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STATE CSM

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HISTORIC WOMEN

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IN THE  
ZONE

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# THE ON GUARD

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April 1997



## Guard delivers calm after 'Southern Storm'

Several Guard states hit hard by flooding

By SSgt. David W. Altom  
Kentucky National Guard

Trapped in waist-deep freezing water, Ken Lear had nearly given up hope ... then he saw the light.

"I saw that big truck coming down the street with water splashing up to its headlights," Lear recalled. "I thought, 'Hallelujah! We're saved.'"

"They were a super sight for sore eyes."

Such was the case for many Americans catching their first glimpse of National Guardmembers responding to their Governor's call-up to support Operation Southern Storms in March.

Citizen-airmen/women and soldiers in Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia were activated to help dampen "Storm's" raging fury.

For Lear, he and nine other BellSouth co-workers in Cythiana, Ky., were trapped while trying to save a multi-million dollar telephone switching system. He credited the Bluegrass State's Guard with saving their lives.

"We were in pretty bad shape," he confided. "Three of my people were nearly in shock, and those Guard soldiers didn't

hesitate in getting us out of there and to the aid station."

In Kentucky alone, more than 1,600 Army and Air Guardmembers responded to similar crises when unusually heavy rains prompted severe flooding across the commonwealth.

With the dubious honor of being the state's third worst storm of the 20th century, the flood had claimed 19 lives, and either damaged or destroyed more than 9,000 homes. Officials estimated that at

least 12,000 Kentuckians were rendered permanently homeless, adding that they expected that number to rise.

Volunteers from virtually every Kentucky Guard unit were immediately mobilized when the rains came. This included the 123rd Airlift Wing, based in Louisville, which had its largest call-up in its 50-year history.

With lives at stake and their own homes threatened by rapidly rising flood waters, some troops -- unable to reach their armory -- reported directly to the scene.

"I lost count after we pulled the first hundred or so people off their rooftops," said Kentucky's Spc. Mark Hart. He, along with his brother, Spc. Marty Hart, worked frantically through the first 24 hours of the flood to save trapped friends and neighbors.



Photos by Spc. John Kibler

**A PICK-ME-UP - Despite damage to their homes, some Kentuckians (above) were happy to get a lift from Guardmembers. A Kentucky Blackhawk (left) airlifts a water pump used for a flooded levy.**

See FLOODS, Pages 10-11



# COMMENTARY

## COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of March 20, the National Guard has assisted in 21,000 arrests and seized nearly 77,000 pounds of marijuana and 28,000 pounds of cocaine while conducting 3,300 counterdrug missions since Oct. 1, 1996.

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## GUARD MAIL

### Parting Thoughts

*I retired from military service last September and miss reading *The On Guard* each month.*

With all the downsizing, I was wondering if it would be possible to do a feature history story on the mission of one of the units that no longer exists? For example, in Georgia, the 118th Field Artillery Brigade was downsized to a battalion, and the 165th Supply Company and its colors were turned over to an Army Reserve unit.

I'm sure I speak for others, when I say, that the Guard is a good way to continue your military service after leaving full-time service. It's a way to be both a soldier and a civilian, to meet new people and serve in different places. I served from 1973 to 1996 and would not trade my memories for anything.

In closing, I would like to thank Spc. Willie Nails and PFC Daniel Adkins, both members of the 165th, for having a big hand in saving my life during the Persian Gulf War.

Sgt. (ret.) Michael Conaway  
Uvalda, Ga.

### Outstanding Oversight

*In the January issue, on page 12, under the following Air Guard units were recently selected to receive the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Texas Air Guard's 147th Fighter Wing and MS were listed. The correct units*

that received this award were the 147th Communications Flight and the 147th Medical Squadron.

1st Lt Lisa Togneri  
Texas National Guard

### 'I Am the American Flag'

*I have been around for centuries. I stand as tall now as I have from the very beginning. From above the crowds, I have waved with pride and dignity for you and your forefathers. Across the nation, I have gained respect, admiration and loyalty for the things in which I stand. You have pledged your allegiance to me and saluted my existence.*

*Yet, why do you abuse me?*

*You have torn me to shreds, watched me turn to ashes as you threw me into fire. If your closest friends no longer believed in what you stood for, would you do these things to them?*

*Have you forgotten my meaning? Have the things I stand for escaped you? I have given you three colors to forever hold in your heart: red, white and blue.*

*The red is for hardiness and courage. This courage allows you the freedom to fight and stand for what you believe in. Should we not help others achieve that same freedom?*

*The white is for purity and innocence. The blue is for vigilance, perseverance and justice. Justice, not for one, but all.*

*Together these colors are a symbol of truth, liberty and justice. They represent the freedom the forefathers of our great country fought so very hard to achieve.*

*You hurt me with your abuse. You disappoint me with your public displays of anger and resentment. You are but few, and you know who you are.*

*You will never bring me down. I will continue to stand tall and to wave proudly for those who still believe in truth, liberty and justice ... for I am the American Flag.*

TSgt. Janet Clark  
National Guard Bureau

### You Know You're a Soldier If ...

- You have more money invested in TA-50 than your car.
- No one understands the stories you tell because of all the acronyms.
- You can explain the Gettysburg battlefield better than directions to your home.
- Your kids know the words to "she wore a yellow ribbon."
- The phone book lists your rank instead of Mr. or Mrs.
- You ruin the movie for everyone around you by pointing out the unrealistic military scenes.
- All your jokes begin with "there was this soldier, a Marine and an airman..."
- The only time you and the wife go out to eat is at the unit "dining out."

### 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



"I think I have a solution to both your hearing problem and your miserable score."



# IN THE NEWS

- CSM Mitchell
- Rear Battle
- Earth Day

## Woman assumes D.C.'s top enlisted post

*Sheila Mitchell named District's Command Sergeant Major*

By Maj. William Wiggins  
District of Columbia National Guard

Sheila Mitchell was standing in an unemployment line some 20 years ago when she read an advertisement promising "career development" in the District of Columbia National Guard.

Today, CSM Mitchell is the D.C. National Guard's state command sergeant major, only the second woman in National Guard history to ascend to the post.

She is now responsible for the well being of nearly 1,500 enlisted soldiers. As such, she will serve as the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding general.

It was just six months ago that Mitchell, 47, be-

came the first woman in the District Army Guard to reach the rank of command sergeant major.

Her most recent historical ascension, she said, was a little overwhelming.

"As a command sergeant major, you quickly reflect on the awesome responsibility you have to so many people," she said.

Maj. Gen. Warren Freeman, D.C.'s commanding general, said there were several qualified candidates.

"Making the right choice was important," Freeman noted. "The Command Sergeant Major has to have the respect and confidence of the senior and junior soldiers."

"She (CSM Mitchell) has a lot to offer our force," he added. "Now, and in the years to come."

The District's top enlisted soldier freely admits to having few prospects as a civilian two decades ago.

"At age 28, I had no real career path and I didn't really know what it was I wanted to do. I just knew that I needed to get away."

That meant becoming the first qualified nuclear, bio-

logical and chemical specialist in the D.C. Guard. At the time, she recalled, it was an important skill to possess.

"Since I was experienced," the CSM said, "I had the opportunity to work at the National Guard Bureau and with several local states to help them develop their nuclear, biological and chemical programs."

Mitchell, a Desert Storm veteran, said one of her mentors is CSM (ret.) Jerome Brigham, the former D.C. 260th Military Police Command's top enlisted man.

"His ideas on military operations interested me," she said. "He stressed planning, planning, planning. I told myself that one day I would have that job (command sergeant major). To this day, planning for operations and executing them, excites me."

Mitchell said she is aware of her obligation to help D.C.'s soldiers. As the first woman to serve in her post,

she added, it will only help demonstrate to everyone that they are important and that gender is no obstacle.

"The soldiers expect a lot from a command sergeant major," she said. "They expect you to be their example and set the standard. They have

aspirations of being like you."

The D.C. Guard's top enlisted person said her leadership style is one of "inclusion."

"We can't single-out individuals," she began. "We should spread around the wealth of knowledge and experience."

"We draw from the whole," the CSM added. "Everyone is important."

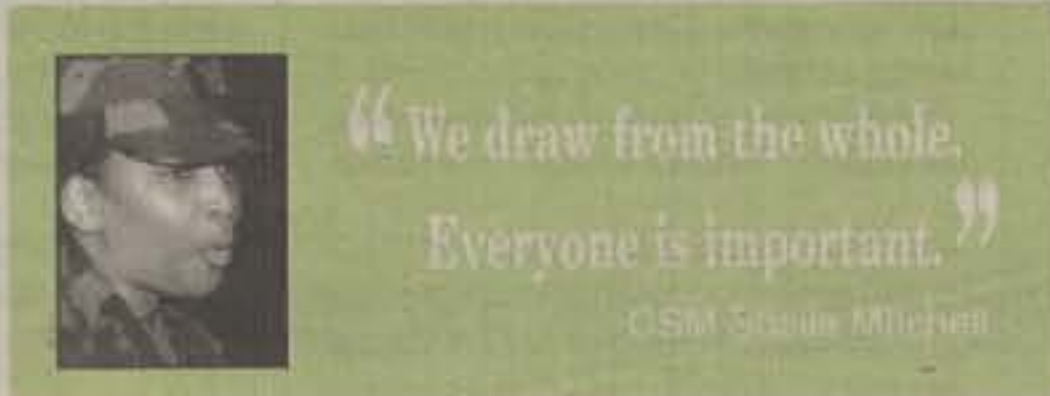
On the home front, Mitchell is married to retired D.C. Army Guard Maj. Melvin Mitchell. She is also a mother to Ervin, Nikol, Rhachelda and Terrance, and a grandmother of four.

She recalled how her father, John N. Williams, a Korean War veteran, had inspired her at an early age.

"He felt strongly that your name meant something," she said. "He believed in maintaining your integrity."

In a moving promotion ceremony, Williams -- a former NCO -- pinned his daughter.

"It made him extremely proud," noted the CSM softly, "because I had reached this pinnacle."



## Maryland hosts rear battle seminar

By Spc. Cesar Soriano  
Maryland National Guard

Joining forces to tackle similar problems, National Guard, reserve and active duty soldiers deployed to Maryland recently to discuss division rear battle operations in the total "one Army" force.

Representing 14 Army divisions, more than 120 soldiers from as far as Germany and Hawaii attended the Division Rear Battle Seminar. The

event was hosted by the 29th Infantry Division, based at Fort Belvoir, Va. The 29th is comprised of soldiers from the Maryland and Virginia Army National Guard.

During two days of seminars, small group discussions and working lunch lectures, soldiers discussed concerns they shared about rear operations centers (ROC).

