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THE ON GUARD

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Snow blankets Dakotas

*Winter storms bring out
Guardmembers in force*

By SSgt. Dan Knoll

North Dakota National Guard

To move a mountain of snow for bulldozer operator SSgt. Brian Kilzer is all in a day's work. To witness the product of that toil move a person to tears is a rare experience.

Kilzer is a member of the North Dakota Army Guard's Company B, 141st Engineer Battalion. He was one of nearly 350 Peace Garden-State Army and Air Guardmembers who responded to a Presidential disaster declaration, the first in their state's history, to help their state after snowstorms had crippled transportation and emergency services.

"We helped an elderly gentleman who had been snowed in for about two weeks," Kilzer said. "We opened up the road right to his driveway, and he came out in tears. He was so happy to get out of his house."

"It's a nice feeling," he added.

Those in the Prairie State witnessed an even larger response from South Dakota Army and Air Guardmembers. According to National Guard Bureau officials, nearly 7,100 mandays were used by Army Guard citizen-soldiers, and almost 950 by their Guard counterparts in blue, in South Dakota's cleanup effort. Minnesota's Guard expended nearly 550 mandays digging out their neighbors.

In the Dakotas, the trouble began in December when the first of eight major snowstorms dumped near-record snow falls and life-threatening 60-to-80-below-zero winds across their states.

"This event is the worst rural type of winter storm that we have seen in a number of years," said Roger Free, a Federal

Emergency Management Agency director.

Farmers, ranchers and others living in rural communities showed their appreciation for the Guard's quick response by offering troops food and shelter.

"They wanted to invite us in for coffee or soup," said the 141st's SSgt. Tim Grabinger. "We'd tell them, 'You've been stuck here for two weeks, go to town and enjoy yourself, don't treat us.'"

Many North Dakotans waited at their mailboxes to thank the Guard helpers.

"It took the Guard only 16 hours to clear our road," said Ron Volk, a farmer.



Photo by TSgt. Dave Somdahl

DIGGING IN - A front end loader fills the back of an Army Guard truck with snow in North Dakota.

"We needed them out here and they're doing a great job."

Grabinger reported that it took three hours to break through one 100-yard section of drifted snow piled 10 to 15-feet-high. The 141st's SSgt. Darrell Theurer said there were places where the snow towered three-to-four feet above the cab of his dozer.

On the job sites, dozer operators braved frigid temperatures and severely reduced visibility for 12 to 18 hours a day, in open, unprotected cabs. Their only sources of heat came from their dozer's engine and multiple layers of cold weather clothing.

Maj. Gen. Keith Bjerke, North Dakota's adjutant general, was duly impressed.

"The effort by the National Guard," he said, "exemplifies the quality and determination of the people in our state."



Photo by SFC William Kuhn

RADAR LOVE

Washington Air Guard's SrA. Michael Murphy, a member of the 215th Engineering Installation Squadron, adjusts a socket wrench. Members of the 215th helped remove a 90-foot tower and its height finder radar to make room for newer automated equipment in Hawaii.



COMMENTARY

COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of Feb. 28, 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

HEROIC MISCUE

Your February report on the Soldier's Medal being awarded to a California soldier for heroism said he was "only the second Guardmember in history to earn the award."

Perhaps the writer's intent was to note the soldier as only the second California Guard soldier to earn the award, or perhaps only the second traditional Guardmember nationwide to earn it. I say that because I am aware of at least three Soldier's Medal recipients in the Missouri Army Guard.

Those well-deserved awards represent what some consider an inequity in how we recognize peacetime heroism.

In the late 1970s Missouri's Michael Pace (now a lieutenant colonel) was awarded the medal for rescuing a woman from a flooded stream her car had washed into. She had clung to tree branches all night until an Army Guard UH-1 helicopter arrived. The helicopter did not have a rescue hoist, so Pace tied a line to himself. The other end was tied off to the floor of the Huey. He jumped into the flood, grabbed the woman and moved her to safe ground.

In 1985 Chester White (now a lieutenant colonel) was awarded the medal for risking his life in an effort to rescue a soldier who had been swept out onto a coral reef in extremely heavy surf on the west coast of Panama. White required hospitalization after his attempt for numerous cuts from the coral, bruises from being hit by a

helicopter rescue hoist, and exhaustion.

In 1995 SFC Jerry Seabaugh (now retired) was awarded the Soldier's Medal for entering fast moving, rapidly rising flash flood waters in a low lying area of Jefferson City, Mo. He was inside his apartment when people ran in to say a car was being washed away. He ran outside and saw the force of the water pushing a car sideways down a street with the water already coming to its windows. Inside was a petite older woman. Seabaugh entered the water and forced his way to the car, managed to open the driver's door, extricate the woman, and bring her to dry ground. Seabaugh was a nonswimmer who later said he did not think about that fact until after the rescue was over.

White was in Title 10 status while serving overseas. Seabaugh was completing an active duty tour in support of a joint task force. Thus they were in an "active" status. But both were Guardmembers.

All should agree that those soldiers' acts were properly judged by their actions and the circumstances, not their duty status. Such is the case for so-called "active duty" service members who can be awarded the Soldier's or Airman's Medal for actions taken while off duty, on leave or TDY.

As a longtime member of the awards committee of the National Guard Association of the United States, which considers Valley Forge Cross heroism nominations, I know of many cases where people were denied federal recognition for their actions because of the happenstance of their duty status.

Maj. Kenneth R. MacNevin
Missouri National Guard

ROAD-SIDE SERVICEMEN

My husband and I were travelling in the pouring rain on Route 90 in New York, enroute to Vermont, when our car started to make grinding noises. We stopped to investigate. To our horror, the car could not be restarted.

Within a few moments, two fine young men, SSgt. Tim Fahey and SrA. Chris Hehir (both members of the Massachusetts Air Guard's 101st Air Control Squadron in Worcester) stopped to offer help.

My husband is 83-years-old and I am 77. Can you imagine what it meant to us to have young men, filled with a sense of compassion, care for us?

Your Air National Guard is to be congratulated for choosing and nurturing people of their quality.

Florence Leeds
Tamarac, Fla.

Editor's Note: Hehir was also recognized recently by the people who run the Rome Laboratory, N.Y., for his actions during last year's Global Yankee exercise. Prior to his arrival, the lab suffered several power outages and generator failures, rendering their systems and shelters powerless. On his own, Hehir brought a spare generator, connected it, and ensured it functioned properly for the exercise's duration.

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GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar



"I don't care how many frequent flier miles you have, you're still not getting an 'upgrade' to sit up front."



IN THE NEWS

- Thunder over Louisville
- New AAFES Catalog
- Environmental Awards

Affirmative Action pushed

'Let us look for ways to improve, for the goal has not been reached'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Affirmative action must be reinforced as the foundation for racial equality in this country, a Department of Defense official who is an African-American, told members of the Army National Guard during a Black History Month celebration Feb. 12.

"Let us look for ways to improve (affirmative action programs) -- for the goal has not yet been reached," William E. Leftwich III, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity, challenged nearly 300 officers and enlisted Guardmembers at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

That group included three people most concerned with the National Guard's position as an equal-opportunity organization.

They were Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. Russell Davis, the Bureau's vice chief; and Maj. Gen. William Navas Jr., the Army Guard director, who hosted the celebration.

The program featured several spirituals and other songs important to the African-American heritage movingly performed by 63 members of the Nicholas Orem Middle School Choir from Hyattsville, Md.

"It's uplifting. We need to feel pride about our race and our heritage," said Army Guard SFC Terry McKinzie on the importance of celebrating Black History Month.

"The schools are not emphasizing the tremendous amount of things that black people have done," added

McKinzie, whose favorite black historical figure is Harriet Tubman, the Civil War era's most famous underground railroad leader.

Observing that "African Americans and Civil Rights: A Reappraisal" is the theme of this year's Black History Month, Leftwich struck a chord with a new Air National Guard program promoting equality for all members.

That program, "People Potential 2000... and Beyond," is an effort championed by Maj. Gen. Johnny Hobbs, chairman of the Air Guard's Human Resources Quality Board. Its aim is to give all 109,000 Air Guardmembers equal chances for promotions, service schools and good jobs regardless of their race, gender or ethnic background.



ADDRESS - William Leftwich (top) told Army Guard attendees like SFC Shirlene Zimmerman (above) that work needs to be done.

"As American citizens, we must commit ourselves to maintaining the positive, unifying elements of affirmative action and equal opportunity programs," Leftwich added. "We must also commit ourselves to the reduction and eventual elimination of hate mongers and extremist views who, with their reactionary venom, would divide and separate us from accomplishing what are truly common national objectives."

That, he said, is why affirmative action programs need to be given time to make a difference throughout this country.

Leftwich paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the freedom riders who attempted to integrate Southern establishments, and others who characterized the civil rights movement. He was quick, however, to return his focus to the future.

"While we should honor those folks and what they achieved, we need to be aware of things yet to do," he insisted. "We need to identify the barriers yet to be removed and dedicate ourselves to doing it."

Kentucky's '50th' celebration promises fireworks

By SSgt. Dale Greer
Kentucky National Guard

The Kentucky Air Guard is teaming up with the state's Derby Festival to throw one of the biggest Air Force birthday parties ever.

Organizers expect nearly 1 million people to attend "Thunder Over Louisville," the airshow that kicks off the two-week Kentucky Derby Festival April 19-20. Thunder will pay tribute to the Air Force's 50th anniversary this year, and officials have planned a bash that Derby festival president Daniel Mangeot can only describe as "awesome."

Mangeot's claim may sound like hyperbole, but consider that Thunder



Kentucky Air Guard file photo
ON DISPLAY - Kentucky's two-day 'Thunder over Louisville' will feature more than 120 past and present aircraft.

will feature a two-day static display of more than 120 aircraft, virtually every plane currently being flown by the Air Force, plus a variety of historic war birds. Estimates call for 250,000 visitors to attend the static display alone, located at the Ken-

tucky Air Guard's new base at Louisville International Airport.

Thunder also will include a seven-hour airshow highlighted by a performance by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

And finally, no birthday celebration would be complete without candles -- in this case, roman candles. The Thunder airshow will conclude with the largest fireworks show in North America.

"I am confident, with the massive display of Air Force aircraft and airpower, a performance by the Thunderbirds, and the best fireworks display and light show anywhere in the world, that Thunder will be all

See THUNDER, Page 4

NATIONAL BRIEFS

VEGAS HOSTS AIR GUARD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Air National Guard will be well-represented in Las Vegas at "Air Force Fifty," the celebration of the Air Force's 50th anniversary April 22-26.

