

## IN THE NEWS

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# THE ON GUARD

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## Honduras finds Guard amigos

### ■ Gone for Holidays: Puerto Rico joins other units for relief operation

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**G**one for the holidays? So what else is new?

It was business as usual for members of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's 113th Public Affairs Detachment who served for nearly a month in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua while most of their American cousins celebrated Thanksgiving.

Those nine men and women commanded by Maj. Jose Rios were the first Army Guard unit sent to help their Latin American neighbors deal with the November devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

It had been barely three years since many of those Guard soldiers had sacrificed their Christmas season, that Puerto Ricans celebrate well into January, to join the first American rotation of Joint Endeavor peacekeeping troops sent into Bosnia in December 1995.

This year's deployment, part of the National Guard's Operation Amigos disaster relief effort, involved covering military relief missions and helping U.S. public affairs officials process and coordinate visits by civilian journalists. They reported on the cataclysmic effects of the five-day storm that killed 11,000 people and wiped out entire towns during the deadliest hurricane season on record.

The fact that their families and friends back in Puerto Rico were struggling to put their lives and homes back in order

following the September terror of Hurricane Georges made the public affairs people's deployment emotionally as well as physically challenging.

"All of us left families who were still recovering from that storm," said Rios whose detachment had spent over three weeks, into mid-October, dealing with Georges. Approximately 4,000 Puerto Rico Army and Air Guard members and state militia members turned out for that emergency.

Less than a month later, the public affairs soldiers left for Honduras on three days notice.

"As bad as things were in Puerto Rico, it was much worse in Honduras. We never



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**THE RIGHT PRICE** — MSgt. Maria Cotto Price (center), superintendent of the Puerto Rico Air Guard 156th Airlift Wing's aerial port squadron, supervises the palletization of relief supplies headed to Honduras.

imagined it could be so bad," reported Rios after returning to San Juan on Dec. 4.

Entire banana plantations covered in mud, 144,000 destroyed houses, and over 14,000 refugees made for lasting impressions.

By December's first week, Army and Air National Guard troops from Puerto Rico to California were doing all they could to rush food, water and equipment to Central Americans who could not cope

■ See PUERTO RICO, Page 11



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

## A SALUTE to YOUTH

Tonya Sellers, a member of the Georgia Youth Challenge program, renders a smart salute during a drill and ceremony competition. Georgia joined eight other states with the program (there are 20) at the National Guard's fifth National Challenge Invitational Tournament. See related stories and photos on pages 6-7.





## COMMENTARY

• 'If You are Not a Hero, No Explanation is Possible'

## ABOUT the PAPER

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Send on disc (with clean copy) or e-mail your stories to us by the 20th of each month. We prefer that photos (B&W or color print) be mailed.

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# Heroes around every corner

By SFC Allan Richard Hach  
New York National Guard

Every clerk at one time or another has delved a little deeper into personnel files to read the citations that accompany awards such as the Bronze Star, Silver Star, Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross and Soldier's Medal. I would not give you two cents for the clerk who did not get a lump in his or her throat when realizing they were surrounded by heroes.

It really doesn't matter which conflict it was. The heroics were close to being the same -- selfless efforts to help their fellow soldier. And what really hits home for me is that you have to go digging to find them. There is no talking, no bragging, no celebration. The names and the battles have all been made famous in books, movies or television. There was no music or commercial breaks, just reality.

With just a year left to retire, I wanted to remember why I kept putting on this uniform everyday. It is because of these heroes. I have heard people complain about the prima donna pilots. But I've also heard -- and read -- about them hovering over landing zones, taking fire, until all of the soldiers were aboard. I also have heard about them climbing aboard burning aircraft to pull the crew out to safety. I am proud as hell to be working with these guys.

But there are all kinds of heroes out

there. I have looked and have found them everywhere. Start with those of us who put on the uniform, day in and day out. I remember watching Hueys being loaded onto a C-5A in 20-below-zero temperatures with 20 mph winds blowing. Eight hours later, they were unloaded in 100-degree, 100 percent humidity weather.

These are my heroes.

There's the soldier who argued with orthopedic surgeons to save his leg so that he could stay on airborne status and serve his country more. And there's the soldier who stood up after an artillery barrage to realize that he was the only one in his platoon who was not killed or wounded. He quietly lived out the rest of his life with a strong feeling of guilt, yet went about raising a wonderful family, including a doctor, a teacher, a banker and a soldier.

There's a soldier who would not leave his beloved Indiana National Guard for another state who died in a plane crash while on tour in Alaska. And there was a crew chief who guided his helicopter into a hot landing zone. He left its safety several times to help wounded Marines get aboard.

These are my heroes.

Yet, there are young heroes from conflicts not too long ago, and some who are currently serving tours here and abroad. God bless them, too.

And the next generation of heroes; who are they? They are the ones with

the joy sticks in their hands; the fly-by-wire kids who will have stuff happening so fast around them that they will be lucky to survive it.

I am an old clerk who has had the opportunity to live and train with infantrymen and aviators. I have been able to fly below the tree tops and dig in below the ground. I have survived the opportunity to die. I have buried my friends and loved ones. We should all enjoy and appreciate being surrounded by these heroes as long as they are with us.

If you are a hero, no explanation is necessary. More often, unfortunately, if you are not a hero, no explanation is possible.

## 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, Park Center IV, Suite 450, 4501 Ford Ave., Alexandria VA 22302-1454. Our e-mail address is: malthanerj@ngb.af.mil

## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar

Comments or ideas: lfquhar@nsg.af.mil



"Look Lieutenant! I'll get you the AT in Hawaii, but making you the Adjutant General is out of the question."





## IN THE NEWS

• Kuwaiti Bound • DoD Winner • Educational Web Site

## Six wings prepare for Kuwait

### Southern Watch: Air Guard A-10, F-16 units to deploy for 90 days in mid-January

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Military pilots, especially fighter pilots, tend to be a reserved lot who let down what little hair they have in the company of their peers. Col. Ted Thilly is an exception.

The vice commander of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing based outside of Baltimore is as animated as a kid at Christmas — especially when he talks about next year's Southern Watch deployment to Kuwait involving six Air Guard fighter wings.

Three ground-support, tank-killing A-10 units from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Connecticut will be paired up with air combat F-16 units from Alabama, Indiana and Colorado for a 90-day mission that will begin in mid-January.

They will be looking for potentially hostile actions by Saddam Hussein's forces following November's showdown between Iraq and the United States over access by United Nations weapons inspectors.

The deployment, Thilly estimated, will occupy up to 2,500 Air Guard people flying and maintaining two dozen jet fighters based at Ahmed Al Jaber. Most indi-

vidual tours will last for 15 days. Some people will serve for 30 or 45 days.

"This is a great opportunity," beamed Thilly who has logged more than 4,700 hours in F-4 Phantoms and A-10 Thunderbolts during a 29-year Air Force and Air Guard career.

"At the moment, Southwest Asia is the only game in town" because of the reduction in Air Force requirements for Bosnia, added the man who commanded Maryland A-10 detachments that patrolled the skies over Bosnia-Herzegovina for two months in 1994 and again in '96. In fact, two of the Maryland pilots took out a Serbian gun during the '94 mission for the United Nations.

Members of the Maryland wing geared up for the Kuwaiti mission by checking out their chemical warfare suits and rehearsing force protection procedures at Martin State Airport during the same November weekend that U.S. ships and bombers came very close to raining cruise missiles on Iraqi military targets.

"You're darned right I take [this training] seriously," insisted SSgt. James Smith. He is a part-time Guard member and wing historian who expects

to spend two weeks documenting the Air Guard's duty in Kuwait where the threat of chemical and biological warfare is taken very seriously. "I believe it really could happen," he said.

The fact that Smith's wife is a biological safety specialist for a private firm contracted by the National Safety Institute has increased his awareness of looking out for himself and his buddies, he said.

■ See KUWAIT, Page 13



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**CHEMICAL CHECK** — Members of Maryland's 175th Wing brush up on chemical warfare survival prior to their January deployment.

## Florida drug program claims second DoD honor

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The blue ribbon, for the second straight year, goes to Florida. That was the message from the Department of Defense that presented its eighth annual Community Drug Awareness Awards to six military agencies at the Pentagon recently.

Florida's Drug Demand Reduction Program took top honors for the National Guard for the second year in a row.

This year it was the Community Anti-Drug Coalition Support Pro-



Lt. Col. Bob Lewis

gram spearheaded by 1st Lt. Diana Travis. Last October it was Florida's High School Classroom Drug Awareness Program that won the gold presented in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week, a national campaign that promotes and recognizes drug prevention programs in American communities.

Lt. Col. Bob Lewis, administrator for the Florida Guard's counter-drug

program since it was formed in 1992, accepted this year's award from Dr. John Hamre, Deputy Secretary of Defense. Lewis, 50, will retire next May.

The Florida program has a \$400,000 annual budget and has been reinforced during the past two years by \$4.2 million in federal grants, Lewis explained. But that money has to be spent wisely.

"We only work on projects that the communities think are important," explained Lewis. "By not going through community agencies,

■ See FLORIDA, Page 4

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Irwin named Employer Support of Guard and Reserve chief

Thomas C. Irwin, Trans World Airlines vice president for flight operations, was selected as the national chairman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) Nov. 17. He succeeds William H. Bowen, who is retiring after four years as NCESGR's volunteer leader.

NCESGR is a DoD-chartered organization responsible for informing the American business and civic community about the role of the National Guard and Reserve in the Total Force. It was formed in 1972 as part of a nationwide effort to develop support from civilian employers who have Guard and Reserve members in their workplaces.

The chairman is assisted by a small staff, located in Arlington, Va., and a network of more than 4,200 volunteers.