"We got the best and brightest minds in the active Army and National Guard and brought them to-

gether for professional development. We will break down our problems in order to find solutions," said Brig. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the 29th Division's assistant division commander for support.

For Texas Army Guard's Lt. Col. Isaac Gusukuma the seminar reemphasized the importance of rear battle operations.

"I also learned all of the ROC

■ See SEMINAR, Page 4

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### LANGSTON COLLEGE, GUARD FORM UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

The Air National Guard and Langston University, an historically black college in Oklahoma, have entered into a unique partnership.

Under the program, the Air National Guard has established an office on the Langston campus to encourage minority students to become Air Guard pilots and navigators after graduation. Currently, there are more than 300 minority pilots and navigators assigned to ANG units.

The Air National Guard office will be staffed by MSgt. Luc Shoals. For more information call her at (405) 466-2922.

### GULF WAR ILLNESS CHANGES APPROVED BY PRESIDENT

President Bill Clinton has announced three new initiatives concerning Gulf War illnesses.

One of the biggest moves is the change to the regulation extending the time a veteran is eligible to apply for compensation from two years after the Gulf War to 10 years, or 2001.

The second initiative will use a Secretary of Health and Human Services comprehensive action plan, implementing the recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Committee's final report, to address medical attention, research and coordination issues.

The final change involves the presidential review directive process. In short, it will ensure that lessons learned from the Gulf War are heeded for future deployments.

Clinton added that America must remain "relentless in the search for facts," and report them back to veterans.

### GUARD VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Volunteers from the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., will join forces with the Virginia and Maryland Native Plant Societies, Fairfax ReLeaf and the Reston Association in the removal of invasive exotic plants from nearby Runnymede Park to celebrate Earth Day, April 16.

An estimated 50 to 100 Army Guard volunteers have committed to the project, said Dalena Kanouse, a National Guard spokesperson.

"This project will serve the Guard and the larger community as an educational opportunity," she added.

IN THE NEWS



LISTENING IN - Attendees (above) at Maryland's rear battle seminar were all ears.

SEMINAR

From Page 3

officers have similar problems, similar concerns, so this is good to know that I'm not alone," he said.

"This seminar is yet another opportunity to, in fact, move closer to the one Army concept," Gusukuma added. "We need more opportunities like this where Guard and active soldiers can rub shoulder-to-shoulder."

The 1st Armored Division's Maj. Richard Sheider, the 305th Rear Operations Center operations officer, was encouraged by the turn out.

"Hopefully we'll come out with one voice on what the problems are and what needs to be addressed," he said.

Sheider was able to share "lessons learned" from his unit's recent deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

"We functioned under the constraints of Bosnia. We took our ROC doctrine and found we had to adjust it to fit our situation there," he said.

The Hawaii Army Guard's SFC Richard Tanaka, a rear ops center NCO, stressed the importance of having a joint conference between active and reserve component soldiers.

"My unit works hand-in-hand with the 25th Infantry Division (their active counterparts based at Schofield Barracks)," he said. "So it's important to share our wealth of knowledge to help us merge."

Blum said issues identified, along with their possible solutions, will be forwarded to the the Army's Training and Doctrine Command for possible implementation.

Cohen appointment has historic link

Civil War hero Joshua Chamberlain looms again

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

History can cast a long shadow. It's something the Secretary of Defense, a Civil War hero and an Army Guard engineer unit -- all with ties to the state of Maine -- basked in Jan. 22.

On that historic day: William S. Cohen, the native son from Bangor who had represented Maine in Congress for nearly a quarter-century, was unanimously confirmed by the Senate as President William Clinton's new Secretary of Defense.

A Maine Army National Guard engineer battalion was ordered to prepare 39 citizen-soldiers for up to nine months of service in Bosnia to support the Joint Guard Stabilization Force.

And the image of Civil War hero Joshua Chamberlain, who is still Maine's most celebrated military personality, loomed large over both events.

Here's why.

- William Cohen and Joshua Chamberlain followed remarkably similar roads from the Bangor-Brewer area to Bowdoin College in Brunswick to their places in the national limelight.

- The 133rd Engineer Battalion that is providing the platoon of carpenters and other construction people for the peacekeeping effort in Eastern Europe includes in its lineage the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment, commanded by Chamberlain on the left end of the Union line during the pivotal second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863.

No one was more aware of these historical implications than Angus King, Maine's first-term governor, who is an unabashed Chamberlain enthusiast and who lives on the same street in Brunswick where the Chamberlain home has been preserved as a museum.

"Very few times has one person at one moment literally changed history," the Governor said referring to how Chamberlain's regiment helped win the battle by preventing the Confederate troops from flanking the Union line and opening the way for Gen. Robert E. Lee's possible conquest of Washington, D.C.

"It was a pivotal moment in the American Civil War," he intoned.

Cohen and Chamberlain share the common bonds of their places of birth and

Bowdoin College.

The Penobscot River runs through their veins. Cohen, the son of a baker, grew up on the west bank, in Bangor. Chamberlain, the son of a farmer, grew up on the east bank, in Brewer.

Bowdoin, a small liberal arts college where the salty Atlantic air whispers through stately pines, was where Cohen and Chamberlain cut their intellectual teeth as classic scholars.

Cohen, better known as a basketball player with a sure-handed set shot, majored in Latin and was named a James Bowdoin Scholar early in his senior year, in October 1961. His Latin honors paper, "The Humours of Sextus Propertius," explored the love poems of that ancient Roman poet.

Chamberlain, who mastered Latin and Greek to be admitted to Bowdoin, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa before graduating in 1852, earned his master's degree three years later, and became a professor of rhetoric and oratory at Bowdoin before joining the fight to preserve the Union.

Their academic pedigree hardly makes them unique. Established in 1794, barely

tee in 1974 when he broke ranks with the Republican party and voted to bring impeachment charges against President Richard Nixon during Watergate.

Coincidentally, that event occurred in July, the same month that the 20th Maine had stood its ground at Gettysburg 111 years earlier.

Those actions reaped significant political dividends. Chamberlain served four years as Maine's governor after the Civil War. Cohen spent two more terms in the House and then served 18 years in the Senate before announcing his retirement and being named Secretary of Defense.

On the day of Cohen's confirmation, 1st Lt. Richard Darveau learned he would be leading an Army Guard engineer platoon to Bosnia.

The unit was mobilized Feb. 27. Maine's citizen-soldiers have joined a national force of 3,579 Guardmembers from 99 units who have been mobilized to support the peacekeeping mission, according to the National Guard Bureau.

Darveau, 28, is a civil engineer for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and a platoon leader with the 133rd Engineer Battalion's company in Skowhegan.

"I got the call that Wednesday (in January) when I was eating my supper. I knew this was not a test," Darveau recalled. "I didn't finish eating. It made for a very restless night."

Suddenly, the young officer with a ROTC commission from the University of Maine who was married Feb. 1, was experiencing a leadership weight he had never known before.

There was also the burden of history.

The 133rd, reorganized from an armor battalion into an engineer battalion on the last day of 1967, has a complex lineage that includes the 20th Maine. That Civil War regiment included men from the same southern Maine area that became the home turf for the engineer battalion a century later, explained Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk, the National Guard Bureau's chief historian.

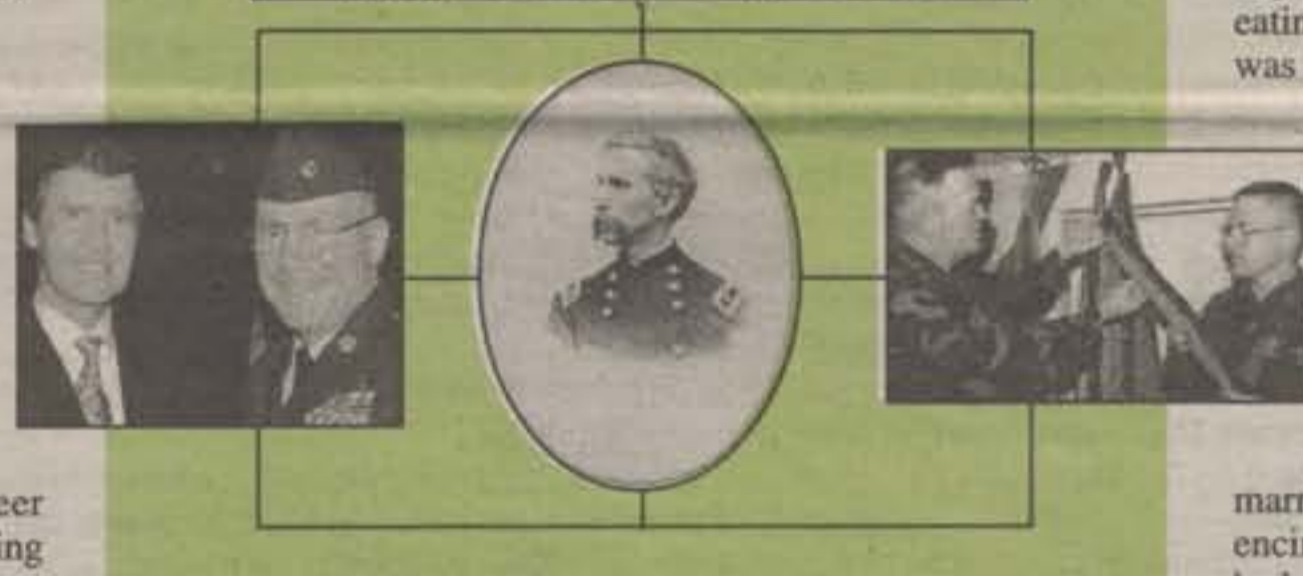
The 133rd's flag bears many Civil War battle streamers including Fredericksburg and Gettysburg -- earned by the 20th Maine and Chamberlain.

Darveau's men are not expected to find themselves in harm's way. Operation Joint Guard, formerly named Joint Endeavor, has been unexpectedly peaceful.

"I knew I had to set the example by remaining calm," Darveau said of his reaction to this military mission. "If my platoon is going, then I am going."

It's what Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain would have done.

MAINE MEN



LINKED - Secretary Cohen (above, left) with Army Guard CSM John Leonard, also from Maine. Civil War hero Joshua Chamberlain (center). Maine Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Earl Adams shows Bosnia-bound SFC Patrick Shea a reminder of the 133rd's rich past.

five years after the U.S. Constitution was ratified, Bowdoin is the oldest college in Maine and among the oldest in the U.S.

It is the alma mater of American literary giants Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, members of the Class of 1825. Other alumni include Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire, the 14th U.S. president, and George Mitchell, the U.S. Senate majority leader from 1989 to 1994.

