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THE ON GUARD

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Medical team Saudi bound

No April Fools: 60 Air Guardsmen and women run U.S. Air Force hospital

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

It may have been the first day of April, but Lt. Col. Blair Berkland was not fooling around.

The Louisiana Air National Guard medical officer was all business on that Wednesday morning as the first half of his new medical team flew into the dawn from Baltimore, Md. — destination central Saudi Arabia.

Berkland, an Air Force veteran himself, was determined to show everyone paying attention that his 60-member Air Guard team could take charge of the Air Force's 25-bed air transportable hospital and run it for four months in the full-time force's image at remote Prince Sultan Air Base where anthrax is considered an acceptable risk.

It is the first time that the Air National Guard has taken charge of an Air Force hospital.

"This is a perfect opportunity to show how well the mirror force strategy is working," said the trim Berkland. "We've been doing a lot of talking. Here's a chance to put our money where our mouth is."

That has involved organizing 45 Air Guardmembers from Alaska to Puerto

Rico, five doctors and a dentist from the active Air Force and one Air Force Reservist into a cohesive team. It has meant establishing a four-member executive staff of Guardmembers from Louisiana, Ohio, Alaska and Wisconsin.

It has meant bringing everyone together for three days of training at the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus, Ohio, in late March and flying the two elements through the Baltimore Washington International Airport and into Saudi Arabia by April 7.

Most National Guard deployments are spearheaded by a single unit that is reinforced, if necessary, by people from other outfits. This medical team was formed from scratch. It is slated to serve 135 days, or until early August.

"That's part of the test, to see how well we can jell," Berkland said.

The air transportable hospital, the Air Force version of television's 4077th MASH and more modern Army field hospitals, is looking after 4,000 American and British aviators and technicians. They are enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq as part of the long-running Operation Southern Watch.

The Air Guard deployment is not part of the mobilization for Operation Desert Thunder, the build-up of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, officials stressed.

"We're going to run the hospital for four months. Then the Air Force Reserve will run it four months. That should be enough to give the active duty people a



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

BEARING UP - Maj. Susan Darnell is seen off by her daughter and a furry friend before deploying to Saudi Arabia.



Photo by SFC Steve Opat

BOMB BANTER

Spc. Paul Barton, a member of the Alabama Army Guard's 666th Explosive Ordnance Detachment, coordinates positions where unexploded ordnance had been found with fellow EOD specialists in Panama. See story on Page 16.

See MEDICS, Page 13



COMMENTARY

• After 26 years, author returns to 'Fort Wood'

ABOUT the PAPER

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Getting back to 'basic'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Swett, Foster, Private X. Those were the ghosts from my military past I encountered when I visited my Basic Combat Training area at Fort Leonard Wood in the heart of Missouri on a chilled, dreary Tuesday morning in February.

I swore to God I would never — ever — go back. But there are things about basic training that you do not forget. It is, after all, the place and the time when you cross the threshold from civilian to soldier — even if you are in the National Guard and you know that you will go home when the ordeal is done.

So the urge, the curiosity, to breathe the air and see the barracks and walk the streets where I marched 26 years ago was too much to pass up.

Much about Fort Leonard Wood — or Fort Lost In The Wood in the State of Misery, as we called it — has changed since I was a basic trainee a long way from my native Maine in the late summer and early fall of 1971. The PX, the commissary and the billeting office have all been built since then. The guard station that defined the main gate is gone. It's now an open post.

But some things have not changed. The three-story brick building where I lived for eight weeks with the 200 other young men in Delta 5-2 — Company D, 5th Battalion, 2nd Brigade — is still standing. It was new then. It is old now.

But it still houses young men and women who are enduring essentially the same kind of training that I experienced.

The snack bar down the street and the chapel where I marked the end of each long, homesick week every Sunday morning are still there. The oval cinder track where I ran off steam and cleared my lungs of too many cigarettes is still behind the barracks.

Regrettably, I remember far more the faces of my buddies, who I vowed to never forget, and the intimidating, Vietnam-hardened drill sergeants, than I do their names.

Swett, Foster and Private X made impressions that have remained through the decades.

Swett was Sgt. Swett, a large African-American drill sergeant who we first encountered at the reception station. It was like meeting Darth Vader. Life was going to be "hard" when we got to "his" basic training company, Sgt. Swett promised. He was true to his word — for about two weeks. Then he became one of the kindest, most caring men I have ever encountered — so long as we remembered that he was still a drill sergeant and we were not.

Foster was the National Guard soldier who spent those eight weeks as my platoon sergeant. He was a little heavier than he liked, and he drank a lot of coffee and ate as little as possible because he was determined to keep his weight under control. He made me one of his squad leaders halfway through the train-

ing cycle. I learned that rank, however temporary, does have its privileges when I moved from an eight-man squad bay into a two-man room.

Private X, whose name I also remember, was one of the people most of us had heard about but had never met. He had been given two choices. The Army or jail. He chose the Army.

The February visit brought back a lot of other memories. Sitting in the stairwells cleaning our rifles; a long Saturday of KP for two packs of smokes so a buddy could visit his parents; singing "late at night while you're sleeping, Charlie Cong comes a creeping in Viet Nam" as we marched to and from the rifle range; a pillow fight from hell between the 3rd and 4th platoons that came to an abrupt halt when our training officer hit the lights and dropped us for 10 pushups on our last night.

We changed in ways that none of us could have imagined. Who we were eight weeks earlier was not as important as who we had become.

Some, I am sure, wound up in Vietnam. Some of them may have died. Others returned to their lives as auto makers, insurance salesmen and college students. Some probably became officers. Others put in their enlisted time and got out. Others put in 20 years and retired. One became a newspaper man and a master sergeant.

Returning to Fort Wood was hardly a sentimental journey. It was, however, my gateway to many extraordinary military adventures in many remarkable parts of the world.

For that, I was glad that I had been there.

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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"One more lap like the last one and you'll be making \$252 more a month"



IN THE NEWS

• Kremlin Visit • Brave 'Bird' • Smithsonian Honor

Russia visit sows good will

■ Ambassadors: Guard Bureau Chief meets Russia's Chief of Staff

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

March is the month for renewal. It brings the promise of spring to lands that have been locked in winter. It is when the awakening earth is seeded for another year's harvest.

Lt. Gen. Edward Baca sowed some significant seeds of his own in early March when he became the first Chief of the National Guard Bureau to visit Russia. He hopes those seeds will bear fruit for the National Guard long after he has retired.

Baca carried his message about the half-million member Guard's desire and ability to nurture international peace and stability to Russian leaders during an historic and whirlwind visit by his eight-member delegation March 4-8.

He also learned more about what the Russians want to learn from the National Guard seven months after a Russian delegation visited Washington, D.C., and New York last summer.

"The visit opened many doors. The opportunities for future involvement are there," said Col. Robert James Jr. about Baca's meetings with senior-level officials including General of the Army Anatoliy Kvashnin, the Russian Armed Forces' Chief of Staff.

That makes Kvashnin the Russian counterpart to Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Gen. Kvashnin was open to the needs of the Russian

military," added James, the Guard Bureau's International Affairs director. "He asked a lot of questions about our National Guard, about our command and control mechanisms. We left better friends."

The friendships began last August when five Russian officers led by General-Lieutenant Vasily Smirnov visited Baca and other Guard officials in Washington and New York, learning as much as they could about this country's nearly half-million citizen-soldiers and airmen. Smirnov invited Baca to make a return visit to Russia.

The Russians rolled out the red carpet with visits to the Army's Taman Division, that helped President Boris Yeltsin put down a revolt in the Russian Parliament in 1993, and to the Ministry of Emergency Situations' disaster training school outside Moscow.



GOOD WILL - Lt. Gen. Edward Baca shares a laugh with Russian Gen-Lt. Vasily Smirnov.

That ministry does for Russia what the Federal Emergency Management Agency does when floods and tornadoes tear up the United States. But the ministry has its own troops, and they demonstrated their techniques for rescuing victims of earthquakes and train wrecks, James explained.

"We were all pleased with the openness of the Russian officials," James said. "They were flat-out above board and to-the-point."

They also asked many questions about the National Guard's State Partnership programs with former Soviet bloc nations such as Latvia,

Estonia and Lithuania, explained Col. Bruce Davis, one of Baca's strategic analysts.

However, the four-day trip was not all business.

Davis was promoted to full colonel during two ceremonies on successive days at the Ministry of Interior and at the Ministry of Emergency Situations. In both cases, as is the Russian tradition, Davis's rank insignia was dropped into 12-ounce glasses of vodka. He had drink it all and catch the brass in his teeth.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Smithsonian Institution honors National Guard technology

Journeys into cyberspace have earned the National Guard Bureau virtual honors from the Smithsonian Institution.

In an April 6 ceremony held in Washington D.C., Lt. Col. Phil Vermeer accepted a medal for the Bureau's Distributive Training Technology Project, as the program was inducted into the Smithsonian Institution's Permanent Research Collection at the Museum of American History and Technology.

As product manager, Vermeer oversees the state-of-the-art program that uses video-conferencing, teleconferencing, computer-based training and the Internet to deliver effective, cost-efficient, education and training to National Guardmembers. The Guard also plans to extend use of the facilities to surrounding civilian communities to broaden its access.

Now in its 10th year, the Smithsonian Awards Program is considered the most prestigious in the information technology industry. Each year, the program identifies and honors individuals whose visionary use of information technology produces positive social, economic and educational change.