Irwin began his career with TWA in 1967 as a B-727 flight engineer. He has since flown the B-707, 747, 757 and 767, accruing more than 16,000 flight hours.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Irwin received a Naval commission through ROTC. After leaving active duty in November 1967, he became a Naval Reservist. He was promoted to rear admiral in 1989.

### Massachusetts offers detailed web site on education

Members of the Massachusetts Army National Guard now have access to one of the most comprehensive education web sites in the country thanks to a partnership between its state's education office and some students at Shawsheen Regional Vocational Technical High School in Billerica, Mass.

Packed with more than 125 pages of information, the site was written and edited by Capt. Troy Gipps, the state's Army Guard Education Services Officer, and co-designed by Shawsheen students Jeff Harmon, Dan Hanson and Matt Beston.

"For the first time in the history of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, soldiers can find the information they need about the education system without phone calls or appointments with their unit or the education services office," Gipps said.

Guardmembers can visit the website at: <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/guard/education>

Reported by Sgt. J. P. St. John



## IN THE NEWS

## FLORIDA

From Page 3

you're only guessing."

Florida Guardmembers support 16 community anti-drug coalitions aimed at preventing drug abuse and alcohol and tobacco use by people who are underage. They work with 25 agencies including the state attorney general's office, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.

The anti-drug coalition program backed by Maj. Gen. Ronald Harrison, Florida's Adjutant General, supports the President's 1997 National Drug Control Strategy.

Miami, one of the 16 communities, experienced a significant drop in drug use among teenagers from 1995-97, according to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America based in Alexandria, Va. Marijuana use among Miami high school seniors fell 14.2 percent during that time while it was rising 3.8 percent across the country, the agency reported.

"It was a team effort, and the Florida National Guard played a major role," praised Marilyn Culp, executive director for the Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community.

This year's award-winning program is unique in that it considers all requests for help from Florida communities and determines the priority of support.

"In the past, local commanders throughout the state would receive community requests, and they would have to determine what support was provided," Guard officials explained. "In that most commanders may not live in the area where their unit is located, it is difficult for them to know what the community needs to help support drug prevention."

The current system, officials added, ensures Florida Guard members are working on the projects that will have the most impact on drug prevention in each community based on funding and other available resources.

## Guard celebrates 362nd year

■ Icing on the Cake:  
Gen. Shelton joins birthday  
bash on Capitol Hill

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The humanitarian muscle that National Guard troops are flexing in hurricane-ravaged Central America underlies this country's dependence on its citizen-soldiers and airmen, observed America's foremost warrior as the Guard celebrated its 362nd birthday in Washington on December's first Wednesday.

"Right now, National Guard combat engineers, special forces soldiers and public affairs experts are on the ground, while Air Guard units from 22 states are rushing in troops, supplies and equipment," praised Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during his keynote comments to some 250 Congressional leaders and National Guard dignitaries on Capitol Hill.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and South Carolina's venerable Sen. Strom Thurmond attended the first birthday celebration that Guard officials have held in the halls of Congress.

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Director of the National Guard Bureau, presented retiring Kentucky Sen. Wendell Ford with the Montgomery Award, the bureau's most prestigious honor. Ford, 74, a former Kentucky Army Guardsman, helped establish the Senate National

Guard Caucus in 1989 to, among other things, champion increased funding for Guard operations and maintenance throughout the country.

The mid-day observance also marked the National Guard Bureau's 90th birthday. It was held in the Russell Senate Office Building's historic Caucus Room where American military policy has been debated, damned and defended in detail since 1909 when the marble chamber was completed.

It was in that room of Corinthian columns that senators investigated the World

War II National Defense Program from 1941-47; the Vietnam War in 1966; and the Iran-Contra Affair in 1987.

The Dec. 2 celebration, punctuated by musical selections performed by a seven-piece combo from the Virginia Army Guard, was considerably more cordial.

"Every year as we gather to celebrate this birthday, we are really celebrating the beginnings of our nation, and especially our nation's armed forces," said Davis of the National Guard born Dec. 13, 1636, in Massachusetts.

"Today, our military operates around the world with a Total Force of Active and Reserve Components," Davis added. "We in the National Guard feel that we pioneered that concept."

"Our reliance on the citizen-soldier is much more than a tradition, as strong as that may be," said Shelton of the Guard's professionalism he has observed in the Persian Gulf, in Haiti, in Bosnia, in Central Asia and this fall in Latin America.

"That operation is making a huge difference in the lives of thousands of (Central American) people affected by (Hurricane Mitch). It's a shining example of just how much we rely upon the Guard and Reserve as integral parts of the Total Force," added Shelton who commanded special forces and airborne troops in Vietnam. As XVIIIth Airborne Corps commander, Shelton led the U.S. joint task force in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy.

"You are indispensable partners in the common defense," Shelton added.

"In urban and rural America, in small towns and large cities, you show the uniform to millions of Americans every day," he said. "You shape their understanding of their Armed Forces."

■ See BIRTHDAY, Page 5



Photo by Brian Calvert

**A CUT ABOVE** — Lt. Gen. Russell Davis (left), retired Congressman Sonny Montgomery and Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz share a laugh prior to cutting the Guard's cake.

War II National Defense Program from 1941-47; the Vietnam War in 1966; and the Iran-Contra Affair in 1987.

The Dec. 2 celebration, punctuated by musical selections performed by a seven-

FACE of the  
FUTURE

Indiana Army Guard SSgt. Lisa Masters, a member of the 138th Signal Battalion, applies camouflage to five-year-old Rachel McDermott's face at a recent airshow in the state. Masters is a senior switch operator for the Greenfield-based unit.



Photo by Capt. Jenny Lynn Gruenr





## PEOPLE

• Denington's Deeds

## BRINGING

Christina Denington is an Army Guard ace recruiter

THEM IN

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Christina Denington admits she almost threw in the towel one night last August after returning to her home in Clovis, Calif., from a long day on the road. Her 3-year-old son asked her who she was and toddled away, clutching his blanket.

"I wanted to quit right then and there. I didn't think it was worth it. I cried and cried," said Denington, a recruiting and retention NCO for the Army National Guard who was hell bent on becoming the first woman to be California's top recruiter for the year.

But the days that frequently began before sunrise and finished deep into the dark were taking a toll on herself, her husband and their six children.

Her family, however, would not let her quit, and SFC Christina Denington flew to Washington, D.C., with her husband Jim in November to receive a silver ring as one of this country's top Army Guard recruiters.

Denington had persuaded and made it possible for a remarkable total of 102 men and women from the Fresno area to join the California Army Guard during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. She had beaten, by nine recruits, SFC Artelia Korokous from the San Diego area who was also determined to be the first Golden State woman to win a Chief's 50 Award.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau presents those awards, introduced in 1974, to the top Army Guard recruiting and retention NCOs in the 50

states and four territories.

"Most Chief's 50 winners recruit 40 or 50 good soldiers," said SGM Samuel Kanouse, the Army Guard's Recruiting and Retention Sergeant Major. "Forty recruits is considered a good year. Sixty is outstanding. A hundred and two? That's unbelievable."

So, it could be argued, is the tally of 195 Guard soldiers recruited by the two California women who raced each other to the wire during a good year for Army Guard recruiting.

Nationwide enlistments totaled 58,296, pointed out Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, the Chief of the Guard Bureau, during November's Strength Maintenance Awards Conference. That gave the Army Guard 459 soldiers over its total strength goal of 362,000.

"You were the only Army component to achieve its end-strength objective," Davis praised the 54 Chief's ring winners and 15 other non-commissioned officers from seven recruiting and retention regions who helped sustain the citizen-soldier force.

Reaching that goal for the third straight year did not come easy.

"Being an Army National Guard recruiter and retainer is one of the toughest jobs we have," Davis said. "You are the face of the Army National Guard."

The public will connect you to the combat exploits of our veterans in the Gulf War or to our peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia.

"Recruiters must be flexible," Davis added. "They have to be able to handle disappointment, frustration and rejection."

They must also be persistent, said Denington who has taken on the Marine Corps in Fresno County, population 776,200, for

and they were married on April 15, 1994. That date is significant because Christina formerly supervised 45 Internal Revenue Service workers charged with chasing down people who misrepresented their actual income on their federal tax returns.

That background has also served her well as a recruiter who must make sure that potential Guard soldiers do not have

ing educational benefits.

Those considerations occupied Denington almost non-stop for 12 months after getting the support from Jim and their "Brady Bunch" family of three sons and three daughters, ages 3-16, to make a run at the Chief's 50 prize that could lead to master sergeants stripes.

Early morning trips with recruits to the Military Entrance Processing Station in Sacramento and evening visits with others weighing the Guard against the Marines stole precious hours from her children's soccer and baseball games.

Her husband and eldest daughter Nicole kept the home fires burning while Christina tried to convince prospective Guard soldiers they could serve their country while holding down a job or going to college.

No, she did not promise they would never go to war. Her own tour in Saudi Arabia had taught her better than that.

"Jim calls me Mother Theresa because I really talk to people. I want to make sure they will be happy in their units," said Denington who has helped as many people enlist in infantry, armor and aviation units as she has placed in her own transportation company.

After grasping a brass ring her family would not let her abandon, Denington said, it is time to get back to the basics.

"It's time to be a mommy again," said Denington. "It's time to focus on Jim's career."

"I want to make sure they will be happy in their units"

SFC CHRISTINA DENINGTON, recruiter



the past six years as the recruiter for the

Army Guard's 2668th Transportation Company. That was her outfit during the seven months she supported the 101st Airborne Division during Desert Storm duty in the Persian Gulf.

"The Marines are my biggest competition. A lot of people want to wear that uniform," said the engaging 39-year-old who has learned many tricks of the recruiting trade from her husband of nearly five years.

Jim Denington, now a full-time company first sergeant in the 1st Battalion, 149th Armor, put in seven years as a Guard recruiter. They worked together while recruiting at high schools,

criminal records and are not using illegal drugs.