The Air Force Association-sponsored event will include historic aircraft; reunion and affinity group activities; an airpower symposium; plus aerospace and industry exhibits. On April 25-26, two airshows and an open house will be held at Nellis AFB, Nev.

The primary Air Guard contribution to the celebration will be an exhibit at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Situated on 4,800-square-foot space next to the food court, it will feature a C-26 counterdrug aircraft, along with exhibits, literature, posters, prints and videos.

AAFES CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's new Spring/Summer Exchange Catalog is now available.

The catalog is good through July 31. Anyone with exchange privileges can use it.

To place orders by phone, call (214) 583-5000, FAX (214) 583-5001 or call toll-free 1 (800) 527-2345 in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

GUARD SUPPORTS SCIENCE

The New York Air Guard's 109th Airlift Wing and the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctica Program were officially linked at a recent Pentagon signing ceremony.

The DoD memorandum of agreement transferred air logistical support responsibilities for the region from the Navy to the 109th AW, based in Schenectady. To support the mission the 109th flies the LC-130 aircraft, equipped with skis.

GUARD ENVIRONMENTALISTS GARNER ARMY-WIDE HONORS

Two National Guardmembers and a Guard training area will receive national recognition this April for their environmental efforts after winning Department of the Army Environmental Awards.

Missouri's Donna Brandt placed second at the DA competition for her work in natural resource conservation. Arkansas' Lt. Col. William Holmes, based at Camp Robinson, finished third for his recycling efforts. Michigan's Camp Grayling, the Guard's largest training site, placed third in the Environmental Quality Award for a non-industrial installation category.

THUNDER

From Page 3

that we hope for and much, much more," promised Lt. Gen. Lloyd Newton, the Air Force's assistant vice chief of staff.

Newton noted that Thunder provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the Air Force's history because the Derby Festival draws a higher percentage of the region's population than any other civic event in America.

Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, Air Guard director, said he was pleased about the National Guard's lead role in the celebration.

"It's fitting," Shepperd said, "that we take part in a celebration like Thunder Over Louisville, with all the spectacle and the splendor of this, at the site of one of our premier Air National Guard units, on our most modern base."

The theme for Thunder this year is "A Red, White and Blue Thunder Fantasy," and officials don't want to disappoint. The static display, for example, will give visitors unprecedented access to 50 years of Air Force history; from World War II aircraft, Vietnam-era jets, an F-117 Stealth fighter and a C-17 Globemaster III.

"That means people are going to be able to see aircraft for the first time that they've never seen before, and very possibly may never see again," said Wayne Hettinger, Thunder producer.

Other activities will include performances by the Air Force Band of Flight and the Air Force Tops in Blue. Exhibits also will honor the golden anniversaries of the Kentucky Air Guard and Louisville International Airport.

For the finale, organizers have planned a fireworks show that makes the opening and closing ceremonies of the '96 Summer Olympics pale in comparison.

"We're up to 44 tons of fireworks that will ignite in 28-and-a-half minutes," Hettinger said.

The fireworks show is so big, it will take more than 10,000 custom-made shells -- enough to fill ten tractor-trailers.

Col. Edward Tonini, the Kentucky Air Guard's chief of staff, said the event offers the perfect way to honor the Force's legacy.

"All these activities will paint Louisville Air Force blue that weekend," he said. "No other event has the potential to more profoundly demonstrate the golden heritage and boundless future of the United States Air Force."

'Pelican' takes flight in Belize

Louisiana troops give New Horizons a boost

By Maj. Walter H. Debany
New Hampshire National Guard

The thousands of Guard troops converging on the tiny Central American Republic of Belize are doing more than just pound nails.

Nobody is more aware of this than Lt. Col. Clifford Oliver, Joint Task Force Pelican commander.

"The children of Belize are the future, and they will benefit from the schools we build," he said.

Oliver and members of the Louisiana National Guard, with help from other reserve and active component troops, came together recently to form the nucleus of a task force that will execute New Horizons 1997.

The National Guard Bureau, U.S. Army and Air Force Reserve, Air Force, Navy and Marines are playing a vital role in the largest humanitarian/civic action exercise in the hemisphere.

JTF-Pelican has been tasked to construct five schools, renovate another, and rebuild two major roads. Additionally, medical units will conduct three medical readiness exercises, providing health care for Belizean children and people living in remote jungle areas.

New Horizons '97 will see nearly 3,900 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines rotate through Belize during their two-week annual training cycles. The government of Belize Ministries of Education, Health and Works, and the Belizean Defense Force, also will assist with the mission, working side-by-side with U.S. troops.

Unlike a unit that already has a command structure in place, organic equipment to use and people to staff it, JTF Pelican was built from the ground up.



Photo courtesy JTF Pelican

"We have built a very strong and knowledgeable staff that is living up to the challenge," confirmed SFC John Dean, Pelican's personnel NCO.

Troops from across the U.S. arrived at Camp Beauregard, La., recently to assume a position as one of the 100 citizen-soldiers that will provide personnel, logistical and operational support for the duration of the project.

"Soldiers are energetic, enthusiastic and ready to do a job, and do it well," noted Sgt. Clay Morris. "I'm glad to be part of JTF-Pelican. It's good to be part of a high-speed team of professionals from all the services."

Coordinating and executing the massive exercise has presented challenges.

"Overseas deployments do require more planning, both for project completion and logistical planning," explained MSgt. Robert Bott, JTF Operations NCO. "Poor planning and marginal completion

HEADED SOUTH - Louisiana Army Guard's SSgt. Huey Posey (above) uses a forklift to shuttle supplies to support New Horizons in Belize.

of any of these phases results in poor logistical support and low morale."

According to Oliver, such exercises give Guardmembers a chance to go through the entire deployment process, perform their wartime skills for humanitarian purposes and gain vital training.

"The training benefit is that the deployed soldier returns to his or her unit better prepared," he said. "That makes our units better mobilization assets to the total force."

A chance to make a difference is also important, he said.

"Anything we do to upgrade the infrastructure in the area of education, not only helps Belize," Oliver noted, "but the children living there."

COOL LESSON

New Hampshire Army Guard's SSgt. Eric Morill (second from right) demonstrates knot tying during arctic survival training. Members of the Granite State's Company C, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry also used the drill weekend to train four Navy Sea Cadets.



Photo by Spc. Aaron W. Towle



PEOPLE

Family tradition

The Jensen men, five strong, are keeping success in the clan

By Capt. Kevin Gutknecht
Minnesota National Guard

Finishing a military school with distinction isn't unusual for the five Jensen brothers from Minnesota.

All are high-achieving Army Guard soldiers who started their careers with the Appleton, Minn.-based 175th Field Artillery, now called the 151st FA. Three of the five still drill in Appleton. Three also work full time for the Guard.

The latest entry in the Jensen's military photo album occurred when the two youngest brothers, Brent, 28, and Kevin, 26, graduated with honors from the four-week warrant officer school at Fort Rucker, Ala.

The last two sons of Appleton farmer Dwight Jensen were still kids when older brother Bruce joined the 175th. Bruce was attending North Dakota State University on an ROTC scholarship before ending up a Guard artil-

lery officer. Brad, the oldest of the Jensen men, was the next to join the 175th. A third brother, Bryan, followed. He is now the Division Support Command's full-time chemical officer in Bloomington.

It wasn't much of a surprise when Brent upheld what had become a family tradition in 1985, joining his brothers at the Appleton battery. Kevin, two years younger, followed suit in 1987.

"It helped that all of our brothers were already in the Guard," Brent said. "But mostly we joined for the educational benefits, which were really good at the time. We both wanted to go to college."

Between weekend drills, the younger Jensens finished college, with help from the Guard, then launched their civilian careers. Brent earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Mankato State University. He currently works at the Clinic of Neurology in Minneapolis supervising the therapeutic rehabilitation program for back and neck patients.

Kevin got his degree in social science education from the University of Minnesota in Morris.



Photo by SSgt. Judy Ojard

He now teaches high school history, geography and current affairs in Rush City.

Their recent ascension into the warrant officer ranks had its challenges, reported Brent.

"Academics were important, but so was the personal area of inspection," he said. "Everything we owned was inspectable. All our clothes had to be stenciled, socks and underwear tightly rolled. They even inspected our cans of shoe polish."

Special emphasis was placed on ensuring students would not overlook a single detail, he said.

"Our 'bible' for the course was the Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) guide, a technical manual that tells you everything you need to pass this course," Brent noted. "As warrant offi-

cers, we're supposed to approach things technically. We need to be able to read a manual and digest it."

Another focus of the course was time management.

With classes eight hours a day, inspections and studying, students were pushed to the limit.

"We always had more to do than we could possibly accomplish, so we learned to prioritize," Brent said. "But our instructors were the greatest, really professional."

Predictably, the Jensens didn't just pass the course. Brent was a "distinguished graduate," Kevin the "honor graduate."

Their accomplishments are typical of the family, said SFC Dennis Kohlman, the Appleton unit's readiness NCO.

ALL IN THE FAMILY - Warrant Officers Kevin (left) and Brent Jensen inspect a humvee.

"At one time, we had all five Jensens in the unit. They're all outstanding soldiers. They go to work and do the job because they want it done right," he said. "They don't go out looking for glory."

"Their father works here in town, and he's the same way," Kohlman added. "He never says he won't do something. He just goes ahead and does it."

The five Jensen brothers and two sisters, Shiela and Julie, who, according to Dad, "show no desire to join the military," learned time management at an early age. Each did farm chores on weekends, and helped milk their father's herd of 25 cows after school.

Their father, who served in the Army near the end of the Korean War, said he couldn't take credit for his sons' accomplishments.

"I didn't really encourage them to join the military, or discourage them," Dwight recalled. "They did it on their own."

"I think the Guard has been a good deal for them," he continued. "They've all gotten schooling of some kind ... They've made a pretty good showing for themselves."

Giving back

MSgt. Greg Ripps
Texas National Guard

The Air Force did something for TSgt. Gerald Smith and now he's doing something for the community.

A security policeman in the Texas Air Guard's 149th Fighter Wing, Smith manages two San Antonio public housing projects in civilian life.

Before taking over, the projects were known for crime. Under Smith, they have become safer places.

Growing up in South Central Los Angeles, Smith knows violence and gang activity firsthand.