"The National Guard Bureau is using information technology to make great strides toward remarkable social achievement in education," stated David Allison, chairman and curator of the National Museum of the American History's division of information technology and society.

Wyoming woman makes general

Jenenne Nelson, the first woman to become the Assistant Adjutant General for Air and commander of the Wyoming Air National Guard, was recently promoted to brigadier general.

Gov. Jim Geringer and Maj. Gen. Ed Boenisch, Wyoming adjutant general, pinned Nelson April 4, making her the first woman general officer in the Wyoming National Guard. She has been her state's assistant adjutant general for Air since May 1995 — just the third woman nationwide to hold the post. Prior to that she was the 187th Aero-medical Evacuation commander for five years.

With a doctorate in philosophy in nursing, Nelson is a faculty member at the University of Colorado. She has authored numerous health-related articles. In 1993, she was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Colorado's board of nursing.

Medal of Honor recipient promoted

By Capt. Rick Peat
Kansas National Guard

Donald Ballard, the only active Medal of Honor recipient in the reserve components, was promoted to colonel April 5 at the State Defense Building in Topeka, Kan.

Ballard, an assistant to Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. James Rueger, has been a member of the Kansas Army Guard since 1970.

"Donald has had some great experiences in the military including



BRAVE BIRD - Donald Ballard (center) has eagles pinned to his shoulders.

earning the Medal of Honor and commanding Guard units," Rueger remarked. "He is a true Guardsman,

and I'm very proud to be a part of this ceremony today."

During his 27 years in the Guard, Ballard has been an ambulance platoon leader, company commander and served in several key positions.

"What kept me from retiring was the honor of being asked to start a new unit — Medical Detachment 5," said Ballard, who was that unit's first member.

"Detachment 5 is the most cost-efficient organization I've seen in

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IN THE NEWS

MEDAL

From Page 3

the Army. It saves the Guard thousands of dollars by performing physicals for Guardmembers, instead of contracting them out," he added.

Ballard has recently been asked to establish a new training program for the certification of all medics in the Kansas Guard. He said he plans on using the same philosophy he learned as a Navy corpsman assigned to the Marines in Vietnam.

"Preserving the force as far forward as possible means taking the training closer to the units rather than having unit personnel come to a central training site," he observed.

Ballard lives in North Kansas City, Mo., where he is a captain in the fire department's emergency medical technician division, and owner of two funeral homes.

The colonel earned the Medal of Honor while in Vietnam after his unit was ambushed.

Ballard repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire to pull wounded Marines to a safer location and treat them. Later, the location was engulfed in a crossfire between the Marines and the enemy. An enemy hand grenade landed among the wounded. Ballard picked it up and threw it back.

After a few minutes more under direct fire, another grenade was thrown at his position. This time he didn't have enough time to pick it up, so Ballard threw his body onto the grenade to protect his patients.

After what seemed like an eternity, and no explosion, Ballard reached underneath himself to grasp the grenade, rolled over, and in the same motion threw the grenade away. A split second later, witnesses reported, the grenade exploded in midair, but out of harm's way.

Ballard says he didn't have time to think about what he did that day in 1968.

"It was the right time to be in the wrong place," he said.

Ballard left the Navy in 1970 and was selected for Army officer candidate school. He received the Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon.

'Bama helps untangle twister's wrath

Nearly 300 called out over Easter weekend

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Tennessee Army National Guard 1st Lt. Lee Sharber had heard the stories about the terror of tornadoes. Seeing was believing.

"When I heard it, I knew it was going to be bad," recalled Sharber who was pulling annual training with 1,100 Guard soldiers at Fort Stewart when a tornado ripped across the east Georgia post early on the Thursday morning before Easter.

"It was a horrible thing to see," Sharber told the *Savannah Morning News* after ordering men into the bathroom in the middle of a World War II-era barracks that was spared the twister's wrath.

Tornadoes, with Force-5 winds surpassing 260 mph, killed more than 40 people in the storm-ravaged Southeast during the Wednesday night and Thursday morning of Holy Week. They affected National Guard troops in Alabama and Georgia in many ways.

Four Guardsmen from Tennessee and South Carolina were seriously injured at Fort Stewart when the 6:35 a.m. twister destroyed five buildings and damaged many others at the National Guard Training Center.

Nearly 300 Army and Air Guardmembers were called to state active duty by Easter weekend in Alabama. Some of them had to find and recover the bodies of civilians who were blown out of a house and over a wooded ridge.

"It was a precision cut across Fort Stewart," said Lt. Col. Ken Baldowski, the Georgia Guard's spokesman. One active duty soldier was killed and total damages to the 58-year-old post reportedly exceeded \$50 million.

At press time, Tennessee Army Guard



Photo by SSgt. Norm Arnold

SOMBER TASK - An Alabama Blackhawk slowly lifts body bags containing four tornado victims.

Sgt. Douglas Epps was listed in good condition at Savannah's Memorial Medical Center following surgery for multiple

internal injuries; and Spc. Jeffrey La Force was recovering from an injured ankle.

South Carolina Sgt. Bobby Dunlap was still in intensive care at the Fort Stewart hospital with rib, lung and spleen injuries; and Spc. David Williams had been treated for a head injury and released.

Other Guard soldiers on annual training with Tennessee's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment were treated for lesser injuries at the scene, said Maj. Pete Brooks, a South Carolina spokesman.

Engineers, aviators, military police and members of the 20th Special Forces Group were among 290 Alabama Guardmembers pressed into duty after a Wednesday evening tornado clobbered Jefferson County near Birmingham.

Clearing 680 truck loads of debris from roadways, hauling water trailers to residents and relief workers, and flying dignitaries such as Vice President Al Gore to the devastated areas kept most of them busy for up to six days.

A four-man Special Forces team spent long hours during Thursday's darkness and dawn searching for six people, including a 5-year-old girl, who had disappeared when an Edgewater home was torn apart that Wednesday night.

They found one body buried in the rubble at the edge of a nearby ridge before dawn. They found four other bodies in a swamp at the base of the ridge after daybreak. They joined a frantic search for the little girl before learning she had been located at a nearby hospital.

The four Guard soldiers bagged the four bodies that an Army Guard helicopter lifted to the county coroner waiting at a nearby road. The swamp and an overflowing creek made it impossible for other vehicles to reach them.

"It wasn't a pleasant task, but we got it done," said SFC Stanley Kight.

"It was the longest and most dramatic 16 hours I ever worked in my life."

Alabama Army Guard SSgt. Norm Arnold contributed to this article.

BRIEFING the BOSS

CWO Roland Ferland (right) discusses the capability of a CH-47D Chinook helicopter with his civilian employer, Carl Plaucher. The Georgia Army Guard's Detachment 1, Company F, 131st Aviation recently held an Employer Appreciation Day at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah.



Photo courtesy of the Georgia National Guard



PEOPLE

• Everett Foster Retires • Morgan makes History

In the fight for his life, Lt. Col. Everett Foster fought for the future of others

Fostering our Future

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

They talked about grandchildren -- his own and others who will live healthier because of his work -- during the last weekend in March when cancer survivor and environmental champion Lt. Col. Everett Foster retired from the Air National Guard.

"A lot of grandchildren are thankful because of the work he has done," said Dan Donohue, the National Guard Bureau's Chief of Public Affairs for whom Foster had worked at the Pentagon since 1986.

"I want to be around to watch my grandchildren graduate from high school and college," said Foster who was retiring with his wife Ann to their cozy coastal home they are remodeling in Stonington, Maine.

Spring filled the air that weekend. There was also a spring of youthful vitality in Foster's long legs on that Friday morning as he ended his military career that has spanned four decades. Anyone who does not know him well would have been surprised to learn he was a month shy of his 60th birthday.

The tributes included a certificate from President William Clinton, a Meritorious Service Medal, a letter from Maine Gov. Angus King, and an Air Force Certificate of Appreciation for Ann.

But well-wishers attending the ceremony hosted by Maj. Gen. Russell Davis, Guard Bureau vice chief, knew Everett Foster has endured more than most to reach this important milestone.

He wrote the book for environmental public affairs and led the sometimes controversial charge to make the National Guard and many other Department of Defense agencies accountable for decades of environmental abuse. That Guard Bureau public affairs staff grew from himself



Lt. Col. Everett Foster

to 11 people during his tenure. Since being diagnosed with incurable non-Hodgkins lymphoma in September 1996, he has endured months of experimental treatments involving chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants with his own blood at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He left his graying hair on his hospital pillow, but he has been in remission since January 1997. Those treatments may help others survive dreaded cancer.

In short, Everett Kendall Foster from Strong, Maine, has rebounded quite nicely from his share of beatings.

The discoveries in the mid-80s that years of aviation fuel spills at Otis Air National Guard Base, a former Air Force base, were contaminating people's water on sandy Cape Cod in Massachusetts drew him into the environmental arena.

Foster joined the Maine Air Guard in May 1955. He also served in Wisconsin, where he married Ann, while pursuing his degree from the Layton School of Art. Back in Bangor, Maine, he produced two Air Guard promotional films in the 1970s. "Guarding Me," the first, won a Freedom Foundation Award, the Defense Department's equivalent of a Pulitzer or Peabody.

He moved to Washington in 1986 for a temporary, one-year public affairs tour. Suddenly, angry Cape Cod residents, municipal mayors and the media wanted to know what the Air Force had done and what the federal government intended to do about it.