"You have to be a recruiter, a mother and a Secret Service agent to get this stuff out of some people," she explained.

Others are easy to recruit, Denington added, because they have left active duty but they still want to serve part-time. One assistant district attorney from a small California town wanted military experience to improve his prospects for a job in Fresno.

Meanwhile, Denington had to watch over existing Guard members because her retention duties include helping to keep quality soldiers in the Guard. That part of her job includes exploring pay problems and explain-

## BIRTHDAY

From Page 4

Wendell Ford was honored as one man who has made that possible when he was presented the Montgomery Award established in 1996 for retired Mississippi Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, who was known as "Mr. National Guard" during his 30 years in the House of Representatives.

Ford, a former Kentucky governor, has served 24 years in the Senate but did not seek reelection this year. He formed

the Senate National Guard Caucus with Missouri Sen. Christopher Bond in 1989, and, last June, he gained Senate approval for his proposal to expand the National Guard's counter-drug activities.

Guardmembers are no longer limited to performing only their specific military jobs, such as operating a radio, while on counter-drug details thanks to Ford's proposal that became an amendment to this year's defense authorization bill. That gives Guardmembers greater flexibility to help civilian authorities search for and confiscate illegal drugs in their states.

"If we are ever going to win the war on drugs, we need to make sure that those on

the front lines are not hamstrung by needless regulations and bureaucracy," Ford observed in June.

"Some of the finest men and women I've ever met have belonged to the National Guard in Kentucky and around this country," said Ford who spent 13 years in the Army Guard after a World War II tour in the Army.

Acknowledging that he has been accused of using "some uncalled-for tactics in reference to the National Guard," the man who spent 33 years in elective office said, "I'd use them again if that's what it takes to get what the National Guard needs."





Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**CHALLENGED** — Whether on a basketball court (above) or doing pushups during the triathlon competition, at-risk teens did themselves proud.

## UP to ChalleNGe

At-risk teens  
get chance to  
showcase their  
turnabouts

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Aaron Avery had never known such intensity, such scrutiny, during his 17 years.

The member of the drill team from the Missouri National Guard's new Youth ChalleNGe Program stood statue still beside a competitor from Illinois in an Aberdeen Proving Ground recreation center on the Maryland shore of Chesapeake Bay during November's first Thursday afternoon.

They were the center of attention for a couple of hundred other teenagers and 19 members of the Air Force's elite honor guard from Washington, D.C. A sergeant major began barking military commands. The young man who made the slightest wrong move would lose. The other would win.

They snapped to attention, presented arms and about-faced flawlessly for a few dramatic minutes. Then, on "dress-right-DRESS," the Illinois contender, Gerardo Marrero, extended his right arm and

glanced to his left. Wrong. There was no one to look at. The honor guard judges pounced, and Aaron Avery of Kennett, Mo., was declared the winner.

He had hit the winning home run in the bottom of the ninth. He had sunk the winning foul shot with a second to play. He had won the intense knock-out drill that the 200 others had also started a little earlier before they had been eliminated because they had turned the wrong way or hesitated or flinched.

The other team members from Missouri's Show-Me ChalleNGe carried Avery from the floor on their shoulders as a hero of the National Guard's fifth National ChalleNGe Invitational Tournament.

Nine of the 20 states with National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Programs for troubled teens sent teams to what may be the best kept competitive secret in the country. Boys and girls basketball tournaments and triathlons of pushups, sit-ups and two-mile runs were part of the week's competition.

But a full day of carefully choreo-

graphed drill and ceremonies competition is considered the highlight of each tournament begun in Maryland in the fall of 1996.

"Basketball is fine, but this is the real deal," said Army Guard Col. Richard Young, the Maryland academy's deputy director, on the morning that the snappily uniformed teams took the floor. "Drill competition is the event in which everyone wants to kick butt."

The twice-yearly 22-week ChalleNGe academies give troubled young men and women ages 16-18 a chance to grow up in basic training styled atmospheres. They have all quit or been thrown out of high school without graduating. They get the chance to earn equivalency diplomas. They cannot have done time, but many of them have done drugs.

Competing in a ChalleNGe tournament is considered a privilege. "It's the last chance you get to win anything like high school stuff," observed Maryland cadet newspaper reporter John Davis.

The intensity of the competition was reflected during the Friday morning

awards ceremony by the jubilation of the winning teams and by the long, disappointed faces of those who thought they should have won but didn't.

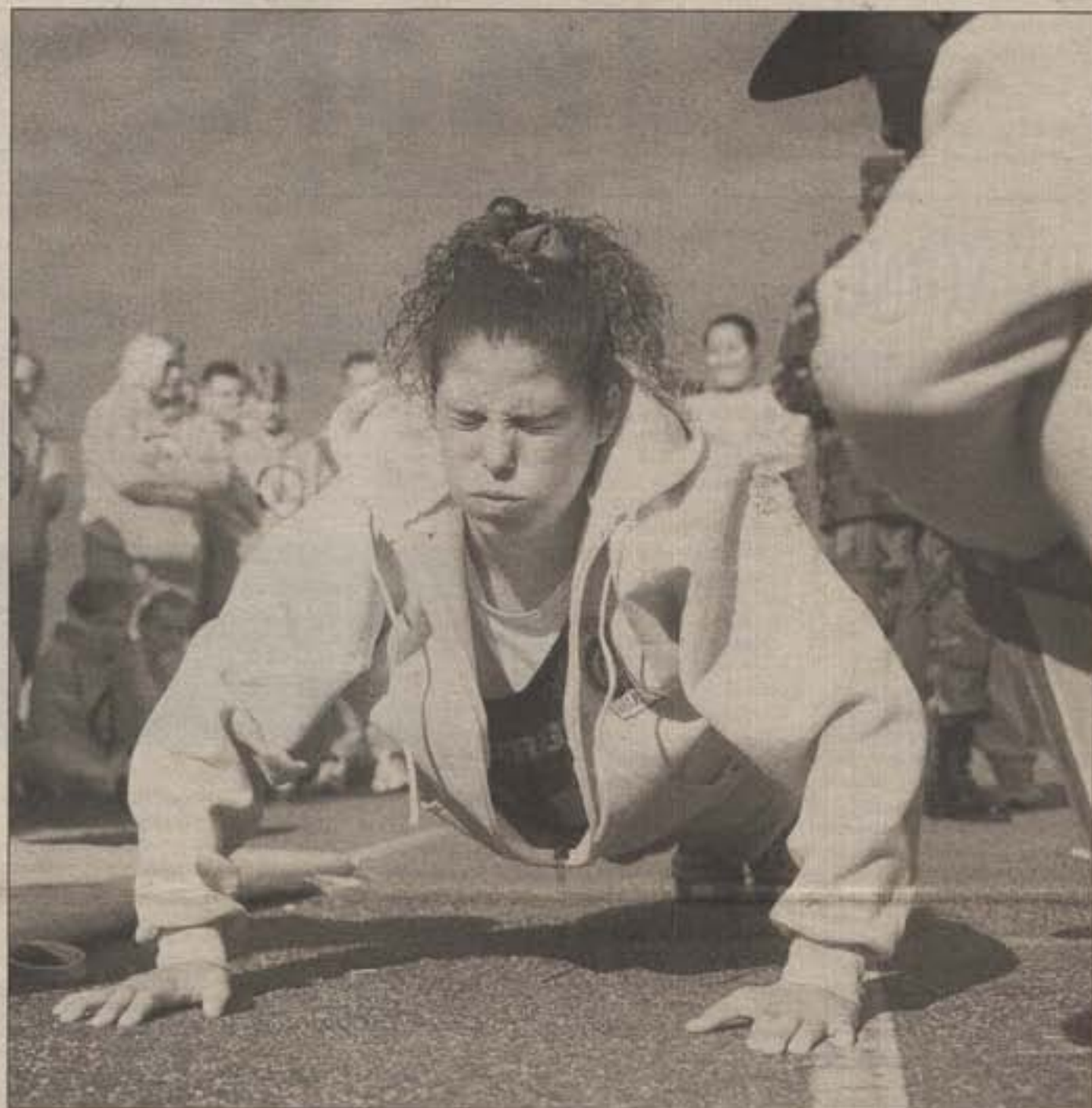
Host Maryland won the overall drill and ceremony trophy, the biggest of the prizes, after being judged best in the inspection and exhibition drill competitions and second in standard drill.

That 14-member team was coached for up to four hours a day for nearly a month by Army Guard PFC Dorian Franklin, 19, who went through Maryland's Freestate ChalleNGe Academy in the spring of 1997. He had been expelled from high school during his senior year for fighting, Franklin explained.

"This program changed my life all the way around. I'm trying to do something with my life and help other people do the same thing," explained Franklin who got plenty of satisfaction by coaching the Maryland team to victory.

"They've been practicing too hard — early in the morning and during lunch — for them not to take it," he said.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity







**THRILL of VICTORY —**  
Maryland teens (left and below) celebrate their drill team's winning performance.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

for these young people," pointed out retired Air Guard Col. Vernon Sevier, the Maryland academy's director, because the cadets attend the academies one time.

"The fellowship and the comradeship is more important than competing for the trophies," he added. "The fact that they try so hard and get along so well proves that God never gives up on anyone."

"Coming here is a big, big deal," said Army Guard Maj. Joel Potts, commander of the 100 cadets at Oklahoma's Thunderbird Youth Academy whose team traveled the farthest to the tournament. The team rode 1,400 miles during 25 hours on a commercial bus.

"Eighty-five wanted to come. We're down to 32," added Potts of the tough selection process. "They had to be approved by five department heads. One negative vote, one question about them, and they didn't make the trip."

"The fact I get to represent my academy makes me so proud to be here," said Scott Clark, Oklahoma's cadet company commander. "The cadets who are here may not be the best basketball players or marchers at the academy, but these are the cadets who tried the hardest. These are the cadets with heart."

