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THE ON GUARD

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October 1998

Guard answers Georges

Hurricane Helpers:
More than 5,000 called up
in six states, territories

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The modern, functional Molino Fire Station with its four fire trucks 20 miles north of Pensacola, Fla., would be the envy of full-time fire departments in many small American cities. It is the home base for an all-volunteer force of 32 firefighters.

Those trucks, however, cannot haul people out of the harm's way of a hurricane. That's why Molino Fire Chief Randy Hendrix was happy to have the Florida Army National Guard's help when Hurricane Georges' 105-mph winds and torrential rains pounded and flooded his part of the world along the Gulf of Mexico's northern coast during the last weekend in September.

"My trucks are set up for fighting fires. The Guard's Humvees and trucks got through the muddy roads and deep water to rescue people," said Hendrix. "They also made it possible for my firefighters to work their regular jobs and handle our normal emergencies."

Florida's citizen-soldiers hauled more than 200 people clutching dogs and cats and plastic bags filled with priceless family pictures from flooded homes around Pensacola, the state's western-most major city, in the darkness of the Sunday night and Monday morning when the hurricane slammed into Mississippi, Alabama and western Florida, three days after hammering Florida's southern Keys.

Its week-long path of death and destruction across the Caribbean challenged the courage and resources of a brigade-size force of National Guard troops called to emergency duty in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and then in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

More than 5,000 answered that call, according to the headcount recorded by the Army Guard's Operations Center in Arlington, Va.

Alabama Army Guard Spc. Stacy Eubanks became an instant hero on Sept. 29 even though he was incorrectly identified as Sgt. Stacey Edmund. A dramatic Associated Press photo of him carrying a young child through waist-deep water in Mobile, Ala., was published on the front pages of *The New York Times* and *USA*



BLIZZARD OF SAND — Hurricane Georges' wrath was felt on Alabama's Dauphin Island where Army Guard engineers were sent to clear its main road of four-foot-high sand drifts.

Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Today, two of the nation's three biggest daily newspapers.

Many other Guard heroes went about the grim task of helping their neighbors while getting soaked to the bone and disregarding the dangers of debris and poisonous water moccasins and cotton mouths in flooded rivers that washed over cars and reached the second stories of some homes.

Five hundred of the 1,000 troops mobi-

See HURRICANE, Page 10



Photos by MSgt. Linda Beth

FREQUENT FLIER

After logging his record-breaking 4,425th hour flying an A-10, Col. James M. Skiff (in cockpit), commander of the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 111th Fighter Wing, gets an 'honorary shower.' Skiff, who flew 400 combat hours in Vietnam, has amassed more than 8,500 total flying hours, 7,000 of them in fighter aircraft.



COMMENTARY

• Meeting Standards • Wanting to Join

ABOUT the PAPER

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GUARD MAIL

Guard-Ho

In reading a Florida Army Guard sergeant's letter (critical of Guard standards), I am wondering what made him decide to join.

I have been in the Guard for 13 years and have seen many changes. It is hard enough trying to change the attitudes of the general public from thinking that the National Guard is just a bunch of "Weekend Warriors," but to listen to a fellow soldier complain about its perceived inadequacies, makes me shudder.

The unit I am assigned to has a great history. The majority of the soldiers in my unit compare equally with any active duty unit. They train hard during the limited time available and take on missions without complaint or hesitation.

Our NCOs are all graduates of either active or reserve component NCO programs. There is not one NCO that has taken a correspondence NCO course, nor is it allowed by regulation.

I also have attended both active and reserve NCO and MOS-qualification programs, and the reserve programs provided a better learning environment. If a Guard NCO is attending an active duty course, the NCO will complete the program the same as their active duty counterparts. Any early release is not due to their being a Guardmember.

As far as the uniform and its wear and appearance, I have seen many active duty people in the same fashion. It is our duty as NCOs to ensure that

corrections are made and that the soldier is made aware of what the regulation states. If they call you "too gung-ho" or "too know-it-all," it may be the way you approach them. I consider myself a very "gung-ho" soldier. My uniform is starched and pressed, I wear spit-shined boots and have a very short "high and tight" (haircut). Many soldiers in my unit are of the same, because the NCO corps sets the standards and ensures that they are met.

If things in your unit are as bad as you say, then you need to speak with your first sergeant, commander and the full-time personnel, for they are responsible for ensuring that correct standards in education and appearance are met.

SFC Michael Nagasawa
Nebraska National Guard

Age-Old Question

I have an important question. In light of low enlistment statistics for the Armed Forces, why does the Army National Guard, active or reserves, not consider taking older applicants above the age of 40 who have no previous military, but have extensive industry experience and graduate-level education?

I know that legal barriers exist, but I believe that the time is right for their removal by Congress.

If the problem is the issue of 20 years retirement needed to accrue before age 60, why not simply give partial retirement credit for years served before 60? How about completely removing the retirement requirement? Many "baby boomers" would serve anyway. Some already have retirement benefits coming from the private sector.

The issue of age is only for new recruits, because the military has within its ranks many productive members above the age of 40 and 50.

I'm not talking about filling front-line infantry positions, but key support functions held in engineering, logistics, communications, intelligence, etc.

In my opinion, tapping into the "baby boomer" talent pool could only strengthen our military preparedness. Will it take a national emergency to awaken us? I hope not.

Personally, I have 20 years experience in the telecommunications engineering and management field. I'm 49, and a volunteer with the California State Military Reserves and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Applicants like myself feel that we are still young enough to fulfill the military needs of our country, if they give us the opportunity.

Bob Mazzola
California

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: malthanerj@ngb.af.mil

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

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* (Three-Letter Acronym)



IN THE NEWS

• Futuristic Headquarters • Suicide Prevention • Brown Retires

Bureau headquarters moves into future

Capitol View: Move from Pentagon to JP1 like leaping from the basement to the Penthouse

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Sunlight? A view of the Capitol? Room to work? Room to breathe? Welcome to the National Guard Bureau's new corporate headquarters.

"It's clean. It's quiet. And I've got a view," said Air National Guard Lt. Col. Madonna Mann about her new Public Affairs digs on the 11th floor of Jefferson Plaza 1, address 1411 Jefferson Davis Highway, in Crystal City, Va.

She is not alone. Just about everyone sits next to a window or can see daylight through glass walls. Just about everyone who used to toil in the close confines of windowless offices on the Pentagon's second floor feels much better about working at JP1.

Suddenly, the Guard Bureau's staff has a professional building that a year ago would have been beyond their belief. Suddenly, they all have modern desks with rounded corners and ergonomic chairs. Their computer terminals and video teleconferencing screens are wired into the

same, central system. A sound-masking system all but eliminates background noise.

The Pentagon also is close. It's a 10-minute walk along Army-Navy Drive and across its south parking lot. It's a five-minute ride on a shuttle bus. But the move to JP1, say those who did so in August, was like leaping from the basement to the penthouse.

"We've designed the office building of 2010, not 1995. We're going to be here for 10 or 15 years, so we wanted to do it right," said Air Guard Col. John Deaton, a former KC-135 tanker navigator who has directed the Guard Bureau's Move Team for the past 18 months. JP1 may not be his building, but the project is clearly his baby.

The half-century-old Pentagon will be remodeled over the next 10 or so years for an anticipated \$1.2 billion.

Consequently, Jefferson Plaza is not a makeshift facility. It is being rebuilt and refitted with state-of-the-art technology to the tune of \$22 million, Deaton explained.

"We can't do anything about self-imposed stress levels or working tough issues," he added. "But we can give everybody a good environment to work in."

It is a 28-year-old office building, the oldest in Crystal City, which has been gutted from the elevator shafts to the outer walls after being occupied for 27 years by Navy aviation program people.

So far, the 332 Guard workers who formerly served in



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell



Jefferson Plaza 1 (left) and Col. John Deaton.

■ See BUREAU, Page 13

Air Guard commits to reducing suicides

By Spe. Vicki Berlin
Michigan National Guard

Just two drills after learning one of their own had committed suicide, airmen and women with Mississippi's 186th Air Refueling Wing had their world rocked again when another in their ranks took his life.

Many in the Meridian-based unit still wonder what could have been done to alter the tragic, disturbing events of April 2 and June 15.

"The first of the two suicides was one of our communications systems specialist who was having relationship problems. We hadn't seen him for nearly a month," reported CMSgt. Ricky Myers, the 186th's personnel superintendent. "The second was one of our security policeman. He was a

quiet person, but seemed happy two days prior (to his death) at his annual weapons training.

"It's frustrating," the Chief added. "It is kind of hard to identify a problem with someone when you only see them two days a month. There were no recognizable signs of suicidal tendencies, at least for someone untrained in this arena."

Air Guard leaders are taking aggressive measures to equip their citizen-airmen with vital information they hope will curtail their population's second leading cause of death (behind heart attacks).

"We've implemented a comprehensive prevention program that includes initial and annual refresher training for commanders and first sergeants, as well as all unit members," said Maj. Ken Hall, the chief

of public health and prevention with the Air Guard's office of the Air Surgeon at Andrews AFB, Md.

The training received by commanders and first sergeants, Hall added, will help them to better identify and refer at-risk airmen. It also will assist them in developing risk management programs and to manage organizational stress.

Creating an environment that encourages people to seek professional counsel is important, Hall observed.

"De-stigmatizing the need for help is key in identifying and preventing suicide," Hall said. "We face the challenge of changing our military culture, so that the folks who need help can get it without fear of damaging their career."

■ See SUICIDE, Page 4

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Brown retires after 26 years

CMSgt. Edwin Brown said his final goodbye at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C., when he retired from 26 years of military duty on Sept. 11, a morning warmed with emotion.

"All I ever wanted to do was increase the professionalism of the people who wear the stripes," Brown told nearly 300 Air National Guard colleagues and members of his family as he officially stepped down following four years as the Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) for two Air Guard directors.