"There was no such thing as environmental public affairs. There was no information about how to deal with angry people who believed their health was in danger," Foster recalled. "The state public affairs officers had no place to turn."

Suddenly, Everett Foster had found his calling. He began developing the guidance for responding to those

issues. He began conducting clinics around the country for National Guard public affairs officers, technical engineers and commanders who were dealing with environmental concerns at their armories and air bases.

Bottom line? Tell the truth; confront the issues, Foster told them. "Tell the people that we did this and that we're cleaning it up," he admonished his audiences.

He was not a popular preacher. Many commanders did not want to take the blame for what others had done before them, Foster said. Many commanders wanted to pretend there was no problem.

"I rocked a lot of boats," said Foster with a certain sense of satisfaction. "Some commanders dared me to show them the regulations that forced them to fix the problems. Some of the states told me not to come back."

Foster persisted. He earned the respect and the support of three Chiefs of the National Guard Bureau. The message slowly sank in. The National Guard would clean up the problems from the past and do everything possible to keep the land and water and air clean for the future. Other Defense Department agencies have followed the National Guard's example.

That, Donohue pointed out, should make this country cleaner for a lot of grandchildren.

Now, Foster intends to continue his own fight with cancer so he can enjoy his six grandchildren, ages 1-16, kick back and sail around the wooded islands of Maine's Penobscot Bay in a boat that his son John is building from scratch.

His experimental treatment continues with a shot of Interleukin II every day for three months. It is a drug for AIDS victims intended to bolster his immune system.

"I'm doing all I can to get as long a remission as I can," said Foster of his program at Walter Reed that is being administered by Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

The fact he climbed mile-high Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest peak, last fall reinforced his determination to get on with his life.

"You don't give up hope," he said. "You don't dwell on the fact that you can die from this. You dwell on the fact that science is moving very rapidly."

"Family becomes very important," said Foster who is going into retirement feeling closer than ever to his wife, his daughter, his two sons -- and those six grandchildren.

Maintaining HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Hooper Penuel
Tennessee National Guard

Moving smartly, Lt. Col. Delilah "Rita" Morgan marched to the front of an assembled squadron of airmen and women, exchanged a salute with its previous commander and stepped into history.

A member of the Tennessee Air Guard's 164th Airlift Wing, mother of two and African-American, Morgan became her

state's first minority woman to command a maintenance squadron.

Standing nearby was her 22-year-old daughter, Michelle. She watched with pride as her mother assumed responsibility of a new, state-of-the-art facility used to house the Memphis-based unit's C-141B Starlifter aircraft.

Morgan credited her 18 years of military experience, her family's encouragement and spiritual guidance for her historic appointment.

"My mother encouraged us to set goals, live by society's laws, and to give our best regardless of the task," said Morgan, who was one of six children raised by her mother -- a lady she calls a "mentor."



Photo by Lt. Col. Hooper Penuel

"I feel honored that my senior leadership has enough respect for my abilities to allow me to serve in this position," she added.

FIRST LADY - Lt. Col. Rita Morgan made Tennessee maintenance squadron commander history.

Morgan, who has a masters degree in education (information technology) from Memphis State University, said she plans to add to the squadron's many achievements.

"During my short time in the squadron," Morgan noted, "I've found that the squadron has accomplished tremendous feats maintaining the C-141."

While on active duty, Morgan served for three years as the first female minority executive officer with the 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron at Eielson AFB, Alaska. She was then sta-

tioned at the Defense Language Institute's Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif. She joined the Air Guard in 1988.

Recalling her mother's lesson on the importance of persistence, Morgan said her new position "represents a change in the culture of this organization, a focus that looks at the potential of each individual and what she or he brings to the mission."

Col. Frank Tutor, 164th commander, could not agree more.

"The Tennessee Air Guard and the United States Air Force will reap the benefits," he said of Morgan's ascension. "It's just one more goal achieved amid many more to come for Lt. Col. Rita Morgan."

"We're fortunate to have her."



Texas helps Health Department curb coyotes, foxes

Taking the BITE out of RABIES

By Sgt. Len Butler
Texas National Guard

As the early morning sun lifted a hooded eye above the amber horizon, three bright yellow airplanes scoured the hilly countryside. Flying just 500 feet above the earth, they slowly, deliberately deployed their weapons in an ongoing war against canine rabies in Burnet, Texas.

It was the fourth year of the Texas Department of Health's campaign to eradicate a deadly and particularly virulent rabies strain among coyotes and gray fox in the state. And for the fourth year, Lone Star State citizen-soldiers lent a hand.

Though the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program, or ORVP, is geared toward vaccinating the two species of wildlife, its principle goal is to protect people.

"We're developing an immunity in this particular animal population," explained Dr. Leo Staley of the Texas Department of Health. "This strain of rabies we're treating can easily pass to our pets that we invite into our homes."

By immunizing the wild animal population, state health officials hope to protect domestic animals and their owners, and to create a "buffer zone" that will halt the northward spread of the disease.

This year, operations began in Alice, Texas, in the rolling brush country south of San Antonio. It was then moved to Odessa in West Texas, and wound down in the Texas hill country north of Austin. The program covered more than 41,000

square miles and 68 counties. In a little more than a month, 2.6 million vaccine baits were dropped.

The program was initiated in response to a massive epizootic (an epidemic in the animal kingdom) that swiftly spread throughout 21 counties in south Texas. Heavily populated areas such as San Antonio and Corpus Christi were threatened by a disease that 40 years ago was considered eradicated.

"Our National Guardmembers do anything that they are asked to do," reported Staley, who spent 14 years in the active Army as a veterinarian before taking command of the Texas Army Guard's 1836th Veterinary Detachment. Since retiring, Staley has maintained his association with the Department of Health's effort and recruited Guard volunteers to assist.

"The 1836th was the first actual unit to come on board the program," Staley said. "We were all volunteers, and after the third year we branched out, recruiting personnel from the aviation and military police detachments that shared our armory."

This year, volunteers from other units came aboard.

"It just gets better every year," Staley said.

Citizen-soldiers prepared the rabies vaccine baits, which look like and are about half the size of a granola bar. Once the baits are packed, they were loaded into three De Havilland Twin Otter airplanes supplied by the Ontario Ministry of Resources in Canada.



Photos by Sgt. Len Butler

Guardmembers also were part of the flight crew, preparing and dispensing the rabies baits from a specially-designed conveyor system that dropped the baits from the airplane's belly at low altitude.

Flying low to the ground, turbulence was a constant nuisance. The coyote baits — made primarily of fish meal and the vaccine — possess a powerful odor designed to attract the coyotes. Compounded with the cramped conditions in the aircraft, it presented a sickening problem for the flight crew.

"Definitely, the most difficult part of this mission has been air sickness," said Pvt. Emmanuel Martinez, a member of the 111th Area Service Medical Battalion in San Antonio. Martinez, who is over six-feet in height, said having to remain bent over handling the bait tubs and setting the baits on the conveyor to jettison them from the aircraft, added to the mission's difficulty.

Despite this, he remained upbeat. "I would come back if I were asked to," he insisted. "We have a good group here, and have a lot of fun working with each other."

Staley said working with interesting people such as the Canadians and state-employed animal trappers added enthusiasm to an already motivated group.

"It's a work-hard, play-hard type of situation," Staley said. "The soldiers here are committed to flying three to five hours a day in addition to preparing the baits and loading them into the aircraft."

"The rest of the time," he added, "they

RABID SUPPORT - Texas Army Guard volunteers SSgt. Horace Sapp (above, left) and Sgt. Russell Levy load a conveyor belt with gray fox rabies baits aboard an airplane over Abilene, Texas.

have a chance to mingle and chat with some really interesting people associated with the program."

Staley said the Texas National Guard has become a cornerstone of the vaccination effort.

"Without help from our National Guard, the Department of Health would need an awful lot of outside help," he said.

Gayne Fearneyhough, ORVP director, agreed.

"The logistical complexity of the program demands that we have good personnel support," Fearneyhough said. "That is why it's very important that we continue to have National Guard participation."

The effectiveness of the Texas Guardmembers have also created an interest with Guard units in other states.

"I have seen how important the Guard here has been in the program," said New York State Animal Control Officer Ted M. Blanchard. Blanchard came to Texas as an observer, gathering information on how to deal with his state's rabies problem with raccoons.

"Hopefully, we can incorporate our own Guardmembers into our rabies projects," Blanchard said. "It just simply saves our state money."

A Maine crew
is restoring old
vehicles and
saving money

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Center of Excellence

The notion may not ring as noble as beating swords into plowshares, but converting military ambulances into troop carriers is one way the Maine Army National Guard has begun to save taxpayers some big bucks.

A crew of 39 full-time workers in maintenance shops at Limestone and Augusta are removing the tops and remodeling 160 of the distinctive camouflage-painted Humvee ambulances that are no longer needed because of downsizing into troop carriers that can each haul up to 10 soldiers.

They are also restoring to mint condition 50 five-ton trucks corroded from long-term exposure to seawater. And they hope to get National Guard Bureau approval to do the same kind of restorations on bulldozers and other tracked vehicles.

Rebuilding and maintaining equipment as cheaply as possible is as critical to the nation's military readiness as being primed for combat, insisted Maine Lt. Col. Albert Roy.