Like Chamberlain, Cohen was in his early 30s when he found himself at the historical crossroads that earned him a national reputation. He was a freshman member of the House Judiciary Commit-



## PEOPLE

## Another ChalleNGe

Louisiana's Christina Martindale uses Guard youth program to propel her to Soldier of Year

By Maj. Maria L. LoVasco  
Louisiana National Guard

There was a show on TV about a man who received a newspaper a day early and used the information to change people's lives.

Christina Martindale can relate. Her life was changed by a newspaper article she read three years ago.

At the time, problems in her New Orleans home had caused school to become overwhelming. She dropped out only to discover that her destiny would be like others who chose a similar path -- bleak.

That's when she read a story about the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program (YCP).

That was in 1994.

Today, Martindale is a private first class and the Louisiana Army Guard's Soldier of the Year.

Martindale tricked destiny, and now she's helping other YCP cadets do the same.

"The Youth ChalleNGe Program taught me how to be independent and not rely on others," she said. "It taught me leadership skills.

"It also showed me that no matter how difficult the past was," she added, "the future didn't have to be the same."

ChalleNGe, a five-month in-residence, quasi-military school, gives dropouts a chance to turn their lives around. Sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and run by Army and Air Guard members, it is offered in 15 states.

After graduating from ChalleNGe with a General Equivalency Diploma, Martindale returned to the program to serve as a mentor to other cadets. It was during this period that she joined the Louisiana National Guard.

"I joined the Guard because



Photo by SSgt. Brent Michiels

the people who helped me were Guardsmen," she said. "They had a great influence on me, and I wanted to be like them."

Martindale joined the 225th Engineer Group at Camp Beauregard as an administrative specialist. She has remained at Beauregard -- where the YCP is based -- to stay far from New Orleans and the circumstances that first overwhelmed her.

It is her new home. She works full time as an administrative technician at headquarters and lives on post. In return, she stays involved with ChalleNGe.

"I get introduced to the cadets as sort of a role model," she said. "I'm only 19, close to their age. They see me and they see that they can change."

**RAY OF HOPE** - PFC Christina Martindale (left) dropped out of school, dropped into ChalleNGe, and became Louisiana's Soldier of the Year.

Martindale said her experience in ChalleNGe gave her an advantage in basic training over her fellow recruits.

"Most people were scared, but I had become used to being screamed at and woke up early," she said. "Besides, I knew that

nothing they did was going to hurt me. It was all done to improve me."

It was in basic training and AIT that she became familiar with the process of going before a board.

"In basic I competed for the Soldier of the Cycle," she said. "In AIT, I was up for Soldier of the Week."

Although Martindale got neither of those honors, the experience helped.

"My first sergeant, Joseph Cole, told me about the Louisiana National Guard Soldier of the Year competition," she said. "I saw it as a challenge, like taking a test."

The Louisiana Army Guard's board, she discovered, was dif-

ficult. Martindale also was up against more experienced troops.

In fact, when she was told that she was selected the Bayou State's top troop, she didn't believe it.

"In the back of my mind I kept thinking they'd call and say, 'Sorry Private. We made a mistake,'" she confessed.

Martindale has set some goals. One is to land a full-time National Guard job. Another is to serve in the Guard for 20 years. She also intends to get a degree in anthropology.

"I didn't even think about going to college until I was in the ChalleNGe program," she said. "That was the first time I felt that I didn't have to live out the life that seemed destined for me."

Her recent Soldier of the Year selection makes her a yardstick by which other soldiers will measure themselves. Martindale also understands that she represents hope to many ChalleNGe cadets uncertain about the hand destiny will deal them.

"When you've seen so much trouble in your life," Martindale observed, "a little bit of sunshine makes you change a lot."

## TRIPLE THREAT TRIPLE THREAT TRIPLE THREAT

Anderson triplets join Carolina Guard

By SSgt. Danny Brazell  
South Carolina National Guard

It was a triple play for one delighted South Carolina Army Guard recruiter. Standing before him were peas-in-a-pod triplets, all wanting to join.

And once they had signed the paperwork -- in triplicate, of course -- Tyreather, Towanda and Tenesia Anderson, now members of the South Carolina's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 108th Signal Battalion, were off to Fort Jackson, S.C.

"The drill instructors learned to tell us apart by our watches," said Tenesia, the youngest of the three. "But every once-in-awhile we would switch watches just to fool them."

The drill instructors, however, soon learned to extract playful retribution from the 19-year-olds. "When one of



Photo by Spc. Van Hope

us got in trouble, all three of us had to drop for pushups. They said we had to do it because we were triplets," reported Towanda, who said she is the most serious of the personable sisters.

Although undocumented, the sisters said they were told they were the first triplets in history, from any branch of the service, to undergo basic training at the same time.

As one would imagine, the sisters have a very close relationship. Besides serving together in their part-time jobs in the Guard, the three also attend Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C. At Voorhees, they deviate only slightly from their tight bond. Tyreather and Towanda are business majors, while Tenesia is seeking a career in childhood education.

The trio said they were not use to the attention their historic enlistment created, explaining they are not treated any differently by their family.

**THREE OF A KIND** - Pvts. Tyreather (left), Towanda and Tenesia Anderson may be the first triplets to attend basic training together.

"Our family is tight," Towanda assured. "We get along well. We don't fight, and we talk to each other."

And they listen. It was Tyreather who told her sisters about the benefits of being in the National Guard, including the chance to earn money for college.

"It was my decision," said Tyreather, jokingly. "I told them it was a way to go to college. I had to persuade them, but everything I say goes."

The Anderson sisters, who completed their training at Fort Jackson in January, have quickly adapted to their new jobs in the signal unit.

"They are good soldiers," said Capt. Stanley Oswald, the unit's personnel officer. "Like everyone else, my biggest problem is knowing one from the other. But since they changed their hairstyles, it's gotten a little easier."

And though they have just begun their military career, Tyreather, the acknowledged dreamer of the group, is already thinking of bigger things.

"We have considered going on active duty," said Tyreather, adding that her sisters don't have to ask each other for advice, because they already know what the others will say.

"When is that?" interrupted a surprised Tenesia.

Well, maybe not always.



Photo by CWO Bud Roberts

**BONDING - SFC David Dykes (above) chats with new friend Dawn Ortiz in Belize.**

New Horizons is making a difference in the lives of Louisiana troops, Belizeans

# BUILDING BELIZE

By SSgt. John Fundator  
*Illinois National Guard*

Louisiana Army Guard soldiers training in the Central American nation of Belize are building much more than schools and roads.

They are building a bridge between the two nations that is paying off in a big way for the citizens of Belize, especially their children.

Through "New Horizons-Belize," the largest U.S. military training, humanitarian and civic-action training exercise in the Western Hemisphere this year, U.S. military troops from both the active and reserve components have been working with the Belize Defense Force and the Ministries of Works, Education and Health to improve roads, build eight new school buildings, and provide free medical screening and treatment for thousands of Belizeans.

The six-month, multi-million dollar exercise, which kicked off in January, will be headed by the Bayou State Guard's 225th Engineer Group.

Referred to as Joint Task Force Pelican, it will receive additional support from the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy, as well as National Guard and Reserve units from California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. Belize Defense Force soldiers will also train with their U.S. engineer and military police counterparts.

Louisiana Army Guard's Lt. Col. Cliff Oliver, Joint Task Force-Pelican commander, said troops have been busy build-



Photo by CWO Bud Roberts

ing roads and schools.

"We've been fortunate; no accidents and we're anticipating a good exercise," he added.

Louisiana Guard soldiers with Company A, 769th Engineer Battalion, based in Baker, would agree. Tasked with beginning work on improving a rough seven-mile stretch of road, the engineers managed to raise one mile of the road three feet and replaced a deteriorated culvert with a new, 50-foot culvert.

"A couple of farmers down there are pretty happy that we're improving their road," said Louisiana's 2nd Lt. Andrew Huisman, officer-in-charge of the road project. One appreciative resident, Huisman reported, gave soldiers coconuts.

"He cut them open and gave us the juice," he said.

Huisman said his road crew has been busy, but noted that's the way the citizen-soldiers like it.

"As long as they're burning diesel and moving dirt, they're happy," added the Louisiana State University junior majoring in construction management.

Sgt. Michael Lewis, said the two weeks in Belize, was more gratifying than the typical annual training at Camp Beauregard in Louisiana.

"I feel happy to help other people," he said.

Lewis said he was also struck by the



Photo by SSgt. John Fundator

pleasant nature of the local Belizeans. "Everybody is so friendly. They all like to talk to you. They treat us well," he said.

In addition to the road project, 769th Engineer Battalion citizen-soldiers began construction of three-room schools at Hattieville, La Democracia and Sand Hill.

There, too, soldiers got much more than the experience of pouring concrete and making forms for the facilities.

"When we got here, these kids sang to us and prayed for us. We got them out here and showed them where the classrooms were going to be," said SFC David Dykes, noncommissioned officer-in-charge at the Sand Hill site. "They gave us little cards with their names, addresses and thank yous on them."

Dykes, a private contractor, and his crew poured concrete, installed door frames and laid corner blocks for the structure. The new facility will replace

**BAYOU BUILDERS - Members of Louisiana Army Guard's 769th Engineer Battalion (above) guide a front-end loader as it dumps soil into a culvert. 769th engineers (left) dig in on a 50-foot culvert they laid in Belize.**

one of two old wooden buildings. One of them, which also serves as a chapel, will house 70 students in grades one through eight, said Norris Williams, principal of Sand Hill School.

"It will make the facilities for both students and teachers much better," said Williams, who shared the excitement of his students and local residents as they watched the building progress.

"We're definitely going to have a party," the principal promised.

The single-floor school and separate bathroom is expected to take three months to complete.

1st Lt. Andrew Thomas, a member of Headquarters Company, 769th Engineer Battalion, and officer-in-charge of the first construction crew deployed to the Sand Hill project, said he has gained much from the exercise. Thomas is an engineer with the U.S. Highway Department and a former substitute teacher.

"It's a warm feeling to know someone really appreciates and cares for what you are doing. You are building something for children that they will use to better themselves," Thomas observed. "It really touches me."

Capt. Donald Johnson, Company A, 769th commander, said the construction projects also provide excellent training.

Louisiana's Sgt. Drexel Stewart returns to Belize to visit pen pal Noelle Cowo

## Bayou Bonder

By SSgt. John Fundator  
Illinois National Guard

Sgt. Drexel Stewart is building a special relationship with a Belizean schoolgirl that is as solid as any of the structures his fellow Louisiana Army Guard engineers are constructing in Belize.

Stewart, a Baton Rouge, La., resident and carpenter, recently made a return trip to Belize as part of a U.S. military training, humanitarian and civic action exercise called "New Horizons-Belize" to help build another rural school.

It gave him the opportunity to check on the two schools he helped construct last year. More important, it was a chance to make a surprise visit to his Belizean pen pal, Noelle Cowo, and celebrate his 49th birthday at her school. She and her classmates sang "Happy Birthday."