Brown, 46, was presented the Legion of Merit for his service to the Air Guard's more than 108,000 enlisted people. He and his wife Ann have moved to San Antonio,

Texas, where Brown now works for the United Services Automobile Association.

CMSgt. Gary Broadbent has succeeded Brown as SEA for Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., the Air Guard's director.

"Very few people have made such a profound impact on our Air Guard family," praised Weaver. "Chief Brown has been my hero, my guiding light, my instructor, and, yes, my mentor."



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Chief Edwin Brown (right) greets well-wishers on his retirement day.

Hispanic education association seeks senior-level liaison

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is seeking a senior-level (GS-15) staff member to serve as the principal liaison between them and the DoD's Partnership Task Force.

The individual will be assigned to the HACU for two years in Washington, D.C., and will play a leadership role in advancing the partnership between the association and the DoD. The job begins in November.

Send a current resume, to include an organizational endorsement, to: Staffing, Classification and Executive Resources Division (attn: Mary Ann Fried), 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1155. For more information, call Fried at (703) 588-0422.

Deadline is Oct. 31.

IN THE NEWS

SUICIDE

From Page 3

Another key element of the program is the "buddy care" awareness training. Targeting each airman and woman, it focuses on the premise that everyone must be poised to recognize the early warning signs of suicidal individuals.

To ensure citizen-aiirmen and women get the message, a "Buddy Care Basics" brochure will be given to them when they receive their annual influenza shot.

"The most common reasons affiliated with suicide in our people are relationship, financial, substance-abuse and legal problems," Hall said. "To prevent self-injury, we have to help lessen the impact of these risk factors, while strengthening protective factors such as social support, coping skills and establishing a culture that encourages help-seeking behavior."

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., director of the Air Guard's 108,000-person force, deemed suicides as preventable tragedies.

"We need to be there for one another, listening to one another, helping with each other's pain," he insisted. "A suicide is a needless loss of a valued citizen, warrior and member of our family."

Since 1992 nearly 100 Air Guardmembers have committed suicide. Hall reports that the majority of those people exhibited warning signs; however, did not seek or receive help.

Some suicide warning signs include:

- Talking about suicide
- Drastic changes in behavior
- Withdrawal from friends or social activities
- Loss of interest in hobbies, work, school, etc.
- Giving away prized possessions
- Taking unnecessary risks
- Recent or severe loss
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States and third leading cause among 15-24 year olds. There are more than 30,000 suicides annually, or 12 of every 100,000 Americans.

The Air Guard's suicide prevention website is at: <http://www.ang.af.mil/sg/meddivisions/sgb>

Aviators deploy to Kuwait

Panther Force: North Carolina, Alabama and Florida assume 'Watch'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Watch the blades and watch your back.

Those, in a nutshell, are pearls of wisdom that two seasoned soldiers and members of the North Carolina Army National Guard's attack helicopter fraternity have been offering their comrades in arms while embarking on the Guard's newest venture to support the U.S. Army.

SFC David "Doc" Livingston, a Vietnam War crew chief who is supervising 60 maintenance people, and CWO3 Steven Hiles, who has flown 82nd Airborne Division combat missions in Panama and the Persian Gulf, have become voices of experience for the majority who have never seen a true tactical area.

Task Force Panther, comprised of 171 Army Guardmembers from North Carolina, Alabama and Florida, deployed to central Kuwait from Fort Bragg, N.C., during the fourth week in September. The citizen-soldiers, including five women, donned desert uniforms and brown suede boots to sustain the United States' show of force against Kuwait's difficult neighbor to the north — Iraq.

North Carolina's 1st Battalion, 130th Aviation based in Morrisville is spearheading the task force commanded by Lt. Col. Ray Blackmon. It will spend about six of its nine months on active duty taking part in Operation Southern Watch



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

at an air force base in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert.

AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from North Carolina and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Alabama are the muscle these Guardmembers bringing to their mission of relieving an active-Army 101st Airborne Division aviation unit.

It is a new twist to an increasingly familiar calling.

A Virginia Army Guard infantry company replaced a security element of the Army's 10th Mountain Division at a bridge over the Sava River in Bosnia for nearly six months last November. And a 60-member Air Guard medical team ran a U.S. Air Force hospital for four months beginning in April during a Southern Watch hitch in Saudi Arabia.

Replacing an active Army unit in the Persian Gulf, however, is a first for the

BOUND FOR KUWAIT — A North Carolina Army Guard Apache is loaded on to a U.S. Air Force C-5A at Pope AFB, N.C.

Guard's aviation community. The people from the South — including 36 aviators, 135 support people and 16 air traffic controllers from Florida — intend to put their best feet forward now that the Army National Guard has taken on the Southern Watch mission. Four rotations are planned over the next two years.

"I believe the folks on this task force genuinely want to do a good job," said Blackmon, 46, who first learned of the mission last March. "They're all proud people, and they're proud to be part of this."

■ See AVIATORS, Page 5

'CHIEF' CONCERN

Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis (right), National Guard Bureau chief, talks with Spc. Nancy McMillan, a member of the Ohio Army Guard's 196th Public Affairs Detachment, during a recent visit to Bosnia to check on the National Guard soldiers and airmen supporting the stabilization force there.



Photo by Capt. Hunt Kerrigan

AVIATORS

From Page 4

Fort Hood, Texas, was as far from home as the mobilized North Carolina battalion got after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, because U.S. and other United Nations forces won the Desert Storm ground war in 100 hours, Blackmon recalled.

Fort Hood is where the 21 Apache aviators spent most of August qualifying in the air cavalry tactics they will use in Kuwait and in the aerial gunnery skills they may need should Iraq bring on another fight, as it has threatened to do twice this year.

That possibility made it wise indeed to heed the words of Doc Livingston and Steve Hiles.

Livingston was primarily concerned with getting the Apaches to Kuwait and then keeping them flying in all of that sand. That meant watching the blades.

The initial job involved pulling off the main rotor blades so the aircraft that resemble giant mosquitoes could be carefully packed aboard mammoth C-5 cargo aircraft for the trip a third of the way around the world.

"The trailing edges of the blades are very thin. They can be bent just in handling," said Livingston who has helped maintain the attack helicopters since 1987. That was when his Tarheel State battalion became the first Army Guard unit to get the high-tech Apaches that carry anti-tank and air-to-air missiles and a 30mm machinegun.

And about the sand? "We've painted the leading edges of the blades to protect them, and we'll keep 'em touched up. But, yeah, the sand gets in everything," he acknowledged. "We're taking air compressors to keep these helicopters blown out."

"It'll be an experience for us." So will serving in an unstable part of the world, said Hiles, a seven-year, seven-month Army veteran who joined the Missouri Guard last spring before transferring to North Carolina.

"Always be on your guard. Don't confuse reality with training," is one lesson Hiles can impart following back-to-back combat tours in Panama, when Manuel Noriega was overthrown in December 1989, and in Saudi Arabia and Iraq after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

"It's easy to become complacent in training, because nothing bad is probably going to

INSIDE TASK FORCE PANTHER

Electing to serve

In Kuwait, Charles Van Zant is tracking air traffic, and his Florida school board

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Charles Van Zant is spread a little thin these days. The 27-year-old Florida Army Guard first lieutenant is paying close attention to a host of professional details while serving in central Kuwait during the next few months with the North Carolina Army Guard's Task Force Panther.

He must honor his obligations as the commander of a military unit stationed in a foreign land while preparing to handle his commitments as a newly-elected member of a school board back home.

First his military irons. Van Zant took command of the 120 members of Company E, 111th Aviation on June 1. That is an air traffic service outfit that monitors and directs aircraft flying in and out of military airports.

Seventy of those citizen-soldiers are based in Jacksonville, Fla. The other 50 are based in Burlington, Vt.

Furthermore, 10 of Van Zant's

people from Vermont have recently deployed to Bosnia, in central Europe, where they will spend the winter supporting Operation Joint Forge, the peacekeeping mission that will complete its third year in December. They are augmenting an air traffic services unit from Oklahoma.

Van Zant, meanwhile, is supervising the 16-man team from Florida in Kuwait, in Southwest Asia, where Army Guard aviators, flying Apache and Blackhawk helicopters, have joined Operation Southern Watch for the first

"I think it will squelch a lot of questions about whether the National Guard is ready"



time. The country they are helping to watch is Iraq.

"It's kind of a hairy situation. But the mission of an air traffic services unit is to be spread out," Van Zant acknowledged.

Paying close attention to e-mail mes-

sages and unit status reports, Van Zant explained, will be his best way of keeping track of his people spread around much of the world.

Meanwhile, he also will track school budgets and policy issues back in Florida.

Such are his civilian irons.

Come Nov. 17, Van Zant expects to become a new member of the Clay County School Board that, he explained, oversees 30,000 students enrolled in 29 schools south of Jacksonville.

He won the Republican primary for a seat on that five-member board Aug. 1. That was three days after Van Zant and his Guard team was mobilized.

It was his first run for an elected office, Van Zant said. The general election in November will be a formality because he will run unopposed.

"My name won't even be on the ballot," said Van Zant who will have to resign from his job as a technology and industrial arts teacher at the Wilkinson Junior High School in Middleburg, Fla. He will then assume his seat on the board even though he is serving nearly six months in far-away Kuwait.

Despite his diverse obligations, Van Zant said he solidly supports the Army Guard's chance to perpetuate this country's show of force in an unstable part of the world.

"This is the first time any Army Guard air traffic services unit has taken its own mobile tower and radar equipment to set up and operate in a foreign country," he noted. "I think it will squelch a lot of questions about whether the National Guard is ready to do a real world mission."

happen if you fly safely," said the 33-year-old pilot whose call sign is "Joker," but who knows that duty in Kuwait is no laughing matter.

"From the time you leave your tent until you go to sleep, you've got to realize you're in harm's way, even if it's not a declared combat zone," he cautioned.