"There is no money for new equipment. We'd better look at remodeling what we've got and maintaining it better," Roy said. "That's the key to our survival now."

Since beginning the program last November, the Maine crew has converted 26 Army Guard ambulances into troop carriers for South Carolina and Wisconsin at \$13,000 apiece, explained Lt. Col. Arthur Cleaves, the Maine Army Guard's director of maintenance. A new Humvee costs \$35,000, he pointed out.

Each vehicle is given a one-year warranty signed by Maj. Gen. Earl Adams, Maine's adjutant general.

The crew has also begun restoring the five-ton trucks from New Jersey that have been damaged by sea water during deployments to the Persian Gulf in 1990-91 as well as during missions along the state's Atlantic coast.

The cost for restoring the first two trucks was \$28,000 apiece, about \$100,000 less than the price of a new truck, said SSgt. Bob Hersey. He was confident the Maine crew could cut the restoration time on future trucks from three weeks to about 10 days.

Most of the work is being done at the Army Guard's Center of Excellence in northern Maine, a single-story maintenance facility complete with equipment and tools acquired from the former Loring AFB in Limestone.

The Humvee and five-ton truck contracts are expected to keep the crew busy for up to 18 months, Cleaves said. He hopes that future contracts will generate a total of 100 jobs for northern Maine's depressed economy.

The Maine operation is competing with more centralized facilities in Mississippi, Texas and Kansas, Roy acknowledged. But Maine officials estimate they can restore a five-ton truck for \$9,500 less in labor costs than the National Guard Bureau's estimate.

That should offset the higher costs of transporting the equipment to northern Maine, they maintain.

"Although some of our transportation costs may exceed some of the other rebuild sites in the country," said



BOXED BAIT - Texas Army Guard Sgt. Jim Gatton unloads a box of vaccine bait from a refrigerated trailer. Four trailers containing 1.6 million gray fox and coyote baits were used.

Fearneyhough said state leaders realized early on the importance of Guard soldiers in contributing to the program.

"The Governor of Texas, beginning with Ann Richards and followed by George Bush, allowed us to continue to have access to our Guard resources. It also indicated that this is indeed a public health program that demands the respect of applying the proper resources to do it," Fearneyhough added.

Fearneyhough said the Canadians were brought in as a result of that country's aggressive and successful rabies program in dealing with their red fox problem.

"Their computer software, as well as navigational and logistical equipment, were already in place in their country when we first initiated our own program," Fearneyhough said. "There wasn't any need to look further than their program and their success handling their rabies vaccination efforts."

The reemergence of canine rabies was first detected in 1988. Fearneyhough said the real danger of canine rabies is that it can be easily passed to the household dog, and ultimately, to humans. Since 1990, five Texans have lost their lives.

Once eradicated in the 1950s, canine rabies is believed to have started among the wild dog population in northern Mexico. It quickly made its way across the Rio Grande River.

However, Fearneyhough said substantial progress has been made. At least 87 percent of the coyotes in south Texas, he reported, have eaten one or more baits.

"We have gone from 166 cases in 1994 to just three cases in 1997," he added. "We are using cutting edge technology. Our vaccines are environmentally safe, and we are not destroying a wildlife species for human health reasons."



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

EXCELLENT HANDS - Maine Army Guard SSgt. Alton Sinclair (above) inspects the cab of a repainted Humvee that has been converted from an ambulance to a troop carrier. Maine Sgt. Matt Farrington (right) sands the surface of a Humvee's hood before repainting.



Cleaves, "our per-hour labor rate offsets these costs and still allows the center to provide the end product at a lower cost to the customer."

And officials are exploring ways to trim transportation costs, such as letting the state's Army Guard and Reserve transportation companies haul the vehicles.

As Col. Arnold Lundquist, a Maine finance officer, told the *Associated Press* last fall: "It's a business approach to doing government business."

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

'A Splendid

100 years
ago, the
Guard put
themselves
on the map

WAR'

By MSgt.
Bob Haskell
National
Guard Bureau

John Milton Hay might have known better, considering he was one of President Abraham Lincoln's personal secretaries and biographer during the bloody Civil War. More than 30 years later, when he was this country's ambassador to Great Britain, Hay coined the phrase that has characterized this country's considerably less taxing war with Spain — the Spanish-American War.

"The splendid little war," the poetic Hay called the 1898 conflict whose 100th anniversary is being quietly acknowledged this year with a television movie and in only a few places rather than loudly celebrated across the land.

The United States won that war — fairly decisively it turned out. It was in all of the papers — the very ones that helped bring on the war after the battleship Maine exploded and sank in Havana Harbor on Feb. 15, killing 268 men.

And it did give this country a new military hero, Theodore Roosevelt, who became our 26th president, as well as an outfit romantically remembered as the "Rough Riders" whose legend has dwarfed its actual accomplishments on July 1.

Lt. Col. Roosevelt's 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry troopers certainly did all right for themselves during the brief campaign in Cuba. But they did not win the war all by themselves by charging up Kettle Hill and wrestling it away from the Spanish Army and driving on to San Juan Hill anymore than Jimmy Doolittle destroyed Tokyo with his retaliatory air raid after Pearl Harbor.

The newspapers owned by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, however, were all too eager to feed the war-frenzied American public with stories about new heroes. Stories and illustrations about the Rough Riders fit the bill just fine.

John Hay was half right. The 113-day war in the Caribbean was certainly little by most measures of that era when wars dragged on because conventional weapons could not cripple an army or a country.

It was hardly splendid.

Typhoid, malaria and yellow fever brought down 10 times as many American soldiers as did enemy bullets. The food was rotten or poorly cooked, the wool uniforms were too hot for the tropics, the weapons were second rate, and the supply and transport systems were a joke.

It was considerably less splendid for America's Eighth Army Corps that spent another two and a half years slugging it out with tropical diseases and machete-armed insurgents in the Philippine jungles after the treaty ending the Spanish-American War was signed on Dec. 10, 1898.

What lit this country's patriotic fire as a noble quest for Cuba's liberation wound up teaching the Army some tough lessons about equipping and sending large numbers of soldiers overseas. Without it, the Army might not have gotten its act together in time to engage in a couple of other, somewhat better known conflicts World Wars I and II.

Here's what the Spanish-American War accomplished besides securing Cuba's independence from Spanish oppression.

- It established the United States as an international military power thanks to naval victories against Spanish fleets in the Philippines and in Cuba and because of the Army's long-fought victory over the Filipino insurrectionists.

- It made America a colonial power on a par with England, France and Germany with the annexation of Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam, and projected this nation's power into the Far East with the acquisition of Hawaii for Navy coaling stations.

- It led to the recognition of the National Guard as an integral part of this country's defense establishment.

- It prompted the Army's evolution from a small force intended to subdue and control western tribes of Native Americans into an organization that could send large bodies of men into action against armies anywhere in the world.

- It paved the way for women to serve in the military.

It was a curious conflict.

It was really a naval war that supported this country's industrial ventures into new international markets because U.S. factories were producing more goods than American citizens



Photos courtesy

FIT TO FIGHT - A Utah National Guard (above) artillery battery fires a volley near Manila, Philippines in 1899. A wounded soldier (right) is evacuated on a horse litter in the Philippines.



could buy or afford, due in part to a late 19th-century depression.

The country had begun to assert its naval power by building a fleet of battleships intended to control the world's shipping lanes and hold other nations at bay beginning in the 1880s.

Roosevelt, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in late February ordered Commodore George Dewey to prepare his U.S. Asiatic Squadron for offensive operations against the Spanish squadron in Manila Bay. War was declared on April 25, and Dewey's ships decisively defeated the decrepit Spanish force on May 1.

Roosevelt, however, resigned to begin organizing the Rough Riders on May 6 and seek his military adventure in Cuba as part of the Army's first major venture outside the American continent.

"It was the first major war that the United States fought against an overseas power without territory contiguous to the United States itself," observed the Army's *History of Military Mobilization*. That made it considerably different from the Mexican War of 1846-48.

"The Army's campaigns around Santiago (in Cuba) and Manila on opposite sides of the world were undertaken to supplement and aid naval campaigns," the historical pamphlet

elaborated.

The Army had a lot to learn.

"The situation found the country unprepared with any large stock of arms, ammunition, clothing, supplies and equipment," charged a "Report on the Conduct of the War."

"In the prewar period no long-range plans or preparations had been made to move a sizable body of troops by water. The United States did not possess a single troopship," stated the *History of Military Mobilization*.

The Army suddenly needed to prepare and care for a lot of men.

Barely three decades after the Civil War, the regular Army numbered just 28,000 soldiers patrolling the West and pulling garrison duty in 80 posts. The Army called it the "dark ages."

The National Guard had the men — 114,000 of them. They were not highly trained, nor did they have the best of equipment. But they were eagerly available, even if the Constitution prevented them from fighting outside of the country. President William McKinley made them federal Volunteers.



ENTRENCHED - New York's 71st Volunteer Infantry (above) takes a position from a trench on San Juan Hill, Cuba, July 1, 1898. Regimental clerks (left) with the Michigan's 31st Volunteer Infantry adjutant's office set up shop from a tent in Cuba in 1898.

hindsight, the Spanish-American War was politically incorrect."

But the country and the Army did reap rewards.

• The Army replaced the position of Commanding General, that had no direct ties to the troops in the field,

with the General Staff Corps that could directly deal with matters such as training, supplying and mobilizing soldiers. The Chief of Staff became the Army's top soldier in 1903.