Cowo, an eighth-grade student at Solomon's Seventh Day Adventist School in Orange Walk, met Stewart last February when he and fellow engineers with the Pelican State Guard's 769th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Baton Rouge, began construction of a three-room addition to their cramped school.

"When I got home, I sent her a bunch of school supplies," Stewart recalled. "We started writing one another and became good friends."

That bond was strengthened when Stewart returned to the English-speaking Central American nation to participate in "New Horizons-Belize," the largest U.S. military civic-action, training exercise in the Western Hemisphere this year.

Stewart didn't return empty handed. Toting a bag full of school supplies, an enlarged photo of him and Noelle taken at the construction site last year, and a hair brush, comb and hand mirror set, he was greeted by Armando Correa, assistant principal and eighth-grade teacher, who informed Noelle that she had a visitor.

The happily surprised Noelle and Stewart chatted for awhile while her similarly cheery classmates gathered around, inspecting the bounty she received from her Louisiana friend.

Peering at the photo, the soft-spoken Noelle gushed, "It's very beautiful. I'll put it on the wall."

After a hour-long visit, Stewart and his friend parted again.

To many National Guard, Reserve and active component service members who participate in exercises such as "New Horizons," the fruits of their labor are often immeasurable.

On one hand, the U.S. military gains superior training while improving the infrastructure of the host nation by building or expanding schools, improving roads, and providing medical and dental care to residents. This part is tangible and the benefits are readily apparent.

More difficult to measure, say those involved, are the lasting friendships that are fostered.

To those who know Stewart, the fast friendship forged between he and Noelle was no surprise.

"He's a big, soft-hearted fella who is well-liked by everyone," said MSgt. Randy Davis. "He just found a good relationship."

Davis, who has managed the 769th's operations for two consecutive annual training cycles in Belize, said he "borrowed" Stewart to help with the school projects.

"We had to pull him for his special skills," Davis reported. Stewart is an Army Guard mechanic who is expert carpenter in civilian life.

Stewart's skills, Davis said, helped the 769th jump-ahead of schedule in their mission to help construct eight schools and public buildings. The battalion also helped improve more than 10 miles of highly-traveled roads.

Correa, assistant principal at Solomon's school since 1982, said the improvements made by the Guard "means a lot of prestige to the community."

By doubling the size of Solomon's School and constructing a separate bathroom, Correa said the project boosted enrollment to 215 students in grades one through eight.

For Stewart, however, the job is not over. The 19-year-military veteran -- 17 of them spent with the 769th battalion's Headquarters Company -- said the need to see the Sand Hill school project completed is powerful.

He is unabashed in his desire to see the Belizean students reaction, and subsequent appreciation, for his efforts.

"These kids," he said, "really kept me going on these two projects. The thing about building schools, is that it makes it better for them."

And that satisfaction, Stewart insisted, cannot be overstated.

"It makes me feel good, real good," he said. "I know they appreciate that building. I just wish we could have done more."



Photo by CWO Bud Roberts

**PACKING A PUNCH** - Louisiana Army Guard's Sgt. Michael Lewis, a member of Company A, 769th Engineer Battalion, puts a soil compactor to use in Central America. The unit was supporting New Horizons-Belize, the largest military humanitarian project in the Western Hemisphere this year.

"They have to do their primary MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) along with other MOSs," he said, adding that the company will benefit by training in an austere environment.

A civil engineer with the Louisiana Department of Transportation in Baton Rouge, Johnson said several of his soldiers have been to Belize before. Many, he said, have asked to return.

That would suit the Honorable George Bruno, U.S. ambassador to Belize, just fine. Visiting Sand Hill School prior to the opening ceremony of "New Horizons-Belize," Bruno said, more work by the U.S. military is readily welcomed by the tiny Central American country as they look to move toward the next millennium.

"If this country is going to leap into the 21st century, these people need to have a good education," Bruno said. "These schools provide an opportunity for education, training and development."

"It's a very positive thing for the United States to come down to do their military training and, at the same time, provide tremendous benefits to the people in Belize," he added.

And, if you listen to 769th citizen-soldiers, the genuine appreciation returned to them wasn't too bad either.



Photos by CWO Bud Roberts



**Sgt. Drexel Stewart was busy building a school (above) in Belize, and renewing his friendship with eighth grade pen pal Noelle Cowo (top photo, left).**

THE GUARD'S WOMEN

Rita Baca, the Chief's wife, has set her sights on family

# GUARD'S First Lady

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Rita Baca was reminded of her family's New Mexico home near Santa Fe as she gazed at the snow-covered hills from the starboard side of a military jet that was gliding in for a landing near Norway's capital city of Oslo.

That New Mexico, where her family's roots remain firmly planted in the sandy soil, is rarely far from her thoughts.

"I love supporting my husband. I love making his life as easy as I possibly can. We've been in it together for 42 years," she said.

Her refrain is typical of military spouses who have made a career out of creating a stable family environment, wherever their husband or wife is called to duty.

She is not, however, just any military spouse.

Her husband is Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard

Bureau since October 1994. That makes Rita Baca the First Lady of the National Guard's 485,000 men and women on duty and in their 54 states and territories.

"I'm a private person in a public situation," confessed the mother of seven -- four of whom also have National Guard service to their credit.

She is hardly a fish out of water during a time when women are grasping the brass ring of National Guard leadership.

Rubbing elbows with some of this country's most powerful policy makers, she is building a reputation as a gracious advocate for this country's citizen-soldiers and airmen.

"Rita really has a knack for being able to communicate with anyone. She's down-to-earth and straight forward," said Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, national director of the Guard's Family Program. "Family members in particular often comment on how much they enjoy being around her."

"I love to promote the National Guard,"

Rita confirmed. "My husband compares it to a full-life insurance policy at term costs. It offers so many avenues to so many bright people."

Promoting the Guard is what brought Rita Baca to Norway and a half-dozen other European countries with her husband and other officials. The contingent was examining the roles of the National Guard in the international arena.

The 17-day marathon trip included visits to orphanages in Estonia and Romania and meetings with leaders in Norway, Germany and the Czech Republic.

She is drawn to the Guard's State Partnership Program with Eastern Europe's former Communist countries.

"It improves the chances that they won't want to go to war with us," she explained.

It is a long way indeed for the youngest of nine children born to a French-German mother and Irish-English father in Munster, Texas, a town north of Dallas.

She met her future husband after her family moved to New Mexico in 1947. She attended the all-girl Loretto Academy. Ed Baca was an athlete and big-man-on-campus at nearby St. Michael's High School, an all-boys school.

"Our schools did everything together," recalled the former Rita Hennigan. "They were the athletes and we were the cheerleaders."

Her earliest memories of the imposing young Baca include his visit to her school to tell her class how awful it was for girls to smoke.

"Afterwards, I hit him the back of his head with a snowball," she laughed.

"I invited him to a formal dance when I was a junior and he was a senior. He accepted," Rita continued. "When he graduated he asked me to go steady. We've been going steady ever since."

They were married April 12, 1958.

The union survived the separation of Baca's tour in Vietnam in the late 1960s.

She has been the ideal spouse and ambassador for the Guard, said her husband.

"She has done a magnificent job of raising our children and being both mother and father to them during my many absences," the General said.

"Rita has been able to appreciate the Guard not only through my involvement, but through the involvement of four of our children," the Chief added. "No one better represents the Guard than my wife."

She is also a staunch advocate of the Guard's family program.

"If you don't help your families," she insisted, "you're not going to keep your soldiers."

Most importantly, say those who have spent time with the Guard's First Lady, she has brought to Washington her knack for making everyone feel at home with people in the National Guard.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**GOOD WILL TOUR - Rita Baca (above) chats with a child at a Romanian orphanage recently.**

Martha Rainville elected Guard's first woman TAG

# Running VERMONT

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Martha Rainville would like to put all of the notoriety behind her and get on with her new job.

That may be easier said than done. Rainville, a lieutenant colonel in the Vermont Air National Guard just a month ago, is on the cutting edge of this nation's 360-year militia history.

She is the first woman to assume the office of a state adjutant general -- the leader for an entire state's Army and Air National Guard force.

Rainville was elected Vermont's 21st adjutant general by that state's 63rd legislature Feb. 20. She was sworn in for a two-year term as head of the Green Mountain State's 4,400 citizen-soldiers and airmen March 1 by Gov. Howard Dean.

"It's about time," Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief, told nearly 1,000 Guardmembers and other Rainville supporters who crowded into the Green Mountain Armory in Colchester for the historic change of command.

Women could not be commissioned as National Guard officers until 1956, Baca pointed out. "Forty years later we have our first woman adjutant general," he said.

Baca, all three members of the state's Congressional delegation, and Dean praised Rainville's accomplishments and expressed their confidence in her ability to maintain a strong Guard force for the state.

"Don't be fooled by her gender," Dean remarked. "She is a general who happens to be a woman."

Rainville was promoted to full colonel and frocked to major general in the Vermont Air Guard, it was explained.

At 38, the 17-year military veteran has been catapulted from her part-time position as commander of a 174-member maintenance squadron that services Vermont's wing of F-16 fighters to successor for the venerable Maj. Gen. Donald Edwards, her



state's adjutant general for the past 16 years.

She has become chief executive officer for a military operation with an annual budget of \$90 million and the most prominent figure among women seeking greater leadership responsibilities within the country's National Guard ranks.

The wife of a commercial airline pilot and mother of a daughter and two sons (from ages 11-14) sounded ready to roll up her sleeves.

"I'm not a political person," she maintained. "Now that the election is over, I want to put politics behind me. It's time to get back to doing our jobs."

"Getting back to the basics. Going strictly by the book," sums up her immediate objectives.

- She intends to implement quality management practices that will enhance the Vermont Guard commanders' ability to lead their units.

- She intends to improve the networking between Army and Air Guard people because, she said, members of both groups have expressed similar concerns about the state's organization.

- She intends to focus on the \$6.5 million in state funds that Vermont is primed to pump into its National Guard programs this year and get contracts for such services as grounds-keeping out for bid as soon as possible.

She knows she will not get everything done overnight.

"I have a two-year plan," said Rainville who faces reelection in 1999, "as well as a five-year plan. It





Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**MAKING IT OFFICIAL - Vermont's TAG Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville, the first woman in National Guard history to ascend to that position, is frocked from O-5 to O-8 by Lt. Gen. Edward Baca (left) and Gov. Howard Dean March 1.**

Army's premier center for mountain and cold-weather training.

He has also been an outspoken advocate for the Army Guard's mountain infantry battalion that is also based in Jericho and that includes units throughout New England, Rainville said.

But Vermont Guardmembers have indicated they are ready to carry on now that Rainville has become the new boss.

