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THE ON GUARD

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February 1997

Guard renews inaugural tradition

Support dates from Washington to Clinton

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Raynald Blackwell is a District of Columbia Army Guard sergeant who relived a chapter of his family's history when he marched in the inaugural parade for President William Clinton Jan. 20.

His father, Joel, SFC Blackwell explained, was in the Air Force and marched in the 1961 inaugural parade for President John Kennedy.

helped usher every American president to the seat of government, beginning with George Washington in 1789, according to Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk, the National Guard Bureau's Historical Services chief. The Guard first marched in 1809 for James Madison, our fourth president, and first to have an inaugural parade.

That tradition continued thanks to the efforts of 180 members of the D.C. Guard who marched with some 6,000 other Americans on the 1.7-mile American journey along Pennsylvania Avenue -- from the Capitol to the White House.

For 300 military police from the D.C. Army and Air Guard, directing traffic along the district's crowded streets was the order of the day.

Security for the 53rd presidential inauguration was exceptionally tight, but it did not detract from the Guardmembers' desire to take part.

"Not many people get to do something like this. It's a pretty unique experience," said SrA Tarun Sudama, a member of the D.C. Air Guard's 113th Maintenance Squadron and a drum and bugle corps enthusiast.

As could be expected, there were no shortage of Guard volunteers, confirmed Lt. Col. Donald Edmonds Jr., commander of the Air Guard marching unit.

"We brought more people than we needed," he said. "Fortunately we were able to place them with other units. Everyone got to march."

Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief, and his wife Rita, devoted the day attending a breakfast for Medal of Honor recipients, watching the parade and witnessing the mid-day swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol. They spent their evening dancing at one of the 14 inaugural balls.

Meanwhile, 23-year-old Sgt. Victoria Garner, the D.C. Army Guard's NCO of the Year, relished the limelight cast on those who marched for the president.

"I'm looking forward to more inaugurations," she said, "but, definitely, this is a very prestigious event for me."



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

"My mother talked about that a lot," Blackwell said. "This is my historical event. I may not get to march in 2001."

The historical significance of honoring the final American president to be inaugurated in this millennium was not lost on most of the 700 D.C. Army and Air Guard members, many who labored from dawn-to-dark.

Members of the National Guard have

IN STEP - District of Columbia Army Guard's Sgt. Charles Dannah (left) carries the guidon for his unit during the inaugural parade. SPC. Marion Brock (above), a member of D.C.'s 276th MP Company, directs traffic leaving the Capitol.





COMMENTARY

COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of Jan. 29, the National Guard has assisted in 10,065 arrests and seized nearly 98,000 pounds of marijuana and 23,300 pounds of cocaine while conducting 2,970 counterdrug missions since Oct. 1, 1996.

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LETTERS

GUARD BELIEVER

I was in the National Guard for five years as a combat engineer. I've now been on active duty for four years.

After changing command in Bosnia, I was asked to take over our battalion's rear detachment, the 123rd Main Support Battalion, recently deployed to Croatia. Since, I've learned a great deal about the professionalism and dedication National Guardmembers have when given a mission.

New York's 133rd Maintenance Company was assigned to bring 45 M998s up to standard. They were previously used by the 1st Armored Division as a training fleet.

I don't believe in passing judgment on other units or their maintenance, but these M998s were pitiful, and they had been worked on by an active unit for four or five months.

When the 133rd rolled in, I welcomed them to our battalion. As I looked around the room, I was really unsure if they even cared about the importance of turning in this excess to our battalion, not to mention the division itself.

They arrived to barracks that badly needed maintenance. The common areas, both inside and out, had been left unattended for months. They cleaned and cleaned, bringing those billets, motor pool and common areas to a standard I have yet to attain with my soldiers.

They did it all without complaint.

I am amazed daily by the example this unit provides the active force. They've turned in 18 of the best looking M998s I have ever seen. They literally look brand new, right off the line. The soldiers hand-painted each vehicle by tracing a pattern.

The 133rd soldiers work hours on attaining perfection. I walk in a bay and everyone's working -- everytime I walk in the bay. They've got parts bin organization, parts ordering and overall mission management down to a science.

I wish I had taken a picture of the facility the way it was left. I ought to take a picture of our ready line with six M998s looking like they're showroom ready. I'd carry that picture to every unit I ever went to. I'd show the active force what professional, dedicated and caring soldiers the Guard has.

I wish someone would reach out and recognize the soldiers of the 133rd assigned to fixing the 123rd Main Support Battalion's excess M998s. These Guardmembers are a superb example of loyal soldiers and deserve a "good job boys" from someone at the National Guard Bureau.

I'd be honored to serve next to each and everyone them. They are the epitome of dedicated soldiers.

1st Lt. Todd M. Gentry
U.S. Army

FROM THE MINDS OF BABES

Editor's Note: Ohio Lt. Gov. Nancy Hollister delivered 1,800 cards and letters to National Guard soldiers and airmen supporting Operation Joint Endeavor in Europe 10 days before

Christmas. Among them were seasonal sentiments written by the third grade class at Washington Elementary School in Marietta, Ohio.

Anna Marie Farnsworth wrote: "Dear National Guard. Thank you for helping our country. What is your name? I will like to meet you. Are you going to war? Are you a girl or boy? Merry Christmas."

"Happy holidays and happy New Years. Is it fun to be a Guard? Do you eat pizza? Love, Kasey."

"My name is Hillarie Noelle Daly. My birthday is December 11. Thank you for serving our country. Have a Merry Christmas."

"How is business? Is everybody listening to you? They probably are. Have you did anything fun lately? I want you to have a good Christmas. Sincerely, Sabrina."

"I hope this card makes your holidays better. Do you travel around the world? Do you like your job? Merry Christmas. Sincerely, Alicia C."

Submitted by MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

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. FAX Letters to the Editor to DSN 761-0732/0731 or (703) 681-0732. Letters may be mailed to: NGB-PAI-C 2500 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2500.

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar



"As our Equal Opportunity officer, you'll appreciate the fairness in eliminating the Reserved for EO Officer parking spot."



IN THE NEWS

- Pence Retires
- Female First
- Bright Ideas

'Provide Comfort' examined

Delegation flies to Turkey to discuss Guard's involvement

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The rock: Donald Lamontagne is an Air Force one-star general who wants seasoned fighter pilots to watch over one of the world's most volatile pieces of real estate -- the northern tip of Iraq.

The hard place: The Air National Guard has become a critical part of that operation, Provide Comfort, but many of its pilots and ground crew personnel can pull away from their civilian lives for only two weeks at a time.

Somewhere between those philosophical and practical considerations stand members of the Ohio Air Guard's 150th Fighter Wing from Toledo and a growing number of other citizen-soldiers who are being asked to balance the demands of their civilian lives with more frequent requests to serve their country far from home.

It is a dilemma that military and government leaders, such as Ohio Lt. Gov. Nancy Hollister, are wrestling now that America's Global Guard has stepped up its pace to help the downsized active forces handle their international commitments.

Hollister got a firsthand look at the Guard's worldwide participation while leading a 27-member delegation on an 11,000-mile odyssey to Germany, Turkey and Italy recently.

The more than 300 members of the 150th, from the land of aviation giants Eddie Rickenbacker and John Glenn, spent part or all of December in southern Turkey,

near the northeast shore of the Mediterranean Sea, flying or maintaining a dozen F-16 Fighting Falcons as part of the 5 1/2-year mission to keep Iraqi warplanes north of the 36th parallel.

Helping to keep the civil war-torn Kurdish clans and communities safe from Iraqi aggression is the main reason why Ohio Air Guard Maj. Scott Brede, who lives in Palm Beach, Fla., has taken time off from his job as a pilot for Northwest Airlines.

"This is more exciting. You always have to maintain vigilance," said Brede. "Civilian flying can be boring."

Air Guardmembers make up nearly 20 percent of the 1,100-member U.S. force at the air base in Incirlik, Turkey, about 400 miles due west of the no-fly zone.

A typical mission saw three dozen aircraft soar over the Southeast Asian desert for two or three hours to patrol the zone. There are not enough planes for a 24-hour operation, a spokesperson said, so days and times when missions are flown are varied to keep the Iraqis off guard.

The fighters are armed with bombs and missiles and fly in fast to show they mean business, it was explained.

"If we feel threatened, we will take action," the officer added. Indeed, an Air Force F-16 pilot destroyed an Iraqi mobile missile battery's radar with a

HARM missile after being targeted last September.

It is not a mission for the faint of heart. Recently, ground-to-air missiles were randomly fired at U.S. fliers after Iraqi forces briefly occupied Erbil, a town inside the northern no-fly zone. Guard pilots also know they are often targeted on radar. Air crews routinely fly through areas guarded by air defense systems.

■ See TURKEY, Page 11



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell
Ohio's Maj. Scott Brede reviews the mission with his state's Lt. Gov., Nancy Hollister.

Leadership conference provides future glimpse

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Two seasoned soldiers -- a four-star general and a sergeant major -- reminded Army National Guard leaders in January that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

"Soldiers are still the backbone of what we do. No amount of technology will replace the decision-making capabilities of the soldiers," Gen. William Hartzog, head of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, told 800 Army Guard leaders during the first national-level Senior Leadership Conference in Arlington, Va.

Meanwhile, SGM David Gouchoe staffed a display that featured cold-weather clothing and mountaineer-

ing equipment for soldiers who must work in the elements. Most of the other displays demonstrated the ways computers can be used.

"If you don't occupy the territory, you're not going to own it," said Gouchoe, from the Army National Guard's Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vt. Last winter, they sent a team to Germany to train nearly 1,700 1st Armored Division soldiers deployed for Joint Endeavor duty.

All 54 state and territory adjutants general were on hand to offer ideas about improving the Guard's posture in the national defense strategy.

"A conference like this gets everybody reading from the same sheet of music," noted Maj. Gen. Earl Adams, Maine's adjutant general.

Orchestrating that effort was

Army Guard Director, Maj. Gen. William Navas.

"We're here to look at the future," he said, outlining three broad-ranged goals: to form a balanced force of combat, combat support and combat service support units by 1999; to ensure units have missions relevant to what the Army needs; and to maintain the militia's traditions.

Gearing up for the future includes listening to the soldiers comfortable with the technology that the Army will rely on, noted Hartzog.

That does not mean, however, that recruiters should focus on attracting people who are merely computer literate, the general warned.

"We don't need cyber-warriors," Hartzog said. "We need warriors."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

PENCE RETIRES WITH 'PRIDE'

CSM Larry Pence did not exactly go quietly, but he certainly bowed out with PRIDE during his retirement dinner held by the Army National Guard's senior noncommissioned officers Jan. 8, in Arlington, Va.