• The Army War College was created the same year to, among other objectives, "regulate and develop existing means of military education and training."

• The Militia Act of 1903, commonly called the "Dick Act," made the National Guard subject to federal guidelines for training and mobilization and eligible for federal funds. It replaced the Uniform Militia Act of 1792 that had made the states responsible for maintaining their militia units. It made the federal government responsible for the National Guard, said Kondratiuk.

• Women became official members of the American military for the first time when the Army Nurse Corps was formed in 1901, wrote Judith Bellafaire, Ph.D., in her paper for the new Women in Military Service for America Memorial. The Navy Nurse Corps was formed in 1908.

Civilian contract nurses had cared for sick and wounded servicemen who had presented military officials with one of their biggest problems during the "little" Spanish-American War.

San Juan Heights, including Kettle Hill. Gatling-gun fire drove the Spaniards off San Juan Hill. Casualties from that day's fighting and subsequent skirmishes totaled 286 killed and 1,540 wounded.

The Navy destroyed the Spanish fleet as it fled out of Santiago harbor on July 3, and 22,500 Spanish troops surrendered two weeks later.

The Army battled Spanish forces in Puerto Rico for the next month until Spain signed a protocol ending the war on Aug. 12. Spain granted independence to Cuba and ceded Puerto Rico to the U.S. The U.S. paid Spain \$20 million for the Philippine Islands and retained Guam when the treaty was signed Dec. 10.

That officially ended the "splendid little war," even though Philippine rebels fought tooth and nail until July 1902, outraged because they had been denied their independence. Another 4,243 Americans died and 2,818 were wounded over there.

That, according to a military historian, is one reason why the Army and this nation are not making a big deal about the war's 100th anniversary.

"We became a colonial power, which we'd rather forget," offered Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk, the National Guard Bureau's chief historian. "In

They promptly answered his calls in April and May for a total of 200,000 troops. Many of the units retained their state identities by reporting at full strength. They then appointing the same officers who had led the Guard regiments.

The Rough Riders, initially commanded by Col. Leonard Wood, were one of 16 special federal volunteer regiments authorized from the nation at large. The Army's ranks swelled to 168,929 men in May. There were 274,717 men in uniform for the most popular war in this country's history by August.

Most of the excitement occurred in June and July when the Fifth Corps force of 16,877 troops, commanded by 300-pound Maj. Gen. William Shafter, embarked for southern Cuba and began beating back the Spaniards around Santiago.

Two things played into the Americans' hands. Cuban rebels were well organized after three years of guerrilla warfare. The Spanish force was not nearly as formidable as U.S. officials had feared.

July 1 was the critical day when 5,400 U.S. troops stormed the fort at El Caney and 3,000 others seized the

A small San Antonio bar served as a recruiting center for Guardmembers

BARring NONE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Although a lot of men rushed to sign up, the U.S. Army in 1898 did not have enough officers to staff general recruiting stations in cities across America. There were only 22 of them during the peak months of the Spanish-American War, according to the Army's "History of Military Mobilization."

It is safe to say a place called the Menger was not one of them. It was a bar.

In fact, it still is. It is one of this country's most remarkable historical landmarks because, like the Ford Theater in Washington, D.C., where President Lincoln was assassinated, the Menger Bar in San Antonio, Texas, is still being used for the purpose for which it was built.

It is a comfortable little watering hole across Crockett Street from the Alamo where Theodore Roosevelt recruited western cowboys and eastern college boys for the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry — the Rough Riders.

Aside from a television that sits atop a display case, the Menger Bar has been preserved as it existed a century ago.

A promotional brochure explains that its paneled ceiling of cherrywood, booths and beveled mirrors from France, and decorated glass cabinets that cost \$60,000 made it a replica of London's House of Lords Pub when the bar was built in 1887. The original brass spittoons for tobacco chewing and snuff dipping are still in place.

The bar is part of the historic Menger Hotel that was constructed in 1859, just 26 years after the Battle of the Alamo.

Numerous photos and drawings of Teddy Roosevelt, including an etching by internationally renowned artist Pierre Nuytens, make it perfectly clear that the cowboy colonel from New York who became our 26th president is still considered this bar's most famous patron.

A modest plaque on the outside wall facing the Alamo tells of the Menger Bar's place in Texas history:

"Exact replica of pub in London's House of Lords. Theodore Roosevelt recruited 'Rough Riders' here in 1898. Site of more cattle deals than any other place in Texas and San Antonio's oldest continuously operated saloon."



SPORTS

• Hot Shots • Disney Deeds • Tough Tailor

SPORTS SHORTS

Records smashed at marksman event

Fifteen out of 34 match records were broken during the 7th Annual Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., recently.

"This competition is slated as one of the best, if not the best marksmanship competition in the world," reported Col. Dan Short, National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit commander. "This event is the largest military marksmanship competition in the United States, and we believe (the largest), in the world."

Approximately 284 shooters from eleven countries, such as Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, South Africa and the United Kingdom, were represented.

The eight-man Guard team of SSgt. Charles Allen, MSgt. Danny Estes, MSgt. James Schulte, Capt. David Kleiber, CWO Lawrence Grace, CWO Ray Gabiola, Maj. Michael Michie and SFC Bruce Beauregard placed first in six of eight team matches.

Runners go Disney

The Magic Kingdom, Epcot Center, Donald Duck, Goofy, Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

For most, a trip to Orlando often consists of a dream vacation, but for members of the "All-Guard" marathon team, the 5th Annual Walt Disney Half Marathon (13.1 miles) was anything but a vacation.

Arizona's Sgt. Chase Duarte, was the top Guard's fastest finisher at 1:14.26, followed by Indiana SSgt. Trent Sinnett (1:15.47) and Utah Sgt. Dallas Workman (1:17.09).

"It was the first race I've finished before the sun came up," Duarte said.

Mississippi's SSgt. William Pope knows his way around a gym and sewing machine

A tailored
TORSO

By TSgt. Sandy Switzer
Mississippi National Guard

Seamstress or seam-stressed? Either way, you'll get a wide, shy smile should you joke with SSgt. William J. Pope about his *seamingly* varied interests.

Don't underestimate this Mississippi Air Guardsman as you see him expertly maneuver a sewing machine from the 172nd Airlift Wing's fabrication and parachute repair shop. Those nimble hands, that are able to gently glide the fabric to the head of a steel needle, can easily thrust 400 pounds of iron from his chest at the base gymnasium.

Such is the life of a bodybuilder who sews by day and sculpts by night.

Those who acquaint themselves with this 35-year-old, are immediately struck by his soft voice, enthusiastic attitude and steel will. Interestingly, Pope said he developed his discipline, humble nature and moral character from his early childhood.

"I grew up in the Delta of Mississippi picking cotton in the fields at Rolling Fork," he said proudly, noting how the back-breaking work and a loving, supportive mother prepared him for success.

"My mother always told me that nothing comes to sleepers, but dreams," he added. "And that the only way I could accomplish anything was to work hard. She (his mother) was my greatest inspiration."

Most of his tailoring skills were acquired out of necessity, he recalled. In a family of 11, making your own clothes was just one of your responsibilities. So when Pope joined the Mississippi Air National Guard in 1986, he was eager to put this talent to work as a fabrication/parachute specialist.

From sewing patches, repairing rafts and rigging parachutes, he's been at the



Photo courtesy of SSgt. William Pope

STRIKE A POSE - Mississippi Air Guard SSgt. William Pope demonstrates the result of hard work and discipline.

sewing machine for more than a decade, the last eight as a full-timer.

However, the quest for a sculpted body didn't evolve quite as easily.

"I use to watch my brothers practicing karate in the front yard when I was just a kid," he recalled. "I wasn't any good at or interested in karate."

"But, I was tired of everyone picking on me and beating me up," he added with

a laugh. "So I decided I would get into bodybuilding."

He began a regimen of weight training, proper diet and aerobics. By the time he was 20-years-old, he entered his first state competition.

"I didn't win at that time, but I really enjoyed competing," he said. "In fact, I have placed in more competitions now that I am older, than I did when I was much younger and building muscle seemed easier."

Last year he entered three bodybuilding competitions in Jackson, the state capital, placing third in each event. He also was a runner-up at a Hazlehurst, Miss., competition. Pope said he is now determined to "chisel" some of his smoother, softer body muscles and go on to compete at a national level.

With 210 pounds of lean muscle distributed over an 5 foot 11-inch frame, Pope requires a special waiver from the Air Force to meet height and weight standards, a common dilemma for most military bodybuilders.

Pope said he maintains his muscle mass by eating six meals a day, chased by three gallons of distilled water.

He is frequently called upon by fellow gym rats for advice on healthy eating and proper exercise technique. Pope added that he enjoys helping others achieve a healthier and fitter form.

When he is not stitching seams or honing muscles, he enjoys singing and playing bass guitar for the 172nd wing's gospel choir.

He also owns an upholstery business in Pearl, Miss., and serves as a reserve policeman for that town's police department. If not enough, he has almost completed a degree in industrial technology degree from Jackson State University.

But, most of all, reports this bodybuilding stitcher, he would like to spend more time with his mother, Clara — a lady whom he credits for all his success.



Photos by Maj. Ron Elliott



BRADLEY BUILDERS - A mechanic (left) at Texas's MATES paints a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, as others (above) await repair.