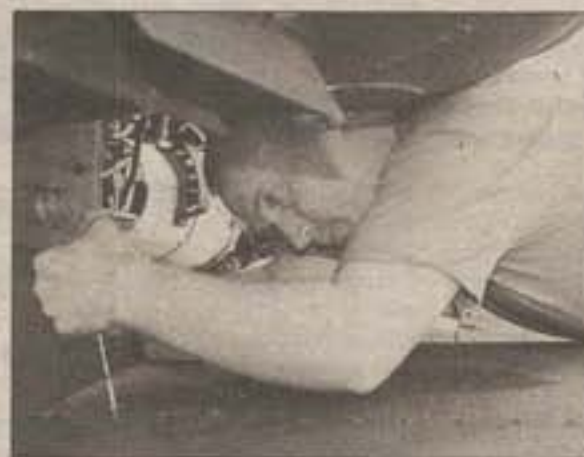
That's advice that task force members such as Spc. Lisa Whitley, 20, and 1st Lt. Tony Davenport, 27, can take to heart. She repairs Apache radar systems. He is a new pilot.

Both were surprised to get the call.

"I was going to get married Dec. 26. Those plans are off for now. I understand that we need to keep a presence there," said

Whitley, who has also put her nursing studies at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington on hold.

Davenport, meanwhile, practically has to pinch himself to remind himself this deployment is really happening.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

CAROLINA CONTROL -- Tarheel State Guardmembers, Sgt. Jim Jones (above with screwdriver) and CWO3 Steven Hiles (left), are part of Task Force Panther in Kuwait.

"I never dreamed when I joined the Guard in 1990 I'd be doing this," said the former enlisted infantryman who finished

his Apache training in February. Now, with barely 150 training hours under his belt, he is primed for his first real-world mission.

"We'll gain a lot of experience that will help the battalion when we get home," Davenport predicted.

According to Hiles, the Guard pilots are already good enough.

"I've deployed twice to combat," he said. "Now that everyone has finished the training at Fort Hood, this is every bit as good a group of pilots as the active duty had to offer."

A group of aviators that will spend their next six months watching Iraq, blades and each other's backs.



Photos by Spc. Aaron Reed

PILOT PATROL — Texas F-16s (above) wait on a ramp at Howard AB, Panama, for pilots like Lt. Col. Allen Granger (right), to put them to work tracking drug traffic.

Texas fighter pilots patrol Panama's skies to keep drugs out of America

FLYING the 'BEAT'

By Spc. Aaron Reed
Texas National Guard

For two weeks this summer, Allen Granger was one of the fastest men in all of Central America.

With unequalled grace and power, he and seven other Texas F-16 pilots ruled the skies over Panama and the two oceans that wash its shores.

It's something the 44-year-old lieutenant colonel and commander of the Texas Air Guard's 111th Fighter Squadron has done every year since 1991, when the unit began taking on the Coronet Nighthawk mission for six weeks each summer.

And it's something he may never do again.

"This could very well be our last time down here," Granger said, alluding to the Panama Canal Treaty-mandated withdrawal of American military forces from that country before the end of 1999. "But a lot of that depends on the status of forces agreement."

Also arguing against a return of the pilots and ground personnel of the 111th Fighter Squadron — the pointy end of the 147th Fighter Wing's sword — is a fundamental change in the unit's mission. On

Oct. 1, the unit officially converted from an air defense and air superiority role to an air-to-ground function.

It's the same mission the other Texas Air Guard fighter wing, San Antonio's 149th, performs. In a transition that could take the better part of a year, pilots who have honed interception and dog-fighting skills will learn how to drop bombs.

Since the 1950s, the Houston-based unit has helped anchor the southeastern

"This is like a big city with a crime problem. If the criminals know the police are on the beat, they'll avoid the area"

Col. David J. Scott
24th Operations Group commander

the air sovereignty of the United States, since the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, many of those interceptions have been of suspected drug smugglers.

sector of America's air defense system. Twenty-four hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, pilots and planes stand alert at Ellington Air National Guard Base, ready to scramble and intercept aircraft within 15 minutes of notification.

Though the squadron's primary mission is to defend

"Most often, we work with Customs," Granger reported. "The Southeast Air Defense Sector will scramble us to identify and track unknown aircraft."

That mission has served the 111th "Ace in the Hole" Fighter Squadron (and the citizens of the United States) well.

It's the same mission the unit performs over the skies of Panama.

"The 111th Fighter Squadron is part of the effort to detect and monitor illegal drug traffic between South America and the United States," said Col. David J. Scott, commander of the 24th Operations Group at Howard Air Base. "They are on-call 24 hours-a-day to go and verify aircraft and determine whether or not they are suspicious."

Scott said the Texas Air Guard unit, and the other Air Guard squadrons that rotate through Coronet Nighthawk, make a big difference.

"If you want to put this mission into perspective, this is like a big city with a crime problem," he said. "If the criminals know the police are on the beat, they'll avoid the area."

It's a big beat, but with external fuel tanks that give the C-model F-16 "Fighting Falcons" up to three hours in the air without refueling, the 111th's pilots can cover a lot of territory.

Making drug smugglers avoid that territory raises their cost of doing business and denies them one avenue of importing drugs into the United States, Scott said. And those who do choose to use the central air route are likely to be greeted by law enforcement agencies once they reach the United States.

"The F-16 is very capable and very proficient in flying this mission," Granger said. "The airborne radar is very well-adapted to detect, sort and track the kinds of targets we're looking for out there."

"And give us some real-time and valuable information," he added.

In addition to the information the aircraft's sophisticated radar and computer systems can deliver about suspicious aircraft, the 111th's F-16s (they always fly in pairs) visually identify the planes they intercept — often down to the aircraft type, paint scheme and tail number.

The suspected smugglers rarely realize they've been spotted, much less shadowed, as they make their way north. The information the pilots gather ultimately goes back to organizations like the U.S. Customs Service and the Drug Enforcement Agency. If the aircraft continues its



INSIDE the TEXAS GUARD

Del Rio's prayers were answered with
Lone Star State soldiers were called on

STORM of SUPPORT

By Spc. Aaron Reed
Texas National Guard

First, there wasn't enough water; a hot, dry summer that had residents in the South Texas border town of Del Rio literally praying for rain. Local ranchers even went so far as to hire a company to seed clouds.

By the fourth weekend in August, it seemed that God had sent Tropical Storm Charley to answer Del Rio's prayers. But when Saturday night's sprinkles turned into Sunday's downpour, followed by a deluge of almost Biblical proportions, it was clearly a case of "too much of a good thing."

In less than five minutes, witnesses said, a 12-foot-high wall of water rushed down the usually tranquil San Felipe Creek, a tributary of the Rio Grande River, taking much of the oldest and poorest neighborhood in town with it.

By 3 a.m., Monday, Aug. 24, local officials were calling the governor's office, pleading for assistance.

"It was absolute terror," said Beth Eby, Del Rio city manager. "No city can have the kinds of resources you need to deal with something like this."

The Texas Army National Guard was quick to respond.

In San Antonio, a two-hour drive east of Del Rio, Sgt. Pedro Reyna Jr. was getting ready to walk out the door for another day on the job as a construction inspector when he got the call at 7 a.m.

"I've been in the Guard for 16 years. My wife and kids pretty much know what is expected of me," he said.

While Reyna and other Guardmembers traded their civilian work clothes for BDUs and reported to armories in five Texas cities, 11 Black Hawk helicopters were being pulled off a four-month firefighting alert in San Antonio, Austin and Dallas.

Over the next 24 hours, those crews would save 51 flood victims — plucking five from the swirling waters of the Rio Grande in dramatic net rescues.

"We're fulfilling our primary peacetime mission here," said Lt. Edward Dextraze, commander of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery. "The soldiers love it."

It is an irony of floods like the one in Del Rio, relief officials observed, that one of the first priorities is the delivery of water to victims. The rampaging waters destroyed city pumps and contaminated the water supply.

"Like other agencies, the National Guard has been

doing just about everything," said Texas Department of Public Safety Lt. Mike Thompson, coordinator of disaster relief efforts in Del Rio. "They've been involved in some of the rescue operations and retrieval of victims, and they've helped maintain security."

"They've been most instrumental in handling the water supply for the city," he added. "That's where most of their manpower has been used."

With advance warning of what to expect in Del Rio, Guard soldiers filled and delivered 13 600-gallon "water buffalo" trailers and two 5,000-gallon tankers with potable water. The Guard also helped bring them to local shelters.

Spc. Charles Guthrie, a heavy-wheeled vehicle mechanic from Company A, 249th Support Battalion, was in the middle of an 18-hour shift distributing water from a 5,000-gallon tanker to a local supermarket parking lot.

Despite a lack of sleep, Guthrie said morale was high.

"We came down here to help these people," he said, wiping sweat from his brow. "If we were in the same situation, I know we'd sure appreciate their assistance."

While Guardmembers on the ground preferred to focus on the job at hand, they admitted that the disaster has provided them with excellent, real-world training.

CWO Mark Crouch, the 111th Area Support Battalion's maintenance officer, directed his crews, using five-ton recovery wreckers with powerful winches, to recover 67 vehicles from a creek bed and from beneath collapsed buildings.

"We get them out to the street where civilian wrecker crews can haul them off," Crouch said. "Once the vehicles are out of the way, the city and other agencies can begin cleaning up the debris here."

Crouch said the work had battlefield applications.



Photo by Spc. Aaron Reed

TEXAS TEAMWORK — SSgt. David Grizzle, an F-16 crew chief, coordinates with his pilot prior to a mission.

flight into American air space, the civilian law enforcement agencies often can detain and search the suspicious aircraft based on the Coronet Nighthawk information.

Coronet Nighthawk officials declined to give specific numbers, but said a "substantial" amount of illegal drugs are intercepted thanks to the assistance of Air Guard pilots.

Granger, who has been flying F-16s for almost 17 years, said the mission is an exciting one, and far different from his civilian job flying MD-80s for American Airlines.