PRIDE -- Professionalism, Readiness, Integrity, Dedication and Enthusiasm -- has been Pence's motto during his three years as the Army Guard's command sergeant major.

It's a philosophy Pence has embodied his 27-year career, retired Sergeant Major of the Army Richard Kidd told nearly 150 well wishers.

"To be a good non-commissioned officer you've got to love being a soldier and love taking care of soldiers and their families," Kidd said. "You've got to be 'hoo-ah.' That's Larry Pence."

NEW YORK SELECTS FIRST WOMAN BATTALION COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Judith Haney became the first woman in the history of the New York Army Guard to command a battalion when she took charge of the 56th Personnel Services Battalion from Lt. Col. John Newlove recently.

Haney was assigned battalion commander following her assignment as systems engineer officer for the Headquarters, 187th Signal Brigade's operations section, based in Brooklyn.

Haney is a New Jersey native.

The 56th Personnel Services Battalion is comprised of the battalion headquarters, the 4th and 29th Personnel Services Detachment, the 138th Public Affairs Detachment and the 199th Army Band.

SUGGESTIONS PAYING DIVIDENDS

The Air National Guard's Suggestion Program is starting to see the light, say officials.

"The program has been steadily increasing the last few years," said Dianna O'Meara, program manager. "More and more units are getting on the bandwagon."

The ANG Readiness Center, based at Andrews AFB, Md., logged 300 new suggestions last fiscal year, she said. Of those, the Air Guard had 167 new and old suggestions approved, with only 124 disapproved.

"The Government saved \$50 for every dollar paid out in awards," she noted. "There were \$5,276,690 in tangible savings, and it only cost the Guard approximately \$105,148 in awards."

Those Guardmembers with a bright idea should see their state's Human Resource Office suggestion program manager.

Californian earns Soldiers Medal

The need to help a friend is what caused Army Guard Capt. Jim Webster to enter that room.

His actions Oct. 27, 1994, led to his being awarded the Soldier's Medal. The medal recognizes soldiers who voluntarily put their life at risk during peacetime. Webster, a Californian, is only the second Guardmember in history to earn the award.

A family man with a wife, three kids and one on the way, Webster didn't know what he was stepping into when he entered the room where Lt. Col. John Monis, Fort Irwin superintendent, was being held hostage by William Carson.

Carson, who was terminated in May 1992 from his National Guard job at Irwin for striking a fellow workman and supervisor, came to Monis' office that day with a 9mm handgun and a list of demands to be met within three hours.

"He thought the government was reading his mind through telephone lines and trying to hurt his family," Monis said.

"I didn't know he had a gun at the time when I went into the room," Webster recalled. "I just thought it was some kind of disagreement."

Military police tried to enter the room, but were warded off by a gun-wielding Carson.

"At one point the man tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'You are going to be shot today because they are not listening to me too well.' I knew then we had to get out of there," Webster said.

While Carson negotiated with police, Monis and Webster plotted their escape using signals. On three, Webster flipped over a table toward Carson, who had his back turned. Monis ran for the door, Webster right behind him.

Nine shots rang out.

Carson was apprehended three hours later after a SWAT team fired tear gas inside.

Webster had opportunities to leave when Carson allowed him to get water and use the restroom, but did not.

"I was afraid he would shoot Monis if I did not go back in," Webster explained.

Florida patents disaster response plan

By Capt. John Daigle
Florida National Guard

South Florida woke in a state of shock Aug. 24, 1992, hours after Hurricane Andrew slammed ashore leveling 1,100-square-miles and leaving 180,000 people homeless. Government agencies at all levels spent days preparing an adequate response. Victims waited and suffered.

The delay would ultimately be considered the state's greatest flaw during the recovery effort.

But from this flaw came a valuable lesson -- the importance of getting accurate information about the needs of people in disaster areas, collected by experts at the scene immediately after the disaster.

This prompted Florida officials to develop the nation's first small, highly mobile and self-sufficient multi-agency team capable of providing this lifesaving data.

Born was the Rapid Impact Assessment Team (RIAT) plan. It took members from Florida's National Guard and Department of Emergency Management (DEM) three years to create and hone.

"We use Florida's RIAT concept as our model," said Maj. John Long, the man responsible for teaching Guard emergency planners from around the country. "States that don't pattern their plans after the Florida plan are losing out." Several states, Long added, have adopted the concept.

One of the saddest Hurricane Andrew ironies occurred when an overwhelmed Dade County emergency official went on national television and pleaded: "Where in the hell is the cavalry?" The cavalry, say experts, was already there.

"By Day Two, tons of supplies, hundreds of would-be helpers and a host of agencies were prepared to rush into South Dade, if only they had somewhere to go," said Rick Eyerdam, author of *When Natural Disaster Strikes, Lessons from Hurricane Andrew*.



Photo by Capt. John Daigle

Communication and coordination became the biggest hindrances to the relief operations, according to Eyerdam's book.

"We were there," confirmed Mike Rucker, a meteorologist for Florida's DEM. "The problem was we didn't get relief in quickly enough, and no one knew exactly how to use it when it got there."

State officials never conducted a needs assessment of any kind, said Florida Emergency Operations Center Director, Frank Koutnik.

"We only had plans to do a damage assessment and not a needs assessment," Koutnik said. "We looked to the county and the county looked back at us. We needed rapid response teams whose only job was to get into the county and come back with information."

The RIAT concept is designed to fix that problem, says Lt. Col. Jerry Vaughn, the Florida Army Guard's plans, operations and military support officer. Well before relief workers and supplies are brought into affected areas, trained experts assess the damage and make informed decisions on what type of relief is needed and where.

State officials tapped the Guard to help develop the plan, train team members and provide logistical support.

"We have the aviation, communication and ground transportation assets that other agencies just can't provide," Vaughn said.

Accepting the RIAT plan was a radical change in the way state emergency managers viewed the National Guard, said

RIAT RESPONSE - Members of the Florida Guard and state agencies had the answer for Tropical Storm Alberto.

Maj. Alan Petty, who developed the concept.

"The state learned that the Guard should be used as a first responder in disasters, rather

than a last resort," he said.

The mission of the RIAT is to determine victim's immediate needs, this includes food, water, medical, shelter and security. They also assess the disaster's impact to the infrastructure. The RIAT is trained to do this within 72 hours.

Florida's five RIATs include air and ground transportation assets and a representative from several important state agencies. Each team is also supported by a Guard support team that provides tents, food, transport and communications.

The Florida Guard's Special Forces also provides a critical wrinkle by running a communications station capable of relaying information between the RIATs and state officials.

Once called, RIAT members are required to assemble near the potential disaster impact area no later than six hours before a hurricane makes landfall. The teams are in place regardless of the predicted severity of the storm's impact.

"Many times this would be viewed as overkill -- which is exactly my intent," said Maj. Gen. Ronald Harrison, Florida's adjutant general. "It is easier to redeploy than to deploy. I accept any criticism for being too prepared."

Vaughn readily admits that even after recent hurricanes, the RIAT concept has not yet been truly tested.

"It is based on a worse-case scenario," he explained. "But we have proven, through lesser storms, that the RIAT concept is working."



Photo courtesy Maj. David Sheely

RAZORBACK RESPONSE

Arkansas Air Guard's Sgt. Todd Patton, a member of the 188th Fighter Wing, pulls bench stock in Spangdahlem, Germany. Forty-four 188th airmen and women responded to a plea from the U.S. Air Force to help troops based in Europe.



PEOPLE

A Florida FIRST

By Capt. John Daigle Jr.
Florida National Guard

Marianne Mathewson-Chapman makes General, history

Marianne Mathewson-Chapman is a career nurse who has held the titles of doctor and professor. She's also a mother of two teenage daughters and a decorated combat veteran.

The woman who jokes about her "very boring" life, also became the first lady in the 431-year history of the Florida Guard to be promoted to general officer.

"Throughout my career, I've never thought much about the possibility of making general," Mathewson-Chapman said. "I just kept thinking, 'I really enjoyed this career and I'll just see how far I can go with it.'"

Mathewson-Chapman also became the first Florida National Guard general officer to be appointed to a national military position at the Pentagon. She is currently the Army Guard's Nursing Corps' Special Assistant to the Chief.

"It is an honor for the Florida National Guard to have an officer with Gen. Mathewson-Chapman's credentials and talent representing our state at the national level," said Maj. Gen. Ronald Harrison, Florida's adjutant general. "Women have a long legacy of outstanding accomplishment in the Florida National Guard. This milestone marks another big step."

Mathewson-Chapman comes from a military family. Her father was a Marine Corps pilot and three of her siblings also are in the National Guard. She joined the Navy right out of nursing school and was sent to San Diego to work with former prisoners of war returning to the United States from Vietnam.

She left the Navy in 1972 to "take a break from the military" and continue her civilian education. But she found herself missing the excitement and lifestyle, she said. Coincidentally, 1972 was the year the National Guard in many states, including Florida, began admitting women.

"I had no idea, at that time, what the National Guard was," Mathewson-Chapman said. "One day I stopped by the National Guard armory in San Diego and asked, 'What is this National Guard? What do you do?'"

"It was an armored battalion, and they said, 'We go out into the Mojave Desert and train in tanks. Do you want to join us?' It sounded like a great opportunity."

She became the first woman in a California National Guard armor battalion. Far from feeling out of place, Mathewson-Chapman said she had found a niche for herself in treating trauma medical cases in a field environment. This was far from the type of Navy hospital nursing she'd been practicing.

"I had my little APC (armored personnel carrier) and I'd go out into the field and follow the tankers around for 14 or 15 days in a row," she said. "It was an exciting, new role for nursing that I could never have imagined. I couldn't believe they were paying me."

Her civilian nursing career brought her to Florida and to Jacksonville's 202nd Medical Group, where she was assigned when the unit was sent to Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War.



Photo by Capt. John Daigle

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Brig. Gen. Marianne Mathewson-Chapman (right) questions students.

The general's earlier experience with POWs came in handy as her unit was assigned to design plans to house and treat thousands of Iraqi prisoners.

As the medical group chief nurse, she helped plan for the initial disaster assessment teams who would enter Kuwait City following the cease fire. She did not plan to be a member of this team.

That soon changed.

"There was a group of military doctors, dentists and medical administrators on the assessment team, but a nurse was not included," she said. "I realized that a nurse would be a valuable asset to help assess the nursing care needs of the Kuwaiti civilians."

"The next thing I knew, the cease fire happened, and my commander said, 'Get your stuff. You're going.'"

In Kuwait, the team toured several civilian hospitals, discovering most of the nurses had gone into hiding. There also was no food service, water or electricity in the hospitals. Relatives brought in food for patients.

The Iraqis had destroyed the power plants and water reserves in the city, and stolen most everything else.

"It was very dark and smelly in most of the hospitals," she recalled. "We had to go out and round up the nurses to come in. The Iraqis had taken their vehicles." She served there for six months.