"She's honest, she's fair and she's good for the Guard," said Maj. James Barr of the Mountain Warfare School who has known Rainville for nearly a decade. "I know she's going to do an outstanding job."

"Even though the leader has changed, the mission hasn't," Spc. Gary Hakey told the *Burlington Free Press*.

Born in New London, Conn., Rainville grew up in Port Gibson, Miss., and holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Mississippi. She began her military career in 1979 when she received her commission from the Officers Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas.

She is mission-minded, Rainville said, because of her experience as a maintenance officer in units featuring some of the Air Force's hottest aircraft.

Her people looked after F-101 and F-106 fighters during her active duty tour at Tyndall AFB, Fla. She was the avionics officer for Air Guard A-10s in Syracuse, N.Y. She also has helped maintain Vermont's 15 Air Guard fighters since 1988 as a member of the 158th Fighter Wing in Burlington.

The Wing's 134th Fighter squadron won the aircraft maintenance prize during the Air Force's William Tell fighter competition in 1994, and her weapons loading team recorded a perfect score for the first time in that event's 40-year history.

"Being a maintenance officer for our frontline fighters has kept me motivated," she said. "You are always focused on the mission. That keeps you well aware of the needs of the force."

will take longer than two years to implement some of the changes I see as necessary."

She promised not to let down her guard, literally or figuratively.

"Most men and women want to do their jobs. They want a strong cadre who will give them leadership," Rainville said. "They're going to have that."

Her place in National Guard history is unique indeed.

She has carved out her own niche in Vermont's military heritage that includes Ethan Allen, whose Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga from the British early into the Revolutionary War, and Admiral George Dewey, whose American fleet defeated the Spanish at Manila Bay in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

She is the first woman to become an adjutant general under the provisions of the Federal Militia Act of 1792 that required each state to create such a position, said Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk, the National Guard Bureau's chief historian.

Vermont is the only state where the legislature fills the position. Governors appoint adjutants general in all but two other places, noted Kondratiuk. South Carolina's is elected by popular vote every four years. The District of Columbia's is appointed by the President.

In some ways, Edwards, who served two tours in Vietnam, will be a tough act to follow in Vermont.

Rainville credited him with forging the Army Guard's Mountain Warfare School in Jericho into the

# Rocky Mountain milestone

Colorado's CSM Jerre Brown is first woman in Guard to become state sergeant major

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**Y**ou want to get ahead in the military? Work hard.

You want to get ahead in the military and are a woman? Work harder.

Such is the perspective of Colorado CSM Jerre Brown who, at 44, has staked out her place in Army National Guard history as the first woman to assume a state's top enlisted post.

"There is no substitute for hard work," said the forthright command sergeant major for the Centennial State's 3,000 Army Guard enlisted people since August 1995.

A field artillery brigade made up of two battalions, a special forces battalion and an aviation battalion, all dominated by men, are that state's major Army Guard organizations.

And, like Vermont's Martha Rainville, who in March became the first woman to assume the post as state adjutant general, Jerre Brown has established herself in an organization where men vastly outnumber the women.

CSM Sheila Mitchell (see page 3), 47, recently joined that exclusive sorority in late February when she was named to the District of Columbia's top enlisted post.

Nationwide, only 8.6 percent of the Army Guard's soldiers and 15.1 percent of the Air Guard's members are women, according to the National Guard Bureau. That makes Rainville, Brown and Mitchell prime examples of how persistence and patience can pay off in the modern military for women who are willing to work.

"Women just have a tendency to not give up as easily," Brown observed about her road to success. "We pay a little more attention to detail."

"Women have to work a whole lot harder than their male counterparts, and I have done that," she added.

The CSM also believes that everyone can get ahead based on performance.

It also helps to have a plan.

"I decided in 1977, when I was a 24-year-old specialist and had just joined the Colorado Army Guard, that I would become the state command sergeant major," Brown revealed.

The woman who had grown up in western Oklahoma carried an impressive, active Army resume to her new state where she became a company clerk in the Army Guard's 140th Signal Battalion.

Her three years on active duty included a Cold War tour as an electronic warfare specialist at the U.S. European Command's Defense Analysis Center in Germany and a hitch with the Intelligence Support Detachment at the Pentagon.

She joined the Colorado Guard in July 1977 and began pursuing that career with a vengeance: company clerk, supply sergeant, squad leader, platoon sergeant, training NCO, and acting first sergeant with the signal battalion; operations sergeant for a medical battalion and then a combat support hospital; the Army's Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1989; top kick and sergeant major in Colorado's Recruiting and Retention Command after that; then state command sergeant major.

She also earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Colorado State University along the way.

Brown has paid her dues. She also has listened to those

people willing to help.

CSM Glen "Curly" Preston, who has since retired, took her under his wing when she came to Colorado, Brown said. He told her why good first sergeants ensure that their people eat first and how NCOs lead by example and never ask their soldiers to do things they wouldn't.

"I didn't have a female mentor, but Curly Preston helped me a lot," she said.

In the final analysis, however, she has had to prove herself capable of filling the positions she wanted.

Women tend to bring more patience and compassion to their military positions than do many men, she said. But they also had better bring, she warned, a large measure of competence.

"There is no substitute for competence," she said. "Anybody can get ahead if they want to work hard and devote themselves."



CSM Jerre Brown

"They were everywhere, screaming for help. It took a while, but we got them all down," he said.

Saving lives was only one of the Kentucky Guard's tasks. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor boarded engineering boats and traveled to a threatened emergency transmitter site to fill sand bags, 15,000 in a single day.

In the central part of the state, receding waters brought on new problems. In the community of Lebanon Junction, UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Company B, 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation sling-loaded a pair of badly-needed pumps. They were used to remove water that had gotten trapped behind the levy.

"We sure are glad those guys came," said Tim Lively, the city's public works director. "It probably would have been two

or three weeks before people could go home. With these pumps, we can get the water out of here in two or three days."

Signs of destruction were everywhere. Louisville, Owensboro and Paducah all suffered from serious flooding. The town of Falmouth, one of the hardest hit communities, lost more than 500 homes to the storm.

Armed with bulldozers, scoop loaders and trucks, soldiers from Company A, 201st Engineer Battalion, converged on Falmouth. They were joined by 123rd FW security police and civil engineers.

"The damage to Falmouth is absolutely incredible," said SrA. Jeremy Meyer, a 123rd SP. "It's similar to the tornado that hit Bullitt County last year, only on a much larger scale. There was no hit and miss; almost everything was damaged.

"Knowing that there are people here who lost friends and family," he added, "makes it especially tough."

Meyer's unit went to Falmouth to help augment the local police force and provide security for the ravaged town. According to SSgt. Ricky Logsdon, keeping the residents from going back to their homes before it was determined to be safe was the hardest part.

Sadly for many residents, most of the

## FLOODS

From Page 1



Photo by Sgt. Timothy W. Fischer

**PITCHING IN - West Virginia troops help clean out a local grocery store**

"Knowing there are people here who lost friends and family, makes it tough."

**SrA. Jeremy Meyer**

123rd Security Policeman

Guard's work was directed toward cleaning up what was once their home. Scoop loaders shoveled what was left of buildings into the back of 5-ton dump trucks. Bulldozers plowed thick, gummy mud off the streets before it could dry into a layer of concrete that would have to be chipped away.

"We came here, not only to help people escape the flood, but to help them put their lives back together in the aftermath," said Lt. Col. Jan Camplin, the Falmouth task force commander.

Gene Flaughter, a Falmouth native for all of his 66 years, especially appreciated the help.

"A lot of people were scared that looting would become a problem because we've seen so many strangers in town," Flaughter said. "The Guard being here has really given us a feeling of security."

"And now everyone is rolling up their sleeves and pitching in to help us get rid of all this debris," he continued. "The National Guard is doing a tremendous job."

West Virginia's Wilson and Garnett Ledso-Carper couldn't agree more.

"Oh, they were so nice," she said as she stepped off a Mountaineer State UH-1 Army helicopter in Amma, W.Va.

The Carpers, in their mid-50s, were rescued by an Army Guard helicopter crew from the rooftop of their single-story house.

Meanwhile, Gov. Cecil Underwood gave the West Virginia Guard the responsibilities of assisting the Department of Highways in keeping roads and bridges open to emergency and law enforcement people, securing and maintaining public safety and providing help in cleanup and recovery in communities damaged by floodwaters.

In all, 16 counties had been ravaged by high water. Before it was over, Gov. Underwood would call on nearly 650 Mountaineer State Guardsmen and women.

West Virginia Army aviation units flew 10 emergency evacuation flights. One of those flights was to airlift a patient out of a remote area of Mason County, where



Photo by Maj. Phil Miller

**BLUEGRASS BATTLE - 149th Brigade troops (above) fill sand bags used to hold back the Ohio River. Soldiers (right) with the Kentucky Army Guard's Company E, 201st Engineer Battalion patrol the Ohio River in their boat.**



Photo by Spc. John Kibler

floods had cut off access. SSgt. Butch Sheppard, 77th Troop Command Battalion, said the patient would have died if not for the Guard's prompt response.

The 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, based in Ceredo, used zodiac boats with outboard motors to help volunteer fire departments evacuate other stranded victims.

Considered to be the most difficult part of a disaster is the clean-up and recovery effort. The 111th Engineer Group, located in St. Albans, headed up the recovery force with help from the 1092nd Engineer Battalion, the 119th Engineer Company and the 229th Engineer Detachment.

Maj. Gen. Allen Tackett, the Mountaineer State's adjutant general, said his

troops are no strangers to flood duty. They were activated six times last year, responding with more than 2,000 citizen-soldiers.

"The members of the West Virginia National Guard responded quickly to the call for help from their neighbors during this flood," he said.

Hoosier State Guardsmen and women, 250 strong at the height of their call-up, were also helping family.

1st Sgt. Dalton Willet, Company D, 151st Infantry, has spent 30 years responding to coal mine strikes, floods and snow emergencies. However, when the Ohio River spilled forth and sent his mother-in-law packing, it got personal.

"Anytime you see people going through

INSIDE THE FLOOD

Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing makes history while helping neighbors

# AIR Assisted

By SSgt. Dale Greer  
*Kentucky National Guard*

Water still covered the small town of Falmouth Ky., population 2,700, when the Air Guard arrived three days after the Licking River first spilled from its banks.

It was a sight Capt. Chuck Mayfield found hard to comprehend.

"We found devastation most people probably could not imagine," said the Kentucky Air Guard 123rd Security Police Squadron commander. "It looked like the type of damage that you would see from a tornado, except it wasn't limited to a single path."

More than 150 bluesuiters from the Louisville-based 123rd Airlift Wing were activated by Gov. Paul Patton -- the largest call-up in the unit's 50-year history -- to provide law enforcement, communications and civil engineering to four Kentucky communities.