It was a rough neighborhood," he acknowledged. "In my last year of high school, I worked in a store that was held up eight times. I had an abusive father, whom my mother eventually divorced, and relatives in jail."

"But," he added, "I had a good mother."

His mother provided him moral values. The military provided the discipline.

Four days before high school graduation, Smith de-

cided to enlist in the Air Force. He served for 11 years in law enforcement before getting out. It was then he received an offer from the National Center for Housing Management program. The program trains vets to use their military skills "as agents of change" in housing management.

"What sold me was that they would send me to school," Smith said. "I figured I had nothing to lose."

Choosing to fulfill his one-year commitment to work in public housing in San Antonio — partly because his wife's sister lived there — Smith started out as the assistant manager. Soon, he was managing Cassiano Homes, and later, the 969-unit San Juan Homes.

From the outset, Smith said he focused on fighting crime in the projects.

"The people there don't have much, but I want to help them protect what they do have," he said. "Although the public housing is supposed to be a place of transition, we encourage residents to take pride in their neighborhood



Photo by MSgt. Greg Ripps

ON THE JOB - Texas Air Guard's TSgt. Gerald Smith (left), a public housing manager as a civilian, overcame a tough start in life.

while they are there."

His efforts have included painting over graffiti, educating residents how to report incidents, setting up an anonymous suggestion box, working with local law enforcement to get drugs off the streets, coordinating youth activities and, above all, making himself accessible.

"I make myself known to the residents,"

Smith explained. "Although I don't live in the projects, they know they can call me with any emergency."

On occasion, Smith has put his law enforcement training to use by subduing troublemakers and holding them for police. He has also evicted several residents for violence or illegal drug use.

Currently the 149th Security Police Squadron's NCO-in-charge of law enforcement, Smith takes every opportunity to tell project dwellers about the National Guard.

"The military showed me the rest of the world could be nice," he explained. "It also helped me develop a positive, can-do attitude to overcome obstacles."

Taking Oregon's lead, a California unit trains at home before reporting overseas

Mobilization EVOLUTION

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Bill Carter is a California lawman, a San Francisco police sergeant and a military police officer who is taking part in an evolution -- not a revolution.

There is a fundamental difference. Revolutions can be sudden, noisy, sometimes violent affairs. Evolutions usually take place gradually, quietly, without generating a lot of attention.

Capt. Bill Carter, commander of the California Army Guard's 649th Military Police Company in San Luis Obispo, is part of an Army Guard evolution that is peacefully, but persistently, cutting across the country.

It is called home station mobilization.

It has to do with the way that hundreds of Army Guardsmen and women, including Carter's 125 troops, are being mobilized for peacekeeping duty in Europe.

It has to do with the fact that nearly half of the 1,064 citizen-soldiers being sent to Bosnia, Hungary and Germany to support Operation Joint Endeavor early this year are proceeding from their home units to Europe, without spending four or five days at an Army mobilization station at Fort Benning, Ga., or Fort Dix, N.J.

It means that states must ensure their mobilized Guard soldiers have all of their shots, are qualified with their weapons and have all of their records in order before they leave the country.

It means not having to repeat the process in Georgia or New Jersey they have already gone through back home.

It means trying to do business the way the Air National Guard has for much of its 50-year history by supporting the Air Force on a moment's notice.

Home station mobilization could be the wave of the future for many Army Guard units called up for global missions, said Col. John Slonina, the Army Guard's Chief of Readiness, based in Arlington, Va.

"Home station mobilization kind of fits the bill for smaller, other-than-war operations, such as Joint Endeavor," Slonina observed.

The evolution that began in Oregon last summer was well underway by then.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Forty-eight percent, 513 of the 1,064 Army Guardmembers mobilized to support the Stabilization Force -- the third rotation of the year-old Joint Endeavor operation -- were processed by fellow Guardmembers at their home armories before moving out for Europe.

The 13 units involved in this evolution varied in size from 125-member MP companies from California and Illinois, pegged for seven or eight months service in Germany, to five-member public affairs detachments from Washington and Connecticut that were bound for Hungary and Germany.

They also include 24 members of a Michigan firefighting detachment that will report to Hungary and 52 citizen-soldiers from an Oregon rear area operations center that will be on duty in Bosnia and Croatia.

"This is an opportunity for the state area commands to show what they can do," said Slonina, who added that Army Guard units need about 30 days notice to make the home station mobilization process work.

"We're being asked for fairly small, well-defined units to perform specific missions," he explained. "The pace of the mobilization, and the kind of units we're asking for, seems to facilitate what we've been doing."

That includes rewriting the Army Guard's mobilization policies. Until last July, every unit mobilized to help the Army anywhere in the world had to be cleared through the state and again through a mobilization station before it could go to wherever it was needed.

Oregon's 41st Personnel Services Company broke that mold. Their 48-person contingent got everything in order in Salem and flew directly to Germany to begin maintaining the records of thousands of other U.S. soldiers. Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, Oregon's adjutant general, championed the idea.

Those Guard soldiers were on the job in central Germany four days after leaving their West Coast home, reported Lt. Col. Malcolm Kirsop, Oregon's mobilization officer.

There is, however, a new twist for the

GOT IT COVERED - A troop with the Oregon Army Guard's 41st Personnel Services Company goes through an equipment check before mobilizing.

13 Army Guard units being sent directly to Europe from their home stations earlier this year. Those units must go through an assessment process, to make sure they pass the Army's muster, when they land in Germany, Kirsop explained.

If all goes well, that process should last no more than a day at Rhine Main AB in Frankfurt, Kirsop added. If all goes well, the U.S. Command in Europe can be certain the citizen-soldiers will fit into the active Army.

"This is an educational process that has finally got to the top layer, the commanders-in-chief," Kirsop said. "This is a critical stage for those of us who are home station mobilization believers."

The believers have been lining up for years.

"The idea of home station mobilizations has been around since the 80s," Slonina said. "A lot of states saw the Joint Endeavor mobilization as an opportunity."

It would not have worked for Operation Desert Storm in 1990-91, he maintained, because too many Army Guard units were needed in the Persian Gulf too quickly, and mobilizing directly from home stations had not been done before.

Experience has certainly helped this year's push.

Most of his military policemen and women were ready to deploy, said Carter from California,

because this is the third time members of that unit have been mobilized during this decade. The MP company was called up for Desert Storm and to help put down the 1992 riots in Los Angeles, he added.

"This company also has a bit of an advantage because 90 percent of the people going to Germany rotated to Panama last year," Carter explained. "Most of our mobilization packets are in pretty good order."

California Guard officials insist that all of their citizen-soldiers have all of their records and affairs in order, including security clearances and family care programs, before they go anywhere, said Lt. Col. Reginald Karcher, the state's mobilization officer.

"That prevents our soldiers from having to stand in line for additional hours at Fort Benning," he explained.

Mobilizing at home would not work for everyone, Slonina said.

"Our larger tactical units, such as the maneuver brigades, will need a lot more training time than they could get at home," he noted.



"This is an opportunity for state area commands to show what they can do."

Col. John Slonina

But many of the units that support the combat forces can be prepared for direct deployment if they have 30 days notice, Slonina projected.

Yes, there are rough edges.

Funding is a concern, Slonina pointed out, because many units do not have all of the equipment they would need to go from their home stations to their duty stations.

The Army Guard had to procure a million dollars worth of spare parts for a target acquisition battery made up of Indiana and Texas Guardmembers before it left Fort Sill, Okla., in November and reported to Bosnia, Slonina explained.

And every soldier must have access to extreme cold weather gear if they are to deploy directly, it was pointed out, even if they do not use that gear at home. That gear has been issued at mobilization stations in the past.

Furthermore, Slonina said, monitoring the states' quality control is important to ensure everyone is following the proper mobilization procedures.

"Home station mobilization does not mean we have reached par with the Air Guard," Slonina cautioned, "because the Air Guard and Air Force are resourced at a much higher level, continuously, so those units can be mobilized more quickly."

It does, however, mean that Army National Guard leaders are working toward that end because they believe mobilizing citizen-soldiers directly from their home stations is an evolution whose time has come.

Guam's Air Guard puts their civilian careers on hold to help evacuees

A Kurdish HAVEN

By SrA. Ken Ola
Guam National Guard

Amid the smiling faces and friendly banter of excited Kurdish children loitering around the kitchen of the makeshift dining facility, stood two men clad in their battle dress uniforms. Putting aside their utensils, the two played and laughed with the young boys that surrounded them.

The troops were among hundreds of military people involved in Operation Pacific Haven, an effort to assist in the evacuation of thousands of Kurdish men, women and children to Guam.

They also were part a contingent of more than 60 Guam Air Guardmembers working to support an humanitarian effort that began last September.

Several of Guam's citizen-airmen were assigned to perform services and civil engineering functions at Andersen South, a military housing area located five miles from a base that was converted to provide temporary housing for the evacuees.

More than 2,000 Kurdish evacuees arrived on the island in the first two weeks of the operation. That prompted the establishment of Joint Task Force Pacific Haven. Its mission is to provide humanitarian assistance and support the processing of Kurdish nationals on Guam, pending their disposition. Another group of more than 2,000 evacuees arrived in December.

According to Col. John M. Deloney, 36th Air Base Wing commander, it is not uncommon for the Air Guard to integrate into the 36th AB civil engineers and services support group as part of their training.

Soon after Pacific Haven began, more than 70 Guam Air Guardmembers began integrating into base operations as soon as they were freed from their civilian jobs.

"My men have been working 12-hour shifts to make repairs on housing that has not been used in two years," said Capt. Dan Biles of the 36th AB civil engineers. "The use of Guardmembers who are qualified plumbers, electricians and carpenters means we can get all the housing repairs completed sooner."

Some of the other Guam Guardmembers who were involved in the operation were heavy equipment operators. They distributed donated items and amenities, such as pillows and blankets.

Capt. Kimberly Toney of the 36th Air Base Services Support Group echoed those sentiments.

"Many Guardmembers are experienced in food service under field conditions. The increase in personnel will allow us to increase the availability of hot meals," she said.

Other Guam Air Guard troops were assigned supporting tasks.

"Not all Guard personnel work directly for the Pacific Haven operation," Toney said. "We had to use all our services people, so having qualified and experienced Guardmembers fill vacancies at the fitness center and base billeting has freed-up many people."

Fourteen members from Guam's 254th Services Flight were supporting the operation on annual training status, according to SMSgt. Greg Perez, the Guam Air Guard's disaster preparedness superintendent. The group was recalled from duty in the United States to help support Pacific Haven.