After returning to the Florida to become the state's chief nurse, she helped reorganize the Guard's medical units and implement Guardcare, a program that provides medical care to needy civilians in several impoverished Florida counties.

Now assigned to the Bureau, the general says her work has only begun.

"I feel like I have a lot to contribute," she said. "I can help the military better understand the medical needs of soldiers."

Our Major at NATO

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Call him our major at NATO.

Christian Salamone has a street-tough edge to his voice that makes him sound like he grew up playing stickball in Brooklyn.

Not so. Although his father Lucian — a retired colonel who graduated from West Point with Norman Schwarzkopf — hails from Queens, N.Y., Christian Salamone cut his teeth in the Army. "My father was a career officer. Every three years we moved," he said.

Now he is a major in the Maryland Army Guard who is thriving in the diplomatic arena of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Mons, Belgium.

At 35, the outgoing Salamone is called the "iron major." He is representing this country's military interests in the Partnership for Peace program at SHAPE, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO's military headquarters.

"Every day is different," said Salamone, who has worked with military representatives from 22 Partnership countries this past year. "I never know what the people from these countries are going to ask for. I never know what I'm going to have to ask them to do to help the United States."

Partnership for Peace (PfP) is the program by which the 16 NATO countries are building a bridge to Central and Eastern



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Europe's newly emerging democracies — countries that a decade ago were part of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact — and improving the security for all of Europe. There are currently 27 Partnership countries.

"I coordinate all U.S. military efforts in the Partnership for Peace program with the partners," explained Salamone.

He is the go-to guy if, for example, a country needs U.S. financial aid for a PfP exercise.

Salamone also has helped some partners personally.

Need furniture for your apartment? Rest easy, Salamone's an

NATO NEGOTIATOR - Maj. Christian Salamone (left) talks shop with Polish officers in Belgium.

armchair away.

Need help getting the tuition waived for your children at the SHAPE school? He's your principal contact.

Need computer equipment? Salamone will link you up.

"It's easy for me to represent the United States because we have so many assets," he said. "Many of these people come from poor countries. They don't have much when they get here."

"He has gotten so engaged, we wouldn't be able to do this job without him," remarked one NATO officer.

Salamone joined the New York Army Guard 15 years ago. He received an ROTC commission as an infantry officer.

Six years ago, after starting a security alarm business with his

cousin in New York City, bells went off. It was time for a change. He signed on with the National Guard full time. He wound up in Italy as the Reserve Component advisor at Camp Darby.

When that job dissolved, he was given the option to work for a year and a half at NATO.

"I have made friends with some incredible people," said Salamone of the professional perks. His new friends at NATO include European and Partner officers destined to become top-level commanders and chiefs of staff in their armies, navies and air forces.

More important, Salamone's friends include military people from countries that were once considered the enemy. Those are the friendships everyone hopes will sustain the peace in Europe.



Photo by Lt. Col. Doug Hart

Several states call on Guard to stop raging flood waters

By MSgt. Ben Delaney
California National Guard

Sgt. James Rogers, an infantryman, is no stranger to patrolling. But when eight feet of water nearly submerged tiny Linda, Calif., he wasn't looking for the enemy. He was on the lookout for stranded family pets.

"I have two dogs at home," related the 2nd Battalion, 160th Infantry soldier. "I would be worried sick if I had left them behind during a flood."

Once again, and with short notice, the California Air and Army National Guard were pressed into action to help rescue Californians from one of the worst floods to strike the northern and central parts of the state in history.

Forty-two California counties received gubernatorial declarations of disaster, and of them, 37 were declared by the President as federal disaster areas.

As of mid-January, the California Guard had committed more than 1,000 soldiers and 360 pieces of equipment to assist those without the resources to handle such a large flood relief effort.

However, Californians were not the only West Coast state to call on its Army and Air National Guard. Guardmembers in Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Idaho also were activated when their states were flooded by heavy rains.

And it's not over.

Although it is no longer raining in the Golden State and reservoir and river levels are gradually coming down, levees constructed many years ago to control flooding were heavily saturated and in danger of breaking and spilling water into residential neighborhoods.

The problems were so severe that some levees have been breached purposely to relieve pressure elsewhere. The flood problems were particularly severe in San Joaquin County, south of Sacramento.

National Guard helicopters and their emergency rescue crews were kept busy during the first days of flooding plucking stranded citizens from vehicles, homes and other structures. Flood waters had turned roadways and farm lands into rivers and lakes.

In Chico, a small rural college town, members of the Army Guard's 549th Engineer Battalion put their own lives at risk to help others.

By the time 1st Lt. Christopher Logue and his 549th soldiers had arrived to help horse rancher Kevin Spangler, icy-cold

AWASH in SUPPORT

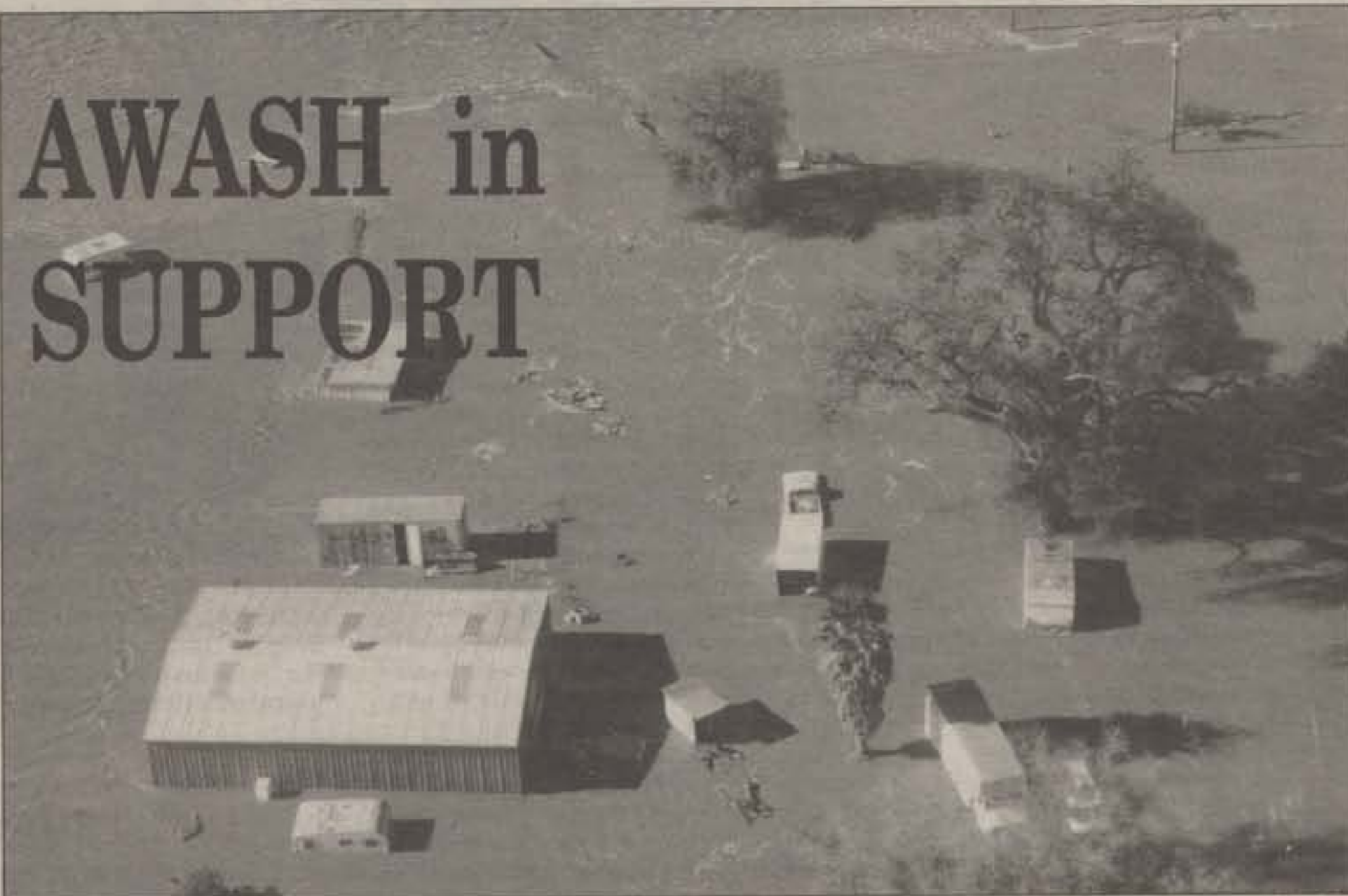


Photo by Joseph L. Ajax



Photo by Cpl. Bryan E. Singer

FLOOD OF HELP - A Guard Chinook (top photo, left) responds to Yosemite National Park. Flood waters (above) blanketed 42 California counties. Golden State troops (left) help unload plastic explosives used to break up a levee.

Army and Air Guard aircraft including, C-130 Hercules transports, HH-60 Pavahawks, UH-60 Blackhawks and CH-47 Chinook helicopters were heavily used to assist with evacuations, ferry relief supplies, conduct observation flights and transport public officials on oversight damage assessments.

Almost one-third of the more than 120 National Guard missions in California involved evacuating stranded citizens from flooded areas, said officials.

Soldiers with the Army Guard's 132nd Engineer Battalion, based in Sacramento, were called upon

to place and detonate explosive charges along one levee to create a break needed to relieve pressure.

Other units, operating 2-1/2 and 5-ton cargo trucks, hauled supplies and helped evacuate several small towns in the valley areas, most notably the towns of Oroville, Marysville, Yuba City and Olivehurst. All were flooded or threatened by waters from the dangerous Feather River, held back by the Oroville Dam.

Five-ton dump trucks also were used for debris removal and to haul rock used to strengthen weakened levees along many

water had swelled to four feet. The horses, a Belgian Draft breed that can eclipse nine feet in height and weigh more than 2,400 pounds, were confused and skittish.

"They looked like overgrown Shetland ponies," said Spc. James Houston.

Despite the danger, the horses and Spangler's wife, Peggy, were moved to safe ground.

"The Guard was here to help us when we needed them most," said an appreciative Spangler.

Roger Logan and his poodle, Quarter, are alive today because of the heroics of

the 549th's Sgt. Wayne Marsh.

With treacherous and swift five-foot swells lapping at Logan's trailer door, Marsh, MSgt. Michael Wilson and Sgt. Robert Dover arrived in a 39,000 pound, 11-foot tall Army truck.

Using a discarded plastic jacuzzi cover as a makeshift raft, Marsh paddled Logan and Quarter to safety. However, the rescue wasn't completely cut and dry.

"I was worried the Sergeant Marsh would hit some wires that we could see in the water and get electrocuted," Dover said. "We just didn't know what was in the water."



