercise, will involve the deployment of more than 3,000 Guard, active and Reserve soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines to Honduras.

The services of Guard and active medi-

cal and dental experts also will be tested during a Medical Readiness Training Exercise, where hundreds of Hondurans living in remote, rural areas are expected to receive medical and dental care for the first time.

The foray into a foreign country to perform a humanitarian and civic-action exercise was a first for the 819th, who are no strangers to firsts. They are the first joint U.S. Air Force/Air Guard unit at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls.

"This is the first time we have done off-base construction," said A1C Jason Dixon, a construction specialist.

"Being able to speak Spanish also helps," he added, "but making that transition from a cold climate to a hot one taught us a lesson about being prepared."

Working in austere western Honduras, where towering mountains meet arid skies, is a challenge that cannot be ignored, said Dave Rhodes.

"The weather here is hot and dry with little shade to work in," he said. "The lay of the land is different and all the buildings are concrete. This makes pouring the foundation of these schools different."

SMOOTH START - Engineers with Montana's 819th RED HORSE put the finishing touches on a school foundation in Honduras.

Because of the jagged terrain and unstable, rocky soil, SMSgt. Paul Willard, a construction surveyor, said the foundation work required different support screens and more rebar cages to make them stronger and more level.

The 819th is laying more than just foundations for a new school. They also are constructing a base for a more promising life for Honduras' children.

Most people living in rural Honduras, officials report, have a sixth-grade education and make less than \$2,000 a year.

Reina Llevar has three children who will attend the school when it is finished later this year. She possesses only a sixth-grade education. The new school, she said, will afford her kids opportunities that previously did not exist.

"What my children learn in school I hope will better their lives," she said. "Maybe they can teach me some of the things I didn't learn."