SrA. Reynaldo R. LaPuebla, a member of the 254th Services Flight, said he liked being involved.

"I feel great. I feel I have an obligation as a human being to help my fellow man," LaPuebla said.

The 12-hour shifts were physically demanding, ac-



Photo by SrA. Ken Ola

SERVING UP GOOD WILL - A1C Tommy Aflague (above, right), a cook with the Guam Air Guard's 254th Services Flight, serves food to one of nearly 4,300 Kurd evacuees in Guam.

cording to LaPuebla, but there were some rewarding moments.

"I enjoy meeting the Kurdish children. I enjoy learning a new culture," he added.

PFC Ritchie Tiotulco, also of the 254th Services Flight, was involved in preparing, cooking and serving food. He said it was his first time involved in a humanitarian effort.

"I feel good when I can help out people in need," Tiotulco said.

Col. Robert Cockey, Guam's acting adjutant general, was not surprised by the Guard's volunteerism.

"Guam just wants to be involved," he said. "I want to express my appreciation to all of the community leaders who employ Guardmembers. Their understanding and support made it all possible."

Currently, nearly 40 Guam Air Guardmembers are supporting Pacific Haven. Many are expected to remain for the duration of the operation. There are nearly 4,300 Kurdish evacuees still on Guam.



Photo by Spc. David Boe

HELPING ABROAD

Mississippi's SFC Van Byrd makes his point in Costa Rica

A lesson LEARNED

By Spc. David Boe
U.S. Army Reserve

It seems that wherever SFC Van Byrd goes he is helping people learn. Byrd, a native of Lumberton, Miss., is a platoon sergeant in the Mississippi Army Guard's 890th Engineer Battalion headquartered in Gulfport. When he's not sawing two-by-fours or pouring concrete for the Army Guard, Byrd teaches math at Poplarville High School. He has done so for more than 30 years.

He recently ventured to southeastern Costa Rica with fellow Magnolia State citizen-soldiers to perform an engineering, humanitarian and civic-action exercise.

The 890th are no strangers to Central America. The unit conducted its 1993 annual training in Honduras. This year the soldiers were slated to build and repair four schools in rural communities in the southeastern foothills of the Talamanca mountains.

"It makes you feel good to come down here to Costa Rica and do this for these children," said Byrd, who said he has always been interested in guiding young students to successful lives.

As a teacher, Byrd was interested in how other countries teach their children. While highly knowledgeable in geometry and algebra, he could not compre-

CLASS IS IN SESSION - SFC Van Byrd gives a math lesson to Costa Rican children.

hend much Spanish. It didn't stop him. What he discovered was that at the San Pedro school where the main construction took place, classes range from elementary to high school. More than 300 students were packed into two small buildings.

"Back home every student has textbooks," he said. "Here, I have not seen any textbooks like we have."

Because of this, said Byrd, the students at San Pedro take most instruction from what is spoken by the teacher or written on the chalkboard.

Byrd said the Costa Rican teachers and students were very open to showing him how their school functions.

He hopes to return the favor.

"If I have the opportunity," he said, "I want to go into one of the classrooms before I leave and let the students ask me about our schools in the United States."

Byrd helps people learn in the Mississippi Army Guard too. As a platoon sergeant with 34 years in the military, he is responsible for ensuring his troops are well-trained.

In the sweltering tropical heat and humidity of San Pedro, Byrd worked alongside much younger citizen-soldiers as a carpenter and mason. They helped build two schools in San Pedro and Fortuna, along with the school repair projects in Arenilla and Los Reyes.

It's an effort that didn't escape the attention of many Costa Ricans.

"Latin American countries need the assistance, and this is a wonderful example of cooperation to the rest of the world," said Maritza Ramirez-Granados, a San Pedro teacher.

Byrd said that while what he has done in Costa Rica is satisfying, it's still hard to be so far away from home. The separation, he calculated, was made easier by making new friends with some genuinely appreciative Central American neighbors.

"They accept you and they always have a smile for you," he said.

Military Police head south to 'hold down the fort'

Patrolling PANAMA

By Spc. Derrick Witherspoon
U.S. Army Reserve

As angry Panamanians threw rocks, screamed profanities and exhibited lewd behavior, PFC Roberta Hodge stood her ground.

An Illinois Army Guard military police specialist with the 333rd Military Police Company based in Freeport, she was working the gate on Martyr's Day when more than 100 locals angrily demonstrated within a stone's throw -- literally -- of her post.

Despite the near riot, she saw it as an opportunity to put her civil-disturbance training to the test.

"I wasn't scared during all that," she insisted. "I just knew I had to show them that I wasn't afraid and that I had a job to do."

"The only thing I found funny," she added, "was when a man dropped his pants in front of me."

Spc. Stan Sakalowski, 21, is another cop with the 133rd helping active-duty MPs hard-pressed to cover all of their assigned law enforcement duties as the ongoing drawdown continues to drastically shrink U.S. troop numbers.

As a result of the provisions spelled out in the Panama Canal Treaty, National Guard MPs are constantly rotating to Panama for their two-week annual training.

Ironically, many members of the 133rd who patrolled the streets of Panama, were former members of Illinois' 444th Chemical Company. Like others, Sakalowski changed his military occupational specialty when the 444th was redesignated last September as the 133rd.

"Everyone was given the option to leave and join another unit, but most of us stayed and decided to become MPs," Sakalowski noted. "I thought it would be good to do something different with my life. It also gives me an opportunity to learn something new."

Sakalowski, a full-time student at

the University of Illinois' Chicago campus, where he majors in biology, also sings in an award-winning barber shop chorus.

Aside from providing security at main gates on U.S. Army installations along the Panama Canal, 133rd MPs also served on "surveillance" teams for burglary and theft prevention, rode bicycle and vehicle patrols, and walked the beat.

Sgt. Teresa Onley, 22, took pride in performing one particular duty: night operations.

While on "night ops," as the mili-





Photos by Spc. Derrick Witherspoon



SENTRY POST - Illinois Army Guard's Spc. Stan Sakalowski (left) checks an ID card at the front gate in Corozal, Panama. PFC Roberta Hodge (above) was up to the challenge checking IDs at Quarry Heights or helping to quell a near riot on Panama's Martyr's Day.

A United Parcel Service manager in civilian life, Ames' Panama duties included checking the identification cards of people entering Fort Clayton. When it came to making sure no unauthorized vehicles or persons were allowed on the post, he was serious.

He recalled an earlier incident when a cab driver, not possessing the proper identification, attempted to enter the post. Although the driver was carrying two U.S. military staff aides, Ames refused to let them enter, citing security concerns.

"They would have to call someone to pick them up from the gate or walk through the gate," said Ames. "We can't just let them through."

All agreed that the training was valuable and necessary.

"This is a great learning experience all-around for me and my unit. From getting

the transportation to get down here, to actually doing our job down here," Sakalowski said. "Anyone who's coming to Panama should come with an open mind because there is a lot to be learned."

Although many people would think twice before enduring another near riot, Hodge said she would relish returning to tropical Panama.

"I love doing my job and I couldn't think of a better place to train," she added. "It was an honor to come to Panama and work with the soldiers here."

tary police call night patrols, she staked out various warehouses, making sure no one broke into them.

"I like to pull night ops. It gives me a chance to work with my teammates. I feel that I'm doing something important by trying to stop the trespassers that have been breaking into the warehouses here," Onley said.

For Spc. Thomas Ames, working the midnight shift pulling sentry duty had its appeal.

"There is not much going on at this hour, but it's exciting," he said.

Translating into good deeds

Kansas' 184th Bomb Wing deploys to Honduras to help ease that country's pain

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
U.S. Army Reserve

When TSgt. Beth Norris removed her blue surgical mask, there always seemed to be a bright smile underneath.

"I'd do this even if they didn't pay me," she said "because it's such a great experience."

Norris, a dental assistant with the Kansas Air Guard's 184th Bomb Wing, was one of 30-people from the Sunflower

mal way of life," she acknowledged. "The living conditions here are completely different from what I am used to."

Nearby, fellow Kansan TSgt. Angel Acosta stood in a doorway leading to a makeshift pharmacy.

Honduran villagers lined up outside. Some held sleeping babies, while others propped up elderly relatives. All were waiting in the stifling heat and humidity to receive much-needed pills, creams and ointments.

Acosta, a combat photographer assigned to the 184th's Communications Flight, ensured Hondurans understood prescription directions given by Air Guard pharmacists.

Putting aside his camera, Acosta translated English to Spanish for hundreds of Hondurans and fellow Guardmembers.

It is gratifying being bilingual, he said.

"I have only been as far as Mexico, so this is a real eye-opening experience," Acosta added. "We benefit from the great training, while doing a humanitarian mission."

When not in uniform with the Air National Guard, Acosta is a district manager with a safety products and equipment company in Wichita.

Acosta's interest in photography began when he was disappointed with a local portrait studio's picture of his children two years ago. Believing he could take better pictures himself, Acosta traded in his wrench as a jet engine mechanic and attended military photography training in Pensacola, Fla.

Asked if he would venture back to the rugged hills and sweltering heat of Honduras, Acosta quickly replied, "You bet."

"The people are very friendly, gracious and easy going," he added. "I'm glad I have a chance to use my Spanish."

For Norris, compassion seemed to be the language best understood by fretful Honduran children awaiting their turn in the dentist's chair. With 16 years of dental training, it seemed her gentle manner was as much comfort to Honduran children as was a shot of novocaine.

"Children are the same everywhere," she said, holding the hand of a wide-eyed little boy. "Trips to the dentist are always scary."



Photo by Spc. Bill Geddes

State that ventured to northwestern Honduras for their two weeks of annual training supporting a Medical Readiness Training Exercise.

The training gained by this humanitarian and civic-action exercise provided basic medical care to people in seven villages in the mountains of Honduras. It also provided Guardmembers with valuable medical training in austere conditions.

The exercise was part of a continued U.S. effort to support democracy by providing basic medical care and education to the people of rural Honduras.

Maj. Robert L. Hof, a dentist with the unit and a prosthodontics specialist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Topeka, admired Norris' effort.

"If she can work with stray dogs and chickens underfoot, she can work anywhere," he said.

When not in uniform, Norris says she stays busy raising three sons; ages one, six and eight.

"This is a real departure from my nor-



Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

HELPING HANDS - Kansas Air Guard's Maj. Robert Hof (top photo) examines a Honduran boy's teeth. TSgt. Angel Acosta, a member of the 184th Bomb Wing (above), translates medication instructions for a Honduran mother.