"The similarities pretty much end with an airplane having two wings," he said. "In the civilian world I fly a large commercial jet, and obviously you try to keep the excitement to a minimum in that job."

"Our mission in the F-16 is air defense and air superiority," he continued, "and that's a little bit different than taking people from Dallas to Seattle and not spilling their coffee."

The upcoming air-to-ground mission also will be a change of pace, Granger noted. It's a role that will likely cost his unit a return to Panama anytime in the near future, but could well land them an extended deployment enforcing the United Nations "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq.

Regardless of what the future holds for the men and women of Houston's fighter squadron, observers say they can be proud of what they have accomplished in their long-standing air defense role.

"This Texas unit is outstanding. They are highly proficient, and it's a privilege to have them down here," said Scott. "That's been my experience with all the Guard units that take part in Coronet Nighthawk."

"We wouldn't be able to do our jobs without them."



Photos by Spc. Aaron Reed

THIRSTING TO HELP — Texas Army Guard Spc. John Williams (left photo), a food service specialist, helps a storm victim load a cart with drinking water. Spc. Charles Guthrie (above) lifts a 55-gallon drum of water into his truck.

"Say we had to go out and turn-over a Humvee and cannibalize it for parts," Crouch suggested. "Where are you going to get hands-on training for something like that? We're getting it here."

Perhaps the greatest reward for the sleepless nights and backbreaking work was the gratitude extended by flood victims. In the parking lot of a local Wal-Mart, where members of the 49th Division Artillery's headquarters battery were filling one-gallon jugs and coolers with water, nine-year-old Jessica Govea turned to a soldier and solemnly said: "Thank you for helping us."

Her mother, Kathryn, said this was her family's third trip to get water.

"This is good," she said. "Now we know the National Guard is ready to help when there's an emergency."

PROMOTING DIVERSITY

Gen. Trowell-Harris has overcome many obstacles. She now faces her stiffest test

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Irene Trowell-Harris remembers that afternoon in the cotton field when she was 15 and when she told her brothers and sisters that, one day, she would work on airplanes like the ones that flew over their family's small farm in Aiken, S.C.

"We laughed and kept on picking cotton because that just didn't seem possible for a young minority woman from the South," she recalled.

Ten years later, in 1964, she received her flight nurse wings from the Aerospace School of Medicine in San Antonio, Texas. That was the landmark year that Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act banning discrimination in voting, jobs and public accommodations.

Irene Trowell-Harris also remembers the day when she was 31, after she had completed her bachelor's degree, with distinction, in health education from Jersey City State, when she was a captain in the New York Air National Guard.

She was advised that no matter how much education she received or how hard she worked, she would never make it beyond the rank of major.

Twenty-seven years later — after earning a master's degree from Yale and a doctorate from Columbia; after being the first nurse and woman to command an Air Guard medical clinic — Irene Trowell-Harris has become the Guard's first African American woman major general.

She received her second star on Sept. 1 at Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C., where she has been the Air Guard Assistant to the Director for Medical Readiness and Nursing Services since February 1993.

Furthermore, the general will spend the next three years helping others in the Air Guard embrace the American dream.

She has been elevated from co-chairperson to chair of the Air Guard's 29-member Human Resources Quality Board. That board has promoted the policies, plans, programs and practices designed to give everyone a fair shake at promotions, training, and leadership opportunities re-

gardless of their race, religion or gender for the past eight years.

In short, the board is the driving force behind the initiative to bring diversity to the Air Guard; to have all Air Guard units reflect the cultural makeup of the communities where they are located.

Trowell-Harris has succeeded retired Maj. Gen. Johnny Hobbs at the board's helm after spending three years as co-chairperson. She will balance her new military duties with her civilian job in Washington as director of patient care inspections and program evaluations in the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Healthcare Inspections.

"Diversity is important for our readiness and for the survival of the National Guard," she told Air Guard leaders at a late-August Diversity Conference in Houston, Texas.

Her two basic suggestions for achieving Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr.'s objective are: offer equal opportunities to every Guardmember; and to mentor everyone.

Mentors have meant much to the 59-year-old from humble roots.

"If you want to be successful, stay in school and stay in church," said the third of 10 children. "Our mentoring began at home."

Capt. Norma Parsons Erb, who in 1956 was the first woman to join the National Guard, became a role model as a chief nurse under whom Trowell-Harris served in New York. Dr. Beatrice Goodwin, a college dean and former chief nurse, encouraged her protégé to pursue graduate studies in public health and nursing.

And Weaver, now the Air Guard's director, expressed his faith in the determined woman in March 1986 when he chose her to command New York's 105th Tactical Air Command Hospital.

Her siblings helped each other escape that cotton farm in South Carolina through education, she explained. One brother became an Air Force flight surgeon. Another earned his pilot's wings. Another sister became a nurse. Others have become successful business people.

"We helped each other get through school and achieve our goals," she said. "Now, the woman whose career options were limited when she joined the Air Guard in 1963, will help others expand their horizons."

"I tell people to define their goals, to apply themselves and be ready for opportunities," she said. "I tell them to ask me how I can help."

Charting Diversity's COURSE



Gen. Irene Trowell-Harris

Air Guard leaders meet in Houston to plot their future

Changing of the GUARD

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Joseph Williams did not need to check out the stars sparkling over Houston, Texas, for signs that his job in the Air National Guard is secure.

He is the Air Guard's human resources advisor for Washington state as well as a small arms instructor and the base armorer at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Being an African-American and a chief master sergeant, Williams has been around long enough to know that the cause of equality will keep him and others like him busy for a long time.

"We will make significant changes in the next three to five years," Williams predicted. "But I think my job will always be around because we'll always have to do something for diversity. We'll always be trying to keep that balance."

Balance. Equality. Fairness. Those are the objectives that brought nearly 500 Air Guard leaders together in Houston for their second annual conference on diversity. They spent the last weekend in August considering the ways and means of getting Air Guard units to reflect the cultures of their communities as quickly as possible.

Human resources advisors are shouldering a lion's share of the load laid on all Air Guard commanders by Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., the Air Guard's reform-minded director.

"I won't back off," Weaver warned the state adjutants general, wing commanders and senior enlisted advisors who swelled the conference crowd to twice its anticipated size.

"When our Air National Guard becomes the image of our great country and our great military, that's when I'll back off," he added. "Our Guard family hangs in the balance."

Weaver's demand for diversity is grounded in the concern that the 108,096-member Air Guard is dominated by male Caucasians and that its

units do not reflect the cultural climates of the communities they serve.

Nationwide, 81.6 percent of the force are Caucasians, according to an Air Guard demographic report. Only 11.6 percent of the 13,000 officers belong to minority groups. Furthermore, women form but 15.8 percent of the total force.

There have been improvements, the report revealed.

Racial minority representation has risen from 8.7 percent in 1975 to 18 percent during the past two decades. The female population has increased by 12.6 percent since 1975.

Still, only 83 women are certified pilots and only 47 are navigators.

The push is on, therefore, to give everyone equal opportunities to realize the same goals during the 50th anniversary of President Harry Truman's executive orders to inte-



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

REACHING OUT -- Attendees (above) at the Air Guard's annual diversity conference in Houston, Texas, vowed to help stop past practices.

graph of Davis and 14 other men and women who reflect the Air Guard's many cultures.

Lt. Cols. Cora Jackson, the Human Resources Quality Board's executive officer, and J. Terry Davis, a South Carolina attorney, were presented Meritorious Service Medals for directing an eight-member team that in 1997 studied the impact of extremist groups on the Air Guard's human relations environment throughout the country.

The team determined that Air Guardmembers are not significantly influenced by the opinions and actions of extremist groups, Jackson explained.

MSgt. Ricardo Randle, from

ultimate mission is to buttress an American ideal of equality."

It is a shared concern. *USA Today* reported in early August that only 29 of the 394 law clerks hired by the current U.S. Supreme Court justices are members of minorities. And social critics complained about how the institution of slavery was romanticized in *Gone with the Wind* when that 1939 classic movie was re-released in June.

The Air Guard made its most recent stand for diversity during the August weekend that marked the 35th anniversary of the historic March on Washington by 200,000 civil rights advocates and the famous "I have a dream" speech by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

A full-page ad in that Friday's edition of *USA Today* focused on the conference's theme, "Diversity is Our Strength," and featured a photo-

Indiana's state headquarters, and SMSgt. David Himmer, from Minnesota's 133rd Airlift Wing, were honored as this year's top human resources advisors.

Randle coordinated a multicultural state contingent to support the Indiana Black Expo that reportedly attracts a half-million people. He also developed a questionnaire to determine the best ways to recruit minorities and how the Guard can help improve relationships with the minority community.

Himmer has worked with the leaders of the large Laotian community in Minneapolis and with an inner city outreach organization that reaches over 1,500 youths from different cultural groups.

Both have made these time-consuming efforts as traditional Guardsmen while holding down full-time civilian jobs.

"You can't go in and beat people over the head," said Randle of the patience required to alter attitudes among people within and outside the Guard.

But change is clearly in the wind, based on the policies that the leaders believe should be put in place by 2000.

They include:

- Training new recruiting and retention personnel from the ethnic groups in the communities where the units are located.

- Having human resources advisors keep track of which members are getting awards, promotions and leadership positions.

- Appointing all officers and non-commissioned officers as mentors who can advise all members of the force about opportunities within the organization and who can coach people who ask for their help.

- Increasing participation by 20 percent in community activities up to 50 miles from the units.

The people are ready for these changes, observed Maj. Ann Greenlee, Hawaii's military personnel officer, who said women were seldom respected as career-oriented people when she joined 18 years ago.

"Women were pigeonholed as looking for a husband, as party persons or as a little too masculine," she recalled of the attitudes she first encountered. "We have changed that as we have increased in numbers, as we have taken on more responsibilities," Greenlee added.

Changing attitudes in favor of diversity is not rocket science, Hobbs pointed out.