Photo by 1st Lt. Kasten Jordan

STABLE GROUND - California Army Guard's SPC. James Houston (center) holds Zeke, as grateful horse rancher Kevin Spangler looks on.

California rivers.

After citizens were evacuated from Hamilton City, 49th MP Brigade military police moved in to assist local officials by providing security on New Year's Day.

In several communities, water trailers and water purification equipment were placed on standby. Officials feared the flooding would contaminate the drinking water. National Guard armories in the Sonoma County and central valley areas also were used to shelter evacuees.

CH-47 Chinook helicopters airlifted supplies and an LA County Fire Department rescue team into Yosemite National Park. Stranded tourists there could not leave because of flooded access roads.

"The soldiers and airmen we have in the field are highly qualified and motivated to handle the diverse situations at hand," said Maj. Gen. Tandy K. Bozeman, California's adjutant general. "I am proud of the great job our people are doing for California communities."

Despite the record-setting volume of water produced through the tributaries leading out of the Siskiyou and Sierra Nevada Mountain ranges, it only resulted in the deaths of six people. During the 1955 flood, which also dramatically affected the central valley, 24 people were victims of drowning. Eleven died during the 1986 floods.

This year's disaster, boasted officials, resulted in the evacuation of more than 100,000 people.

California's 1st Lt. Kasten Jordan and SPC. Donald K. Stone contributed to this story.

INSIDE the FLOOD

'Don't be a HERO'

California's 'J.J.' Moore forgets his wife's plea, saves two lives

By MSgt. Ben Delaney
California National Guard

Leaving home and his full-time job to help northern and central California flood victims, SSgt. James Joseph "J.J." Moore Jr. was warned: "Don't be a hero." This was his wife, Denise, speaking. She was eight months pregnant.

It was a plea and admonition.

However, what the Army Guard medic with the 126th Medical Company did that day was exactly that. Not once, but twice.

It started out as a routine surveillance flight over southern Sacramento County, when a call came pressing the UH-60 Blackhawk medevac helicopter and crew into action.

Near the small community of Wilton, the flight crew spotted a man stranded on top of the cab of his partially submerged pickup truck. There were no structures and no land in the vicinity, just acres of fast-moving water.

The only way to rescue the victim, reasoned the crew, was to use the electric powered rescue hoist on board the helicopter.

Action had to be taken fast.

Complicating Moore's descent to the victim were nearby high voltage power lines. Teamwork would be needed between the crew chief, the pilot and Moore to make a safe rescue.

With the hovering aircraft above and the electrical power lines in view, Moore was carefully lowered to the cab of the truck by a 60-foot cable. He grabbed the man, who remained calm, and strapped him to the rescue seat.

A perfect rescue, Moore would reflect later.

Two hours later, while flying over the same area, the crew received another call. This time, the victim was spotted standing, flailing his arms in the back of a

pickup. Again, the vehicle was completely surrounded by flood waters. This time, Moore observed, the victim appeared to be quite excited, showing signs of panic.

According to Moore, the crew had hoped to employ the same rescue procedure used only hours earlier. However, a dramatic change of plan would become necessary.

As the helicopter hovered about 120-feet above, Moore again began his descent to the victim. But as he neared the truck, the victim began jumping up and down. Instead of moving out of the way, allowing Moore room to land and attach a safety harness, the victim suddenly leaped, grabbing Moore in a "death grip."

"His eyes were pretty big," Moore recalled. "I kept telling him, 'Don't jump.' But he did anyway."

The man's desperate leap into Moore's arms sent them careening in a wide arch over the water. With no rescue harness in place, the victim began to lose his grip. Sensing that the man would soon fall into the raging flood waters, Moore pointed to a nearby bank.

The helicopter quickly maneuvered to dry land where Moore implored the man to jump. It was not a minute too soon. The man dropped to the ground and ran to waiting friends.

Returning home that day, Moore greeted his wife. He

had planned to downplay the day's events. However, that idea was whisked away with the speed of the flood waters he had battled. Denise had seen him on television being proclaimed a hero. In fact, the rescues were among the highlights picked up on the national news.

So much for anonymity.

"They were using that term on the news, calling me a hero. It was the one thing my wife told me not to be," Moore said.

"The whole crew should get equal credit," he insisted. "We gave each other a lot of high-fives when the mission was over."

The heroic crew included pilot and unit commander Maj. Anthony Lescano, CWO3 Arthur Laguna and crew chief SSgt. Shelby Falls.

After the rescues, Moore's heroics were recognized by Gov. Pete Wilson in

his annual state-of-the-state address to the California legislature. He and Denise attended the function by invitation of the Governor.

Moore is a full-time corrections officer at the California State Prison-Sacramento at Folsom.



Photo by Cpl. Bryan E. Singer

HEROIC DEEDS - California Army Guard's SSgt. 'J.J.' Moore Jr., a member of the 126th Medical Company, saved two lives and disobeyed his wife.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

'People Potential 2000 ... and Beyond' is banding together to make the Air Guard equal for all

Managing DIVERSITY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Her frustration flooded the telephone line in early January. "These are the 90s. People can't treat people that way. But it's still happening," lamented SMSgt. Glenna Shetter from the Colorado Air National Guard headquarters near Denver.

It is the contention of this 15-year Air Guard veteran, a former A-7 jet fighter crew chief, that people are still being passed over for promotions and schools and good jobs because they are black or because they speak with an Hispanic accent or because they are women, she indicated.

Shetter is also determined to be a part of the solution. She is part of a grassroots project called "People Potential 2000 ... and Beyond." That's PP2000+ for short.

The idea is to give all 109,000 Air Guardmembers an equal chance to get ahead.

Since October, the 32-year-old woman has been a player on the 40-member team formed by Air Guard Maj. Gen. Johnny Hobbs. Using state-of-the-art computer technology, the group explores and solves the problems of discrimination that time appears not to have erased.

"Of the seven reserve components," Hobbs charged in December, "the Air National Guard is next to the worst at reflecting our community so far as race, gender and ethnicity is concerned."

"We are still a white, male-dominated society, and you don't expect the folks in charge to give up their power," added Hobbs, an African-American with a Loyola law degree.

He was stung by racism in 1965, Hobbs recalled, when he was told he would not make it through pilot training at Williams AFB in Arizona. But he earned his fighter wings in June 1966 and flew F-4s in Thailand and Japan for three-and-a-half years.

He has been thrown to the tarmac because someone suspected he was hijacking a fighter, Hobbs said. He also has

witnessed someone being hired for a job over the phone and then being told the job had been filled when the man, who turned out to be black, arrived for work.

President Harry Truman integrated the U.S. Armed Forces in 1948, but some attitudes, Hobbs said, have not changed in the past half-century.

"The military is more fair than the civilian sector, even though there are still tremendous problems," he said. "Until now there hasn't been a really convincing reason to make a change."

Now the clock is ticking, he insisted, and it is sitting on Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd's desk.

Shepperd is the Director of the Air National Guard. Hobbs is his assistant for readiness and chairman of the six-year-old Human Resources Quality Board. Shepperd has told Hobbs he wants this problem of diversity resolved as quickly as possible.

In short, find ways to get more women and brown and black men into the Air Guard and into leadership roles before the minorities become the majority.

"By 2050 white males will be the minority in this country," asserted Hobbs. "That means the groups are changing from which we will have to recruit. That makes it a readiness issue. And that makes it a command issue."

Now, to get people talking and find some solutions. Welcome to the Internet.

Although much of the PP2000+ organizational work has been done face-to-face at the sprawling and pastoral Airline Institute in Warrenton, Va., one-on-one and group discussions through cyberspace — from Portland, Maine to Portland, Ore. — is the new wave in communications that is already crashing to shore.

Shepperd, Hobbs explained, wants the new team to communicate on and, in effect, test the new CyberGuard system that enables the players to sit at their own computer terminals and talk with the people who are on line at a given time.

Two team members can discuss a diversity issue in detail using this technology. So can 20, pointed out Soo Kyong Fox of the Washington, D.C.-based Group

Decision Support Systems Inc. They are helping the Air Guard take this step into the 21st century.

The goal is to get CyberGuard working by this spring. Aside from the twists in technology, there is a lot of ground to cover.

"In the next century, the United States will continue to undergo large scale change in the nature and makeup of its population. These changes will affect America's corporate, military, social, educational, governmental and religious organizations," Air Guard Lt. Col. Robert Glitz stated.

"For example," he added, "more women will be on the job, one-third of the new workers entering the job market will be non-white, the average age of workers will rise, there will be a shortage of and intense competition for skilled workers, and the American consumer base will be more diverse."

All of this, Glitz insisted, is positive.

"If we manage this wave of change with vision, intelligence and care, we can ensure that no potential is lost."

TSgt. Geri Booth intends to help.

She is a Chipewewa Indian who is also pursuing an accounting degree. She believes the diversity issue affects Native Americans.

They are not actively recruited on the reservations outside Duluth.

Those who do join hit their career peaks in the middle enlisted grades, while Caucasian Guardmembers climb to the top of the leadership ladders.

"People in charge still seem to think that if someone looks like them and acts like them, they

will perform like them," said Booth, a full-time transportation NCO for the Minnesota Air Guard's 148th Fighter Wing.

The 40 members of PP2000+ are a cross section of the Air Guard community. "Together they represent the future of the Air National Guard and the United States," Glitz said.

They include men and women enlisted people and officers from across the country. They are traditional Guardmembers, full-time Guard workers and civilian employees. They are recruiters, security police people and members of aircrews.

"All of these different minds can work creatively and effectively," explained Booth of the team's initial sessions.

"Our goal is to make sure all qualified people of gender and racial backgrounds have a fair chance."



"We are still a white, male-dominated society, and you don't expect the folks in charge to give up their power."

Maj. Gen. Johnny Hobbs

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

At home and abroad, Guardsmen and women of color continue to make a difference

NOBLE Contributions



Photo by Spc. T.

Spc. Barbara Green

A carpentry-mason worker pany C, 890th Engineer headquartered in Columbia, Miss recently helped build schools in Costa Rica. "Joining the Guard been dream for me," she said. "build and create things."

Reported by Missouri's Spc. Ta



Photo by Maj. John Maietta

Spc. Yonelva Brown

A metal worker with Alabama's 770th Maintenance Company based in Birmingham, Brown recently served in Panama supporting humanitarian efforts there. An inventory clerk in civilian life, she also attends Austin Peay State University, Tenn., where she studies nursing. Brown has worked as a welder both as a civilian and soldier. "There aren't many woman welders. I feel like I'm setting the standard for more women to do this," she said. She also has spent four months in Somalia supporting the 82nd Airborne Division.