SPORTS

Minnesota captures biathlon title

Westover, Newhouse claim individual honors

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

You can teach a skier to shoot, but you can't teach a shooter to ski. That is the rule of thumb for people bent on trying the biathlon.

SSgt. Bill Labadie, the Oklahoma Army National Guard's marksmanship instructor, tested the truth of that saying during the first week of February at the National Guard Bureau's 23rd Annual Biathlon Championships.

"It's a lot harder than it looks, but it's kind of fun. I saw it on TV and thought I was ready. I wasn't," cracked Labadie, 38, after giving the men's 20-kilometer race his best shot at the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt.

"None of us had ever skied before we got here," said Labadie of the four team members from Oklahoma. "I almost died when I saw how narrow these skis are."

Labadie completed one of the five loops that made up that race and hit four of his five targets with his .22 caliber Anschütz rifle. Even though his feelings were the only part of him that wasn't hurting, Bill Labadie figured it had been a pretty good day.

Such is the nature of the national biathlon championships carried on by the National Guard after the Army dropped the event in 1972. It is an event for everyone who dares to try their hand at the European military sport that combines cross country skiing with rifle marksmanship.

That a record 32 states sent 146 athletes to this year's event indicates the interest is growing, maintained Vermont Army Guard Lt. Col. Alan Nye, the chief of competition who is following in his retired father's footsteps.

"The fact that these competitors have to expend energy and still put rounds on the target reflects our basic infantry mission," observed Nye.



BIATHLETIC BEST

TEAM STANDINGS

- 1st - Minnesota
- 2nd - Vermont
- 3rd - California

SENIOR WOMEN'S 15K

- 1st - Dina Newhouse, Utah
- 2nd - Sarah Lehto, Mich.
- 3rd - Jill Troutner, Vt.

SENIOR MEN'S 20K

- 1st - Chad Salmela, Minn.
- 2nd - Dan Westover, Vt.
- 3rd - Tuck Miller, Utah

WOMEN'S 7.5K

- 1st - Dina Newhouse, Utah
- 2nd - Jill Troutner, Vt.
- 3rd - Sarah Lehto, Mich.

MEN'S 10K

- 1st - Dan Westover, Vt.
- 2nd - Robert Rosser, Ore.
- 3rd - Andy Wilkins, Vt.

12-K MILITARY PATROL

- 1st - Minnesota
- 2nd - Vermont
- 3rd - California

4 x 7.5-K RELAY

- 1st - Vermont
- 2nd - Minnesota
- 3rd - California



"Biathlon forces you to make the transition from being a skier to a shooter in about three seconds," said Utah Air Guard Capt. Dina Newhouse, an eight-year biathlon veteran who won the senior women's individual championship by winning the 15-kilometer race Feb. 2 and the

7.5-kilometer sprint two days later.

The levels of ability ranged from biathletes who have belonged to the U.S. World Cup team and who have Olympic aspirations to novices such as Labadie and Maine's Capt. Brenda Jordan.

"I winged the whole thing today," admitted Jordan, a seasoned cross country skier. "I have to get into the routine of doing the right things when I get to the

firing point. I forgot to attach my rifle strap to my armband to stabilize the weapon when I was shooting prone."

Minnesota and Vermont, that feature National Guard facilities where biathletes can train every day, fielded the powerhouse teams. Minnesota edged the hosts to win the Chief, National Guard Bureau Trophy as the top team. California claimed third.

Arkansas, Oklahoma and Virginia were this year's newcomers. Two competitors also came from Georgia, which does not exactly fall in this country's snowbelt.

The top competition was close. Vermont Army Guard's Sgt. Dan Westover narrowly beat Minnesota's Spc. Chad Salmela for the senior men's title by winning the 10-kilometer sprint two days after finishing second in the 20-k race. Salmela comfortably won the 20-kilometer race, but he finished seventh in the sprint after missing four of 10 targets.

They are good friends who raced on the World Cup circuit last year. Both have set their sights on next winter's Olympics in Nagano, Japan. They also have the depth of experience for shaking off problems



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

FAST TRACK - Minnesota's Spc. Chad Salmela (top photo, left) takes aim on the firing line. Vermont's Sgt. Dan Westover (left) focuses at the starting gate. Capt. Dina Newhouse (above) skis to victory in the 15-K race.

that could have knocked less-seasoned athletes out of contention.

Salmela, who is studying international relations at the University of Minnesota, for example, won the 20k in 1 hour, 3 minutes, 59 seconds, after hitting 17 of 20 targets, while fighting jet lag from a flight from Korea where he had skied in the World University Games.

Westover, a former high school All-American cross country skier from nearby Colchester, Vt., was rebounding from bronchitis that had grounded him for two weeks just before the National Guard championships. He has been training full-time because he belongs to the World Class Athlete Program. It enables the Guard's premier athletes to focus on international competition.

"I'm real pleased with how I'm skiing now," said Westover, who is 22 and who has come a long way in his five seasons as a biathlete. "Consistent shooting is what biathlon is really all about."

WARM all OVER

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Forty members of the Vermont Army National Guard who are concerned about staying warm in cold places are helping Rosemary Lomba with a delicate issue this winter — underwear.

Instructors and other staff members at the Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vt., who climb and camp around the Green Mountains that are white with winter, are testing different kinds of brown and black long underwear for 10 weeks.

The intent is to help the Army figure out the best combinations to buy for soldiers who must operate where the cold can be an unrelenting and debilitating enemy.

That's why they call Rosemary Lomba the underwear lady. She is a clothing designer for the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center in Massachusetts. She

Vermont's mountain warfare instructors are testing underwear

gets out of her office as often as possible to ask people how well the experimental clothing is working.

"We're trying to improve underlayers for the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System,"

said Lomba while visiting with Vermont's Army Guard mountaineering instructors on 4,393-foot Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest mountain, during two frigid and snowy days in early February.

The goal, Lomba explained, is to find the right combination of long-sleeved shirts and drawers that, when worn with Gortex parkas and trousers, will keep soldiers and other military people warm in temperatures ranging from 40-above-zero to 60-below.

The other goal is to develop underclothing to replace a bulky and heavy item called a "bear

suit" that most mountain soldiers wear only as a last resort.

"I've had a bear suit for eight years. I've worn it once," said SFC Patrick Moriarty. "You can't take the bear suit to the field with you because you can't put anything else in your pack."

Designing cold-weather clothing is a tricky proposition.

"We're looking for something that provides equal or better warmth than the bear suit, that has less bulk and weight and that improves moisture transfer from the body," Lomba said.

In short, she wants to develop under layers that keep soldiers warm when they're on the move or standing guard, but that don't stay soaking wet from their sweat.

Therefore, the Vermont Guard instructors, along with soldiers at the Cold Regions Test Center in Alaska and Marines in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, this



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

winter are testing three configurations of black and brown under layers made from synthetic materials: Capilene treated Polyester, Polypropylene and Polyester fleece. A lot warmer and lighter, say troops, than the long woolies that soldiers once wore.

This is the first time that members of the Mountain Warfare School have taken part in an official test for new gear, said Maj. James Barr, the executive officer. The staff may participate in future tests, he indicated, because the unique school writes Army guidelines for cold weather and mountain warfare

UNDERWEAR LADY - Rosemary Lomba (above, left) discusses experimental under layers with Vermont Guard's Mountain Warfare School instructor SFC Neil Roberts.

operations.

The Guard instructors, who have been wearing heavier fiber pile under layers for several years, seem to like the newer, lighter experimental stuff.

"These systems are hot," said Moriarty. "You'd have to be standing perfectly still in Antarctica to be cold in this stuff."

Inside the BIATHLON

SERVING UP a competitive edge

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Pastry chef John Besette baked 63 dozen cookies — that's 756 cookies — for the athletes and coaches and others involved in this year's National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships at Jericho, Vt.

By the following morning, the cookies were nearly gone.

That was just one example of how much food the lean biathletes ate and how hard Vermont Army Guard SFC David Martelle's 20-member dining hall crew worked to feed them during the eight days of mid-winter competition in the Green Mountains.

Yes, the 146 competitors from 32 states and the 95 support people consumed mass quantities to give them the energy for skiing and shooting and for scoring and grooming the miles of trails where



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

temperatures in February can range from 30-above to 20-below.

"I don't give them the impression that there's a lot of food. I give them food," stressed Martelle, 47, who learned how hungry people can get in the cold when he underwent the Vermont Army Guard Mountain Warfare School's winter training about 15 years ago.

"You learned how to eat and how to keep warm real fast," he recalled.

The National Guard biathletes, however, have become picky about what they eat in the Cram Dining Hall that abounds with combat pistol and rifle plaques and biathlon trophies won by generations of Vermont's military athletes. Today's athletes expect their diet to be as free of fat as their bodies.

Forget about steak and whole milk, explained

SERVING SUCCESS - Vermont's SFC David Martelle (left) looks over the serving line sampled by the Guard's top biathletes.

Martelle. Too much fat. Chicken and salads and pasta and skim milk are what they go for. Dark breads and whole grain cereals are fine. So are bananas and apples. But eggs are not high in demand.

Martelle said he had a \$9,200 budget for feeding an average of 200 people their three squares a day. These were some of the items on his initial shopping list:

- Eighty pounds of pasta and five cases of spaghetti sauce.
- Seventy-eight gallons of skim-milk and 36 gallons of the 2-percent kind.
- Six hundred dollars worth of bread products.
- Ten cases of bananas and another 10 cases of oranges.
- A hundred pounds of a lettuce, red cabbage and carrot mixture for a salad bar that featured so many food options, it was a meal unto itself.

No one went away hungry, and no one complained about the chow.

Capt. Brenda Jordan, a member of the Maine team, knows something about Army cuisine because she graduated from West Point in 1987. She was ready to eat on the first Sunday afternoon in February after just finishing her first 15-kilometer (9.3 miles) biathlon.

"The food here," she insisted, "is really good."