"When your body tires, it's your heart that counts," Joseph Padilla told the 422 cadets who competed in Maryland. He

directs the National Guard Bureau's Youth Program that has produced 14,607 ChalleNGe graduates across the country during its first five years.

"I hope all of you leave here with a better understanding of yourselves," Padilla said. "I hope that as adults you give something back to some young man or woman who is in the same circumstance you found yourselves."

The cadets' maturity impressed SSgt. Reginald Newton, leader of the detail from the Air Force Honor Guard that practices up to eight hours a day.

"I saw a lot of intensity and dedication. They accomplished a lot in a short amount of time," Newton said. "When they made mistakes, most of the cadets kept their composure. It makes me take my job

a little more seriously."

Aaron Avery made it clear he has begun taking himself seriously after 14 weeks in the Show-Me program.

"I needed some discipline in my life," said Avery after winning the knock-out contest. "Now I'm thinking about going into the Marines."

The discipline he demonstrated when the heat was on at the Aberdeen recreation center indicated he had come a lot further than the distance from Missouri to Maryland.

"I hope  
all of you  
leave here  
with a  
better understanding  
of yourselves"

JOSEPH PADILLA  
Director, NGB Youth Programs



## INSIDE CHALLENGE

Col. Richard Young has given troubled teens a chance to achieve

# Bringing the 'THUNDER'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

In the beginning it was about marching. Now, after five National ChalleNGe Invitational Tournaments over the past 2-1/2 years, Maryland Army National Guard Col. Richard Young wonders how it will all come out in the wash.

He is a bear of a man nicknamed "Thunder" by cadets at the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy where Young is the deputy director. He devised the twice-yearly competitions for teams of troubled teenagers from the National Guard's 20 state ChalleNGe Programs around the country.

The November tournament was named "Thunderama" in honor of the Vietnam War veteran and former Special Forces soldier who has been involved in the Maryland academy since it opened in 1993.

Local school officials could not or would not schedule contests with the youth academies, Young explained, and he could not connect with the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps that is affiliated with established high schools.

So Young orchestrated the first ChalleNGe Invitational Tournament at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Maryland program's home, in the fall of 1996.

It was a logical step, he reasoned, because cadets from New York and New Jersey had played

pick-up basketball games with Maryland and because Maryland cadets had marched informally against New Jersey drill teams at Fort Dix.

As with other students attending traditional schools throughout America, Young observed, the ChalleNGe cadets relished the chance to compete against their peers -- to find out how their academics stood up against others.

"There should be something that links all of the programs together other than problems," said Young who, at 50, is pursuing a doctorate in organizational management through California Coast University. "I'm just tickled that this thing has taken on a life of its own."

Now, the father of these invitational tournaments wonders how his baby will grow. Co-ed events, he hopes, will be the wave of the future.

Drill and ceremonies was the main event when New York, New Jersey and Virginia joined Maryland for the first invitational. Basketball was a sideshow intended to

occupy the cadets when they were not marching.

Boys and girls basketball tournaments, a triathlon of pushups, sit-ups and two-mile runs for both sexes, as well as co-ed drill competition made up this fall's program when the tournament



Col. Richard Young

returned to Maryland. Nine teams, including Oklahoma and Illinois, showed up.

But more states will be interested, Young predicted, if they believe the competition is fair for all comers.

"Drill and ceremonies is the key. And co-ed competition is the key," he explained. "And we're still trying to determine the best activities for all of the states."

"Is baseball better for everyone than basketball? I don't know," he said. "That's up to the states to decide."

"But we're going to keep trying to do what's best for these kids. They're the important ones," Young added. "They're like my sons and daughters."



## IN REVIEW

Missouri Army Guard PFC Timothy Sitor (right) nails siding onto a shed at a United Nations observation post in Macedonia. Missouri, Illinois and Colorado Army Guard engineers and military police spent six months there last year. An Oregon Army Guard radioman (center) coordinates a troop insertion at the Joint Readiness Training Center on Fort Polk, La. Thousands of Guardmembers tested their combat mettle there this year.



Photo by MSgt. Jerry Brattin

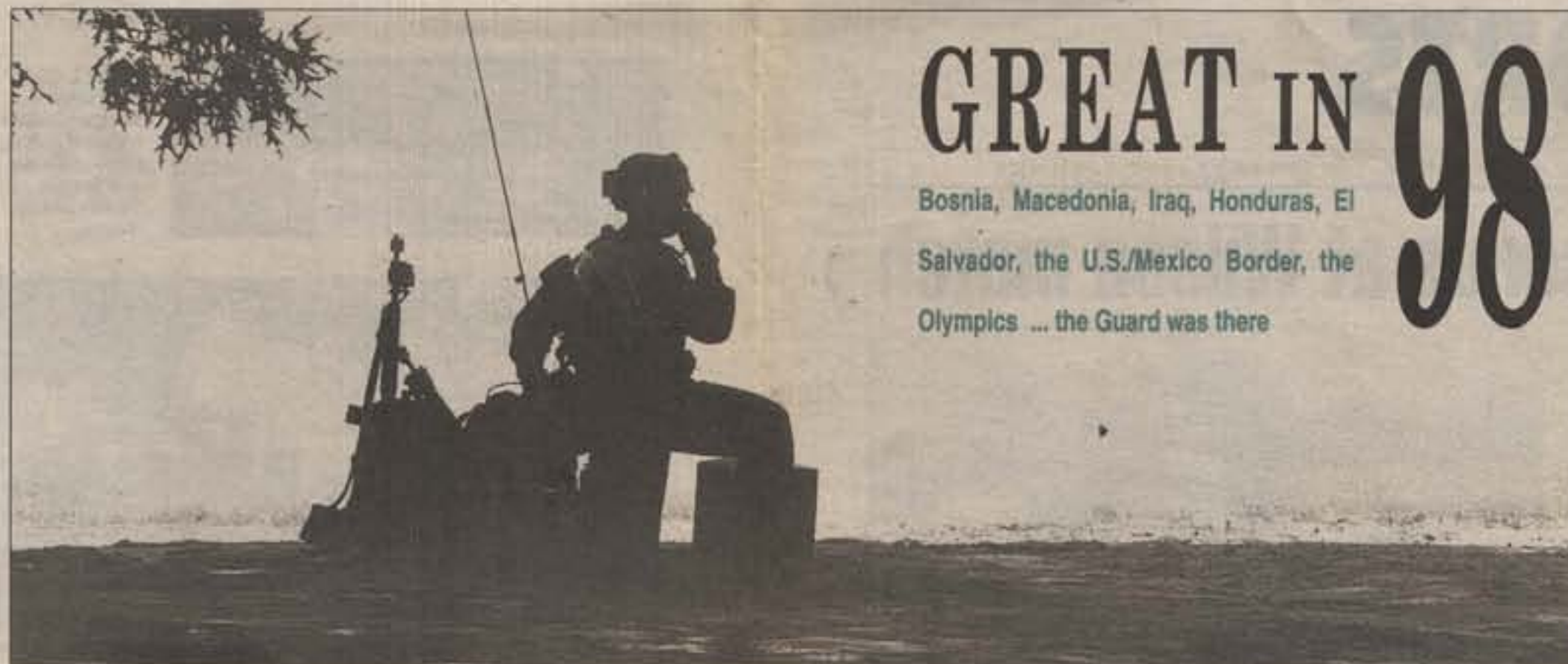


Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

# GREAT IN 98

Bosnia, Macedonia, Iraq, Honduras, El Salvador, the U.S./Mexico Border, the Olympics ... the Guard was there

## IN REVIEW

Louisiana's Darryl Keiffer (left) was just one of thousands of at-risk youths who benefitted from National Guard programs like ChalleNGe (see pages 6-7), Starbase and the Pelican State's Drug Education for Youth (DEFY).



Photo by Capt. John-Michael Wells



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

## IN REVIEW

Capt. Michael Patterson (above), commander of the Virginia Army Guard's Company C, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, addresses wellwishers after returning from a historic nine-month peacekeeping duty in Bosnia. Company C was the first Guard infantry unit since Vietnam to be sent into harm's way. Lt. Gen. Edward Baca (right), the National Guard Bureau's recently retired Chief, was part of the first Guard contingent to visit Russia.



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell



Photo by J. Loud

## IN REVIEW

Army and Air Guardmembers (left) were a presence at the U.S./Mexico border assisting customs agents in putting a dent in drug traffic.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

## IN REVIEW

Idaho Army Guard Spc. Ntala Skinner (left) was a member of the U.S. biathlete team that competed at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Guardsmen and women, like Texas Army Guard Spc. Aaron Reed (above), got a first hand view of wartorn Bosnia.



Courtesy of the South Carolina National Guard  
Hurricane Bonnie hit the Carolinas in August and thousands of North and South Carolina Guardsmen and women were called in to clean up debris (above) and restore normalcy.

## STORM of SUPPORT



Photo by MSgt. Terry R. Young

When ice storms ravaged the east coast, affecting millions, thousands of Guardsmen like Maine Army Guard Spc. Charles Koch (above) helped break the ice.

Air Guard C-130 crews (right) from five states helped 'bale' out New Mexico's starving cattle by air dropping hay after a 22-inch snowfall.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell



Courtesy of the Iowa National Guard

A February blizzard (left) prompted a call for Iowa Guard engineers to help put its state on a road to recovery.



Photo by MSgt. Janice T. O'Keefe

Nearly 1,700 Guardmembers were called up in California (left) after El Niño struck. In one day alone, 200 tourists were evacuated to safety by Army Guard Chinook crewmembers like SSgt. Wes Farnham (holding child).