Reported by Pennsylvania's Spc. Steven Henshaw



ammy Spicer



Photo by Maj. John Maietta

Sgl. Robert Jones

A truck driver with the Alabama Army Guard's 1670th Transportation Company based in Brantley, Jones helped build roads in Panama recently. A textile production supervisor in Opp, Ala., he joined the Guard at the age of 26. "It makes me feel good to know that I'm part of something that's a humane thing to do," he said. "Anything we can do to make these people's lives just a little bit better, I feel is a great accomplishment."

Reported by Pennsylvania's By Capt. Barry Reichenbaugh



Photo by Capt. Douglas A. Harding

SFC Terrence Holland and Sgl. Robert Richardson

Members of the Virgin Islands Army Guard's 631st Engineer Detachment headquartered in St. Thomas, Holland (left) and Richardson were in Panama recently building a school. Holland volunteered for the humanitarian mission. "It enhances the knowledge of each soldier by showing the difference in lifestyles from what we have at home and what we see here," he said.

Richardson, an electrician and father of two, was also grateful for the opportunity. "It's good that we are here able to give people an opportunity to go

to school," he said. "With a better education comes a better life."

Reported by U.S. Army Reserve's SSgt. Renea L. Everage



Missouri soldiers have tools to grease Panama's TEAMS

Maintaining the CAUSE

By Capt. Carol Jean Knipp
Missouri National Guard

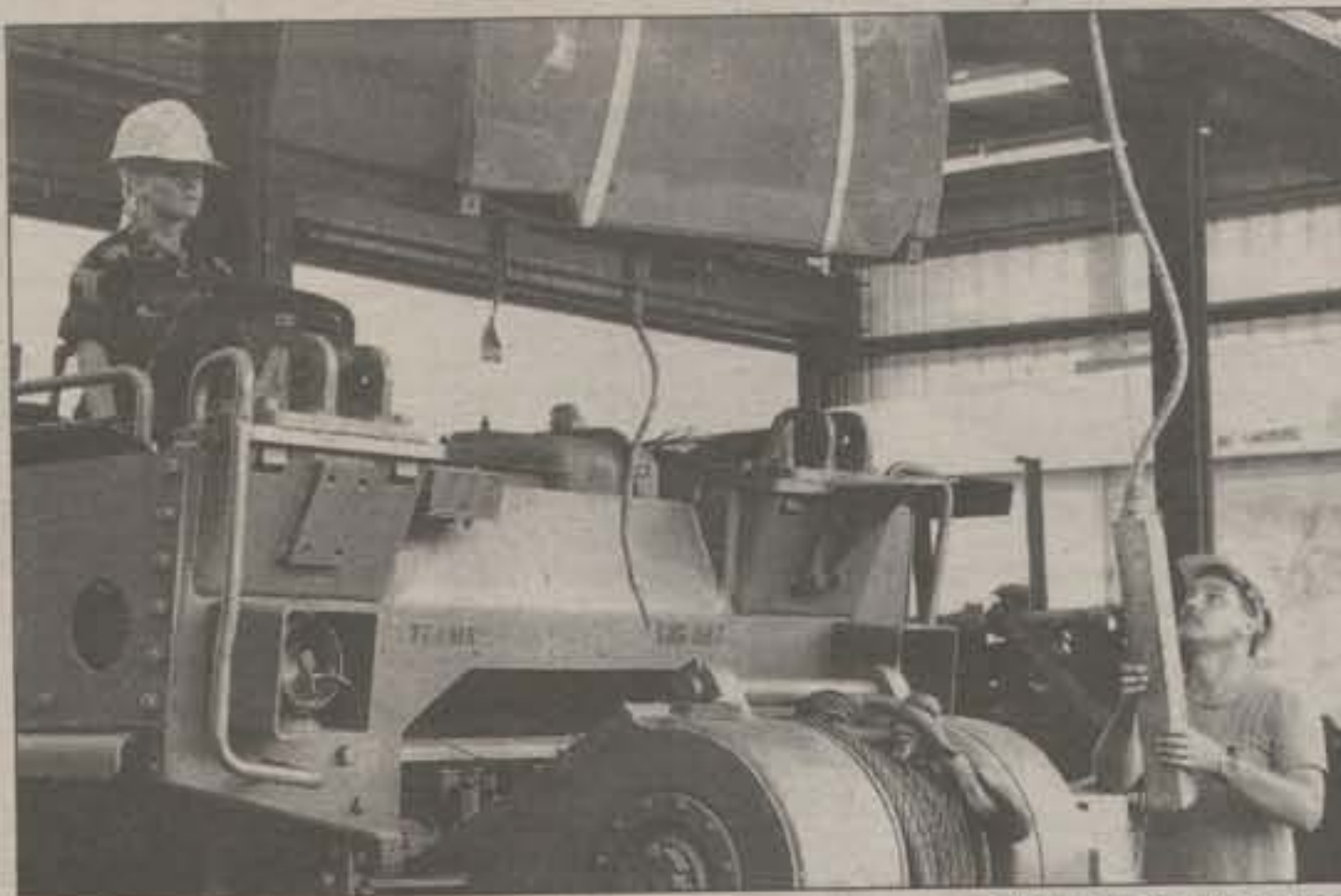
Rows of green trucks sat idly, needing repair. Stacks of Army field cots slumbered, awaiting an accurate accounting. And boxes of spare parts, looking to return to action, pined for their date with an inventory.

Logistical nightmare?

Or the challenge taken on by the Missouri Army Guard's 1035th Maintenance Company recently when they reported to Panama?

Both.

The Show-Me-State citizen-soldiers from Jefferson Barracks and DeSoto, Mo., ventured to Fort Kobbe's Theater Equipment and Maintenance Site (TEAMS). Armed with tools and clipboards, they ensured vehicles and equipment, used by U.S. soldiers and airmen in Central or



Photos SSgt. Ron Holbrook

South America tasked with building schools, roads and medical clinics, would operate properly.

"This is exactly what we would do if we were activated," said Spc. Tommy Caudle. "We order, receive, catalog, pack and ship parts to units that need them to keep the equipment running."

Varied and important training was exactly what 1035th maintainers said they received.

"This is real-world training," said Alabama Army Guard's Lt. Col. James Spencer, TEAMS commander. "The soldiers gain valuable experience in working on different types of heavy equipment. That's what we're here for."

The unit's 33-person contingent trained at the TEAMS, which is situated along the western banks of the historic Panama Canal at the Pacific Ocean entrance.

"Our soldiers are getting an opportunity to put their hands on equipment that they ordinarily would not," noted 1st Lt. Jim Wiseman, Detachment 1 commander.

"When the vehicles came in here, they all needed some major work."

The TEAMS consists of 10,000 supply items, plus more than 350 trucks and heavy equipment. The site is almost exclusively run by Guard troops, each taking their two-week annual training turn.

SFC Woodrow Walker Jr., a Detachment 1 platoon sergeant, said Panama's austere environment makes their job of maintaining equipment, used for humanitarian purposes, especially important.

"We make sure the whole truck or vehicle is ready to go back to the field," he said. "If it breaks down, we want it here, not on a remote road."

Because of the frantic pace of various U.S. military exercises in Latin America, Spencer said Guard troops are often asked to perform logistics miracles. Usually, he noted, at a moment's notice.

"We never know when something is needed, so we have to be ready," Spencer said. "Recently, we were told to have 800 cots to the airport in the same day."



MAINTAINERS - SSgt. James Morgan (far left) straps down a pallet. Spc. Kimberly Whitaker (center) and Sgt. Tom Christopher move a fuel tank. Spc. Tommy Caudle (above) checks stock numbers.

"We depend upon the National Guard. We couldn't fix everything without them."

The TEAMS has supported nearly 120 U.S. military operations since 1993. Established in 1991 to provide a centralized location to maintain and store equipment used locally for U.S. military engineer, medical and disaster relief operations throughout Latin America, the pre-positioned site has saved deploying units thousands of dollars in shipping costs.

"Guard people make it all happen," Spencer insisted.

The TEAMS also supports counter-drug operations throughout Central and South America.

Maintaining millions of dollars in equipment is not the site's only noteworthy function. An average of 1,700 Guard and Reserve soldiers and airmen train there annually.

Missouri's Sgt. William Couch was one of those critically-needed maintainers.

"If we don't get our job done, and done right," he said, "the equipment and supplies won't go where they are needed."



Photo by SFC Bill Jones

KEEPERS of the KIOWA

Mississippi Army Guard troops ready themselves to fuel and rearm a OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter during a recent certification test at Fort Hood, Texas. The state's 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation holds the distinction of being the only Army Guard unit cleared to fly the \$7 million Kiowa, the U.S. Army's most advanced scout helicopter.

Ohio troops buck-up
for Christmas away

Deployed for the HOLIDAY

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Paul and Barbara Welch were spending their first Christmas as a married couple in the southern German city of Stuttgart, far from their home in Columbus, Ohio.

But they are together. So are Brian and Michelle Swain of Ann Arbor, Mich.

They are all enlisted members of an Ohio Army Guard military police company on duty in Germany supporting the Joint Endeavor peacekeeping mission.

The pair of couples have the advantage of being together for the holidays in the land where many of the season's customs, such as the Christmas tree, originated. Others in the 120-member 838th MP Company from Youngstown were separated from their families at the time of

year when hearth and home tug a little harder at the heartstrings.

"I'm going to be a little homesick, but the fact we're together makes it a little better," said Spc. Barbara Welch.

She and Paul, a staff sergeant, were married Nov. 16 at the Patch Barracks chapel in Stuttgart.

"We've known each other for six years," she explained. "We started dating a year ago, and he proposed before we left. We were making plans to get married in the states, so we decided to do it here."

It has hardly been a typical honeymoon. Paul, a policeman in Columbus, Ohio, is an MP. Barbara, a registered nurse, is a medic in the Army Guard unit that is providing security for the American military community around Stuttgart.

The company that is expected to remain in Germany until March is filling in for an active Army MP company that was sent to Bosnia.

Although the international peacekeeping force in Bosnia is being reduced significantly, and the United States' involvement is being cut from 20,000 troops to about 8,500, a spokesman for the downsized U.S. European Command said Army Guard members and other citizen-soldiers still bring vital skills and experience to the operation.

"We would not be able to do what we do over here without



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

the reserve components' participation. They work long hours, and we're proud of what they do," said Lt. Gen. David Benton, the command's chief of staff.

So far, 134 members from three different Ohio units have been among the 2,073 Army Guardmembers who have drawn 270 days of Endeavor duty. Ohio has a vested interest because the peace agreement that ended the fighting in Bosnia was hammered out in Dayton.

Ohio's Lt. Gov. Nancy Hollister recently visited Buckeye troops. It is believed she was the first gubernatorial representative from that state to visit National Guard troops serving in a foreign country.