"Don't make this stuff too hard," he advised the group. "We're just talking about being fair. We all know how to do that."

Air Guard enlisted advisor is serious about diversity

BroadBENT on CHANGE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The National Guard's social season is upon us. Make that the social issues season.

Concerns about caring for families drew 400 Army and Air Guard members and volunteer workers to New Orleans during August's second week for the annual Family Program workshop.

Diversity was the single issue on the Air Guard's plate when 500 citizen-airmen and officers met for three days in Houston, Texas, beginning Aug. 28, to start reshaping that organization's cultural makeup. "Diversity is Our Strength" was the theme for that conference.

CMSgt. Gary Broadbent, 44, will be a key figure as the new advocate for the Air Guard's more than 108,000 enlisted members; as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., the Air Guard's director.

The acronym for Broadbent's job is "SEA." But he is certainly not out to sea — or in over his head — regarding the issue that has become one of the Air Guard's paramount concerns.

"Diversity is critical to the future of the military as a whole, not just to the Air National Guard," Broadbent maintained in early August, three weeks after succeeding CMSgt. Edwin Brown as the Senior Enlisted Advisor at the Pentagon.

To Air Guard leaders, diversity means that units that are now predominantly male Caucasian should reflect the white or Hispanic or African-American or Native-American communities in which they are based; that women should be given more leadership opportunities.

"As a team, we have investigated the current state of diversity in the Air National Guard, realized the consequences of maintaining the status quo, envisioned the desired future state, and built a credible plan with senior leadership's commitment to bridge the present to the future," said Weaver. "It is time to build that bridge."

It may also be time, Broadbent reflected, to modify America's image as the world's melting pot.

"What does that mean?" he asked. "You throw everyone in the pot and they all come out the same flavor, the same taste, the same texture. That's not right. What

we should be saying is that America is a diverse group of people; that trying to make everyone the same just doesn't work."

"Quite frankly, that means that a lot of us have to step out of our own comfort zone," added Broadbent who has matured within the Air Force and Air Guard culture.

After growing up in Connecticut, he served his four active duty years at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire. He spent 18 years in the New Hampshire Air Guard. He spent one year as the 1st Air Force's senior enlisted advisor at Tyndall AFB in western Florida. Then he moved to Washington, D.C.

"We need to go into the predominantly minority communities and explain the benefits of being a part of our organization," Broadbent said. "We need to take our young airmen and our young soldiers into those communities where they can serve as mentors."

Indeed, there are signs that the times are changing.

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis this month has become the first African-American to become Chief of the National Guard Bu-



Chief Gary Broadbent, Air Guard senior enlisted advisor

reau Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville is well into her second year as Vermont's adjutant general, the first woman to lead any state's National Guard force.

Broadbent's new staff is another reflection of the commitment to diversity. Both assistants are African-American. SMSgt. Malcolm Jones transferred from the Air Guard's air surgeons office. MSgt. Angela Smith was reassigned from the personnel directorate.

But there is still much to do.

Broadbent met with 12 chief masters sergeant and two civilian managers on Aug. 5 at the Air Guard's Readiness Center at Andrews Air Force Base to help define his team's three-year agenda. Diversity was a primary topic.

It is time, he insisted, to mix things up. "Nobody likes to go into a neighborhood where all of the houses are designed the same," he said. "It's boring. It's not inviting. It's not interesting."

"We need to represent what our communities look like," said Broadbent.

Diversity, the Air National Guard's new senior enlisted advisor is convinced, is an idea whose time has come.

INSIDE the HURRICANE

Spc. Stacy Eubanks didn't recall the child with whom he shared the front page in many newspapers. There were so many

Flood of PUBLICITY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Stacy Eubanks does not remember the calm little girl wearing pink pajamas he was carrying through waist-deep water when a photographer captured the dramatic moment that made him the most famous National Guard soldier in America. He was too busy.

"There were so many children. We were going so fast trying to get them onto the truck and out of there. And people kept telling us that two alligators were in that water," the Alabama Army Guard specialist recalled of his memorable Sept. 28 morning in Mobile a few hours after Hurricane Georges had battered the Gulf of Mexico's northern shore.

Nonetheless, the *Associated Press* photograph that was published on the front pages of America's newspapers, including *USA Today* and *The New York Times*, the following morning captured the spirit of what the National Guard is all about — citizen-soldiers helping their neighbors when times get tough.

Eubanks, 25, and his partner, Sgt. Pat Fleming, members of Alabama's 1133rd Medical Company, carried and coaxed 119 residents of the Orange Grove government housing project in coastal Mobile to their two-and-a-half-ton Army truck during four trips into that neighborhood that Monday morning.

Mobile police officer Lorne Watts was the third member of the team that returned four more times that afternoon to evacuate four more people to a nearby school.

"We all worked just as hard," recalled Eubanks. "Sgt. Fleming got that truck just as close to the stairwells as

possible. Officer Watts guided us around fire hydrants that were under the water. We all got soaked to the bone."

So did much of southern Alabama that Federal Emergency Management Director James Lee Witt said suffered most of the damage that Georges inflicted on four southern states. Total damages in Alabama alone were estimated at more than \$300 million.

The hurricane's eye may have passed over the Mississippi coast, "but I think you probably got more damage here than they did," Witt told Alabama reporters.

And Spc. Stacy Eubanks was quickly hailed as the hurricane's biggest hero among the 508 Alabama Guardmembers who were called to state active duty.

Eubanks lives with his wife and two stepchildren in western Mobile. He supervises a dozen or so welders helping to build a Naval destroyer in Pascagoula, Miss.

He has been a National Guardsman for eight years, the last three in Alabama where he is a supply specialist for the air ambulance company based at the Fort Whiting Armory in Mobile. He hopes to become a helicopter pilot.

Eubanks said that helping neighbors in need is the Guard's oldest and most important mission.

"That's why I signed on the dotted line," he insisted.

Others shared that sentiment.

"Most people work from can to can't. We work from can't to can," said Alabama Air Guard SSgt. Robert Coppett, from Montgomery's 187th Fighter Wing, after three long nights on battered Dauphin Island.

Air Guardmembers, operating 10 light trucks, lit up that island's western end so Army Guard engineers and civilian contractors could work round-the-clock to clear the main road of blizzard-like mounds of sand. That made it possible for power company crews to restore electricity and for the residents who had left the island to return to their homes, 80 of which were reported destroyed or uninhabitable.

"The National Guard was needed because we put everything into it we had," said Gov. Fob James Jr. while visiting the island where about 1,000 people live year-round. "A hurricane is no time to hold anything in reserve."

Putting everything on the line, as evidenced on the front pages of several newspapers across the country Sept. 29, is why Spc. Stacy Eubanks — and thousands of Guard heroes like him — signed up.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

LIGHTING the WAY — Alabama's SSgt. Gary Cranmore (left) and SMSgt. Charles Collier, both members of the 187th Fighter Wing in Montgomery, set up a light truck Army Guard engineers would use to clear the main road on battered Dauphin Island.

HURRICANE

From Page 1

lized in Mississippi directed traffic, cleared debris from roads, and evacuated 100 residents from flooded areas along the coast, said Lt. Col. Tim Powell.

Louisiana's Guardmembers, meanwhile, had it considerably easier than originally feared when it appeared Georges would sail into New Orleans, which is below sea level. That city escaped potentially disastrous flooding, however, when the storm roared into Mississippi to the east and then pummeled Alabama and western Florida.

In Florida, the Escambia and Perdido rivers flank Molino. By Sept. 29th, 36 hours after the storm hit, officials feared the Escambia would crest at 23 feet, six feet above flood stage, and the Perdido was expected to reach a record level. Guardmembers waited for more calls to carry more people to safety.

"I was raised to believe that when someone needs help, you help them. That's what I'm doing," said PFC Donna Swatsenbarg of Florida's 146th Signal Battalion who worked her 12-hour shifts with five other Guard members at the Molino Fire Station.

She was in good company. Many of Florida's Guardmembers are seasoned veterans of Florida's recent hurricanes named Andrew, Opal and Erin and of the wildfires that scorched more than a half-million acres up and down their state last summer.

"On a scale of five, Georges was a two," said Lois Jackson, the new first sergeant for B Company, 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry in Pensacola, who put aside his duties as an air conditioning technician at the Panama City airport to supervise some 20 enlisted troops.

"Andrew, in 1992, was far worse," Jackson recalled. "I remember standing outside Florida City when this lady pulled up to us. She was in her mid-40s, and she was crying. She had lived there all her life, and she couldn't find her way home. That was total devastation."



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

STORM SENSATION — Spc. Stacy Eubanks proudly produces evidence (*USA Today* cover) of his heroism.

Still, Jackson and 1,400 other Florida Guard soldiers found plenty of satisfaction in helping people escape the scourge of Georges that had killed more than 300 people and done billions of dollars in damage across the Caribbean before it hit the U.S. mainland.

Their duties ranged from putting up road blocks to pulling out vehicles mired in the mud to persuading people to climb aboard big trucks so they could be carried to nearby emergency shelters.

"This is better than working the wildfires," explained Sgt. Ned Wilson. "I feel

like I'm helping my people because I live beside the Perdido, too."

"We put 22 people at a time in the back of our deuce-and-a-half," said Sgt. Chris Wilcox of his labor that lasted from 11 p.m. until after dawn on the night of the storm. "They sat shoulder-to-shoulder along the side seats. They sat on sand bags on the floor. One man was in a motorized wheelchair. Some other guy said it reminded him of basic training."

"This feels like why you join the Guard," Wilcox added. "It has been real fulfilling."



Photos by Sgt. Cecelia K. Ellis

The ROAD to the GOLD

OCS is meant to be the 'most difficult training' ever experienced

By Sgt. Cecelia K. Ellis
Indiana National Guard

It is not a place for men and women of gentle spirit. That was abundantly clear to the 177 aspiring future leaders from six states who braved "Phase I" training of the Army Guard's Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Camp Ripley, Minn., recently.