## SPORTS

• More than 710 shooters from 46 states, territories compete

# Marksman break records at Wilson match

## CHIEF'S 50

### COMBAT RIFLE

SSgt. Charles Blackwell, Texas  
Capt. J.R. Treburne, Wis.  
SSgt. Richard Zolnowsky, S.D.  
SSgt. Lance Espinosa, Mich.  
SSgt. Larry Reynolds, Vi.  
SSgt. Gary Varberg, N.D.  
Sgt. Daren Pfander, Ore.  
SFC Mark Kerin, Pa.  
SFC George Morgan, Pa.  
Maj. Richard Knowlton, Wyo.  
SFC David White, Pa.  
Sgt. Ralph Young, Vt.  
SSgt. Mark Richard, Ind.  
Sgt. Bruce McCauley, Neb.  
1st Sgt. Jay Cross, Wyo.  
SSgt. David Mutziger, S.D.  
Sgt. Justin Harris, Ind.  
SFC Ronald Harter, Neb.  
Capt. Ross Finley, Neb.

### COMBAT PISTOL

CWO2 Lawrence Grace Jr., Vi.  
Capt. William Rhoades, Del.  
SSgt. Darwin Hukill, Mo.  
SSgt. Charles Allen, Conn.  
SGM Danny Estes, Mo.  
MSgt. James Schulte, Mo.  
TSgt. Mark Volchko, Pa.  
SSgt. Todd Wagner, Neb.  
Lt. Col. David Gray, S.D.  
SSgt. Krag-Stevens Cash, Va.  
Sgt. Robert Bishop, N.H.  
Sgt. Aaron Schrieber, Mich.  
Sgt. Larry Levesque, Conn.  
Maj. Michael Michie, Va.  
Sgt. Derrick Martin, Ariz.  
Capt. Shannon Jordan, Okla.  
Capt. David Kleiber, Alaska  
Maj. Kevin Wold, N.D.  
MSgt. Kevin Hickok, Wash.  
Sgt. Scott Follmer, Ariz.

### LIGHT MACHINEGUN

Sgt. Mark Benson, Pa.  
SSgt. Brian Payne, Texas  
SSgt. Dale Sellers, Utah  
SSgt. Glenn Culbert, Mich.  
Sgt. Jason Barbknecht, Ind.  
SSgt. Michael Case, Neb.

### SNIPER

Maj. Thomas Brewer, Neb.  
1st Sgt. Michael Strasburger, Neb.  
Sgt. Douglas Biehl, Ind.  
SSgt. Michael Ramirez, Mont.  
1st Sgt. Gregory Neiderhiser, Pa.

## Rifle, Sniper Marks: Pennsylvania marksmen take home team title

By SMSgt. Bernard E. DeLisle  
Arkansas National Guard

The record books were rewritten once again at the National Guard's 27th Annual Winston P. Wilson Championships, held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark.

The Wilson match, held Oct. 10-17, is recognized as the Army and Air National Guard's premier shooting event, where the top rifle, pistol and light machinegun shooters and snipers compete.

This year's championship pitted 710 shooters from 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Marksmen from Pennsylvania National Guard were named "Overall State Champions." Nebraska took second and Vermont third.

In the combat rifle event, Texas Army Guard SSgt. Charles Blackwell set a record, notching 50 bulls' eyes on the way to a score of 1,096. Wisconsin's Capt. J.R. Treburne was second (1,057) and South Dakota's SSgt. Richard Zolnowsky third (1,006).

All three received the prestigious Chiefs' 50 Marksmanship Badge, presented on behalf of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the top 50 shooters, divided proportionately between rifle, pistol, light machinegun and sniper.

While there are many father-son duos in shooting, the Zolnowsky tandem is believed to be the first father/daughter combination to compete at the Wilson.

PFC Michelle Zolnowsky, new to the South Dakota rifle team, hopes to follow in her dad's footsteps.

"I want to be a 'President's 100' obviously, and win a 'Chiefs 50,'" she said. "Someday I want to make the All-Guard team."

In the combat pistol individual championship, Vermont CWO2 Lawrence Grace Jr. won with a final score of 1,550 points. He was followed by Delaware Capt. William Rhoades (1,534) and Mis-



Photo courtesy of the Arkansas National Guard

**FOR THE RECORD** — Texas Army Guard SSgt. Charles Blackwell (above) set a record in the rifle competition. Texas Capt. Brian Hoffman (left), believed to be the only pilot to compete at the Wilson match, disassembles a machinegun blindfolded.



Photo by Sherrie Fox

souri SSgt. Darwin Hukill (1,523).

Missouri MSgt. Jim Schulte, a distinguished shooter in both rifle and pistol, has been a Wilson participant since 1976. He also is a member of the All-Guard pistol team.

He said that competitions like the Wilson championship "allows us to go back and educate soldiers in the state and utilize the expertise to help out with the training."

Aside from determining the Chief's 50, the championship also produces a solid crop of new shooters, like Maine Air Guard Capt. Robert P. Crowley. He is a deputy staff judge advocate with the Bangor-based 101st Air Refueling Wing.

"I was real intimidated when I first got here," he recalled. "There's a lot of very fine shooters, but I've been made to feel welcome by a lot of people who are helping and want to see you come back."

Pennsylvania's Sgt. Mark Benson won the light machinegun individual championship with 1,848 points. Texas SSgt. Brian Payne was second (1,701) and Utah SSgt. Dale Sellers third (1,689).

Once again, the sniper team of Maj. Thomas Brewer and MSgt. Michael Strasburger set a Wilson match record (3,627 points). The Cornhusker team eclipsed the mark they set last year.

Brewer (1,471) and Strasburger (1,364) continued their winning ways by scoring a one-two finish in the individual combat sniper competition. Indiana Sgt. Douglas Biehl took third (1,275).

Col. Dan Short, the National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit commander, said the championship helps validate Army and Air Guard readiness.

"Shooting and achieving proficiency with your assigned weapon is a battlefield survival task," he remarked. "By participating (at the Wilson match) you prove to our military leaders that the soldiers and airmen of the National Guard are prepared to fight and win, should the need arise."

Short emphasized the importance of having soldiers and airmen schooled in the age-old art of putting ordinance on target.

"I believe that we do our young warriors a great injustice to assume that they can learn and retain all that they need in only a few short days or weeks," Short said.





Buckeye band travels to Hungary  
to help celebrate its independence

## Communicating through MUSIC

By 1st Lt. Denise D. Varner  
*Ohio National Guard*

Only through the universal language of music could a group of soldiers go into a country, where just seven years ago they would have been banned, and have the natives smiling, clapping and dancing in the streets.

The 555th Ohio Air National Guard Band, known as the Triple Nickel, deployed with the Buckeye Express tour to the former Soviet-bloc country of Hungary for two weeks in August. Armed with 38 performers, four support troops and a Hungarian army translator they called George, the group gave eight performances in six Hungarian cities.

"We have taken our mission international," said Maj. Bob Krichbaum, 555th commander and director, of their mission to perform for the Hungarian public and exchange ideas with that country's army band.

Their schedule included performances at a reception



Photos by SrA. Scott Gossard

hosted by the U.S. ambassador to Hungary in Budapest; three of the five Hungarian air bases; a NATO air show in Kecskemet; and the communities of Szolnok, Veszprem and Szeged.

The Triple Nickel began its tour at the ambassador's residence, playing at a formal dinner attended by dignitaries from throughout Europe, including Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban. Ohio Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander, and Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, assistant adjutant general for air, also were present.

The Buckeye band performed several of its concerts during Hungary's four-day St. Stephen's Day celebra-

**HUNGARY for an ENCORE**—Trumpeteer SrA. Carie Hoodlebrink (left) shares sheet music with a member of the Hungarian Air Force Band. SSgt. Phil Smith (opposite) directs the Triple Nickel Band in Hungary.

tion, the country's Constitution celebration. Playing to thousands in Veszprem's town center, the band performed a mix of traditional and modern pieces. The enthusiastic crowd clapped and danced to the music, and joined band members in dancing to YMCA and a New York, New York.

Saxophonist A1C Scott Parsons, one of several performing soloists, felt like a rock star.

"When I was playing my solo and saw these thousands of people cheering and dancing, it was such a rush," he recalled. "I built off their energy."

The crowd demanded an encore.

Another highlight was a joint performance with the official Hungarian band. The bands performed an hour-long jam session at an air show.

"We put the music on the stand and we all could play it," said trumpet player SrA. Carie Hoodlebrink. Despite the language barrier, she said, "the bands were able to communicate through music."

The band's diligence and flexibility also served them well. Many days required more than 18 hours of work in 80-degree temperatures. A typical performance included a three-hour drive, two hours of equipment and sound-system preparations, a practice session, lunch, 30 minutes to change clothes, then a two-to-four-hour performance. Once the concert was over, they loaded up the equipment, changed, got back on the bus and drove to their next gig.

Last-minute changes also were commonplace. Hungarian Army translator Maj. Gyorgy "George" Fuves was instrumental in communicating and coordinating the needs of the Triple Nickel to correspond with the needs of the Hungarian communities in which they played, Krichbaum related.

MSgt. Bob Rolfes, a 555th bass clarinetist with nearly 30 years in the band, said the deployment differed from others, because they were able to experience the culture of the civilian locations where they stayed.

"We've deployed to Germany and other places, but we stayed at U.S. bases," he said. "This is the most memorable and rewarding experience I've had with the band."

## PUERTO RICO

From Page 1

with the catastrophe named Mitch on their own.

The fact that nine members of the Texas Army Guard's 100th Public Affairs Detachment relieved the Puerto Rican Guardmembers during the first week in December indicated the National Guard was committed to this cause for the long haul.

"Right now, National Guard combat engineers, special forces soldiers and public affairs experts are on the ground, while Air Guard units from 22 states are rushing in troops, supplies and equipment," praised Gen. Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the Guard's 362nd birthday celebration in Washington on Dec. 2.