"Some people have called this the Bob Hope travelling show," the energetic Hollister told the Ohio troops during a reception at the Panzer Kaserne. "Well, we don't sing and we don't dance. But we do bring good

cheer to you who have to be so far from your loved ones during the holidays.

"In Ohio," the Lt. Gov. added, "we like to take care of our own."

Most of the Buckeye State MPs, commanded by Capt. Jason Reckard, made the best of the Yuletide season in Germany, where Christmas trees lit up the mess halls and wreaths decorated the main gates.

It will be hardest for those with children, observed one MP who said his wife was having a difficult time explaining to his youngsters why daddy could not be home for Christmas.

"You miss home. Everybody does," said Spc. Jeff Greene, a medic from Cortland, Ohio, who is exchanging gifts with his parents, two brothers and girlfriend through the mail.

Greene said he has experienced something like this before. He belonged to the 838th when it was mobilized for Desert

VP VISIT - Ohio Lt. Gov. Hollister (left) chats with deployed Buckeye soldiers SSgt Brian and Sgt. Michelle Swain.

Storm in 1990.

"I spent Easter in the (Persian) Gulf a few years ago," he recalled, "and I'm spending this Thanksgiving and Christmas over here. The good thing is, you get to see a lot of things you wouldn't ordinarily see."

SSgt. Brian and Sgt. Michelle Swain, meanwhile, were taking their foreign duty in stride. They are both 27, they have been married for six years and have served together as Army Guard MPs for the past three years.

They met in Germany while they were on active duty. She was in air defense. He was already a military police officer.

Christmas, Michelle predicted, will be just another duty day because she and Brian are scheduled to work.

"We work six days straight, then we get two days to recover," she said. "They work us so hard we don't have time to think about the holidays."

"Besides," she added, "it doesn't look like it's going to be a white Christmas over here."

The holiday, Swain lamented, would be put on hold.

"The unit will have a party when we leave in February," she added. "We will celebrate the holidays together then."

TURKEY

From Page 3

This all concerns Brig. Gen. Lamontagne, commander of the U.S. forces at Incirlik. It is why he wants Guard units for at least 30 days, not 15.

"The Guard works very, very well with the active Air Force," he said, "but the price we pay for that is a high rotation."

"This is a combat operation. If pilots are here for 14 days, we may get nine productive days out of them. It takes time for the pilots to learn the terrain and the rules of engagement," he added.

Such is the philosophical rub between the active and reserve forces.

"If it is necessary to have Guard units as active as they are now, (the active forces) have to accept the Guard on its own terms," countered Brig. Gen. John Smith, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air. His state boasts five flying squadrons, the most in the country.

"Thirty-day rotations are OK for example, once every 18 months," added the former fighter pilot. "But not at the frequency at which we are participating now. Many of our people can only participate for 15 days at a time."

Brig. Gen. Wil Hessert, a Maine Air Guardmember who recently became the ANG's special assistant to the U.S. Air Force-Europe commander, said the Guard's dual mission limits its peoples' availability.

"The country has not been educated about the Guard's busier role," he said. "Now that we are going back to our

militia roots, that is the cost of doing business."

Only about 70 members of the 180th's detachment in Turkey, commanded by Lt. Col. Tom Schart, are staying in Southwest Asia for the entire month. For that unit to maintain its commitment of nearly 200 members, another 130 members served for the first two weeks. An equal number were replaced for the final leg of the tour.

"Thirty days for the kind of folks we're talking about is unrealistic," maintained Richard Browning, a retired Air Force general and Ohio's Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve chairman. ESGR cultivates support for America's part-time military people among the business people Guardmembers work with fulltime.

"Many of these (Guard) people are key figures in their private lives and in their military lives, and trying to balance that is a difficult task," Browning added. "Unless we can find a way to assist employers, I don't see much of a change in the situation we have now."

Smith and Browning also took issue with Lamontagne's concern about the experience that reservists bring to the military, especially since nearly half of all Guardmembers have previously served on active duty, according to the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Many pilots, it was pointed out, are Air Force veterans who have transferred into the Guard to continue flying and avoid desk duty.

"Experience counts for a lot," acknowledged Smith of Lamontagne's interest in having pilots for a longer time. "But complacency also becomes a factor if pilots are over there for too long. Fresh people can bring a greater sense of urgency to the mission."

Col. Lance Meyer commands the Ohio Guard's 121st

Air Refueling Wing. For the second time in 15 months, he was directing the tanker operation for the Bosnian peacekeeping mission Joint Endeavor from Pisa, Italy.

It is easier for people to pull away from their civilian jobs for 15 days a couple of different times a year, than it is to leave for 30 or more days at a time, he said.

"We had more volunteers for this trip than we were able to bring," Meyer added.

Meanwhile, the pilots and maintenance people in Incirlik had no reservations about traveling half way around the world to patrol the skies and keep the F-16s in the air.

Pilots such as Brede and Maj. Jimbo Diehl, another airline pilot with 15 years of Air Force and Air Guard experience, savor the chance to fly the less-than-friendly skies.

"It's a great experience, because we all have different sections of the pie," said Brede, who flew five sorties during his first eight days. "Sometimes we carry bombs. Other times we have anti-air defense missiles."

The task facing people working behind the scenes, like Lt. Gov. Nancy Hollister, is to ensure the Guard has enough people to sustain these global missions while protecting the assets that the states need for civil and natural emergencies.

"The need for the Guard is very different from what it was five years ago, and it will continue to change," Hollister observed during the return flight to Ohio. "The Guard people I have seen this week know what needs to be done, and they do it."

"Now we need to ask," she said, "What we can do to better serve the men and women of the National Guard?"

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Col. Fred Brown Jr. was recently inducted into the Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame (OCSHF). The OCSHF honors graduates of the Fort Benning, Ga., school who have distinguished themselves in military and civilian life. Past inductees include former Senator Robert Dole, former Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger and former Secretary of the Army John Marsh Jr. Other honorees include Medal of Honor awardees. Brown was his OCS class' "leadership graduate" in July 1970. He went on active duty as an airborne infantry officer with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. After leaving active duty in 1972, the Colonel served four years with the North Carolina Army Guard prior to joining the Tarheel State's Air Guard. Currently, Brown commands the 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. In civilian life, he is president of VHA Carolinas-Tennessee, an alliance of not-for-profit hospitals.

Members of the New York Air Guard's 105th Airlift Wing got to play Santa Claus recently when they delivered gifts and messages to 170 Empire-State Army Guardmembers with the 133rd Maintenance Company. The 133rd has been in Europe since last June supporting Operation Joint Endeavor. The TransAtlantic C-5A sleigh also included a special, video-taped Christmas, New Year and Hanukkah message from Gov. George E. Pataki. "Your service for America and the cause of freedom, while always meaningful, takes on a special character this season of the year," the Governor said.

Oklahoma Brig. Gen. Gerald Wright, the Sooner-State Air Guard's chief of staff, recently received his promotion to general officer. On the same day, Gen. Wright also enlisted his daughter Janna into the Oklahoma Air Guard. She is an Airman First Class and serves in the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in Oklahoma City. The General's two sons, Brian and Brent, also serve in the military. Oldest son, Brian, is a captain and detachment commander with the 7th Special Forces Group at Fort Clayton, Panama. Brent, also a captain, serves as a Judge Advocate General officer for Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Brigade. In private life, he is his father's law partner.

SFC Rick Runkle has sung and played his country music on the steps of the Texas Capitol and for numerous military organizations. As a member of the Texas Army Guard, Runkle calls Camp Mabry's aviation directorate his full-time home. Runkle's musical career hit the right note in 1985 when he wrote a song called, "A Soldier's Medley," a tribute to those who have given their lives for their country. For the last eight years, he's been the keynote singer for Texas' Veteran's Day celebration, performed during ceremonies welcoming home Desert Storm troops and sang at numerous national military conventions. The National Guard Bureau's recruiting office also enlisted Runkle's talent for a video they produced. It's been shown across the country.



New York Gov. Pataki and kids wish deployed troops well.



Gerald Wright is promoted to General and enlists daughter Janna the same day.



Members of Massachusetts' 101st Fighter Squadron deliver the Christmas spirit.



The NGB's Col. David Friestad is recognized by Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating.

Spc. Joseph Gower recently won top honors during the 1996 West Virginia Army National Guard Sergeants' Major Competition. Gower is a design and survey engineer in HHC, 111th Engineer Group in Saint Albans. "Of everything I've done and all the places I've been," he said, "my service in the West Virginia National Guard has been, by far, the most personally rewarding."

Santa Claus was assisted recently by mem-bers of Massachusetts Air Guard's 101st Fighter Squadron at Otis Air National Guard Base. The 101st donated a Christmas tree, turkey and presents for a local family with six children. "It's a great feeling to know that we made a family's Christmas a bit merrier," said 1st Lt. Christopher Meyer, an F-15 pilot. The family was selected by the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

The National Guard Bureau's Historical Services Division recently honored the Air Guard's top historians. The Beckwith Havens Outstanding History Award went to California's MSgt. Richard Simon, a member of the 144th Fighter Wing, for writing the best Air Guard history. Rhode Island's CMSgt. Robert LaChapelle, a member of the 281st Combat Communications Group, was awarded the Theodore C. Marrs History of the Year Award. The Marrs Award recognizes the best written history by an additional duty historian. TSgt. James Stewart, with Wyoming's 153rd Airlift Wing, took home the Addison E. Baker Special Achievement in History Award. It honors the airmen or women who have made significant contributions to the ANG's history program.

Col. David Friestad, the director of National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Directorate, was honored by Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating. Friestad, in the Sooner State recently reviewing its counterdrug program, was presented the Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal. The honor recognized the colonel's support. "Col. Friestad's leadership skills and organizational abilities had a direct and positive impact on the drug interdiction and demand reduction programs we have implemented," Gov. Keating said.

SSgt. Charles S. Johnson was recently in-ducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club of the U.S. Army. Johnson is a combat helicopter crew chief with the West Virginia Army Guard's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation.

MSgt. Dave Keca, MSgt. Leon Rinke and TSgt. Chris Holentunder, members of the Wisconsin Air Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), are now Admirals in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska. The aircraft fuels systems specialists were given the honor for their work in repairing a fuel leak in a Nebraska-owned KC-135 aircraft. The tale of naval history began when a 155th ARW refueler, bound for Italy for duty in Operation Decisive Endeavor, experienced problems. After a week-and-a-half of work in Milwaukee, the three fixed the aircraft.

Battling sand and dust, Air Guard 'commo' experts are making a difference supporting Southern Watch

By SSgt. Paul D. Mantikoski
U.S. Air Force

Already blazing brightly on the horizon, the sun begins another climb into a brilliant, blue sky. The desert winds, seemingly never ending, carry powder-fine dust and sand. They get into eyes, clog filters and find their way inside most everything.

They are just two enemies of military people working in Southwest Asia.