A Texas Guard maintenance site is getting discarded Fighting Vehicles into the hands of eager Guard units

Bent on BRADLEYs

By Maj. Ron Elliott
Texas National Guard

Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door. Build a better Bradley Fighting Vehicle and you may need a bigger doorstep.

Those that toil at the Texas Army Guard's Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) at North Fort Hood know all about bigger doorsteps, as their program to rebuild displaced, or worn-out Bradleys has gained popularity fast.

well as units in Texas. Other states are knocking.

The Bradley Rebuild Program is an agreement between the U.S. Army's Forces Command and the National Guard Bureau to transfer 257 Bradley Fighting Vehicles from the active Army to the Guard, reported Col. Clifford Barkley, the Texas Army Guard's director of maintenance.

With a \$10.2 million budget, he said, Guard mechanics are charged with extending the life of the Bradleys, given to them in "as-is" condition. The rebuilt Bradleys are then used by Guard mechanized infantry units -- originally scheduled to get the vehicles after the year 2000.

"The Bradley Rebuild Program extends the life of the vehicle for an additional 10 to 12 years," Barkley said. "The 49th Armored Division (Texas) will have this particular model Bradley until the year 2008."

The established standards for the program require that the vehicles be upgraded to "Condition Code B," or mission-capable status, Barkley noted. To that end, two options were considered: Should the work be done by civilian contractors or Guardmembers?

"One advantage of us doing the work is that we are able to train a lot of young soldiers to work on the Bradleys," Barkley said. "Plus, we are basically a contractor ourselves. We have control of the entire operation."

"Another advantage of the rebuild program is that the National Guard saves money by repairing components of the system rather than ordering new parts," Barkley added. "For example, a civilian contractor might buy a

new engine or starter to replace a defective part. The Guard, however, has the facilities and expertise to repair the part at a lower cost."

Guard mechanics, Barkley noted proudly, go beyond the "Code B" program requirement, and upgrade the Bradley to a "Condition Code A" standard.

"Code B" only covers the items that would cause the vehicle to be mission-capable," he explained, "but it does not cover the cosmetic and detail work 'Code A' does."

Routinely, each Bradley is in the shop an average of 600-650 man hours, Barkley continued. The vehicle is brought in and inspected from top to bottom, front to back, outside and inside. Inspectors determine what repairs are needed to bring the vehicle up to mission-

ready standards. But the Guard's "Condition Code A" goal also returns the vehicle to users in a "as new as possible" condition, Barkley noted.

"As a result of this program, the customer is getting a much better product," he said.

Col. Hugh Hall, MATES superintendent, said his Guard-run facility offers customers another advantage.

"What's really unique about this program is that we guarantee our work," Hall said. "The Army doesn't guarantee the stuff they build, but we do."

Recently, when an out-of-state Guard unit had minor trouble with one of their Bradleys, Lone Star MATES mechanics were dispatched to resolve the problem, all in the name of customer service.

"We want the customer to leave here feeling like they've gotten a good training experience from us, and knowing that we took care of them," Hall said.

The benefits of this program also extend beyond the realm of the military. With an average of 100 employees working on the program, MATES is one of the largest employers in the North Fort Hood area, pumping more than \$2.5 million into the community in salaries alone.

The Bradley program's success is also at least partly responsible for a separate contract with the Marine Corps to rebuild 200 Humvees, Hall added. That contract will bring an additional 60 jobs to the plant.

"This rebuild program has opened a lot of doors for us," Hall observed. "Military organizations outside the Guard have come to us wanting us to work on their equipment, because they realize our capability and can see the quality of our work."

"If we don't have quality products," he continued, "the National Guard and the country are the losers."

CONNECTED to CABLE



Members of the Ohio Air Guard's 220th Engineering Installation Squadron (above and right) based in Zanesville teamed with six Air National Guard and one active Air Force EIS units to install more than 155,000 feet of fiber optic cable at MacDill AFB, Fla. The cable will be used for a new Combat Information Transport System at the base.



Photos by SSgt. Shannon Scherer

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

One of the most famous units in the U.S. Army during World War I was finally honored at the site of its greatest battle.

Nearly 80 years after the fighting, residents of the small French town of Sichault joined visiting military officials and American veterans to witness the unveiling of a monument to the New York National Guard's 369th Infantry — the "Harlem Hellfighters" — an all-black unit of volunteers from New York.

The unit was one of eight black infantry regiments that the United States sent to France in World War I. Originally designated as the 15th Infantry Regiment, New York National Guard, the men who joined were all volunteers from New York City area.

The regiment served 191 days at the front, longer than any other American regiment.

Outfitted at first with French weapons and helmets, the unit became known as the "Harlem Hellfighters" by the Germans, especially after Sgt. Henry L. Johnson's hand-to-hand encounter with a 20-man German raiding party in which he and another soldier, Pvt. Needham Roberts, killed four Germans and drove off the rest.

Johnson's bravery resulted in a unique distinction. He was one of the first American soldiers to receive the Croix de Guerre — a medal given to Frenchmen for uncommon valor in combat.

The unit was cited 11 times for bravery. Ultimately, the entire regiment — numbering 171 officers and enlisted men — were awarded the Croix de Guerre or Legion d'Honneur.

No 369th Harlem Hellfighters were ever captured by the enemy, and they never yielded any ground.

Members of the New Hampshire Army Guard's 3643rd Service Company assisted the Forestry Service recently by retrieving two 60-kilowatt generators from the Forestry Service Nursery in Boscawen.

The unit dispatched a five-ton wrecker and a pair of 2 1/2-ton trucks to load and bring the generators back to the state armory in Concord. Under an interagency agreement, the 3643rd repairs the generators and returns them to the agency.

CWO Ben Mosrall said the effort is a "win-win situation," noting that the soldiers in his generation repair section receive valuable hands-on training, while the Forestry Service is furnished with fixed generators at a fraction of the cost.

As more than 300 Virgin Islands National Guard soldiers stood at attention in formation after having qualified with their weapons, three in their ranks were singled out.

• Pvt. Pauline Haywood, a member of the territory's 661st Military Police Company, was named the 104th Troop Command Soldier of the Year.

• SSgt. Jeremy Laurent of Maintenance Support Activity was picked the Islands' Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

• Spc. Seanna Hughes of Headquarters Detachment was named Soldier of the Year.



New York Hellfighters honored in France.



New Hampshire Army Guard helps Forestry Service.



Ohio's SMSgt. Christopher Muncy (center with certificate) poses with the current and six former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force.

A five-man C-130 crew with the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing was instrumental in the rescue of the survivor of a downed aircraft near Walker, Calif., recently.

Maj. Jonathan Proehl, aircraft commander, 1st Lt. Andy Kreimers, co-pilot, Maj. Chris Ultsch, navigator, TSgt. Andy Feldman, flight engineer, and MSgt. Tim Franklin, loadmaster, were returning to their Reno base when they were called to search for the stricken plane.

Shortly after arriving on the scene, radio contact was established with a survivor. He reported he was trapped in a twin-engine Cessna. The aircraft was upside down and his leg was broken. Complicating matters, the plane was white and had crashed at 9,500 feet in the snow and was on the slope of a mountain.

The crew keyed on the victim's radio signal, enabling helicopter rescue crews to pinpoint the downed pilot.

The survivor was airlifted to Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City and treated for his injuries. The emergency room physician was Dr. Richard Newbold, commander of the 152nd's medical squadron.

After about a year of experiments and draft proposals, the Arkansas Air Guard's 188th Fighter Wing at Ebbing Air National Guard Base on Fort Smith has a new design on the tail of its F-16 fighter jets.

Once the design was selected, the 188th's Maj. Jonathan Williams, who has had a fair amount of art classes in both high school and college, put together preliminary sketches that were sent to a professional artist. Taking the artist's image, Williams scanned it into a computer. With the use of high-quality computer equipment and graphic illustration software, the image was then manipulated and made to fit on a computerized F-16 tail.

The image was then made into a stencil that was used to paint the design on the aircraft tails.

Ohio Air Guard SMSgt. Christopher Muncy, a member of the 251st Combat Communications Group in Springfield, was selected as the distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Senior NCO Academy at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Distinguished grads are selected from the top 10 percent of a class of 360. The honor is based upon academics, peer and instructor voting and team-building skills. Only 20 Air Guardmembers are allowed to attend each class.

Muncy is not the only Buckeye Guardmember to graduate from the Academy. Last year, SMSgt. Ron Allen, a member of the 121st Air Refueling Wing based at Rickenbacker, and MSgt. Roy Samson with the Toledo-based 180th Fighter Wing, successfully completed the course.

Ohio's Maj. Scott White and Maryland's Maj. William Everett are currently attending the prestigious Naval Postgraduate school in Monterey, Calif.

The school is renowned for its masters-level courses in military sciences.

MEDICS

From Page 1

good break," Berkland said.

Being aware of some unusual cultural considerations and getting inoculated for deadly anthrax have made this mission unique.

"Don't look directly at the Saudi women. Don't let the local people see the soles of your feet. Don't do anything with your left hand, because that is used for, shall we say, sanitary purposes," said Ohio MSgt. Michael Higgins, the unit's first sergeant, of the local customs and courtesies expected to keep the Americans on their toes.

Medical team members explained they were expected to begin their series of six anthrax inoculations after arriving in Saudi Arabia to counter the threat of that inexpensive, biological agent of mass destruction.