For example, members of the Cali-

fornia Air Guard's 146th Airlift Wing flew seven C-130s crammed with 300 tons of food and construction supplies — including a five-ton truck — to Honduras's Soto Cano Air Base on Nov. 24, two days before Thanksgiving.

"We are pleased to do whatever we can to help the victims of this terrible disaster," Brig. Gen. John Iffland, the wing's commander, told the *Army News Service*.

Sixty-two soldiers and airmen in California and 25 in New York were pulling state active duty in mid-November, packing cargo destined for Central America.

Twelve Guard soldiers from Louisiana's 225th Engineer Group and four more from the 20th Special Forces Group departed Nov. 27 to spend three weeks assessing the region's needs for next year's New Horizons humanitar-

ian and civic assistance projects.

Some 3,000 Army Guard troops, many from Mississippi and South Carolina, have already been scheduled to build schools and clinics, dig wells and construct bridges in Honduras during the first half of 1999. Guard officials are now considering other ways that force can help that stricken area.

They will not want for willing workers.

"Those people don't have what we have, a godfather in the states," said Puerto Rico Air Guard MSgt. Maria Cotto Price.

Members of her 61-man aerial port unit received a baptism of fire in disaster relief as they packed more than 150 tons of canned cod fish, water and fruit cocktail on pallets at the Muniz Air National Guard Base near San Juan.

Two Air Force C-5 cargo planes flew those vital supplies 1,500 miles

across the Caribbean Sea.

It was a new mission for Puerto Rico's 156th Airlift Wing that is in the process of converting to carrying cargo on C-130s after a 51-year history as a jet fighter unit.

"This gives everyone a sense of belonging that they didn't have with the fighters," acknowledged Col. Nelson Tejada, the wing's commander.

It also tested their resources. Her unit has not received all of the equipment, such as heavy duty forklifts and a four-pallet loader, that it is authorized, Price explained. So her crew did the job with the equipment available.

"Those people in Central America need this help," said Price, 50, who is nicknamed "Grandma." She also is said to be the Air National Guard's only female aerial port superintendent.

"Therefore," she added, "my guys are doing more with less."



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

A group of soldiers from the Ohio Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry were in a convoy headed back to their armory in Lima when they came across a serious car accident on Interstate 75.

Sgt. Eric Grohoske was the first to pull over. "There was a lady laying in the median, and a guy (pinned) in his car, but we had to wait for about 30 to 40 cars to pass before anyone would let us cross the interstate," Grohoske recalled of the April 19 incident. In the car, which witnesses said flipped three or four times, the sergeant found a 65-year-old male who was unconscious and pinned in the driver's seat by a large industrial saw.

"He was out cold and had blood spurting out of his temple," Grohoske said. "I got in the car and used one hand to stop the bleeding and the other as a C-spine." Once the NCO moved the saw off the driver and got the bleeding under control, he was able to get the man on a backboard and out of the car — reportedly smoking and leaking gas — with the help of Cpl. Robert Yochum.

Yochum, a registered trauma nurse, was credited with coordinating the medical care of both victims, directing four other medics at the scene.

Cpl. Harold Strahn and Spec. Aaron Stratton, Michael Miller and Joey Pruett, all treatment medics, rendered aid until civilian paramedics arrived. Throughout the ordeal, Spec. Dion Brodeur and PFC Rick Baker directed traffic.

Grohoske and Yochum were awarded the Ohio Cross while the others received Ohio Commendation Medals.

"We really came together as a team," Grohoske said.

**SMSgt. Lindell has transformed a normally sterile office into a unit museum.**

A history buff, the chief enlisted manager for the Texas Air Guard's 204th Security Forces Squadron, displays memorabilia he's collected from several U.S. conflicts. Those treasures include uniforms, helmets, flags, newspaper clippings and photos.

Since moving to El Paso-based unit in 1982, Lindell has gained a great deal of knowledge about the 204th's home station, Biggs Army Air Field. It's information he readily shares in his unit's newsletter, or to visitors interested in going back in time.

**The Florida Air Guard's 114th Combat Communications Squadron recently provided youngsters at Jupiter Elementary School an opportunity to see what they do.**

More than 800 third-to-six graders were briefed on the Air Guard's state and federal missions and basic communications principles during the school's annual "Careers on the Move Day."

The event is designed to familiarize children with the many types of career opportunities within their community, noted Capt. Robert Fryer, 114th CCS detachment commander.

"Participation in activities such as this is just one of the many ways the Air Guard provides community support and education," he added.



Buckeye heroes were recognized for their actions at a car accident.



SMSgt. Lindell has transformed his office into a museum.



Florida Air Guard communications experts taught students in Juniper about job opportunities.



Ohioans can now sink their teeth into the Tuskegee Airmen's renowned history.

**Tuskegee airmen received much-deserved recognition for their unheralded World War II heroism recently when the Redtail Angels Dining Facility was named in their honor at Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus, Ohio.**

The African-American pilots, who trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala., escorted B-17 and B-24 bomber aircraft during the war.

The Rickenbacker facility is especially important since the Tuskegee squadrons were stationed at Rickenbacker — then known as Lockbourne Army Air Base — after World War II until President Harry Truman ordered the desegregation of the all African-American units.

"The dedication of this facility has real significance, because this (Lockbourne) was our home after the war," Tuskegee Airman Walter McCreary recalled. "They could have had a dedication somewhere else, but it would not have meant as much."

During the war, McCreary, who reached the rank of lieutenant colonel, flew 125 missions before he was shot down by Germans and held as a prisoner of war for nine months.

Fighting not only the axis powers in WWII but for the right to serve their country, the Tuskegee Airmen compiled an enviable record in the skies over central Europe. Under the command of Ohioan Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the Redtail Angels (formally the 332nd Fighter Group), with the tail fins of their PS 1 Mustang fighter planes painted a distinctive red, were the only group of the 15th Strategic U.S. Army Air Corps that never lost a bomber they were assigned to protect.

A small multipurpose room within the dining facility was dedicated to retired Capt. Harold E. Sawyer, a native of Columbus who was decorated for his exceptional valor in combat while serving with the Tuskegee group.

"It's something we can all be proud of," Sawyer said. "Not only the Tuskegee Airmen, but the whole state of Ohio."

Construction of the 109-by-116-foot facility took place in April and May. The Army and Air National Guard and the State of Ohio picked up the nearly \$2.4 million bill.

The fully heated and air conditioned facility, which can seat 320 people plus an additional 24 in an outdoor patio, will be the first in the state to be used jointly by various reserve component units.

**New York Air Guard SSgt. Paul Connors has been selected to serve as the first Lee Arbon scholar of enlisted history.**

The Arbon Chair of Enlisted History and Heritage was created to promote the study and research into enlisted history. The chair is named in honor of former World War II enlisted pilot, Lee Arbon, who authored the book, "They Also Flew: Enlisted Pilots 1912-1942."

Connors is the 106th Rescue Wing's historian at Westhampton Beach.

During his one-year Arbon assignment, he will work with National Guard units across the country to produce a comprehensive monograph about the Air Guard's enlisted history.



Air Guard engineers from 20 units converge on Cape Cod to lay 60 miles of cable

# Connecting the CAPE

By Lt. Col. John Maietta  
Pennsylvania National Guard

Engineering installation squadrons from across the nation have converged on Cape Cod to upgrade the Massachusetts Military Reservation's communications infrastructure.

At the helm of this \$4-million-plus project is the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 270th Engineering Installation Squadron.

"The National Guard Bureau has a tremendous amount of confidence in our abilities," said Lt. Col. Donald Carmeans, 270th commander. "We were the lead agency for two other large projects recently at McGuire (N.J.) and Spangdahlem (Germany) Air Force bases and they both went very well."

Twenty Air Guard units from Washington to Maine will dig, place, connect and bury 60 miles of cable connecting the installation to the world with the latest