Time and distance are enemies, too. More than 10,000 miles separate them from their families and their normal way of military life.

Some of these troops are from Air National Guard units. They too, have battled these desert adversaries, and others, while filling a vital role for the Total Force.

"Our mission here is to manage the operations and maintenance of all tactical communications at Eskan Village, directly supporting Joint Task Force Southwest Asia as part of Operation Southern Watch," explained Maj. Donald Lagor, officer-in-charge of the communications focal point (CFP) and the Rhode Island Air Guard's 282nd Combat Communications Squadron commander.

Guardmembers are in Saudi Arabia providing communications for the coalition members whose job it is to monitor three United Nations resolutions aimed at making Iraq comply with its southern no-fly zone.

At Eskan Village, a military compound just outside the Saudi capital of Riyadh, the CFP is manned completely by Air Guard crews.

The CFP also serves as the liaison for all communication matters between JTF-SWA, the 4404th Wing at Prince Sultan AB and the 4409th Air Base Group.

Maintaining reliable communications isn't the only job these citizen-airmen have, according to Lagor. They also are responsible for job control, maintenance and information management.

The CFP job controllers coordinate with others in their business throughout the area of responsibility (AOR), the U.S. Central Command Air Forces, Shaw AFB, S.C., Air Combat Command at Langley AFB, Va., and U.S. Central Command at MacDill AFB, Fla.

"Our controllers direct and track all maintenance actions, including unscheduled and preventive maintenance, as well as telephone installations and outages,"



Connecting the FORCE

Photos by SSgt. Paul D. Mantikoski



SERVING in the SAND

118th Combat Communications Squadron, N.C.
119th Air Control Squadron, Tenn.
143rd Combat Communications Squadron, Ore.
148th Combat Communications Squadron, Calif.
205th Combat Communications Squadron, Ky.
223rd Combat Communications Squadron, Ark.
235th Air Traffic Control Flight, Ind.
239th Combat Communications Squadron, Mo.
251st Combat Communications Squadron, Ohio.
261st Combat Communications Squadron, Calif.
263rd Combat Communications Squadron, N.C.
264th Combat Communications Squadron, Ill.
271st Combat Communications Squadron, Pa.
283rd Combat Communications Squadron, Ga.

said CMSgt. Frank Romano, a 40-year veteran and the CFP's NCO-in-charge. As such, they maintain the core automated maintenance system, all computer files and ensure timely and accurate master log continuity.

"Requests pour in from our large customer base here and overseas," Lagor assured. "We have to maintain an accurate, reliable tracking record of every thing we do."

All requests from customers throughout the AOR and the United States are logged, tracked and continuously followed-up until they are satisfactorily resolved, Romano said.

Dealing with these critical communication assets makes the job interesting

CONNECTED - A Guard communicator (left photo) patches a call through. TSgt. Dave Kinnison (above, left) and CMSgt. Frank Romano search for parts.

and challenging.

"I break it down into three main priorities," Romano said. "One, is to manage tactical systems and connect fixed communications. Second, is to coordinate changes in requirements from JTF-SWA and outlying areas in the AOR. And last, is the most important; customer service for all."

Another important priority is battling the dust and dirt.

According to Lagor, additional maintenance steps are taken to keep the equipment running.

"We increase our primary maintenance inspections on all filters and double our checks on our environmental control units -- or air conditioners," he said.

Ingenuity is another weapon employed. Lagor's crew helped design special metal sheeting used on their equipment.

"The sheeting deflects our exhaust away from the ground and the intake vents keep the dust we may generate to a minimum," he explained.

Most important to everyday communications is the telephone system.

"The tactical telephone hub switch is the heart of the AOR's communications,"

LINKED - Air Guard troops (left) head to work in Saudi Arabia.

Lagor insisted. "Every site with telephone service is linked here and then routed through this switch."

Normally, 17 people are required to man the hub switch. This hub services more than 700 trunks and direct subscribers.

It would be a lot to handle for 17 people, said Romano.

"It's a tribute to the level of skill and dedication that these people can handle it with only eight," he noted proudly.

The switch features digital and analog, secure and non-secure communications capabilities. More than 35,000 calls are processed by the switch daily. Approximately 250 of those calls are operator-assisted.

Due to the complexity of the operation and equipment, the hub switch is the one piece of equipment that is absolutely vital to stay operational 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, Romano said.

Southern Watch requires a diverse group of units stationed over several Arabian coast countries, all tasked with different missions. However, they all have one thing in common: They need to communicate. There are 10 sites scattered throughout Southwest Asia.

"With all the sites we're supporting, we can expect every type of problem imaginable, at any time of day or night," said Lagor. "It keeps us alert and keeps us learning."

Providing three major types of communications -- satellite, wideband and tropo-satellite support radio -- Guard experts are constantly challenged.

Some of the problems have been so difficult to diagnose and fix, that individual Guardmembers have been deployed for 30 days just to work on them.

Rhode Island's MSgt. Robert Bonoyer, also a member of the 282nd, has been at Eskan since early November. He's done nothing but tweak and tune the wideband system.

"Obviously, this is an important piece of equipment that is heavily relied on," Bonoyer said. "When I got here it was running, just not as well as we and our customers needed it to be; now we know we can provide the best possible service."

During a recent rotation, 17 Air Guard units were called upon.

"Every troop we've had come through here has been up to the task; really super troops," Romano said.

The true spirit of the Total Force is alive in Saudi Arabia, and with members of the Air Guard on board; winning the battle against all enemies to keep the forces in touch.



STATES

- Safety Dog
- Czech it Out
- Roses Parade

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Five high-ranking Belizean Defense Force officers, led by Brig. Gen Earl Edward Arthurs, commander of the Belizean Defense Force, recently visited the Granite State.

The future of "New Horizons," an exercise that deploys Guardmembers to Belize to construct schools and roads, was discussed. This operation, say officials, is designed to support Partnership for Peace, a program by the U.S. to protect human rights and promote democracy between various countries.

"We want soldiers from Belize to work here and observe, and for people from New Hampshire to come to nice, sunny Belize to work and train," Arthur said.

OHIO

Members of the 178th Fighter Wing, based in Springfield, introduced Safety Dog -- the mascot for the state's "Kids Identifying Dangerous Situations and Facing Emergencies" program -- at the recent Air Force Safety Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Brig. Gen. Orin Godsey, the Air Force's Chief of Safety, expressed an interest in adopting the canine (a 178th Guardmember in costume) and program at the Air Force level.

The dog has shared safety lessons with more than 50,000 Ohio youths.

FILL'er UP

Members of the Virginia Air Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing, based in Sandston, wave from atop a new above-ground jet fuel tank. The \$3 million dollar project, completed last month, will hold 105,000 gallons of JP-8 jet fuel. The 192nd built the tank to comply with an Environmental Protection Agency law that requires fuel tanks to be above the ground.



Photo by TSgt. Carlos Claudio

TEXAS

Soldiers from Company G, 143rd Infantry participated in the U.S. Army's Exercise Cooperative Best Effort 96, a 13-nation training exercise, in the Czech Republic recently.

The Texans were joined by soldiers from three other NATO nations, (Canada, Netherlands and Norway) and nine Partnership for Peace nations (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Ukraine).

"The aim of Exercise Cooperative Best Effort was to exchange light infantry peacekeeping skills in a peacekeeping scenario, and to foster friendship and mutual understanding between the soldiers of NATO and Partnership for Peace nations," said Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Allied Forces-Northwestern Europe commander-in-chief.

CALIFORNIA

Band members with the 562nd Air Force Band, based at Channel Island, helped lead the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

The Air Guard players were part of a 125-member U.S. Air Force Composite Band that also consisted of active and reserve players.

Parade officials granted the lead position to the band to honor the U.S. Force's 50th Anniversary.

An estimated one-half billion viewers watched on television.

WISCONSIN



Photo by Fred LeSavage

By Larry Sommers
Wisconsin National Guard

Air traffic controllers at the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center at Camp Douglas are playing a key role in training Air National Guard controllers from other states.

Apprentice air traffic controllers from other states are sent to Volk to achieve the Radar Approach Control (RAPCON) certification required by new Air Guard wartime taskings, said Scott Duke, the ANG's chief of training and procedures for air traffic control.

RAPCON CERTIFIED - Wisconsin Air Guard's TSgts. Terry Fredrickson (left) and Eric Woods (rear) observe SrA. Brian Sweeney's air traffic controller training.

Indiana's SrA. Brian Sweeney, a member of the 235th Air Traffic Control Flight, became Volk's first graduate, when he was elevated to journeyman controller with a RAPCON rating.

Wisconsin's MSgt. Galyn Minkel and TSgts. Terry Fredrickson, Eric Woods and Ron Chastain manage the program.

"Being an air traffic controller was something I wanted to do," Sweeney said. "The Air Guard helped me achieve that."

According to Duke, RAPCON certification was not previously required for Guard controllers, because Air Guard bases operated under the less-stringent ground-controlled approach system.

The Air Force is entrusting more "go-to-war" missions to Air Guard units, he added, including air traffic control units. Such missions, Duke noted, require RAPCON-certified controllers.



HISTORY

Proven under FIRE

Blacks overcame a lot in order to establish a permanent home in the National Guard

It is generally accepted that the performance of nearly 180,000 African-American soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War was gallant and courageous. This performance under fire would forever change our nation's National Guard.

Congress authorized the organization of six Black regular Army regiments in 1866. Soon thereafter, African-American National Guard units were organized in 22 states and the District of Columbia.

Large numbers of Black Guardmembers were recruited by Reconstruction governments in the South in order to ensure the stability of federally-imposed state governments. Blacks joined units in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In Texas, many of the Black citizen-soldiers were Civil War veterans belonging to one of the three black companies in the 33rd U.S. Colored Troop Regiment.

In the North, Massachusetts organized the first Black militia unit in 1863. Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island would follow suit after the war.

The rush was on.

Midwest states of Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Kansas opened their doors to willing Black soldiers. Missouri, Maryland and the District of Columbia also authorized African-American Guard units.

In every state, the impetus for the organization of units came from the Black community.

Members of the small Black middle class were commissioned as Guard officers. Unlike the active Army where white officers commanded Black troops, African-Americans served as company and field grade officers in the Guard. Most were doctors, lawyers, teachers, businessmen and Washington, D.C., bureaucrats.

Perhaps, most noteworthy was Maj. Christian A. Fleetwood, a prominent D.C. Guard commander, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Civil War.

While many Blacks in the North flourished, Black Guardmembers in the South clashed with whites, unwilling to adapt to change. After Reconstruction, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida inactivated their Black units. Alabama and Florida would later reauthorize the units.

Like others in the Guard then, African-Americans had to purchase their own uniforms. If allowed, they also had to attend annual training at their own expense. In addition for training for possible federal and state service, African-American units participated in parades, ceremonies and gubernatorial and presidential inaugurations.