It takes 18 months to administer the series, they explained. But the first two shots given during the first two weeks are said to insure a 95 percent survival rate for those exposed to the fast-killing disease.

Dealing with risks such as anthrax go hand-in-hand with many foreign deployments, maintained team members.

They will assume responsibility for the operating room, dental clinic, patient ward, outpatient services and medical supplies for the hospital that can be put on pallets and flown — tents, generators and bedpans — to another location.

"I was in the Air Force during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and I didn't get asked to go," lamented Alaska Maj. Susan Darnell, a registered nurse and the team's chief of medical operations. "This will give me a good perspective of what a hospital like this can do."

Higgins was equally determined.

"I've trained all my life to go into this environment," said the 43-year-old Ohio state police officer who was an Army infantry scout at Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Campbell, Ky., from 1981-83. "I've got to get back into it before I get too old and while I'm still in good shape."

Deploying Guardmember undeterred by Anthrax threat

A shot in the ARM

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Every military theater of operations has peculiar twists.

For Saudi Arabia, it is brown camouflage uniforms to match the desert terrain; an understanding that the darned sand gets into everything; and anthrax vaccine.

Indiana Air National Guard TSgt. Bruce Kaylor was confident this nation's military officials had the anthrax matter under control before leaving for four months of medical duty at Prince Sultan Air Base on April 1.

"I'm not real concerned about it. The threat is there, but it's not at the forefront of my mind right now," said the biomedical equipment technician early that morning before flying out of the Baltimore Washington International Airport with two dozen other members of the Air Guard

team who will spend four months running an Air Force hospital located uncomfortably close to southern Iraq.

Missiles bearing anthrax spores that can kill in seven days are considered a significant threat over there. Furthermore, anthrax is said to be the easiest of all biological warfare agents to manufacture and deliver in warheads. Defense officials have explained.

Anthrax is a highly contagious disease carried by cattle, sheep and other warm-blooded animals. Dry spores can afflict one's lungs if inhaled.

However, the knowledge that in-



"The threat is there, but it's not at the forefront of my mind"

TSgt. Bruce Kaylor

oculations for the Air Guard team were expected to begin right away and that the first two shots being given during the first two weeks would probably keep him alive should he be exposed, enabled Kaylor to

corral his concerns and concentrate on his job.

"I was really leery at first," acknowledged Kaylor, 35, who left his wife and young son and daughter behind in Huntington, Ind., where he is a bio-med technician for a community hospital. "I felt a little better when I learned the entire force is being inoculated."

Indeed, Defense Secretary William Cohen announced on Dec. 15 that this country's 2.4 million military personnel, including reservists, will receive the 18-month series of six shots over a six-year period.

The 100,000 assigned to Asian theaters where the threat of biological agents is considered greatest will be inoculated first.

"People were telling me not to go there; that it's dangerous over there. I told them this is the reason I joined the military," explained Kaylor, who joined Indiana's 122nd Fighter Wing at Fort Wayne 10 years ago.

"It's probably been one of the best choices of my life," he added.

Kaylor indicated it would take a lot more than the threat of anthrax to keep him away from duty in the Gulf.

"I had no thoughts of not going," he said. "But there are always questions about the unknown."

INSIDE the DEPLOYMENT

Tank tagger

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Hunters tag deer. Baseball players tag up. Children play tag — or they used to. Air National Guard TSgt. Michael Kjellander has tagged a tank.

He didn't bag it, mind you, but he certainly did tag an abandoned Iraqi army tank while on duty in Saudi Arabia in 1991 — after the Gulf War's shooting was over.

Kjellander didn't keep the tank for long or bring it home with him. But tagging that tank gave the 51-year-old Air National Guard one of its most unusual war trophies. It also gave the man from Minnesota a bona fide war story.

Kjellander has been part of the medical deployment team for the past 18 months at the Air National Guard's Readiness Center at Andrews



TSgt. Michael Kjellander

AFB in Maryland. His most recent mission involved coordinating flights, lodging and ground transportation for the Air Guard's 60-member medical team that has deployed to Saudi Arabia to run an Air Force hospital for four months.

He got a certain sense of satisfaction from being able to say "been there, done that."

He was a senior airman in the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron from Minneapolis when Desert Storm blew across the Persian Gulf, explained Kjellander. He was stationed with the Marines at Ras Al Mishab, about 20 miles south of the Kuwait border.

He was traveling in the desert with a group of Marines when they came upon the Iraqi tank that, they supposed, had been left there during the 100-hour ground war.

They were checking it out when a U.S. Army noncommissioned officer drove up and asked which one of them wanted to claim the tank.

"I'll take it," volunteered Kjellander. He wrote his name and other essential information on the tag that was produced by the soldier and then tied it to the tank. Not knowing what else to do with it, Kjellander and the Marines left the tank sitting there and went about their business.

"It was very uneventful," he recalled seven years later.

Perhaps. But it has given him a perfectly good story to tell when someone asks Mike Kjellander what he did during the war.



STATES

• Territory in Thailand • A Peach of a Facility • Ohio Welcome

GUAM

Twenty-nine members of the Air Guard's 254th Civil Engineering Squadron recently returned from a 28-day deployment in northern Thailand.

The unit, currently involved in a joint operation of U.S. Army Special Forces and the Royal Thailand Army called Exercise Balance Torch, built a semi-concrete library structure and erected a wooden fence for the Pang-La Elementary School in a remote town in Lam-pang Province.

GEORGIA

A new 7,500-square-foot headquarters building and renovated facilities will serve two premiere Air National Guard units co-located in Brunswick.

Peach State Congressman Jack Kingston, a member of the military construction subcommittee who was instrumental in obtaining funds for the two Air Guard projects, was on hand to dedicate the two buildings.

Georgia's recently redesignated 165th Air Support Operations Squadron, with more than 60 Guardsmen and women, moved into the headquarters building.

The 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron, with 280 Guardmembers assigned, received a renovated maintenance and operations facility.

CALIFORNIA

COPTER
COURSE

Capt. Greg Atencio, CWO3 Charlie McRoberts and Sgt. Chris Shaw, members of the California Army Guard's Company B, 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation, recently flew a UH-60 Blackhawk to participate in a joint helicopter aquatic rescue training course in Los Alamitos. The training was designed for nearly 100 members of the Golden State's elite Swift Water Rescue Teams.



Photo by Sgt. Chris Shaw

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

When the 113th Fighter Wing enforced the Iraq no-fly zone at a time of heightened tensions recently, most of Washington knew about it because of week-long television news coverage by WJLA-TV-7, the local ABC affiliate.

That coverage was no accident. Taking advantage of a Department of Defense media airlift provision, the civilian reporters traveled with the unit to provide up-to-the-minute coverage.

"Producer Holly Hamilton called us looking for an opportunity to tell about local residents involved in peacekeeping," said Lt. Col. Mike Milord, D.C.'s public affairs officer.

The wing's mission for Operation Northern Watch, flying air combat operations over northern Iraq, seemed to be the perfect match, Milord added.

After lots of coordination, reporter Dale Solly, videographer Jeff Rose and Hamilton joined Brig. Gen. Paul Pochmara, 113th Wing commander, Col. Donald Mozley, 113th Logistics Group commander and F-16 pilots Capt. Rudy Kenzel and Steve Engel to cover the F-16 refueling mission across the Atlantic.

"We need to tell our story when we get the chance," Pochmara said. "The Air Guard has changed immensely over the years, and the taxpayers need to know how involved we are in national security."

OHIO

Gray clouds and occasional rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the friends and family waiting at the Mansfield-Lahm flight line for the return of the 5694th Firefighting Detachment.

The 26-member unit spent seven months in Bosnia-Herzegovina supporting Operation Joint Guard, the NATO-led peacekeeping effort in the region. The unit returned home recently.

As the plane began its descent, unit members appeared preoccupied, according to SSgt. Linda Young, unit administrator for the firefighters. Many, she said, were anxious for the C-130 to land.

"Some were listening to headphones, some looking at their watches and others looking out the windows," Young reported. "One young soldier sitting across from me kept fidgeting in his seat. He reminded me of my son on the day before his birthday."

The excitement wasn't quite so contained among the crowd waiting on the air strip. As soon as the first soldier stepped onto the tarmac, husbands, wives and children rushed forward to greet their loved ones with open arms.

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, Ohio's adjutant general, and Mansfield Mayor Lydia Reid, also welcomed the troops.

The mayor summed up the sentiment of the day with one simple phrase: "Everyone is delighted to have you home again."

The 5694th is one of six Ohio Guard units to participate in Operation Joint Guard. Others include the 838th Military Police Company, Youngstown; 74th Movement Control Team, Columbus; 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus; the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield; and most recently, the 196th Public Affairs Detachment from Columbus.



Photo by SMSgt. Larry Wilson

WARM WELCOME - An Ohio Guard firefighter gets a hug from his son upon returning from peacekeeping duty in Bosnia.



HISTORY

• The Guard and the Spanish-American War

With Guardsman Col. Teddy Roosevelt leading the charge, the Rough Riders stormed into Cuba and into history

An uphill BATTLE

Probably the most famous unit in the Spanish-American War was the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment better known as "The Rough Riders." This month marks the 100th anniversary of its organization.

When war with Spain broke out in April 1898, the War Department thought it necessary to raise three temporary cavalry regiments in addition to the 10 Regular regiments. The three new regiments came from the Western states and were recruited from frontiersmen, cowboys, hunters, sheriffs and marshals. The War Department offered command of the 1st Regiment to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt. He modestly turned down command, but accepted the lieutenant colonel's position.