It is the stuff of dirt, sweat and clamor designed to test the grit within an individual's soul.

Army Guard soldiers seeking to earn a second lieutenant's gold bar must complete a three phase, year-long program.

Despite their best efforts, each candidate knew that half of their ranks would not complete the trip down Ripley's "Road to the Gold."

Candidates also knew that historically about 35 percent of them — many during the physically and mentally grueling, two-week Phase I training — voluntarily withdraw.

An Army tradition for nearly

half a century, OCS is one of four ways an individual may acquire a commission in the U.S. Army. The West Point Military Academy, Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and direct commission are the others.

A part of the Total Army School System (TASS), Officer Candidate Schools are offered by both the active-Army and the Army National Guard. Under TASS, the National Guard is divided into geographical regions. There are seven regional Guard OCS programs.

Citizen-soldiers from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin attend Ripley's school.

During Phase I, officer candidates live at Camp Ripley for two weeks, and are continually challenged physically, emotionally and mentally.

"If this is not the most difficult training they have experienced, or will experience in their military careers, then we have failed the candidates," said 1st Lt. James R. Mouton II, a train-



ing and assessment and counseling (TAC) officer from the Michigan National Guard.

TACs, as the candidates would learn, function in roles similar to drill sergeants.

The average training day for the candidates lasted 18 hours, beginning at 5:30 a.m. with an hour of physical training.

TOUGH TRAINING -- Officer Candidates at Camp Ripley's OCS (opposite) march to their next task. Aspiring lieutenants (left) use teamwork to tackle an obstacle at Ripley's Leadership Reaction Course during Phase I training.

ups, ordered at a TAC's slightest whim, was served up on a daily basis.

During the second week of Phase I, candidates tested their land navigation and field training skills at one of Ripley's bivouac areas.

While undergoing rigorous physical training and exacting classroom instruction, under much stress and with little sleep, each candidate is periodically questioned by the TACs to test his or her ability to make decisions under pressure.

Maj. Kelly Nelson, a Ripley TAC officer, explained the difference between the National Guard's OCS and other military training courses.

"The emphasis of OCS is leadership," he began. "In order to be a good leader, one first must be a good follower, which means, being a team player."

"OCS is designed to train and test all these qualities."

Those officer candidates who successfully completed Phase I were sent home to begin Phase II. Phase II is conducted at each state's Army Guard Regional Training Institute on a part-time basis, over a period of 12 months.

During August 1999, officer candidates who have successfully completed Phase I and II will travel to Fort Benning, Ga., for Phase III.

Success there, marks an end to a long, well-earned trip down the "Road to the Gold."

INSIDE OCS

Completing the QUEST

By SFC Joe Garrison
Maryland National Guard

Officer candidate Tracy Sullins found himself at storied Fort Benning recently, only a week away from completing a year-long quest to become a second lieutenant.

He was not alone.

Sullins was joined by 16 other aspiring lieutenants from the Free State Army Guard — and candidates from Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware,

Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia — at the Army's "Home of the Infantry" to complete their final phase of officer training.

Guard candidates trained alongside their active-duty counterparts at the Georgia post, marking a new, more streamlined approach to training tomorrow's leaders. The merger is consistent with Army Chief of Staff's Gen. Dennis Reimer's goal of "One-Army."

Shortly after arriving at Benning, candidates from each state were immediately mixed with active-component soldiers.

"The best benefit to this approach is that we are all on the same sheet of music and training to the same standards," said Maryland Army Guard Maj. Jeff Soellner, 70th Regiment assistant operations officer.



Photo by SFC Billy Snyder

Maryland's newest officers take their oath.

The approach, insist recent graduates, works. "No matter how crazy the training seemed, there was a lesson behind everything we did," assured Sullins, now a second lieutenant assigned to Company A, 175th Infantry. "We may not have seen it then, but we are learning from it today."

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

The Maryland Army Guard's 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry were presented the Kerwin Award as the Reserve Component's "Most Combat-Ready" unit recently.

The unit won the award two years ago.

Some of its strengths:

- Troop C, 1-158th Cavalry won a national award for marksmanship. The squadron also placed second at a state competition in the "overall team" and "machinegun crew" categories.

- The unit boasts a high percentage of "immediate deployables."

- Its soldiers consistently score very high marks on their Army Physical Fitness Test.

The troopers maintained these high standards while supporting international exchange programs with Germany, Canada and Estonia. The unit was singled out by evaluators at Warfighter (Fort Leavenworth, Kan.), the Joint Readiness Training Center (Polk, La.), and by Secretary of Defense William Cohen, who observed them at Fort Dix, N.J.

April isn't a month you typically associate with Christmas, unless, like some Air National Guardmembers at Andrews AFB, Md., you're into helping the less fortunate.

About 70 airmen from the Air National Guard Readiness Center and the District of Columbia's 113th Wing labored nearly 1,000 hours supporting the "Christmas in April" program, overhauling a house owned by two handicapped, elderly sisters with little income.

The group replaced the roof, installed four double-hung windows, a front door, several inside doors and replaced the flooring. They also rebuilt floors in several areas and half the porch deck, installed new ceilings, cleaned siding and trim, repainted appliances, and repainted the entire house — inside and out.

The Guard helpers also hauled in and spread 15 tons of gravel on the walkways and driveway, and hauled away several truck loads of trash.

"Every now and then," noted Ray Detig, "we all need to do something like this, making life a little better for someone else."

The Maine Army Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion spent two weeks this summer improving roads, constructing a bridge and fortifying a salt shed in the Pine Tree State.

While the engineers completed a number of projects, they were particularly proud of a timber bridge they constructed for critically-ill children at Camp Sunshine. Confronted with the dilemma of hoisting 20-foot, 500-pound timbers to an area not accessible to better-suited equipment, Sgt. Dwaine Smail — a member of Bravo Company and a civilian crane operator — helped devise an innovative suspension rigging system with winch cables from one of the unit's trucks.

Alpha Company erected 24-foot walls for a salt shed in the town of Windsor, ensuring the 60-foot by 120-foot building was stable.

Sawdust also flew in the towns of New Castle, Summerville and Windsor where heavy equipment operators widened and improved roads.



The Christmas spirit was evident in April.



Maine engineers built walls for a salt shed.



Alabama wing was outstanding in Norway (above) and elsewhere.



CWO2 Kent Samson (left) and SSgt. Timothy Bell display some dove love (center) in Vermont.

The Indiana Army Guard's 1st Lt. Charles Bouslog received his state's Distinguished Service Cross for actions he took to save a crew after a helicopter crash.

A member of Company F, 238th Aviation in Shelbyville, Bouslog was aboard one of his unit's copters that crashed at Camp Atterbury, killing the pilot.

Retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, president of the Association of the U.S. Army, presented New York's Army Guard citations for their work with the active-Army's 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, and their efforts during this year's massive ice storm.

"The New York National Guard is doing a terrific job serving its state and nation, and the Guard and the 10th Mountain Division are shining examples of our one-Army team," said the former Army chief of staff.

The Alabama Air Guard's 187th Fighter Wing received an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The unit was cited for its performance during Operations Southern and North Watch, enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq. In addition to deploying large numbers of personnel and F-16s to those areas, the 187th also participated in exercises Combat Archer, Air Warrior II and Green Flag. The unit also hosted an Air National Guard softball tournament, participated in the Alabama Special Olympics and held a family day.

Dozens of members with Idaho Air Guard's 124th Wing spent three summer nights parked on Main Street in downtown Boise, showing off their Corvettes, classic cars and motorcycles — but not for the fun of it. They were part of Operation GUARD (Give Up Alcohol-Related Driving), their Guard's state-wide effort to encourage teenage drivers to avoid drinking and driving.

Guardsmen and women invited drivers of every age to look at their vehicles, enjoy free soft drinks, and to consider the danger of driving under the influence of alcohol. At least 30 wing volunteers were on hand each night until 11 p.m.

Nearly 300 people — teenagers, adults and children — toured the display, according to CMSgt. Ron Sinnema, 124th senior enlisted advisor and Operation GUARD program coordinator.

"It was worth every minute we spent if we reached just one driver," he said.

Nowhere in the operating manual for an Army front-end loader is there instruction on how to shelter wildlife, but at the Vermont Army Guard's Westminster Armory, a morning dove has returned to nest and hatch her young for the second straight year.

CWO2 Kent Samson and SSgt. Timothy Bell have become the adoptive parents, so to speak, and have taken it upon themselves to protect the young hatchlings until they leave their nest.

"We move our equipment around them," noted Samson, "and she stays right on her nest with her eggs. She's a very protective mother."

Oregon air traffic controllers
help move 'Free Willy' star

Whale of a MISSION

By Capt. Mike Allegre
Oregon National Guard

Roger, Keiko-zero-1. You are clear for takeoff. Good luck and have a safe trip."

At the command of Oregon Air Guard air traffic controller SSgt. Mike Morehouse, an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III took off from Newport Municipal Airport to deliver a 10,000-pound movie star to his new home in Iceland.

When Keiko -- the whale that starred in *Free Willy* -- left the Beaver State Sept. 9, he got a helping-fin from 13 airmen with Oregon's 270th Air Traffic Control (ATC) Squadron, based at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls.

Due to the increase in media and civilian aircraft traffic, five 270th controllers and five maintainers were called upon to provide ATC capabilities the airport that did not have, according to Maj. Mike LaBounty, 270th commander.

In a grassy area near the center of Newport's 5,400-foot runway, the unit operated a mobile ATC tower, allowing the C-17 to lift off with its 10,000-pound passenger and 65,000 pounds of cargo.

During the two days, unit controllers provided control operations to 236 aircraft, including 161 Portland TV helicopter pilots Sept. 9.

"The TV pilots were great to work and plan with," Morehouse said. "It's valuable training and it's good for us to work at a high profile event like this."