The 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron divided its resources between Hopkinsville and Frankfort, building levees to hold back

steadily rising creeks and removing debris after the flood waters had receded.

In Owen County, nine members of the 205th Combat Communications Squadron provided vital telephone links between an emergency operations center and state National Guard Headquarters in Frankfort.

And in Falmouth, 123rd SPs joined forces with their Army counterparts to help restore order.

Mayfield's SPs teamed up with soldiers from the Army Guard's 198th Military Police Battalion to establish a command center at Pendleton County High School, outside of town. By the next morning, Guard troops had secured the town's perimeter and initiated patrols to protect citizens' property from looters.

Only emergency workers were allowed to enter, but that didn't stop others from trying.

"We've had a lot of incidents of people trying to gain illegal entry," Mayfield reported.

Potential looters haven't been the only challenge. Trying to explain to displaced citizens why they couldn't enter the town immediately after the water receded proved more difficult.

"A lot of the residents wanted to get in," Mayfield said, "but they didn't understand the magnitude of the destruction and the danger of gas leaks, standing water and mud."

In response to citizens' requests, the Guard arranged

for residents to see the damage firsthand by offering bus rides.

What they saw was devastation.

Mud-streaked cars were strewn about like toys. Tractor-trailer rigs lay upended. Clothing and garbage hung from the trees. Houses, shorn free of their foundations, sat squarely in the middle of the street, while others were smashed to bits. And everywhere, a thick goo of mud coated the streets, sidewalks and yards, oozing from the doorways of homes.

However, before residents were allowed back into town, the Guard had to complete one of its more grisly tasks -- searching for bodies. At least five were recovered, including three who were trapped in a pizza parlor when flood waters roared through downtown.

"Initially, we were the only people who could get into town because we had humvees and all-terrain vehicles," Mayfield explained. "So we transported the search and rescue teams and assisted with the search."

That task, coupled with long days, made the mission difficult, Mayfield said.

"Everybody was pretty much going 18 to 20 hours a



Photo by SSgt. Jack McNeely

**MOVING MOUNTAINEERS -** West Virginia engineers (above) helped remove tons of debris after floods rocked their state.



Photo by SSgt. David W. Altom



Photo by Spc. John Kibler

**SWAMPED -** Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton (center photo) surveys the damage aboard a Kentucky Army Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Bluegrass State Guardmembers (above) pull a swamped rescue boat from flood waters.

this sort of thing, it saddens you," he said. "It makes you want to get out and do something."

He and fellow Indiana Guardsmen and women did just that, providing transportation, power generators and muscle to 13 affected counties.

"The exemplary service of our citizen-soldiers," noted Gov. Frank O'Bannon, "provided necessary relief and a sense of security in our state's time of need."

Nearly 1,300 Ohio Guardmembers, the largest call-up of Buckeye troops in 15 years, also were called into action. Numbers for Arkansas' response were not available.

With Capt. Ben Singleton, Spc. John Kibler and PFC Karen Roche reporting from Kentucky; SSgt. Jack McNeely in West Virginia; and 2nd Lt. Todd Schmidt in Indiana.



Photo by TSgt. Charles Simpson

**DIGGING IN -** Kentucky Air Guard's SSgt. Darry Brown (above), a member of the Louisville-based 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron, shovels debris from a Monterey, Ky., home.

day," Mayfield said, his voice cracking from fatigue. "You got a couple of hours sleep before you came back to work another 18-hour shift."

After a few days, the pace eased considerably, giving Air Guardmembers the chance to help Falmouth's residents get back on their feet. That meant getting involved with the cleanup, directing traffic and distributing food and water.

"Our troops are assisting in everything from rescuing cats in trees to helping people wade in their houses to retrieve property," Mayfield noted.

One task involved assisting a Falmouthian secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash left in his home, Mayfield recalled.

"It made me feel good that his money was still there," he said. "I think that validated why we are here."

That ability to help is one of things that's made the mission an important one for Guardmembers like SrA. Melanie Owens, a 123rd SP.

"Everyone here has lost so much, you almost can't fathom how they'll be able to put it back together," she began. "But quite a few people have come up and told me they really appreciate what we're doing to help."

"We've made a difference here," Owens added, "and that's a good feeling."

## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

**The New York Air Guard's 105th Airlift Wing**, based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, delivered an "outstanding" performance during its recent Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). Evaluators said 105th Guardmembers recorded one the best ORI scores in the country last year. The 105th is the only Air Guard unit in the country to fly the C-5A Galaxy, affectionately called a "flying football field" because of its size.

**The Texas National Guard recently bid adieu** to CMSgt. Oren W. McClure, a member of the 147th Fighter Wing in Houston, after nearly 40 years of service. The former NCO Academy distinguished graduate -- a security policeman since 1968 -- has provided security expertise on several presidential visits and for nearly 30 heads-of-state. The Chief was also responsible for the deployment of the more than 1,000 SPs that served at last year's Summer Olympics. It was the largest deployment of SPs in history.

**Louisiana Air Guard's Brenda Lomax**, a member of the 159th Fighter Wing in New Orleans, became the first woman in the state's history to attain the rank of Chief Master Sergeant (E-9). Lomax began her affiliation with the military working as a civilian for the 926th Air Force Reserve. In 1973, she put on a uniform enlisting in the 926th's Aerial Port Flight. In 1984, then MSgt. Lomax transferred from the Reserve to the Air Guard. She is currently the 159th's chief of personnel. "Achieving rank was never my primary goal in the military," she said. "Getting the job done right was."

**The Bee Gees were topping the music charts** with Saturday Night Fever, inflation hit 9.5 percent and 30-year-old Airman Basic Linda Mollnow joined the Kansas Air National Guard. The year was 1978. Mollnow, 48, recently entered the 190th Air Refueling Wing's history books as she became the first woman in the Topeka-based unit to attain the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. The Chief acknowledged her husband, SMSgt. Dan Mollnow, an aircraft maintenance supervisor, as her mentor and best friend. "He's stood beside me, listened to me when things weren't going well and got stuck doing a lot of things he didn't volunteer for," she said. "Not once has he complained about having to help."

**When Wisconsin Air Guard's SSgt. Patty Mueller** left for Recruiter's School at Lackland AFB, Texas, she was slightly apprehensive, but determined to do her best. The 128th Air Refueling Wing sergeant returned to Milwaukee having claimed all three major awards -- outstanding sales performance, outstanding speech and distinguished graduate. Prior to becoming a recruiter, Mueller worked in vehicle maintenance, finance, the command post and as a secretary. With a degree in sociology, Mueller said recruiting was an opportunity to put her people-person skills to work. "I wanted to get out into the community and promote the Air Guard," she said.



Col. Thomas Maguire Jr. (above, left), 105th AW commander, is congratulated for his unit's 'outstanding' ORI performance.



CMSgt. Brenda Lomax, Louisiana's first woman promoted to E-9, had reason to laugh recently.



129th PAD's Spc. Gary Bailey reporting in from Bosnia.



Georgia Air Guard's MSgt. Hoyet Brown, a real 'Quality' guy.

**The New York Army Guard is providing a way** to preserve one of Suffolk County's most precious resources. Through training flights, the Army Aviation Support Facility #1, based in Ronkonkoma, is removing abandoned vehicles from Pine Barrens, a 100,000-acre ecological and hydrological area that provides drinking water to thousands of area residents and businesses.

**Rotted railroad ties, occasional spikes and patches of roadbed** are being removed to make way for a "Rail Trail." The Connecticut Army Guard's Company B, 242nd Engineer Battalion in Rockville is turning what once was an active railroad a generation ago into a 2.5-mile nature trail. "The Connecticut Army Guard is conducting battle-focused training, while preserving our environment," noted Dalena Kanouse, a National Guard Bureau spokesperson. "They also are providing recreational opportunities for generations to come."

**North and South Dakota's 129th Public Affairs Detachment** are currently supporting Operation Joint Endeavor in Tuzla, Bosnia. The 18-member team of journalists and broadcasters are escorting media, generating hometown news release information and producing the *Talon*, a weekly publication about troops in Bosnia.

**Alabama Air Guard's Dr. (Lt. Col.) Richard Curtin**, a member of the 117th Medical Squadron in Birmingham, was named the Air Guard's Flight Surgeon of the Year. A senior flight surgeon with more than 1,800 hours flying time, Curtin began his military career in the U.S. Army. He became a bluesuiter, he said, to pursue his love of flying. He has flown the RF-4C Phantom, KC-135R Stratotanker and other Air Guard aircraft in his career. Dr. Curtin is general surgeon with a private practice in Anniston, Ala.

**Georgia Air Guard's MSgt. Hoyet Brown**, a member of the 202nd Engineering Installation Squadron in Macon, was recently named the ANG's Quality Assurance Evaluator of the Year. During the past year Brown was responsible for evaluating proper installation of three radio communication systems for U.S. Customs Service sites in Florida, and two major communications projects at Air National Guard bases in Puerto Rico and South Carolina.

**The following received 1996 Air National Guard Visual Information Awards.**

- Combat Visual Information Support Center of the Year -- 148th Combat Visual Information Support Center, Minn.
- Visual Information Manager of the Year -- SMSgt. Rick Ware, 130th Communications Flight, W. Va.
- Graphics Artist of the Year -- TSgt. Marilyn Flanagan, 136th Communications Flight, Texas
- Photographer of the Year -- TSgt. Richard Loomis Jr., 129th Communications Flight, Calif.
- Videographer of the Year -- MSgt. Eric Peterson, 120th Communications Flight, Mont.

Illinois' Lt. Col. Les Shrum functions as a maddog, duke and lap dog for Operation Northern Watch

# In the ZONE

By SrA. Allyn Hane  
U.S. Air Force

No lap dog, or maddog would ever be fit to serve as a duke in most parts of the world, but in Turkey, it's a make-or-break job for only the most clever canine.

Lt. Col. Les Shrum, a member of the Illinois Air Guard's 191st Fighter Wing in Springfield, is on temporary duty supporting Operation Northern Watch, plays all three roles, and personally leads the pack nearly everyday.

Shrum, an F-16 pilot and the first Guardmember to serve in this position, is one of five mission directors, or maddogs, assigned to the combined forces air component tasked with patrolling the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq.

The mission directors perform

three distinct duties for the component commander: maddog, duke and lap dog.

"The maddog's job is to manage the launch of all mission forces headed into the tactical area of responsibility," Shrum explained. "As the maddog, I handle all phases of the ground operation, including aircrew delays, rearranging the forces within the package due to breakdowns, weather problems, you name it."

Once the aircraft is airborne and outside the Incirlik 50-mile circle, another mission director, called the "duke," assumes tactical responsibility for the package from the eyes of an airborne warning and control systems aircraft or AWACS.