Roosevelt had briefly served in the New York National Guard as a captain commanding Company B, 8th Infantry Regiment. (now the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery) from 1882-1886. In 1898, when it was evident that there would be a war, he had hoped for a colonel's commission in the New York National Guard.

The Rough Riders were recruited from the territories of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma, and the state of Texas. However, as the regiment's authorized strength went from 780 to 1,000, Teddy accepted eager volunteers from the East. Most were recent graduates of Harvard, Yale and Princeton.

The recent Turner TV production "The Rough Riders" captured the eclectic mixture of cowboys, sheriffs, hunters, Anglos, Hispanics and Indians and "gentlemen" from Boston, New York and other Eastern cities, making the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry one of the most colorful units in the history of the U.S. Army.

The regiment began mustering into service in May 1898. However, in Arizona and New Mexico, existing National Guard organizations recruited to war strength and entered service with the Rough Riders. Troops E, F, G, and H were organized from the New Mexico National Guard's 1st Cavalry, while Troops A, B, and C were organized from Arizona's 1st Infantry.

Col. Henry B. Hersey, New Mexico adjutant general, stepped down to the rank of major in order to command the New Mexico squadron. The descendants of Spanish colonial landholders such as Capt. Maximilian Luna and George Armijo joined, as did Trooper Jose Baca -- an ancestor of National Guard Bureau Chief, Lt. Gen. Edward Baca -- who maintained the family's 300-year old tradition of militia service.

The 1st New Mexico Cavalry had seen hard service since 1862 fighting Confederates, Apaches and outlaws. The New Mexico troopers eagerly volunteered to fight the Spanish. The officers and troopers from the 1st Arizona Infantry had seen territorial service chasing outlaws while the regiment had originally been organized during the Civil War to fight the Apaches.

The most colorful character was Capt. William "Buckey" O'Neill, mayor of Prescott, Ariz., judge, sheriff, Indian fighter and National Guard captain. Vividly portrayed by Sam Elliott in the Turner movie, Buckey was famous in the West for his many gunfights and exploits.

While the Guardsmen had some military service, most of the other Rough Riders had none. While a few officers and troopers were former Regulars, it fell to Col. Leonard Wood, a captain in the Medical Corps and presidential physician, to whip the regiment into shape. Wood had entered the Army as



GUARD HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Len Kondratuk
Army Guard Historian

not enough ships to transport their horses to Cuba.

Along with other units, the Rough Riders landed in Cuba on June 22. They went into action two days later. However, it was the American attack on July 1 at San Juan Heights near the city of Santiago which would forever enshrine the Rough Riders in U.S. military history.

Part of the cavalry division made a supporting attack on Kettle Hill. The Rough Riders, along with the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiments, stormed up the heights led by the new regimental commander, Teddy Roosevelt, on horseback. The Spanish poured heavy fire on the assaulting cavalymen. Blacks, whites, Hispanics, Indians, Regulars, Guards-

men and Volunteers -- American soldiers at their best -- charged up the hill. The cavalymen started to take casualties and a number were killed and wounded including the legendary Buckey O'Neill.

Despite the heavy Spanish fire, the Rough Riders and Buffalo Soldiers continued their charge. The first three troops to reach the top and plant their guidons were Troops E, F, and G of New Mexico. To their right were troops of the 9th Cavalry.

But the cavalymen did not rest on their laurels. From their position on Kettle Hill, they fired at Spanish troops on top of San Juan Hill. Roosevelt then led a supporting attack to the top of San Juan Hill. The Americans took the hill and entrenched in preparation of a Spanish counter-attack. Hostilities ended shortly thereafter after a brief siege of Santiago.

On August 8, the Rough Riders left for Long Island, N.Y. On Sept. 15 the regiment was mustered out of service and out of existence after only 133 days of service. However, the lineage and honors of the Rough Riders continues with two National Guard regiments.

Under the lineage rules of the Chief of Military History, when a National Guard unit organizes a temporary wartime unit, the wartime unit's lineage and honors is awarded to the National Guard regiment. The 1st New Mexico Cavalry later became the 111th Cavalry and in 1940 the 200th Coast Artillery which fought to the bitter end on Bataan in the Philippines in 1942. Now designated as the 200th Air Defense Artillery, the battalion colors proudly carry the streamer "Santiago" earned by the 2nd Squadron, Rough Riders.

The 1st Arizona Infantry later became the 158th Infantry "Bushmaster" Infantry Regiment, a tough combat unit that fought in the Pacific Theater in World War II but was inactivated in 1967. Today's 158th Regiment (Regional Training) wears the Bushmaster insignia and carries the 158th Regimental colors as a challenge and a trust. When Arizona's Troop E, 118th Cavalry -- "roundout" to the famous 11th ACR -- was organized in 1996, the unit was looking for a motto and insignia.

National Guard Bureau historians and 118th soldiers worked with the Institute of Heraldry to design the regiment's distinctive unit insignia. The motto "Rough Riders" commemorates Arizona's last cavalry unit, while the mounted figure represents Capt. Buckey O'Neill.

The Rough Riders heritage lives on in the National Guard.



Photo courtesy the Library of Congress

ROUGH RIDER - Col. Teddy Roosevelt led New York's 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry.

a doctor and had been awarded the Medal of Honor for fighting the Apaches. He had hoped to enter the war as a field grade officer with the Massachusetts National Guard, but Roosevelt, his friend, got him a temporary commission as colonel of the Rough Riders.

The Rough Riders briefly trained in San Antonio, Texas, before leaving for Tampa, Fla., June 4, 1898. The Rough Riders were heartbroken to find out that the entire Cavalry Division would fight as infantry since there were



TRAINING



BOMB BRIEF - Maj. Reynold Hoover explains range clearing operations.

Alabama ordnance disposal unit deploys to Panama

EXPLOSIVE Relationship

By 1st Lt. Anthony Todd Carlisle
U.S. Army Reserve

Those who work in dangerous fields like explosive ordnance disposal can sometimes develop a dark sense of humor.

Alabama Army Guard SSgt. John Zimmer is no different.

An EOD detachment team leader and an old pro in the ordnance field, Zimmer recently asked his soldiers: "What do you do if an explosive ordnance disposal technician runs by you?" With no answers forthcoming, Zimmer replied with tongue firmly in cheek, "Try to pass."

Zimmer, and many other fellow citizen-soldiers with the Alabama's 666th EOD Detachment headquartered in Huntsville, Ala., can wax whimsical when talking about their life-threatening field. However, when it's time to take care of business, explosives experts become serious.

For the next two years citizen-soldiers rotating through Panama will have plenty to be serious about.

The U.S. military will withdraw from



Panama by December 31, 1999, as part of the Panama Canal Treaty signed in 1977 by the Panamanian government and the

Guard ordnance units, or EODs as they're called in the military, performing surface and subsurface clearing of selected ranges

NO DUD - Ala-bama's Sgt. Fred Bradford (left) examines the tail assembly of a 60mm mortar round in Panama.

during the next two dry seasons. In the tropics of Panama, the dry season generally lasts from January to May.

The explosives ordnance units are under Task Force 111, which will oversee efforts to minimize the risk of unexploded ordnance on ranges. In addition to the clearing operation, the Task Force 111 explosive ordnance disposal units will assess the amount and extent of potential unexploded ordnance concentrated in selected areas.

Maj. Reynold Hoover is the commander of Task Force 111. The force consists of EOD units from Alabama, Arizona, Florida, North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan and Vermont. These EOD experts will each spend about two weeks on the ranges.

Hoover said there is ordnance on the ground that dates back to World War I. He added that the soldiers have been gathering all types of scrap ordnance, including everything from mortar to rocket rounds.

"We want to do as much as we can during this dry season and finish the project up by the next dry season," Hoover said. "We also want to educate the Panamanian population about unexploded ordnance and the hazards they present."

Maritza Pearce, a public information officer for U.S. Army South at Fort Clayton, Panama, said the cleanup exercise benefits both countries. Pearce has a shared citizenship, being both Panamanian and a U.S. citizen.

"I see the ranges as part of the legacy of goodwill and relationship of 95 years between Panama and the United States," Pearce said. "The soldiers, who are working at possible risk to themselves, have been good professionals. There have been no safety problems and no casualties. It shows the skilled training the soldiers have received."

The 666th is leading the cleanup effort. They locate, identify, remove or destroy unexploded ordnance.

Zimmer said safety is constantly stressed on the ranges "one million percent." However, even with those concerns, Zimmer said EOD soldiers are not generally an uptight bunch.

"You can't let fear keep you from doing your job," he said, adding that his unit is doing a "bang-up" job.

Ever the joker, Zimmer posed one more question to his team prior to calling it a day on the hot and dusty grasslands of Empire Range.

"What was the last thing the old EOD technician said?" he asked, allowing for the requisite dramatic pause. "Oops."

Photos by SFC Stephen Opet

CLEANUP - PFC Artie Sevellus (left) sorts through scrap metal from targets gathered from an ordnance range.

United States.

Zimmer and many other citizen-soldiers will be rotating through Panama clearing impact areas and weapons ranges as part of the U.S. Army South "Range Closure Plan," which was developed because of the upcoming withdrawal. The plan involves a large contingent of Army and Air Force active components and National