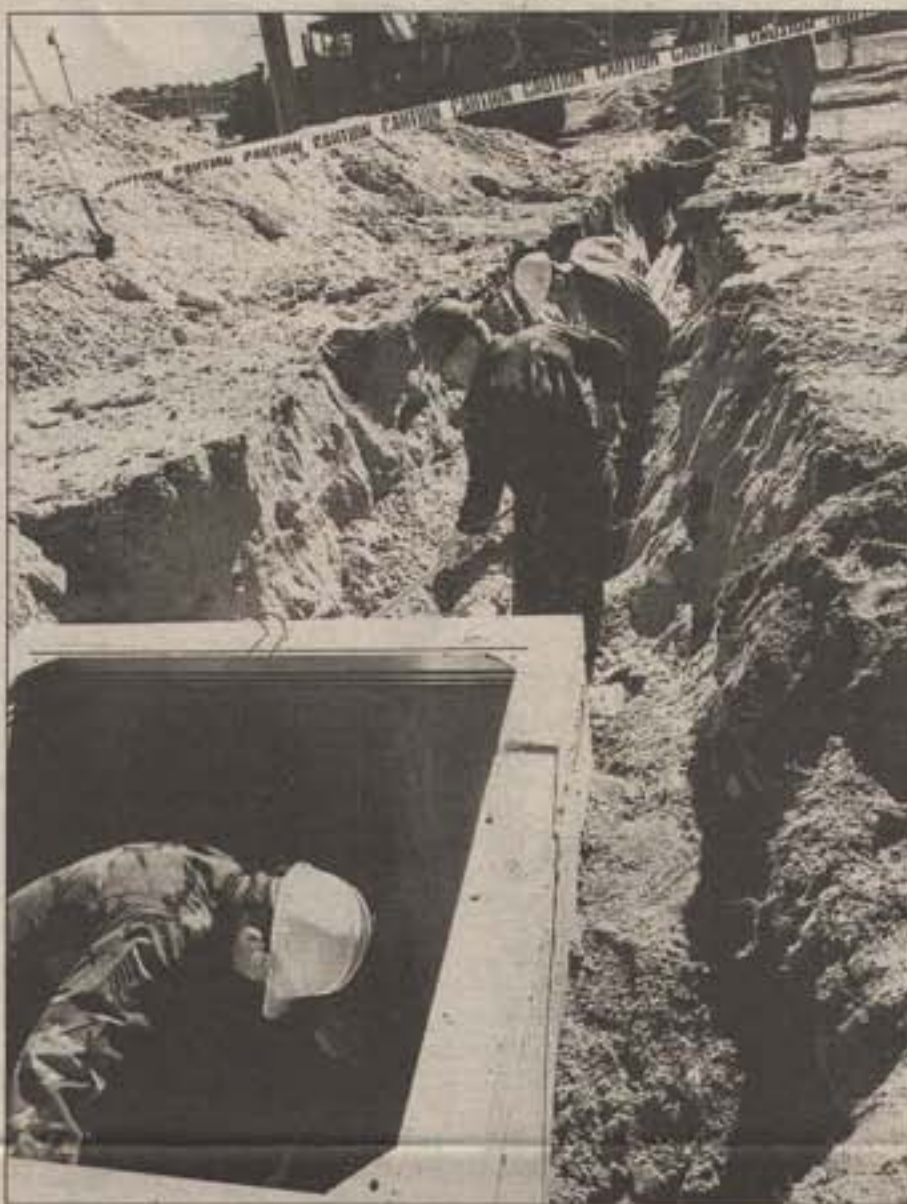


Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania National Guard

**IN THE TRENCHES**— Air Guard cable installers dig through the soft sand at Cape Cod's Massachusetts Military Reservation.

fiber-optic and conventional copper cable. The project is expected to take nearly a year to complete.

"The project here (at MMR) will upgrade the adequate, but antiquated phone and computer network systems," said Col. Samuel Shiver, 102th Fighter Wing commander, a major unit at the reservation. Shiver was quick to laud the 270th for managing a "complex project that is on time and on budget."

The installation work teams are unique amalgamations of units and people. Combined by individual strengths, not by unit designations, it is common to have an installer from the Lone Star State working with a counterpart from Big Sky country. The combination seems to work, noted Carmeans.

This concept is not by chance, but by design, according to Col. Robert Witmer, a former commander of both Pennsylvania's 270th and 111th EISs, and the current Senior Reserve Forces Advisor at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. Witmer calls the teams "cyber units."

"With today's technology, specifically computer networking, you can have four or five different units trained to the same level," he said, "and deploy to a project to work as one."

In addition to Pennsylvania, states involved with the project include Washington, Oregon, Iowa, New York, North and South Dakota, Montana, Maine, Louisiana, Georgia, Texas, Missouri and Ohio.

## KUWAIT

From Page 3

Brig. Gen. David Beasley, the 175th Wing's commander, Thilly and other Air Guard officials have proposed a new twist to the operation, Guarded Skies '99. They would like the participating units to undergo an operational readiness inspection (ORI) at the same time they are spelling the Air Force and watching over troublesome Iraq which touched off the Gulf War by invading Kuwait in 1990.

ORIs are the most thorough and important inspections that Air Force and Air Guard and Reserve units go through. Failing an ORI can kill a commander's career and lead to major changes in a unit's mission, explained a National Guard Bureau spokesman.

"We are asking the Air Force to evaluate our proposal for conducting ORIs during this deployment," Thilly explained. "We are asking them to experiment with a new way of doing this."

"We put a lot of effort into an ORI, but we're not doing real-world missions while we're going through one," he added. "There's a smarter way, and we owe it to our men and women to do it smarter."

With 27 percent of the warplanes, Air Guard fighter wings could take on 25 percent of the Air Force's annual A-10 operations if they received credit for ORIs during their deployments, Thilly projected.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

That could represent substantial savings because it costs about half as much to sustain an Air Guard squadron as it does to keep an active Air Force squadron flying.

That, Thilly continued, would make it possible for the Air Force to implement a new Aerospace Expeditionary Force concept intended to forge active, Guard and Reserve wings and squadrons into 10 force packages primed to respond to global contingencies for 90 days every 15 months.

Air Force officials believe that will make it possible for active duty and reserve component members to plan for deployments well in advance and ease the strain on families and civilian employers created by unexpected call-ups.

## SNEAKING A CHESAPEAKE

MSgt. Gary Gault (second from left), a historian with the Maryland Air Guard's 175th Wing takes cover during training for his unit's upcoming deployment.

The Air Guard debated the merits of conducting ORIs during real-world deployments with Air Force officials during a senior leadership conference in Reno, Nev., in November.

Meanwhile, members of Maryland's 175th Wing went about the business of preparing to deploy people and planes to Kuwait. Vaccinations for anthrax and requests for air-to-air refuelings were considered with care.

December's face-off with Iraq added to the sense of urgency.

"It has definitely increased the reality and intensity of this real-world mission," acknowledged Thilly. "It should heighten the realization of what we're doing for our families and employers."





## STATES

• Texas Trainers • Ukrainian Workshop • Pennsylvania Drug Center

## TEXAS

The 149th Fighter Wing, located on Kelly AFB, has been selected by the U.S. Air Force to become an Air National Guard F-16 Flying Training Unit (FTU).

The selection will mean that the Texas Air Guard pilots will train other Air Force F-16 pilots.

Air Force officials said the conversion of the 149th FW to an FTU was necessary due to the current shortage of Air Force F-16 pilots.

"It is anticipated that full-time manning will increase by 50 to 75 personnel," reported Col. Robert Spermo, wing commander. Facility renovations and construction could reach \$10-15 million, he added.

The unit also will receive a number of newer F-16 aircraft — both C-models and two-seater D-models. 149th pilots currently fly "Block-25" F-16s, but are converting to the more modern Block-30 aircraft.

The 149th plans to accept its first student pilots next July, and are expected to produce 30 to 40 qualified F-16 pilots a year by the year 2,000.

Another Air Guard unit, Ohio's 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield, will become an FTU.

"When the Air Force identified a need for additional F-16 training, these two units stepped up," said Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., Air National Guard director. "It's a great Total Force effort."

## The RIGHT SIGNAL

Members of the the Buckeye State Air Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron, based in Springfield, set up a satellite dish during Exercise Coronet White at Volk Field, Wis. Nearly 110 members of the unit were undergoing an operational readiness inspection while also providing satellite communications, message traffic, switchboard and local area network support for the exercise.



Photo courtesy of the Ohio National Guard

## CALIFORNIA

Members of the 163rd Medical Squadron visited Ukraine recently to host a dental and emergency medical conference in Lviv.

During the 10-day deployment, the Grizzlies discussed advanced cardiac life support, emergency medicine and dental techniques.

A brochure translated in Ukrainian was developed by the 163rd for the conference. Five Ukrainian translators assisted the medics in presenting their topics.

Lt. Col. Linda Neal, the 163rd's executive senior nurse, said the workshop was important.

"We expect to establish good working relationships and long term partnership to benefit both countries," she said.

## ARKANSAS

Members of the 189th Airlift Wing found themselves working around-the-clock recently to airlift supplies to hurricane-stricken Honduras.

Two C-130 aircraft and crews flew to Louisiana to pick up food and relief supplies earmarked for Soto Cano AB, Honduras.

By the time the crews returned, a return trip was being planned — this time to ferry rice and water from the state.

The unit was credited with hauling and loading nearly 61 tons of much needed supplies.

## PENNSYLVANIA

By Lt. Col. John Maietta  
Pennsylvania National Guard

The fight against illegal drug use is getting a boost with the establishment of the \$2 million Pennsylvania National Guard Northeast Regional Counterdrug Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap.

"There's only one other training center of this type in the country," noted Lt. Col. Steve Gingrich, the state's counterdrug coordinator. "It's in Mississippi, and its outreach is limited to the Southeast."

"With our facility we'll be able to open up specialized training programs for law enforcement personnel throughout the northeastern United States," he added, "from uniformed officers and street-level investigators to senior managers and drug demand reduction professionals."

According to Gingrich, about 1,000 of them are expected to take advantage of training opportunities

at the center in 1999. The following year that number should peak at 2,000.

The counterdrug center will combine existing ranges, training sites and weapons simulators with both new and renovated academic and support buildings. Planned courses include interviewing and interrogation; photo surveillance; tactical drug operations; street gang investigation; money laundering techniques; and marijuana identification and eradication.

Instructors will come from both military and law enforcement ranks. To beef up the training and support staff, about 20 full-time Guard positions will be added.

Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Paul Evanko sees the facility as a positive step.

"You name it, we're doing it, in partnership with the National Guard," Evanko said. "With this expansion, that partnership will grow deeper."



Photo by Lt. Col. John Maietta

**'KEYSTONE TRAINING' — Prosecutors and undercover agents look on during a recent drug enforcement training exercise.**





## HISTORY

• Commemorating the Philippine Insurrection

Seventeen Guardsmen earned Medals of Honor for their Philippine exploits during the Spanish-American War

## The Insurrection: Going Guerrilla

Shortly after Manila's capture on Aug. 13, 1898 in the Philippines, American troops arrived in convoys of four and five vehicles. These Guard units included the 51st Iowa, 20th Kansas, 1st Montana, 1st South Dakota, 1st Tennessee and 1st Washington.

The Wyoming Volunteer Battery of Light Artillery and 1st Troop, Nevada Volunteer Cavalry, the only mounted Guard unit in the theater, also arrived.

By the terms of the peace treaty granting Cuban independence, signed in December 1898, the U.S. annexed Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines. When the Filipino rebel leader, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, learned of this he began plotting to overthrow American rule and set up his own government. He proclaimed a republic and placed his capital at Malolos, 60 miles north of Manila. His men moved into positions around Manila to quickly besiege the city upon his order.