About a dozen students from Newport schools were invited by unit members hours before takeoff to watch the event. Students from Newport's Yaquina View Middle and High School observed the controllers in action and learned how the Air Guard operates.

While the 270th itself is only a year old, it has already been called-up for active duty twice. Between March and August this year, 11 members were activated to support U.S./NATO forces in Tazsar, Hungary, providing mobile radar approach control for military flights to and from Bosnia in conjunction with



Photos by Capt. Mike Allegre

STAR STRUCK -- Some Guardmembers (above) posed with Keiko (in box) as he was loaded onto a C-17. TSgt. Bob Fort clears air traffic before Keiko's launch.

Operation Joint Endeavor. This mission has generated the largest amount of airlift activity by the Air Force in Europe since World War II.

The 270th is one of the 16 mobile ATC units Air Force-wide and one of 10 units in the Air National Guard.



BUREAU

From Page 3

the noisy, crowded Pentagon have been moved into the top three floors of the building that features 12 floors above the lobby. No, it doesn't have 13 floors, Deaton laughed. That would be bad luck.

It became the Guard Bureau's official home on Aug. 17 when Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, reported for work at his new suite on the top floor.

That is also where Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army Guard's director, and Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., the Air Guard's director, and their staffs now work.

JP1 will, Deaton projected, be home for 1,200 National Guard workers who are expected to move into the lower floors by next July.

Guard Bureau members scattered at four other locations in the Arlington area also will be moved

into the building beginning in January, he explained. After the consolidation, Guard Bureau activities will be based at JP1, the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington and the Air Guard's Readiness Center at Andrews AFB, Md.

The soft tones used to decorate the offices and halls, the single-office privacy for lawyers and others who must work confidentially, and the flat, plasma screen monitors that beam sharp video images into the conference rooms add to the new building's appeal.

So does the fact that the new headquarters is about

a mile from Reagan-Washington National Airport.

The inside space, however, is the big thing, especially for people who worked along Minuteman Hall in the Pentagon.

The new home's 200,000-square-feet will give everyone an average of 155-square-feet of working space, Deaton explained. Pentagon space averaged 118-square-feet, he said.

Further, cubical dividers are chest-high instead of the *Dilbert*-like head-high -- affording people privacy while sitting, and a view of the office and windows when standing.

"We are working to give everyone a sense of space and privacy at the same time," Deaton said.

In the process, he and his team of engineers, architects and electronics experts are working to give the National Guard Bureau a corporate headquarters that will make the entire country proud.

FUTURISTIC -- Liz Johnson (left) and MSgt. Sandra Cain cue a video teleconference on a four-foot-wide plasma screen. The screens are installed in nearly 30 conference rooms.





STATES

• Dinosaur Deeds • Hooligan Honor • Storm Support

NEW MEXICO

The skeletal remains of two specimens of dinosaurs were airlifted for the badlands south of Farmington by members of the 717th Medical Company, Sept. 11.

The skull of a Pentaceratops, or five-horned dinosaur, and the skeleton of what is believed to be a Albertosaurus, were airlifted by a 717th UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crew.

Prior to sling loading the cargo from the wilderness area to a waiting truck, the fossil remains were encased in plaster blocks. Each weighed nearly 2,000 pounds.

The state's Museum of Natural History and Science requested the support.

NORTH DAKOTA

Pilots with the 119th Fighter Wing in Fargo -- known as the Happy Hooligans -- were selected to fly over the Pentagon in a ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

It is the first time they have participated in the event.

There are approximately 2,081 Americans still listed MIA from the Vietnam War. In addition, more than 8,100 are unaccounted from the Korean War and 75,000 from World War II.

The aerial review was lead by the 119th's Capt. Jon Wutzke, a weapons and tactics instructor.

MONTANA

UNDER the HOOD

Montana Air Guard SSgt. Kori Noble, an egress specialist with the 120th Fighter Wing, inspects an F-16 cockpit hood prior to departure. She and her unit were deployed recently to Panama to support Operation Coronet Nighthawk, an ongoing mission that uses Air Guard fighter pilots to conduct drug surveillance in Central America.



Photo by Spc. Chris Coleman

ALASKA

Operation Stand Down, a nation-wide program geared to help homeless veterans, ran for two days at a baseball field on Kulis Air National Guard Base.

Airmen and women with the 176th Wing, based at Kulis, set up a tent city that offered 31 separate benefits, such as, free long distance calls, hair cuts, dental and medical help, driver's license, hot meals and places to shower and sleep.

Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles attended the Stand Down, the sixth time the Frontier State has been involved, to thank more than 500 volunteers. "(This is) no hand out, but a hand up," he said.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Patty Wagstaff, a world-renowned aerobatic champion, flew an orientation flight in an F-16 with the 113th Wing over Andrews AFB, Md., Sept. 16.

The 113th Wing is the first Air Guard composite wing comprised of both air combat and airlift units. The unit recently participated in Operation Northern Watch in Turkey enforcing the United Nations no-fly zone over Iraq.

Wagstaff, an airshow pilot, has won three U.S. aerobatic championships and several world aerobatic competitions. Her autobiography, *Fire and Air: The Patty Wagstaff Story*, was recently published.

NEW YORK

By Capt. Stephen Mueller
New York National Guard

Logging its third major state activation this year, more than 500 Empire State citizen-soldiers were called-up to help restore normalcy after a devastating wind storm left more than 140,000 residents and several businesses without power.

Gov. George Pataki declared states of emergency in nine counties after the storm, packing 115 mph hour gusts, downed trees, closed roads and even shut down its State Fair in Syracuse.

"The National Guard has served with distinction in previous natural disasters we have faced," Pataki said. "And they will continue that tradition now."

Within 24 hours of the call, more than 200 Army Guard troops were on the ground with engineer equipment and chain saws to help municipalities restore services and open roads.

The Guard task force came primarily from the 27th Brigade, headquartered in Syracuse. Members of the Binghamton-based 204th Engineer Battalion, just one hour south, also were called-up, along with a 50-member team from the Air Guard's Syracuse-based 174th Fighter Wing.

"We have completed more than 35 missions so far," reported Brig. Gen. Brian Winter, the 27th's commanding general, of his force's directive to cut and clear debris from public roads to allow two-way passage. "We clear sidewalk-to-sidewalk. So if residents drag debris to the curb, we have been picking it up."

The troops, deployed in teams of 18, were equipped with two dump trucks, a frontend loader, chain saws and a chipper machine.

No strangers to natural disasters, New Yorkers were called-up in January following an ice storm, and again in June, after a Memorial Day tornado.



Photo by Sgt. Eugene Pomeroy

STORM TROOPERS -- New York Army Guard troops with 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry remove debris from a Syracuse neighborhood left by a devastating wind storm on Labor Day. It was the Empire State Guard's third major call-up.



HISTORY

• Commemorating the Spanish-American War

While Guardsmen fought Spanish troops in Cuba and Puerto Rico, their greatest test awaited them in the Philippines

Quest for an EMPIRE

Most Americans had little or no knowledge of the Philippine islands until a U.S. naval force, commanded by Commodore George Dewey, destroyed the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay in May 1898.

This decisive victory paved the way for U.S. Army units—composed primarily of National Guardsmen—to be shipped to the islands with the aim of capturing them. Initially, U.S. forces set their sites on the capital city of Manila, located on the island of Luzon.

But why was America so interested in a largely primitive land so far from home? Unknown to the American public, President William McKinley and his cabinet had decided prior to the declaration of war that the U.S. needed to take and keep the Philippines.

Securing the islands would offer excellent bases for servicing the U.S. Navy's Pacific Squadron. At the same time, it denied these opportunities to other Western powers interested in the area. By having such bases, it allowed America to become a true "two ocean" power, with the ability to project strength thousands of miles from home.

Never was the Filipinos desire to be independent taken into consideration. Like the Cubans, Philippine insurgents were fighting the Spanish to gain their freedom. When it became apparent that the Americans had no intention of granting them their independence, conflict was inevitable.

After Dewey's victory, little time was wasted sending American forces—close to 20,000 troops—to the Philippines. All of the units were part of the newly organized VIII Corps under the command of Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt.

The corps sailed in a series of five convoys, all leaving from San Francisco, Calif. The first of these departed on May 25th (three weeks before the V Corps sailed for Cuba) and consisted of 2,500 men, including the Guard's 1st California and 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry regiments and Batteries A and D, California Volunteer Artillery.

Enroute, the cruiser U.S.S. Charleston, part of the convoy, stopped to take control of the Spanish-owned island of Guam for America. Troops from Company A, 2nd Oregon joined U.S. Marines in claiming the island.

The fleet arrived in Manila Bay on June 30th. The troops landed on July 1st at Cavite, a peninsula situated seven miles south of Manila. This was a Spanish naval base that was captured by the U.S. Navy in the opening

days of the war. The soldiers quickly moved to defensive positions near Manila and waited.

By the end of July, the American force consisted of about 11,000 men and 22 field guns. Among the Guard infantry regiments were: 1st Colorado, 1st Nebraska, 10th Pennsylvania, 1st Idaho, 1st North Dakota, 13th Minnesota and the 1st Battalion, 1st Wyoming. Batteries A and B, Utah Artillery, were also present.

With this force, Merritt was unable to attack due to a complicated set of political considerations: A three-way standoff. The Spanish—numbering nearly 20,000 men—held strong positions in Manila, while the rebels (a force of nearly 15,000) manned trenches around the city, yet were too weak to storm it.

The 11,000 American ground troops—backed by the fleet's heavy guns—could overwhelm the Spanish, but would have to pass through the siege lines held by antagonistic Philippine insurgents, who did not want the Americans capturing the city.

To settle the problem and avoid needless deaths, Merritt negotiated separately with the Spanish governor and Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Famy, the self-proclaimed "President and Dictator of the Republic of the Philippines."