At this point, Shrum added, the duke oversees operations within the tactical area of responsibility, or no-fly zone. Should a problem arise, he relays messages through the maddog back to the commander.

"The component commander runs the show, but the maddog and duke are his representatives," Shrum noted.

On another day, Shrum plays the role of the lap dog -- the

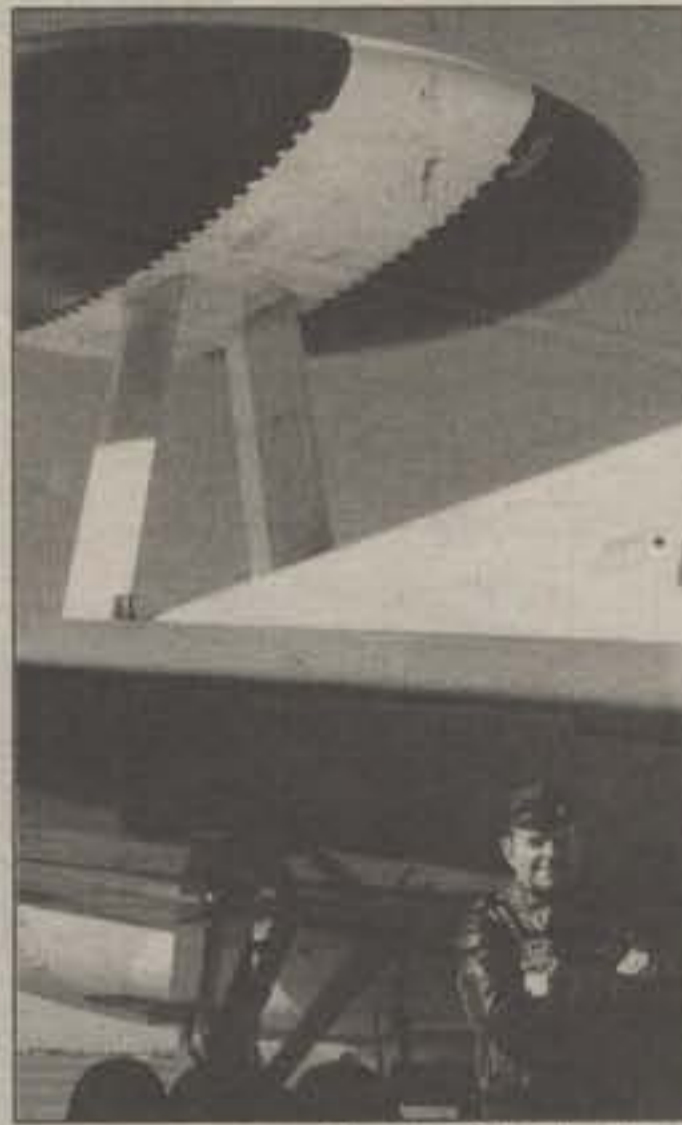


Photo by SrA. Allyn Hane

commander's action officer who also gives indoctrination briefings to newly arrived aircrews. Lap dogs also are tasked with drafting, staffing and updating the commander's many operating instructions.

Whatever role he plays, Shrum said the job is challenging.

"I enjoy it because I get to see all parts of the package," Shrum said. "If a tanker breaks for

**IN THE ZONE** - Illinois Air Guard's Lt. Col. Les Shrum (left) is the first Guardmember to serve as a Northern Watch mission director.

some reason, we have to reshuffle the entire package in order to maintain as much coverage in the no-fly zone as we can. We have to make decisions on who we're going to refuel, what types of aircraft stay, and who we're going to send home."

Political and host nation sensitivities in the region make operations important in the eyes of national decision makers. The duke must be careful to work within specific parameters to avoid political repercussions, he said.

"You have to know the rules, and be able to think on your feet and anticipate," he said.

Shrum spent 13 years on active duty before joining the Guard in 1984. He has flown the F-4, O-2, C-131 and F-16.

He said he wanted a change. "I wanted to broaden my view of the Air Force," he said. "A lot of times as you carry on with the day-to-day activities back home,

your view can become closed to what's really going on."

Working in a joint/combined service environment has also been positive. One of the five maddogs is a British officer. Shrum also has worked with French and Turkish officers.

"The camaraderie is something that I have thoroughly enjoyed," he said. "We've had a number of after work gatherings that included food and beverages for the seasons and holidays associated with one another's cultures. We've shared food and traditions from around the world."

There has been one drawback. "The only flying I do is aboard the AWACS," he said. "I am unable to fly the F-16s here, and I miss that."

No matter what roll he's playing though, he's right at home.

"There is no special training required for the job -- just a career spent making good decisions in a time compressed environment," he said. "Preparation is the key."

From the flightline to 20,000 feet in the air, it takes a maddog-turned-duke to ensure safe and effective operations over Northern Iraq.



A Pennsylvania Army Guard Chinook helicopter with the 104th Aviation (right), based in Phillipsburg, helped improve ranges at Fort Dix N.J., by transporting demilitarized armored track vehicles. 104th fliers helped position 28 tanks to firing points on the installation. The lift gave SSgt. Donald Franke (above, left) a chance to give Sgt. Tim Rickert and Spc. Russell Brought refueling training. The armored vehicles, said George Plankenhorn, Dix's chief of combat readiness, were brought in to create a more realistic training environment. They are scrap vehicles sent to Fort Dix from depots across the country.



Photos by SSgt. David Moore

## FORT DIX RANGES GET LIFT



# STATES

- Warrant Officers
- Phantom Parade
- Romanian Route

## MAINE

The nation's first-ever Warrant Officer Professional Development Day was conducted at the Bangor Armed Forces Reserve Center recently.

Experts from the National Guard Bureau, the Warrant Officer Career Center and the Adjutant General, Aviation, Ordnance and Quartermaster branches -- all senior warrant officers -- gave briefings and answered questions for about 85 Guard warrants and soldiers interested in a warrant officer career.

"We depend so much on you folks, but we haven't done enough in the past to help you with your career development," Lt. Col. Donald Grinnell, state military personnel officer, told participants.

## MINNESOTA

About 75 years ago, three men met in a St. Paul restaurant and talked about starting a flying unit. They knew that aircraft would one day be an important part of the military.

On Jan. 21, 1921, the 109th Observation Squadron became one of the country's first federally-recognized flying units. The 109th Airlift Squadron, as it is known today, is part of the 133rd Airlift Wing. The 109th and the 133rd celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

Now, 75 years later, the 109th Airlift Wing will receive eight new C130H3 aircraft.

## SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Alabama Army Guard's Sgt. Robert Bailey (right), is given a warm hug by his wife, Carol, and daughter, Katherine, upon returning from Hungary in support of the Operation Joint Endeavor peace-keeping mission. He and 125 members of the Tallassee-based 158th Maintenance Company, were mobilized last June.

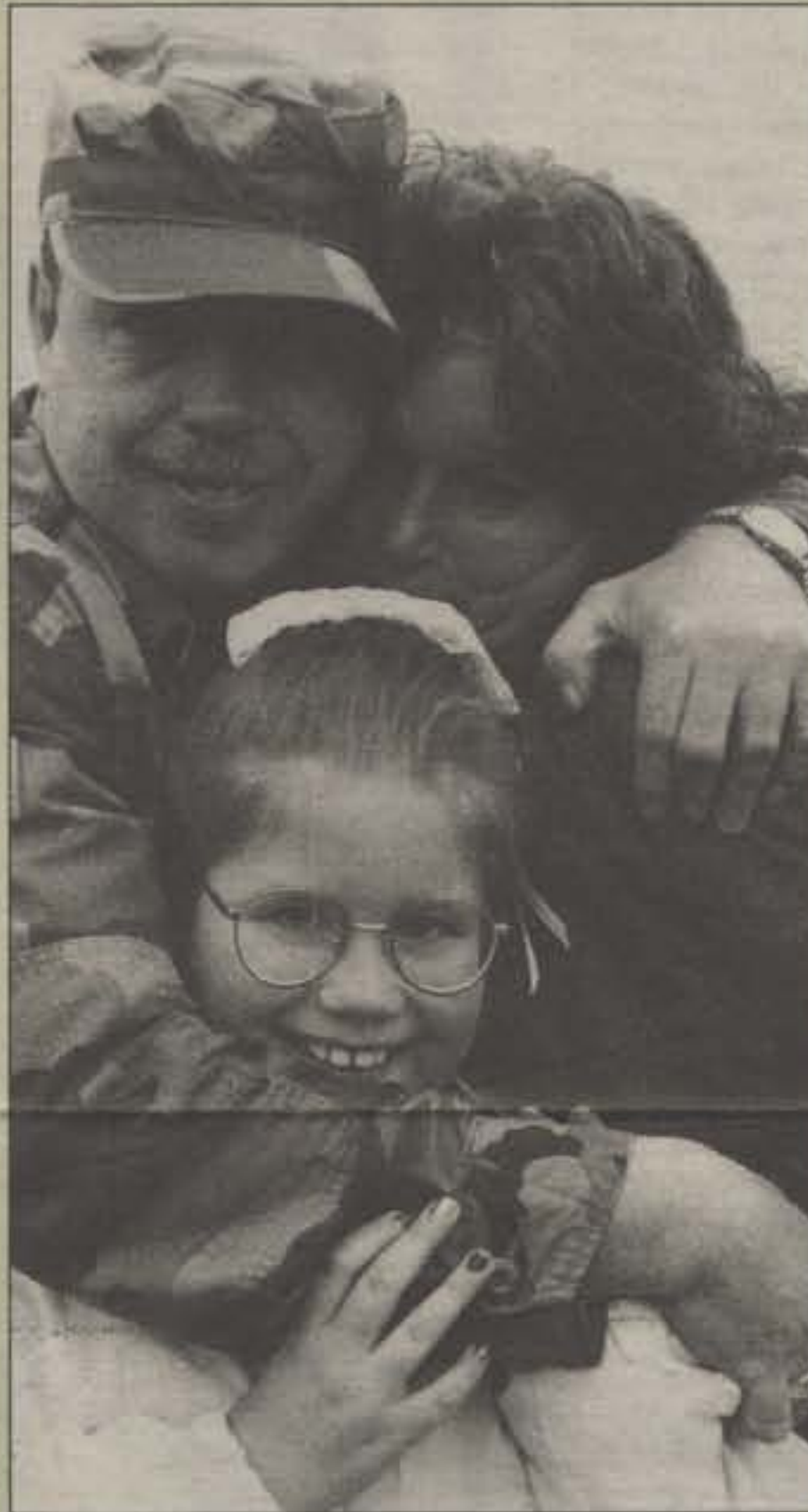


Photo by Lt. Col. Bill Atchison

## IDAHO

Last April, the 124th Wing in Boise retired the F-4 Phantom II from active service. Recently, it made a glowing return.