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

The Michigan Army Guard's Camp Grayling training site recently received the Eagle Award, the National Guard Bureau's most prestigious environmental honor. It highlighted the presentation of the NGB 1996 Environmental Awards at the 1997 National Environmental Workshop in Portland, Ore. Camp Grayling, the nation's largest National Guard training area covering 147,860-acres, is renowned by many environmental observers for its abundance of natural resources. Guardmembers at Grayling provide training and support to 35,000 soldiers annually. NGB officials singled-out the installation and its caretakers for their focus in maintaining a high-level of operational readiness, while protecting its natural resources. Guard environmentalists from 15 states were among others honored for their conservation, compliance and pollution prevention efforts. The following received Meritorious Service Awards, unless otherwise noted:

- Donna Brandt, Ike Skelton Training Site, Mo.
- Dudley Smith, Camp Robinson, Ark.
- Bryan Hall and Capt. Charles Moore, Leesburg Training Site, S.C.
- SFC Curtis Lee, Maintenance Supply Branch, Okla.
- William Saunders, Camp Guernsey, Wyo.
- William Holmes, Camp Robinson, Ark.
- Nancy Haxton Davis, Camp Gruber, Okla., received a Heritage painting.

New England Army Guardmembers Capt. Ed Larkin and MSgt. Wendell M. Graham recently worked for the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee public affairs office from Jan. 7-21. Larkin and Graham were part of a 819-person, temporary joint task force whose mission was to coordinate, plan and provide support for President Bill Clinton's inauguration. Larkin is a public affairs officer with the Massachusetts Army Guard. Graham is with the Rhode Island Army Guard's 110th Public Affairs Detachment. Both work at Boston University in civilian life.

It wasn't a crime or an accident that brought the flashing lights and wailing sirens to the Florida Air Guard's 125th Fighter Wing Dec. 10. If what brought the police could be called a military exercise, then it was the yearly exercise of compassion known as Operation Christmas Stocking. The program was started 20 years ago by 125th Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry Elliot, who brought attention to the special needs of neglected, abandoned and abused children during the Christmas season. Over the past two decades more than 18,000 gifts have been donated.

Iowa Army Guard's Diane P. Stoker recently became the first woman in her state to be promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Four. Mrs. Stoker, a native of England, enlisted into the Iowa Army Guard in 1975 as a clerk-typist with the 1034th Quartermaster Supply Company. She was appointed the rank of Warrant Officer One in 1981. Today, she is the automated data processing technician for the United States Property and Fiscal Office.



Camp Grayling takes home the Eagle Award.



Inaugural workers Graham (left) and Larkin (right).



CWO4 Diane Stoker, an Iowa first.



Arizona do-gooder, SSgt. Jennifer Thomas.

When SSgt. James Andrews deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in 1995, little did he know he would return home as a hero. It was on Aug. 27, 1995, that Andrews risked his life searching a burning room at the United Nation's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Center. Fearing someone may be trapped by the smoke and flames, Andrews ran inside. When no one was discovered, he extinguished the fire, saving a large portion of the center from destruction. A member of the Arkansas Air Guard's 123rd Intelligence Squadron, Andrews was recently awarded the Airmen's Medal for his actions.

Words like pioneer and trailblazer could be used to describe Arkansas' Joyce Wilkerson. As the first woman to enlist in the Razorback State's National Guard in 1969, Wilkerson recently retired as a lieutenant colonel. "I thought the Guard was going to be like basic training. I never dreamed I would make it a career," she said. "The Arkansas Air National Guard has been the most stabilizing influence in my life. It has given me opportunities I would never have had."

Alaska Air Guard's AIC Leora L. Fulwider recently returned from her basic military training and technical training as a top performer. Fulwider received maximum scores on all evaluations as her flight received the "Top Honor Flight" award. She went on to technical training as her class' honor graduate, tying another student for top grade-point-average. Her performance also earned her a nomination for the Chief Miller Award (top 12 airmen of the year).

The 1996 Missouri National Guard Soldier of the Year is Spc. Bryan Greenwalt, Jr. of Company D, 735th Support Battalion, a light wheel vehicle repairman who has served with the Guard since 1993. The non-commissioned officer of the year for 1996 in the Missouri Army Guard is Sgt. Robert H. Maze Jr. of Company D, 1st Battalion, 135th Aviation. An AH-1 Cobra helicopter technical inspector, Maze has served with the Show-Me State Guard since 1992. Before joining the Guard, Missouri's top NCO was an observation helicopter repairman with the 1st Cavalry Division, where he served in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm.

It's been a busy and noble year for members of Arizona's 161st Air Refueling Wing. The airmen and women in the Phoenix-based unit generated nearly \$7,000 for needy families, helped 150 children, supported a crisis nursery and are now assisting the construction of a community center in Phoenix. The wing is also helping a center for battered women and unit members down on their luck. The 161st's SSgt. Jennifer Thomas has been appointed to spearhead the unit's humanitarian efforts. "If everyone gave just a little, we could help many needy children in and around Phoenix," she said. "When you see these smiling kids, it's worth it." Many of the unit's commanders encourage 161st airmen and women to be involved in the community.

Washington's Engagement Skills Trainer puts simulation on the map

By SFC William Kuhn
Washington National Guard

Bouncing and changing gears, the five-ton truck slowly entered the clearing and drove into a hail of bullets.

Enemy troops charging from this truck were not real. They were merely a video image. The ambush is only one of many different combat scenarios available on the Guard's newest piece of high-tech equipment.

The Army Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) is state-of-the-art simulator technology designed to bolster soldier skills ranging from individual/crew weapons marksmanship through reinforced squad-level collective training.

The EST uses weapons modified with eye-safe laser emitters that mechanically function the same as a soldier's weapon. They will not accept live ammo, but have the feel and function of the real McCoy, including trigger pull, weight and simulated recoil. Best of all, say those who have fired it, there are ~~no~~ endless hours of range set up, teardown and weapons cleaning. Rain or shine, troops can focus on shooting skills in comfort.

Capable of handling up to 12 weapons simultaneously, the EST can be set up in a variety of ways using simulator weapons. Eight rifles, two grenade launchers, two squad automatic weapons and two pistols have been purchased by the Washington Army National Guard. There's the option of adding other types later.

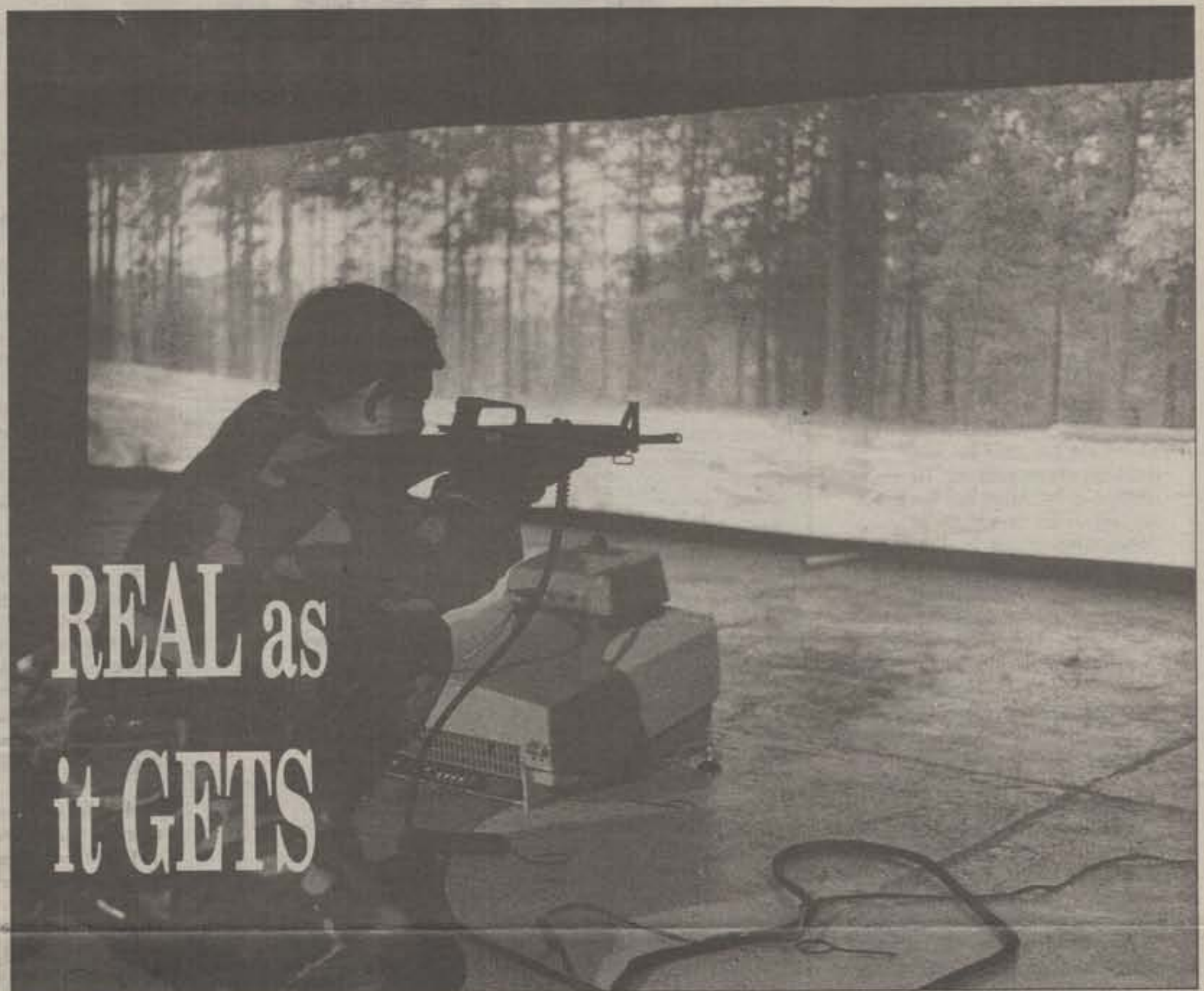
Ballistic performance of the simulator weapons used to engage targets on the screen, and live-fire weapons are identical. This includes shot dispersion and muzzle velocity.

Soldiers have 12 separate lanes to practice their marksmanship skills. Individuals can work on shot groups, battlesight zeroing and a record fire course, then after a short break to switch software, they can work on collective tasks.

Before a squad begins a collective marksmanship scenario, they are presented a simple operations order. Seventeen different patrols, ambushes or defensive situations are available on laser disk. In each case, soldiers engage targets on any portion of the 40-foot-wide screen.

At the command of lock and load, soldiers begin scanning the screen for targets. They're forced to sort out friend from foe engaging targets. The firing line, say Washington troops, feels like a video game.

To make things more challenging, the



Photos by SFC William Kuhn



REAL DEAL - A troop (top photo) takes aim. Students get instruction (left), and put their skills to work (above) at a computer.