Under instructions from Washington, the Americans were to give no recognition or material aid to the Filipinos. The Spanish governor, aware that an armistice was



Photo courtesy of the National Archives

BEEHIVE STATE OF ACTIVITY—Amid the haze of an artillery volley, soldiers from the Utah Artillery prepares to fire on Manila. Utah's Battery A and B were involved with the capture of Manila in 1898. The unit is perpetuated today by the Utah Army Guard's 145th Field Artillery.

in place in Cuba and that U.S. forces were about to secure Puerto Rico, was under orders from Madrid to hold Manila as long as possible to give Spanish peace negotiators more flexibility.

Finally, by Aug. 9th, the Americans were tired of waiting, given the fact that some of their troops were starting to come down with malaria and other diseases. Merritt feared high losses to illness and threatened to take



GUARD HISTORY

By CW02 John Listman
Army Guard Historian

the city by storm if the governor did not surrender. On the 10th an agreement allowing the Spanish to surrender with honor was reached: the U.S. would occupy the city after a token Spanish defense. The only other condition was that the rebels must be kept out of Manila until the surrender was completed.

Merritt forewarned Aguinaldo that U.S. troops would be moving into the insurgent-occupied trenches on the 11th to prepare for their Aug. 13 assault on Manila. Aguinaldo also was warned that none of his men would be allowed into the city during or immediately after the surrender. Any violations would be met by American force.

In the meantime, some U.S. troops—including the 10th Pennsylvania and 1st California Volunteers—had moved into the trenches without interference.

The Aug. 13 assault was a joint effort. The plan was for the Navy to bombard a designated fort for a short period, after which its garrison would surrender. U.S. ground forces were instructed only to storm the Spanish defenses if more than a token resistance was offered.

Fearing the rebels may not heed Merritt's warning, 600 men from the 2nd Oregon were detailed to capture the governor's residence and the colonial administration buildings. They planned to land on the city's dock and quickly dash into the old part of Manila, known as the "Walled City," to secure the palace grounds before rebel troops could possibly arrive.

The morning of the Aug. 13th heralded another hot and humid day as the last preparations for the attack were completed. The Filipinos had allowed room in the trenches for the two American regiments to move forward. The men of the 2nd Oregon were ready to man their boats and move ashore. The fleet opened fire at 9:35 a.m. and ceased less than an hour later. The Spanish did not return fire.

Ground troops advancing through the suburbs met very little resistance, but as they pushed into the older section of the city the defense became more determined. Apparently not all of the Spanish troops were willing to give up without a fight. However, despite this increase in enemy fire, the U.S. suffered relatively few losses; six men killed and 92 wounded.

While the ground assault was still in progress, the Spanish raised a white flag over the government quarters. Merritt rowed ashore and accepted their formal surrender. The 2nd Oregon came ashore and replaced the Spanish flag with the Stars and Stripes at 5:30 p.m.

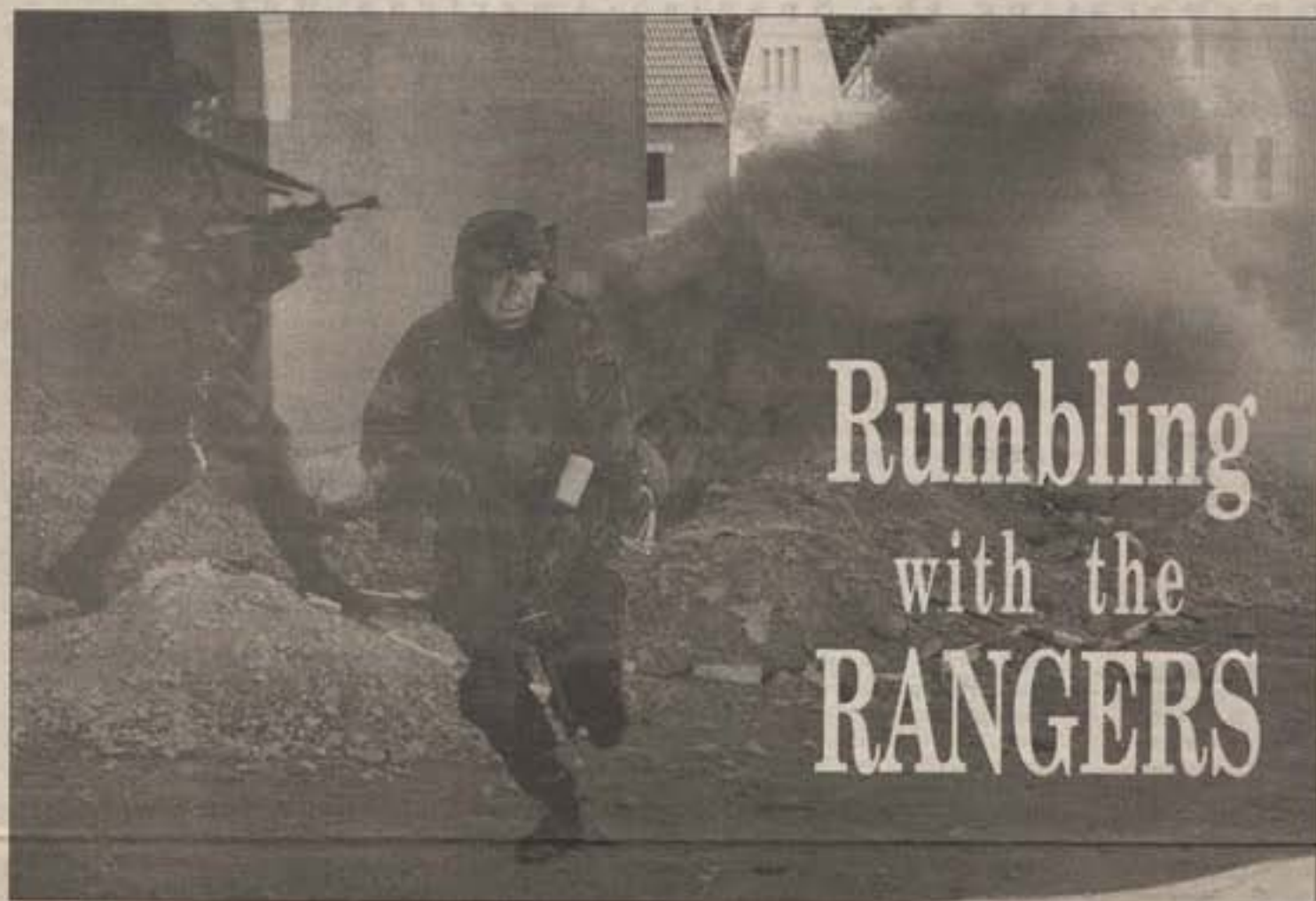
Unknown to anyone in the Philippines, an armistice had already been agreed to between the U.S. and Spain the day before Manila fell.

While this unofficially ended the Spanish-American War, it didn't produce an end to the tensions between the U.S. and Filipinos. Many more U.S. soldiers, including Guardsmen, would find themselves in a different kind of war, fighting their former "allies," the insurgents.

Editor's Note: Mr. Listman's look at the Guard's heroic battles—it produced 16 Medal of Honor recipients—against Philippine insurrectionist will be featured in December.



TRAINING



Rumbling with the RANGERS

ON THE RUN -- U.S. Army Rangers are flushed from a building by Guard infantrymen during a training exercise at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Germany.

try. In order to provide enough opposing fire power, the 4th Infantry Regiment used National Guard rifle companies to supplement its ranks.

As a result, both active-Army and National Guard units receive valuable training, Mundfrom said.

"The CMTC is one of the biggest combat training centers in Europe," he said. "Regular Army units rotate through there on a regular basis to sharpen their fighting skills."

Throughout the training, the Rangers attempted to take the Guard-held town during the day, but the Minnesotans repelled their efforts.

Then, during a four-day exercise, the Rangers parachuted into the training area and launched a battalion-sized attack.

Spc. Jeffery Olson, portraying a "civilian" who the Rangers were tasked to protect, had a ringside seat.

"It took the Rangers about two hours to take over the town," he recalled. "The Rangers are a sight to see. In that two hour time, they secured their objectives and had actually swept every building to put down any remaining resistance."

The unique overseas training -- a first for many of Company A's soldiers -- tested them on many levels, Mundfrom said.

"It's rare that a Guard unit travels to Germany. It's also rare that a Guard unit gets to train with the Rangers," he observed. "To do both is truly remarkable."

Front-line troops were not the only soldiers training with Rangers. Gopher-State mechanics, cooks, communication and supply experts were intermingled with their active-Army 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment counterparts.

"We made memories here that will stay with us for the rest of our lives," Mundfrom insisted. "I know I'll never forget this experience."

TAKING AIM -- Minnesota's Spc. Ryan Gore (left) and Spc. Jon Parrish defend their position.

Minnesota infantry company goes to Germany to match its urban warfare skills against U.S. Army Rangers

By SSgt. Ed Holt
Minnesota National Guard

Most right-thinking people would not go out of their way to kiss a Cobra snake, or tug on Superman's cape, for that matter. But that didn't deter 130 Minnesota Army Guard infantrymen from travelling to Germany to step into the ring with U.S. Army Rangers.

Dressed in black uniforms and taking on the role of small weapons smugglers, the griddy Gopher-Staters from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry matched their urban warfare skills against Rangers from the 2nd Battalion, 75th Regiment at the Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC) in Hohenfels, Germany.

"The Rangers are excellent in a lot of areas, and MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) training is one of their specialties," explained Capt. Gary Mundfrom, Company A commander. "I feel very fortunate to

have worked with the Rangers."

At the beginning of the three-week training, Rangers teamed-up with Guardsmen to share with the Minnesotans the finer points of MOUT.

Then, the games began.

Guard soldiers became the enemy, as the Rangers went about the business of routing Company A -- and their illegal company -- from a small town.

The opposition forces for the training was the Army's 1st Battalion, 4th Infan-



Photos by SSgt. Ed Holt

WIRED IN -- Concertina wire was just one of the many obstacles Guard infantrymen had waiting for attacking Rangers.