A modified aircraft, rigged with 4,500 lights, was towed in the Nite Lite parade as part of the Boise River Festival, attended by approximately 100,000 people.

According to Nite-Lite Parade team member, SMSgt. Donald Carlock, many parade watchers told him that the 124th's F-4 was the most impressive float.

"They are completely amazed seeing a jet fighter rolling down Main Street," he said.

## GEORGIA

In an effort to improve the combat readiness of its aviation assets, the Peach State's 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation will relocate from Winder/Barrow County Airport near Atlanta to Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta.

The battalion flies and maintains eight UH-60 Blackhawks.

The relocation affects more than 200 traditional Guardmembers. The move will also require 35 full-time National Guard positions to be transferred to Dobbins.

Officials estimate the move to create a \$1.1 million impact for the Dobbins community.

Despite the move, four Army Guard units, employing more than 50 full-timers, will remain in Winder.

## WASHINGTON

By Capt. Kay Steward  
Washington National Guard

Members of the 141st Air Refueling Wing delivered 14,800 pounds of clothing, blankets, medical supplies and toys to orphans in Bucharest, Romania.

The items had been donated by the Spokane community after a series of articles appeared in the *Spokesman Review* documenting Annie Ryan Meyers' visit to the country.

Ryan Meyers, co-president of Northwest Medical Teams' Spokane chapter, along with Julie Sullivan and Colin Mulvany, a reporter and photographer with paper, accompanied the unit.

The 141st, which fly the KC-135 tanker, was asked to support the humanitarian effort by the Department of Defense due to the large response in donations.

Airmen and women with 141st's traffic management office, along with crewmembers, inspected and loaded nearly 400 boxes.

Ryan Meyers and the two media representatives were dropped off in the former dictatorship to distribute the donations. They stayed in Romania for 12 days before returning to Spokane.

"We were all glad to be a part of it," said Lt. Col. Landry Smallfoot, a 141st ARW navigator. "We worked pretty hard unloading and were wet with perspiration, even though it was only 20 degrees.

"It was a good feeling knowing that everything was going to get where it needed to be," he added.



Photo by Lt. Col. Landry Smallfoot

**BUCHAREST BOUND** -- Washington airmen (above) helped load and deliver donated supplies to Romania.



# HISTORY

The Whiskey Rebellion marks first time National Guard is called to duty.

## Death, taxes, the National Guard

**D**eath and taxes, two things history tells us that we can count on. Few present day Guardmembers know, however, about a mission the militiamen before them were counted on to support -- to help officials collect taxes.

When those in the Guard refer to their federal mission, they are usually talking about supporting a wartime or contingency mission as part of the total force.

The National Guard, however, also has another federal mission, one of enforcing federal laws. It's not a mission they are asked to perform often, but it is an important one. In fact, the Guard's first federal operation under the U.S. Constitution was to help collect taxes.

In 1791, Congress passed an excise tax on liquor. It was collected by federal tax collectors. While this "whiskey tax" was not popular with many Americans, it was especially resented in the frontier areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas.

Whiskey was an important product on the frontier. Because there were few roads, farmers could not easily ship their grain to the East. Instead, grain was distilled as whiskey, making it easier to sell and transport.

Opposition to the tax was strongest in western Pennsylvania. Federal tax officials were threatened or run out of the area. When a U.S. marshal attempted to serve writs against tax cheats, violence broke out. On July 16, 1794, a mob attacked a tax collector and fired at a U.S. marshal near Pittsburgh. President George Washington saw this attack as a direct threat to the new federal government.

Since the entire U.S. Army of some 2,600 men was in Ohio fighting Indians, Washington requested that the militia be called into federal service.

Under a 1792 law, it was necessary for a federal judge to approve the use of the militia to enforce federal law.

On Aug. 14, the President ordered the governors of Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia to provide a total of 12,950 militiamen to serve in an

expedition march to western Pennsylvania to put down the "Whiskey Rebellion." It was the first time the militia was called into federal service under the Constitution.

As the largest military operation since the Revolutionary War, Washington -- one of history's most storied military leaders -- decided to personally take command of the militia tasked with putting down the rebellion. It was the first and only time in U.S. history that a sitting president, donned a uniform to command troops in battle.

The rebellion also marked the first and only time that governors -- New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia -- appointed themselves as major generals of their militia, serving in federal service as commanders of their respective contingents.

The governors ordered their adjutants general to orga-



### GUARD HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratyuk  
NATIONAL GUARD HISTORIAN

obligatory militia; the volunteer militia.

Volunteer militia companies were made up of young men who volunteered to join an organized, uniformed and equipped unit. They drilled on a regular basis. Within time, the volunteer militia replaced the old militia, ultimately becoming the National Guard we know today.

To answer the rebellion, both types of militia began reporting for duty in the early fall of 1794.

In the great militia tradition, units were organized and weapons were issued. In some cases, some training was conducted as the large militia force began marching to western Pennsylvania.

The New Jersey and Pennsylvania contingents were reviewed by Washington at Carlisle, Pa., in early October as they headed for Pittsburgh. The Maryland and Virginia contingent approached Pennsylvania from the southwest. The plan was for both forces to converge just south of Pittsburgh.

The militia army arrived at the scene of the rebellion Nov. 2. With word of the militia on the march, the rebels dispersed or hid. Federal authority was soon restored, allowing officials to the opportunity to resume their whiskey tax collection duties. Militia patrols arrested the ringleaders and escorted them to Philadelphia for trial. By the month's end, most of the militia force had returned home and mustered out of service.

"Congress shall have power ... to provide for calling fourth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasious."

Article 1, Section 8  
U.S. Constitution



National Guard heritage painting by Donna Neary

**REBELLION - George Washington, captured in a Guard heritage painting, inspects the New Jersey Militia at Carlisle, Pa., Oct. 3, 1794.**

The militia's role was a success. Federalized militia restored law and order, and the federal government proved that it could and would enforce the law.

It proved one other historical truth ... that the militia, or today's National Guard, was something else that Americans could count on, only in a positive way.



# TRAINING

New York maintainers return to a hero's welcome and a Guard experiment

## EMBRACING DEMOBILIZATION AT HOME

By Maj. Paul Fanning  
New York National Guard

A New York maintenance unit, recently returned from a seven-month activation to support the peacekeeping effort in Bosnia, may have built a bridge to the future of Army National Guard demobilizations.

The Empire State's 133rd Maintenance Company, based in Peekskill, just completed the Army Guard's first-ever "home station" demobilization. The vanguard experiment, observed by U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) evaluators, may allow other Guard units, returning from active duty tours, the convenience of outprocessing at home.

"In a single, indelible event," observed Brig. Gen. Bill Martin, New York's deputy adjutant general, "the returning soldier is reunited and rebonded with facility and loved ones. The moment captures the essence of service to nation and community."

It was just the latest step in the Army Guard's evolution toward demonstrating to its active component counterparts its ability to mobilize and demobilize on its own.

Recently, 48 percent of the nearly 1,100 Guardmembers tabbed to support Operation Stabilization Force, formerly named Joint Endeavor, were allowed to mobilize (weapons qualification, immunizations, up-to-date records, etc.) at home before reporting directly to Europe. In the past, units like the 133rd were required to spend a week or two at a stateside active-duty installation -- in many cases, a redundant process -- before heading overseas.

Now it was time to show the world they could handle coming home with equal administrative ease.

Instead of returning to Fort Dix, N.J. -- where they were required to mobilize last June -- the 170-person contingent began their historic demobilization fly-



Photo courtesy New York National Guard

ing directly from Germany to Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y., home of the 105th Airlift Wing. By no coincidence, the 105th -- the only Air Guard unit in the country that flies the massive C-5A Galaxy -- is located 15 miles from Camp Smith, the 133rd's training site.

"I would expect that Air Guard units will be involved in future mobilizations and demobilizations of Army Guard units if the geographical proximity allows," predicted Col. Thomas P. Maguire Jr., 105th AW commander.

In a scene reminiscent of the exuberance that greeted returning Gulf War troops, 133rd soldiers were met by cheering families and fellow Guardmembers as they exited their aircraft.

They were then shuttled off to Camp Smith, and into history.

The 133rd's "demob" -- to those in the know -- was personally reviewed by New York Gov. George Pataki.

"You represent the best of this state, the best of this country. You've performed a tremendous service," he told the troops as they went about the business of receiving

extensive medical exams and reviewing their personnel and finance records.

The prototype effort also drew praise from other lofty circles.

"We felt there was a real opportunity for the Guard to try the demobilization because they had been successful with the mobilization phases," said Gen. David Bramlett, FORSCOM commander. "All indications are the New York Army Guard did this mobilization effectively."

Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief, saw other advantages to outprocessing at home.

"It reintegrated the citizen-soldier into their family and home environment quicker and more effectively by leveraging the inherent capabilities of the New York State Area Command (STARC)," the Chief said. "This also saves money and allows us to invest those savings in readiness."

133rd's maintainers were not the only Army Guard unit being tested. On a smaller scale, 19 members of Georgia's 3rd Infantry Detachment demobilized at Fort Stewart, their one-weekend-a-month home.

**TEARFUL REUNION -** The wife (left) of a New York Army Guard 133rd Maintenance Company citizen-soldier greets her husband warmly after his unit's return home from a seven-month mission to support the peacekeeping effort in Bosnia.

"This is the sign of the future for mobilizing and demobilizing Army Guard units following deployments from federal duty," asserted Maj. Gen. Jack Fennimore, New York's adjutant general.

As for performance, expert observers liked what they saw.

"New York did an outstanding job conducting this 'demob'," declared Angel Castillo, the First U.S. Army's senior mobilization planner. Castillo said that it was the first time a Guard unit was fully demobilized -- meaning completion of soldier readiness processing to include the equipment and logistical portions -- at one central home station location. Home station outprocessing was conducted following Guard deployments to

Haiti, he added, but logistical processing had to be done at a military installation.

"New York was ready and able," Castillo said. "This proves that the Guard can do this."

Experiences following the Persian Gulf War prompted a review by the Pentagon of the Guard's involvement in the "demob" process at active duty posts, noted Col. John Slonina, the Army Guard's chief of readiness. Further evidence indicated that the needs of deployed Guardmembers were better served by their home units.

While many agree that there are inherent cost savings to adopting the home station 'demob' approach, Castillo cautioned that some states may not have the operating budget to do so.

"New York has good facilities available. This may not always be the case," he said. "The question is: 'Do you really want to do this?'"

One look at the outpouring of heartfelt appreciation that greeted 133rd soldiers upon their historic return home, appeared to provide, at least for New Yorkers, that answer.