EST is interactive. Yes, it shoots back. The EST can be set to trigger MILES gear and produce a predetermined percentage of casualties. Existing scenarios can also be conducted under limited visibility conditions using night vision devices. Scenarios can be replayed in daylight so soldiers can evaluate and improve night-fighting skills.

At the completion of each engagement the scene can be replayed. During the replay, each bullet strike is shown, while the weapon that fired it, is identified. A score is displayed showing the number of

rounds fired by each shooter and the number of hits, making after-action reviews more personal and accurate.

Shouts of: "I got that guy," and, "Man, I should have led him more," seem to confirm the value of simulator training.

This new marksmanship training system is owned by the Washington Army National Guard but, in exchange for space in a large warehouse on Fort Lewis, active duty units use the EST on weekdays. The Guard uses it on weekends and evenings after 6 p.m.

According to Washington's SFC John

Hubbard, operations sergeant for the Western Leadership Training Brigade Officer Candidate School, marksmanship skills are perishable.

"There is no real substitute for live-fire exercises, but this system can help optimize limited training opportunities," he noted.

As a primary instructor, Hubbard was busy learning the ins and outs of a new training system that resembled a room-sized arcade game.

"Anybody who ever wore crossed rifles will love this," Hubbard said.



STATES

- ChalleNGe Grad
- Public Training
- Flood of Support

GEORGIA

The Peach State's Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduated its seventh class in January, and among its number was the 1,000th ChalleNGe graduate of the four-year-old National Guard-sponsored program.

Brian P. Hehnert, 18, of Reidsville, Ga., was the Academy's 1,000th graduate. He has enlisted in the Army and is awaiting active duty orders.

One hundred and seventy students, the second largest ChalleNGe class in Georgia history, received their GEDs at a graduation ceremony attended by more than 1,500 people.

Georgia's Youth ChalleNGe Academy, located at Fort Stewart, Ga., has graduated a total of 1,051 students since 1993.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Framers, sheet rockers, tapers, electricians and painters with the Granite State's counterdrug program recently helped remodel the Weare Police Station.

"My partners and I are extremely pleased with the results," beamed Edward Tuthill, Weare's Chief of Police.

Established in 1990, the state's counterdrug program has provided "front line" support to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. They also have helped local schools, churches, hospitals, parents, teachers and students.

In GOOD HANDS

Kentucky's 2nd Lt. Jeff Clark, a nurse, gives Ecuador's Mella Delez a hug and a lollipop after she received a vaccination. The Bluegrass State Army Guard member was in the South American country with his unit providing medical care for those living in rural areas.

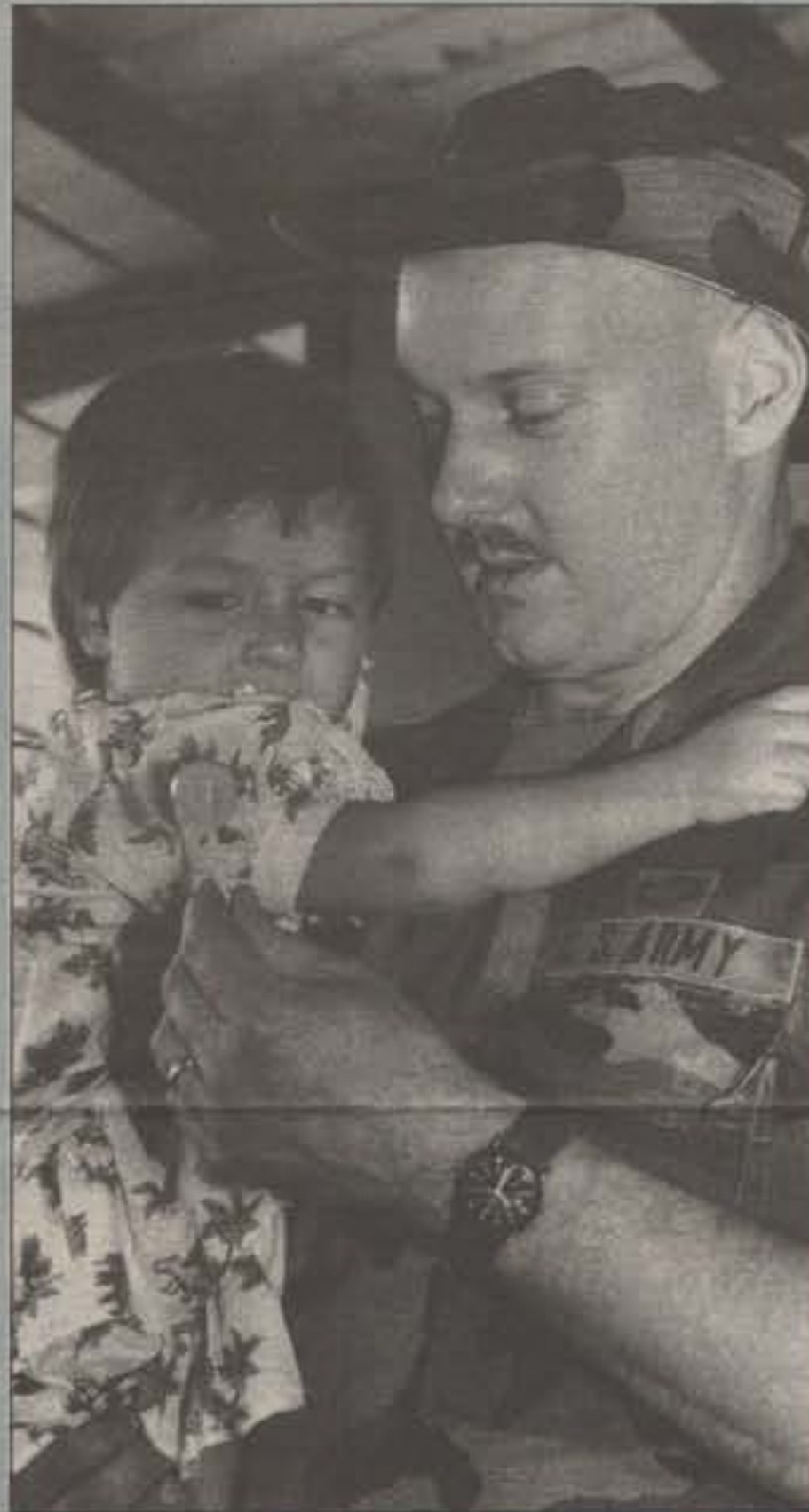


Photo by Sgt. Timothy Fischer

WYOMING

The Cowboy State's Air Guard continued its tradition of community involvement recently by adopting West Elementary school in Burns.

"We have several members who reside in Burns. I thought it would be appropriate to adopt a rural school," Col. Bob Rodekohr said.

West Elementary joins Bain Elementary (in Cheyenne) and the Starbase Academy as schools sponsored by the Wyoming Air Guard.

Responding to the school's need for space, Air Guard civil engineers went to work, building an 8-by-13-foot storage unit for the band room. They also constructed a 7-foot-long cubby hole for third graders who had previously simply tossed their belongings to the floor.

NEW JERSEY

Soldiers with Company B, 250th Signal Battalion set up and demonstrated a MSE communications network at five locations throughout the Garden State as a demonstration project for the public.

"By inviting the public to a training exercise such as this we can demonstrate the capabilities that they may need in the event of a crisis or disaster," said Capt. Scott Niemiec, Company B commander.

HAWAII

By Spc. Jonathan M. Shiroma
Hawaii National Guard

After two weeks of unrelenting rains that caused floods and millions of dollars in damage, Hawaii Gov. Benjamin Cayetano called in the Aloha State's National Guard.

Operation Kokua was set up to help affected residents in the flooded areas. Their mission was to clear debris and remove hazardous material left in the wake of the most destructive flood since 1987.

A volunteer force of Air and Army Guard soldiers and airmen, spent the next two weekends helping their state back to its feet.

"I felt bad for these people," said PFC Alan Pascua. "That's why I volunteered to help. It gives us a chance to do something for the community." Pascua is with the 298th Engineer Detachment and

works in construction as a civilian.

Volunteerism had its challenges. The state health department had issued several health advisories, including one that warned of the dangers of stagnant water that could breed diseases such as hepatitis and leptospirosis.

"I have instructed my men to wear safety gear to prevent them from getting into direct contact with these viral threats," said SSgt. Dennis Vigue, a 227th Engineer Company platoon sergeant. "Rubber gloves and protective masks were issued to all personnel to ensure safety."

Oahu residents were grateful for the sacrifice.

"We definitely needed the help," said Quinn Robinson. "The water was gushing so bad, it overflowed and came into my yard. It brought everything from everywhere. We tried to clean as much as we could, it was just too much for us."



Photo by MSgt. Solomon Ford

CLEAN UP - Hawaii Guardmembers
(above) pitch in to remove debris on Oahu.



HISTORY



Celebrating the Air Force's
50TH ANNIVERSARY

In his passing, retired Bureau Chief Maj. Gen. Winston Wilson, has left behind a military force to admire

Architect of the Air Guard

In the waning hours of 1996, Maj. Gen. Winston P. "Wimpy" Wilson died in Memphis, Tenn., near his Forrest City, Ark., home. He had done more than any other individual to build the modern Air National Guard.

During his career at the National Guard Bureau from 1950 to 1971, he revolutionized the Air Guard and significantly influenced the Defense Department's view of the role of the reserve components.

When he came to the Bureau, Wilson found a fighter force equipped with obsolete weapons and units that required months of post-mobilization training before they were ready for combat. When he retired, he left a modern, well-equipped force balanced between fighter, airlift, tanker, special operations and ground support units.

That force was integrated into the day-to-day operations of the Air Force. It contained units capable of global deployment for combat within a few days of mobilization.

Born Nov. 11, 1911, in Arkadelphia, Ark., Wilson enlisted into the 154th Observation Squadron as a mechanic when he was 18.

Wimpy, as friends called him, was commissioned and rated as a junior aircraft observer in July 1940. Like other Guard aviation units, the 154th lost its cohesion and distinctive state character when it was mobilized during World War II. It was stripped of many experienced personnel. The Army Air Forces (AAF) needed those Guardsmen to help build a greatly expanded wartime force. Wilson was no exception. He served in a variety of AAF assignments in the continental United States and the Pacific during the war.

After leaving active duty in 1946, Wilson returned home and concentrated on building an effective Air Guard organization in Arkansas. His wartime experience convinced him that Guard air units should never again be carved up to provide individual fillers for the active force if they wanted to survive and retain their unique state identity.