An uneasy period of peace followed the end of the Spanish war. Many of the soldiers were employed in civil works projects such as rebuilding and improving areas of Manila damaged by the fighting and extending water pipelines so more Filipinos could have clean drinking water. Though most of the men knew trouble with the locals was brewing, many of the Guardsmen were probably wondering when they could go home.

Those thoughts literally changed overnight when on Feb. 5, 1899, the insurgents struck at a number of American positions outlying Manila. The first unit attacked was a 60-man outpost of the 10th Pennsylvania. Quickly reinforced by the rest of the regiment, the assault was driven off with no Guard losses.

Several other positions, such as the 1st Nebraska's station at Camp Santa Mesa, were also attacked but resulted in no American deaths and few injuries. As soon as the fighting started, the 2nd Oregon and 13th Minnesota were rushed to defend the Walled City where they

repelled an attack, also with no losses.

Maj. Gen. Elwell Otis, the Philippines' military governor, directed that the immediate vicinity around Manila be cleared of hostile forces. Starting on the morning of Feb. 5th, Guard units — including the 1st Colorado, 1st Nebraska and 1st South Dakota, supported by a battery of the Utah Artillery — began a push which, by days end, forced all of the insurgents away from the city.

Other actions by Guard units occurred all along the 18-mile front around the city. When this operation ended at dusk, 14 enemy occupied blockhouses and other strongpoints had been captured and the defensive perimeter extended well beyond the center of Manila. Overall, 59 Americans were killed and 278 wounded. American troops buried 612 insurgent dead, though their true losses were probably much higher.

The troops settled into their new positions and waited for a counterattack that never occurred. Instead the rebels launched a guerrilla campaign of hit and run raids and sniper attacks. The Army countered with small, quick raids of their own.



### GUARD HISTORY

By CW2 John Listman  
Army Guard Historian

of dust kicked up from the roads by thousands of marching feet. Every regiment had heat casualties far exceeding their combat losses.

After a grueling six-day fighting advance the Americans captured the smoldering ruins of Malolos. Aguinaldo had the city burned and moved his government north to the town of San Isidro. It was clear to Otis that the Filipinos would not commit large numbers of their soldiers to a conventional fight, preferring to wear the U.S. forces down by small actions, and letting disease and the climate take their toll.

The Americans rested and resupplied at Malolos. On April 23, elements of the division again resumed the advance. Their goal now was to capture the towns of Calumpit and San Fernando.

On the outskirts of Calumpit, Col. Frederick Funston entered the annals of American heroes. Funston, who had served as an artillery officer with the Cuban insurgents prior to the U.S. entering the war, was commanding the 20th Kansas Volunteers.

On April 27, he and two members of the regiment, swam a river under heavy enemy fire to secure a rope thus allowing a raft full of troops to move across and outflank the Filipinos, forcing them to abandon their positions and flee. Funston and his two men were each awarded the Medal of Honor, the first of 17 awarded to Guardsmen in the Philippines.

While this campaign was being waged through the jungles and rice paddies of Luzon, American public opinion was split on our role in annexing the islands. One outcry heard all over the country was to bring the volunteers home. They had enlisted to fight Spain for Cuban independence, not to secure the Philippines as an American colony against the wishes of its people.

The Army decided to raise a new Federal Volunteer Force with the mission of securing the islands and ending the war. Guardmembers already serving in-country were each offered a \$500 bonus for enlisting for two years in this force. While most of the men chose to return home, enough volunteered for this extended tour to enable the Army to organize four regiments consisting of former Guardsmen.

Guard units started returning to the U.S. in June 1899 and continued to do so through August. When the troops arrived in their home states, usually at the state capital, they were greeted by huge crowds of enthusiastic well-wishers welcoming them back.

For the Guard, the war was over. But not its effects. The war led directly to major reforms of the U.S. military, including the Guard.



**ENTRENCHED**— Members of Company L, 1st Montana Volunteer Infantry take up positions in a fortified camp in the Philippines in 1899.

They kept up this pressure until mid-March when the Army was finally ready to go on the offensive. The plan was to march onto Aguinaldo's capital at Malolos, capture it and hopefully draw enough enemy forces into a pitched battle to crush the rebellion in one major operation.

On the morning of March 25, the 2nd Division, totaling about 12,000 men, began an advance toward Malolos. It was composed of both Regular and Guard units. The day consisted of the Filipinos continuing with their hit and run attacks and ambushes. Despite these skirmishes, the main concern of most of the troops was the oppressive heat and humidity made all the worse by the thick clouds





# TRAINING



## A stone's throw from something BIBICAL

Air Guard civil engineers battled the Israeli desert to add to its' historic landscape

By MSgt. Gary Gault  
Maryland National Guard

**Y**ou cannot throw a stone in Israel, says SSgt. Kevin Drost, "without hitting something biblical."

The same might be said for engineering marvels. Something Drost and a team of 40 Air Guard civil engineers know about.

It's a land where Herod the Great built the foundation which is the "Wailing Wall," an engineering wonder that serves as the Jewish faith's holiest site. The country also boasts the Jewish Zealot fortress of Massada -- the place Israeli soldiers swear their oath of enlistment -- where Roman General Flavius Silva and his 10th Legion constructed an earthen ramp that helped end a 73 AD stand-off.

Now, thanks to the efforts of Air Guard carpenters, electricians and plumbers, the country that turned 50 this year has added a bathroom with laundry facilities and a dormitory to their landscape.

"The contrast between modernity and antiquity is enormous," observed Drost, a member of the New York Air Guard 107th Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron (CES).

So was their mission. The Air Guard volunteers were dropped off at a location, somewhere in the Israeli desert, by an aircrew from the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 171st Air Refueling Wing.

The team that included craftsmen and women from Maryland's 175th CES and that state's 235th CE Flight, New York's

107th Air Refueling Wing's CES and Ohio's 200th RED HORSE Squadron could only enter and leave by military transport to a place few knew about.

However, there was no hiding 100-degree temperatures.

"Working in this heat reminds me of the Sir Noel Coward song, (that only) 'Mad dogs and Englishmen' go out in the noonday sun," joked MSgt. Joe Riccio, a 107th ARW historian and quality manager who used the three-week deployment to learn to be an electrician.

According to Maryland Col. Jerry Kreidler, the 235th's chief architect, the buildings were designed and constructed by Air Guard engineers. A team of Minnesota 133rd Airlift Wing civil engineers began the project's first phase, constructing the laundry/latrine building.

"We will be completing a dormitory facility that connects to the first building," Kreidler added.

For Maryland CMSgt. Mike Bosse, project foreman, the mission represents the largest he's worked in nearly 30 years of service.

"These buildings are a tribute to what the Guard engineers can do," he said. "We began the dormitory in September 1997 when there was nothing on the site but rocks, sand and scorpions."

The ANG civil engineers put nine tons of steel and poured 100 yards of concrete

into the floor and pilings of the structure. The floor of both buildings rest on concrete and steel pilings, which lie above the bedrock 30 feet down. The design, Kreidler noted, stabilizes the buildings through changes in soil density due to weather.

Massachusetts CMSgt. Timothy Daley, a member of the 104th Fighter Wing's CES and the project's overall supervisor, has lived in Israel since last February. He took the reigns from Minnesota (133rd CES) Maj. Pete Tunison. Before him, Oregon MSgt. Ed Shorey, a member of the Portland-based 142nd Fighter Wing's CES, ran the show. Col. Daniel Beck from the North Carolina Air Guard's 145th Airlift Wing commanded the initial deployment.

"The job is both interesting and frustrating at the same time," Daley observed. "Buying parts and materials in Israel requires you to go to several different stores for the many components required. Then you have to find the stores where the names are all written in Hebrew and are totally unrecognizable to the average English speaker. After that, you have to spend some time getting to know the proprietor of each store."

"The Mediterranean way is to have

Daley noted, for the cactus indigenous to the region.

"It's very thorny and tough on the outside, but sweet and soft on the inside," he said of the Sabras. "They are a delightfully warm people."

That warm, fuzzy feeling was not in evidence where Air Guard civil engineers toiled. The surrounding area was the scene of seemingly endless military maneuvers as jet fighters and troop helicopters roared day and night.

"Young Israeli troops, both men and women, are armed at all times, even after their official day is done," reported Riccio. "I've seen AH-60 Cobra gunships passing over the tourist beaches on weekends."

"It's another reminder of the tense situation here," he added.

Drost recalled a day last February when Iraq commanded the world's attention because of Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow United Nations inspectors access. Given the proximity and historical differences between Israel and Iraq, Drost and other Air Guard engineers were told to leave the country on the next military flight out.

However, Drost is quick to note, their Israeli military hosts were quite accommodating, despite the fact that many of them make only \$90 a month.

"The 'Binui' (Israeli military civil engineers), worked cooperatively with the Air Guard civil engineers because they don't have the equipment, budget or expertise to pour into a project like this," Drost said. "The Israelis were a bit cool at first, but once they get to know you, they are very friendly."

Such relations, pending funding, are expected to continue, Drost said.

"This is an awesome training project for Guardmembers," he added. "It is first hand experience on how to deploy, build, procure, and train and work with other units."

With the project completed, the contingent of Air Guard civil engineers boarded a Utah Air Guard 151st Air Refueling Wing

KC-135. From an undisclosed airstrip somewhere in Israel, they left knowing they were a stone's throw from history they helped create.



Photos by MSgt. Gary Gault

**SOMEWHERE in ISRAEL** -- New York A1C Debbie Posner (left) checks the balance levels on a door frame. Ohio Sgt. Keith Welch (above) sands an air duct. Maryland TSgt. Rodney Riley (top photo) surveys the buildings built by Air Guard engineers.

coffee or tea and chat for a while with each one," he added. "All of this is required despite our tight schedule."

Native born Israelis are called "sabras,"