According to histo-



GUARD HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratyuk
NGB HISTORIAN

rian Dr. Charles Johnson Jr., in his book *African-American Soldiers in the National Guard*, the District of Columbia's 1st Separate Battalion marched in every presidential inaugural parade. Black units from Georgia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia also participated.

The largest Black battalions were located in Chicago, Ohio, Virginia and Washington D.C.

The 16th Infantry Battalion, Illinois National Guard, was organized in Chicago in 1878. Inactivated twice in 1882 and 1887, the battalion was able to reorganize and was mobilized in 1898 as the 8th Illinois Infantry. They served in Cuba during the Spanish American War. Today, soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry continue that lineage.

In Ohio, separate Black companies were reorganized as the 9th Infantry Battalion in 1881. The 9th was also mobilized for the Spanish American War. Today, the 372nd Maintenance Company carries on the tradition.

In 1887, the District of Columbia's three Black companies were expanded to form the 5th, 6th and 7th Infantry Battalions, bolstering the Black presence in District's Guard to 40 percent. In 1891, the three battalions were consolidated as the 1st Separate Battalion. Unlike their brothers in other states, Black D.C. Guardmembers were excluded from the 1898 mobilization.

In nearby Baltimore, the Black community organized the Monumental City Guard in 1879. Today, soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 729th Support Battalion carry that guidon.

Virginia organized the 1st Infantry Battalion in 1876 and the 2nd Infantry Battalion in 1881. It was one of the few states to mobilize Black Guardmembers to combat civil disturbances. Because Black Guard units were initially excluded from the mobilization for the Spanish American War, the African-American community protested to President William McKinley. The president ordered the mobilization of Black regiments in Alabama, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia. The two Virginia battalions were assigned to the 6th Virginia Infantry.

Racial tensions in the 6th escalated when many of its Black officers resigned in protest when their qualifications to command were questioned. The controversy resulted in the inactivation of Black Guard units in Virginia in 1899.

Like the Buffalo soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry, Black Guard units in the late 19th century braved prejudice, hostility and indifference. Blacks overcame many obstacles to serve in the National Guard.

Despite hardships, these "Buffalo soldiers" became trailblazers. Their demonstrated skill and leadership led to African-American units and soldiers becoming a permanent part of the National Guard.

VOLUNTEERS - Officers and NCOs (above) of the 2nd Battalion, Virginia Volunteers pose around 1897.



Photo courtesy CWO2 John Listman

STAMP of APPROVAL

The U.S. Postal Service recently issued a stamp honoring Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., the first African-American to be promoted to general in the U.S. Armed Forces. The honor was celebrated in a Jan. 27 ceremony at the D.C. National Guard Armory. Davis began his 50-year military career in 1898 as a lieutenant in the D.C. National Guard.

When his battalion was not mobilized for the Spanish American War, he resigned from the Guard and entered the regular Army. He reentered the Guard in 1938 when he was selected to command the New York National Guard's 369th Infantry. In 1940, he was promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Army.





TRAINING

COOL CUSTOMERS

New York rescuers hone skills in Iceland

By Lt. Col. Mike Waters
New York National Guard

The Cold War is over. Cold weather operations in the North Atlantic are not.

This is not news to members of the New York Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing. In the late 70s they were the first ANG unit to deploy to Iceland. Today, about once a month, year round, they deploy one HC-130 Hercules aircraft to Naval Air Station-Keflavik. Holidays are no exception.

On constant alert, the crew is tasked with locating and retrieving downed NATO pilots. A well trained HC-130 crew can have their aircraft "wheels up" in 20 minutes from the time they are alerted. This is especially important considering a downed pilot's time for survival is extremely limited in the north Atlantic Ocean.

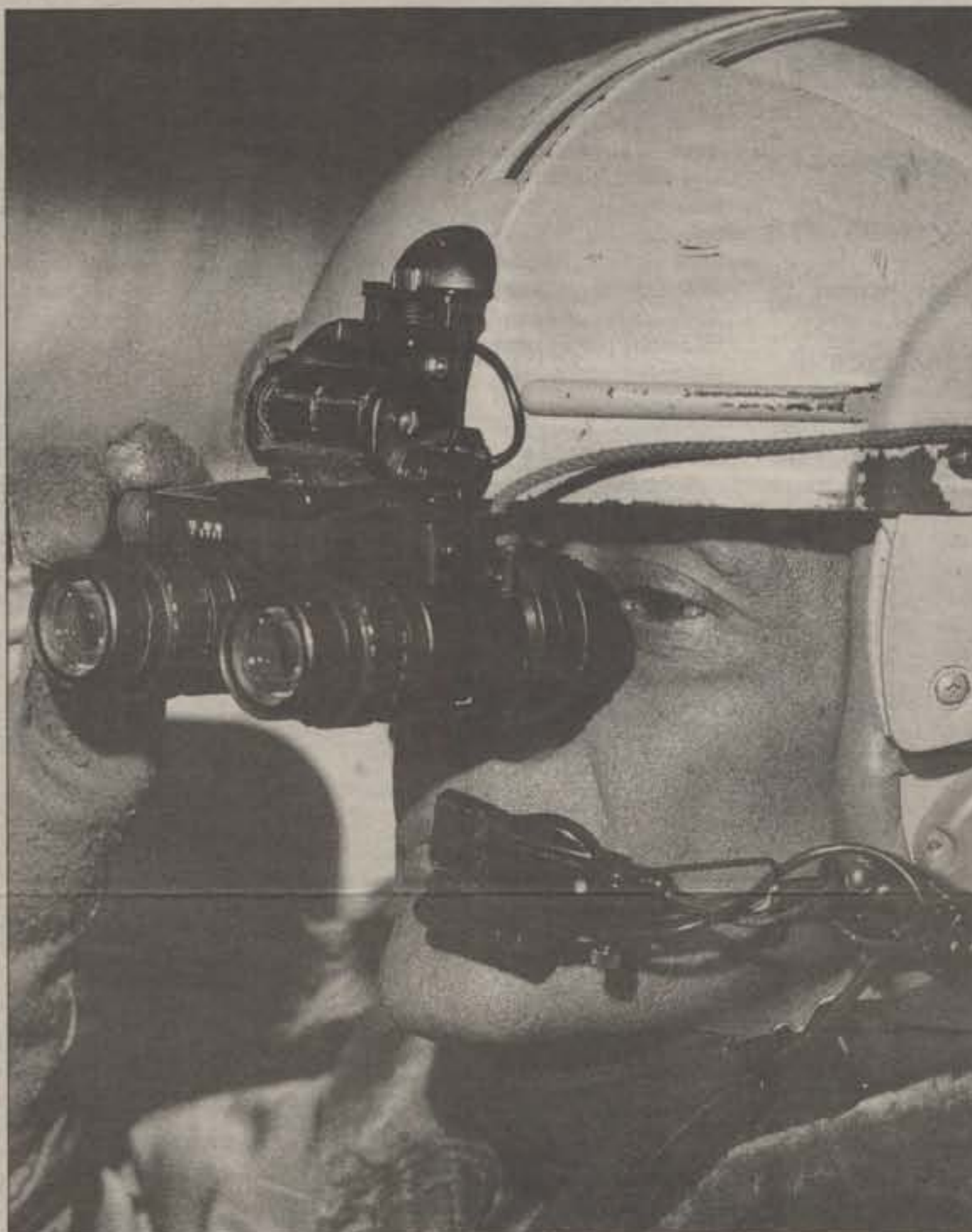
To date, the Wing has not been tasked to retrieve any military aircrews while at Keflavik. However, they successfully rescued three civilian fishermen last year.

These missions are always demanding, says Lt. Col. Bruce Johnston, aircraft commander.

"Fishermen at sea don't get in trouble in good weather," he noted.

There is another reason for a military presence in the nation that boasts a population of 264,000 people. After receiving their independence from Denmark in 1918, Iceland established a posture of strict neutrality. Although a charter member of NATO, they do not have military forces.

Although the threat to North America has diminished, it has not been eliminated. Russian submarines are still



SPOTTED - New York Air Guard's TSgt. Tony Ramos (left), a 106th Rescue Wing loadmaster, adjusts his night vision goggles during an air-to-air refueling mission.

106th crew donned helmets fitted with night vision goggles and cold water exposure suits.

It was time to practice refueling.

With 1st Lt. Chip O'Connell, the co-pilot, at the controls the aircraft soared to 2,000 feet. Like a maestro leading an orchestra, Johnston read from a checklist, ensuring each crew member performed his part.

After practicing take-offs and landings, the Hercules crew was joined by two more aircraft, a Jolly 26 copter and a Pave Hawk.

Each proceeded to a designated refueling track.

The refueling mission began with the HC-130 flying directly at the HH60s, only at a level 1,000 feet higher. As the two flights passed, the tanker initiated a 180-degree turn and descended to the same altitude as the choppers.

Maj. Hadj Thomas, a navigator, fixed his gaze to a radar screen, constantly calling out the Pavehawks' distance from their aircraft.

SMSgt. Vinnie Byrne, a radio operator, served as a scanner for the left side of the fuselage. TSgt. Tony Ramos, a loadmaster, manned the right

side scanner. With night vision goggles in place, they watched for the Pavehawks. Visual contact is made.

With the helos safely above the tanker, SSgt. Bob Wilson, a flight engineer, unreeled the refueling hose. O'Connell kept the tanker on a straight and level flight, as Johnston watched the instruments. Each exchanged positions as the choppers made multiple passes, connecting and disconnecting from the refueling drogue.

Ramos provided a running play-by-play of the action.

"In trail ... pre-contact..." "CONTACT," he exhorted, as if a goal had been scored.

Mission completed, Johnston returns to Keflavik, where he sets the Hercules down like a feather.

Such training is necessary, says Byrne, but pales to the drama of an actual rescue.

"An alert deployment can be 95 percent boredom," he intoned, "interrupted by a flight of sheer panic."



Photos by Lt. Col. Mike Waters

AT THE CONTROLS - SSgt. Bob Wilson (left), a flight engineer, conducts pre-flight checks in the cockpit.

It's why 106th crews can expect to hone their skills three or four times weekly.

On a typical training mission, the HC-130s work in conjunction with the wing's own HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters.

When a rescue mission is initiated, beyond the unrefueled range of a helicopter, the Hercules will proceed on a search mission to attempt to locate the person in trouble. Once the survivor's position is established and marked, the HC-130 assumes the role of refueler for the Pave Hawk.

A recent practice run demonstrated the 106th's well-earned reputation as top notch rescuers.

Just two hours before midnight, the

tracked, though less frequently than the days when AWACS planes would monitor the flights of Soviet Bear bombers three times a week.