The late 1940s were frustrating for Wilson. The Air Guard was little more than a rag-tag collection of state air forces. Wimpy realized that the ANG's future in the atomic era was dim unless it obtained real missions, was equipped with modern weapons and trained to the same standards as the active force. He believed that the Air

Guard had to demonstrate that it could meet its mission responsibilities at a fraction of the cost of active force units and be prepared for combat the moment it was mobilized. Wilson and his friend, Brig. Gen. Earl Ricks, who headed the Arkansas ANG, shared those reformist ideas.

Following the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950, Wilson was mobilized and accompanied Ricks to Washington, D.C., where the latter became chief of the NGB's Air Force Division.

The war had revealed the terrible shortcomings of the reserve components of the U.S. armed forces, including the Air Guard. Ricks had been called in by the senior Air Force leadership to clean up the mess. Wilson advised him on policy decisions and molded the Air Guard from behind the scenes. He took over the ANG in 1953 when Ricks became ill with cancer.

Under Wilson's leadership, the Air Guard acquired definite wartime missions for the first time. It also patterned its training using the same rigorous standards as the active force. Air Guard officers, serving on extended tours of active duty, were widely integrated into Air Force planning and budgeting activities.

Borrowing from the Texas National Guard, Wimpy concentrated all four required monthly ANG drills on a single weekend each month. Nine permanent field training sites were established, allowing Air Guard fighter units places to practice gunnery and bombing procedures.

After the Korean War, Wilson also obtained modern jet fighters for Air Guard units, and money to lengthen runways at municipal airports to accommodate high performance aircraft. The Guard increased its complement of full-time technicians and acquired additional flying training periods to maintain the skills of its aviators.

Most significantly, Wilson worked to combine training with day-to-day support of real world missions. Borrowing an idea from Maj. Gen. George Finch, who headed the ANG from October 1948 to September 1950, Wilson convinced a skeptical Air Force to conduct an experiment where two Guard fighter units augmented the Air Defense Command's runway alert force from sunrise to sunset with volunteers serving on active duty.

The experiment, launched on March 1, 1953, was very successful. Gradually, the Air Guard took over the entire responsibility for providing manned interceptors to defend the nation's air space. The runway alert program helped pave the way for the total force policy in the 1970s by demonstrating that properly trained and equipped reserve units could be rapidly integrated into the operational missions of the active force in peace and war.

Wilson also convinced a reluctant Air Force to include



GUARD HISTORY

By Dr. Joe Gross
AIR GUARD HISTORIAN

the Air Guard in the airlift mission. The Air Guard began exchanging some fighters for special operations airlifters in 1955 and aeromedical airlifters the following year. By 1960, Wilson had succeeded in obtaining C-97s slated for the boneyard. They were the Guard's first strategic airlifters. In 1961, he obtained KC-97s, the ANG's first tankers. By 1970, Wilson obtained the Air Guard's first C-130s, pioneering its involvement in tactical airlift.

Applying the same concepts that had proven successful in air defense, the General worked to integrate the Guard's air mobility assets in the Air Force's daily operations. As a byproduct of training, ANG volunteers and personnel on annual training status flew airlift and tanker missions on a daily basis.

Wilson's innovations paid off.

In October 1961, Air Guard fighter and airlift units were mobilized during the Berlin crisis. After a short period of training, 216 Air Guard fighters and reconnaissance aircraft were sent to western Europe in "Operation Stair Step" to strengthen NATO against the Soviets. The Guard's C-97 units flew global airlift missions.

In addition to support of the active force in connection with routine training, ANG airlifters also flew as volunteers during the Cuban missile crisis and the Dominican Republic intervention.

In January 1966, Air Guard airlifters began flying regularly scheduled missions to Vietnam as volunteers. That program lasted until 1972. As a result of the Pueblo crisis and the Tet offensive in 1968, ANG fighter units were mobilized and dispatched to South Vietnam where they performed superbly.

In the tanker arena, General Wilson established the first major sustained overseas volunteer peacetime rotation to support the active force. Driven by the requirements of its nuclear alert force and the Vietnam War, the Air Force needed help supporting its fighter operations in Europe. "Operation Creek Party," which lasted from 1967 to 1977, provided six to eight Air Guard KC-97s in Germany on a continuous basis to help meet that requirement.

Wilson and the Air Guard were influential in the formulation of the Defense Department's total force policy in the 1970s. He had close ties to Dr. Theodore C. Marris, a senior DoD official who authored the initial concept and sold it to Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird. Marris, a former Air Guard member, drew heavily on ANG programs and policies, and conversations with Wilson, when developing his proposals. The total force was seen as a way to strengthen the reserve components in order to shrink the active force and reduce total military spending while the U.S. withdrew from Vietnam and prepared to end the draft.

Wilson's energy, leadership style and longevity were critical to his success. He had never been a combat leader. Instead, he made his mark as a manager, skilled political infighter and publicist.

When Wilson retired Aug. 30, 1971, he was honored with an unusually elaborate ceremony. Some 2,000 invited guests, headed by Secretary of Defense Laird, flocked to Andrews AFB, Md., to honor him. After the ceremony, the Air Guard conducted a flyover.

Wilson's vision and leadership were crucial in making the Air Guard an integral part of the total Air Force. Through persistence, charm and tireless effort, he made the ANG an indispensable element of the nation's military establishment and helped inspire the total force policy.

He deserves to be remembered as the architect of the modern Air Guard.



Courtesy U.S. Air Force

MAKING IT OFFICIAL. Maj. Gen. Winston Peabody Wilson (above, left) is sworn in as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Sept. 4, 1963.



TRAINING



By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

You have to work unusually hard to impress Robert Gordon. He is a man of few words. But if you do what he tells you to do, you will learn to do some extraordinary things in some very dangerous places.

Only then, may SFC Robert Gordon show you some respect.

In the Vermont Army Guard, Gordon is an international mountain climber and an instructor in that state's Mountain Warfare School. For 13 years he has been training soldiers how to survive and operate during the winter and summer, in good and terrible weather, on mountain slopes most goats would avoid.

The campus for this Army-accredited school of higher learning is located in rural Jericho, Vt., among a cluster of modern, gray cement-block buildings at the Ethan Allen Firing Range. That campus is also home for the Army Guard's Vermont-based mountain infantry battalion.

Gordon's classroom of choice, however, is called the Jeffersonville Slide at Smugglers Notch. It's a long, narrow sheet of ice a couple of thousand feet above sea level that the winter has riveted to the side of 4,393-foot Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. The pitch is almost straight down.

That is where SFC Gordon confidently digs his steel crampons into the ice. There, he patiently, but persistently, tells active duty and Guard soldiers how to run ropes across the slide so that others can follow.

"I love it up here," Gordon said as he gazed over a vista of northern New England's mountains covered in snow.

"Fixed rope" was just one of the lessons that Gordon and the 20 other instructors had in store for their 44 students enrolled in one of the school's 14-day winter courses. "Ice climbing" and "crevasse rescue" were also on the curriculum. So was skiing with backpacks weighing up to 65 pounds.

The school also runs a half-dozen two-week summer courses.

Soldiers who complete both courses are designated as military mountaineers. The Mountain Warfare School in Vermont is the only place in the U.S. Army

HIGHER

Operated by the Vermont Army Guard, the Mountain Warfare School is getting high marks

LEARNING

Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

where they can earn that distinction.

Consider the schools that are available for active Army and reserve infantrymen. The airborne, special forces and ranger schools are run by the Army. Mountain warfare belongs to the Army Guard.

The Vermont school was established in 1983, nearly four decades after the Army had stopped training troops in the specialized art of surviving and fighting in cold, mountainous terrain.

Now, a lot of people with some impressive military pedigrees want a piece of the action offered in the Green Mountains.

"We already knew about this place. It is well known to us what a squared-away school this is," said SSgt. Sheldon Monroe, an Army ranger instructor at Georgia's Smoky Mountains.

Five rangers were among the 44-member class. The class also included 10 Army and National Guard special forces soldiers, 19 members of the 10th Mountain Division and two airmen.

The high number of Guard members is not unusual, officials explained, because the Army is stressing mountain opera-

tions, for places such as Bosnia, where the peace-keeping mission has stretched into its second year.

"Forty percent of the world is mountainous, so at some time we will be operating in a mountainous environment," predicted Lt. Col. J. Michael Gately, the school's commander for over three years.

"We provide soldiers with the skills necessary to turn a potentially hostile environment into an ally," he added.

"We teach mobility skills and survivability skills so soldiers can take care of themselves and concentrate on the enemy."

Ten of the instructors spent a week in Germany two Decembers ago passing on their know-how to nearly 1,700 1st Armored Division troops bound for Bosnia. Few question this staff's credentials.

• SSgt. Bill Pelkey, a part-time instruc-

GOING UP - Rhode Island's Capt. Richard Stewart (left) picks his way up Mount Mansfield. A student (far left photo) practices crevasse rescue training.

tor, holds the U.S. record for the highest ascent during the winter on Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak.

• SFC Gordon has climbed in the Alps and experienced the terror of an avalanche while skiing in Austria.

• SGM David Gouchoe is a veteran of the special forces and the Vietnam War.

"We don't have anyone here who wants to be someplace else, and that's not lost on the students," Gouchoe said.

Students also are aware of the courses' decidedly different nature. There is no harassment. The stress is on safety, not on pushing students to their emotional limits.

"Their patience level is way above ours," Monroe observed. "If students do not understand something, these guys stay with them until they do. The rangers keep the stress level real high."

There is much to learn. Such as tying a multitude of knots -- from the square knot to the three-loop bowline -- so students can properly connect themselves to trees, rocks and each other.

"If you can't tie the knots, you can't do 75 percent of the things we do," Gouchoe said.

Cold weather injuries, altimeter navigation, and avalanche hazards and rescue techniques are among the 28 tasks students must master to pass the course.

SSgt. Charles Haley, one of the ranger instructors, said the focus is significantly different from the Marines' mountain warfare school in the Sierra Nevada that he completed 10 years ago.

"That was more tactically oriented," he recalled. "This is more technical."

Yes, some of the students did wonder if the Guard-run school would be less demanding than others they had attended.

"It's more challenging than any of us thought it would be," Maryland Army Guard's Spc. Walter Eggers noted with a sense of satisfaction.

"I thought I had a basic understanding of mountaineering skills," he added, "but I found out I had a lot to learn."



TAKING IT IN - Vermont's SFC Stephen Lunna, an instructor, (above) enjoys the view.