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THE ON GUARD

Volume XXVI, No. 9

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

June 1997

Virginia infantry gets call

Leesburg-based 116th is tabbed for Bosnia duty

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

One two-quart canteen? Check. One large field pack? Check. One pair of combat overshoes? Check. Seven 30-round magazines? Check, check and check.

A lot of checking was going on in the Virginia Army National Guard's modern armory in Leesburg, hard by the Maryland border, during the third weekend in May.

The personal records and 35 different items of organizational clothing and equipment for 147 light infantrymen were carefully examined because the company from one of this country's oldest and most distinguished military outfits has been alerted to go to Bosnia this fall.

"It's better to be prepared ahead of time in case something were to happen," observed Spc. Lincoln Starbuck, an M-60 machine gunner and one of the Virginia Guard soldiers who, suddenly, was paying close attention to wills, insurance forms and other paperwork.

As hundreds of thousands of enthusiasts celebrated the modern marvels of the Defense Department during that weekend's Joint Services Open House some 40 miles away at Andrews AFB, 12 dozen citizen-soldiers in the 116th Infantry began girding up for the military's oldest profession -- straight-legged infantry duty.

Charlie Company from the 3rd Battalion of the 116th Infantry -- better known to history as "The Stonewall Brigade"--

was also being checked at considerably higher levels.

If mobilized for "Joint Guard" peace-keeping duty in September, it will be the first company-size National Guard infantry unit called up for overseas duty since the Vietnam War.

The mission would be guarding a bridge spanning the Sava River, explained the company commander, Capt. Michael Patterson.

It will not be the first Army Guard combat outfit sent into Bosnia because artillery units have been part of the peace-keeping force since the Dayton Peace



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

PEP TALK - Maj. Gen. Carroll Childers, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, addresses soldiers with the Virginia Army Guard's C Co., 3rd Bn., 116th Infantry.

Accord kicked off the operation in December 1995.

But it will be the first time a Guard infantry unit is being used in a peace-keeping capacity. That's why a lot of people are checking Charlie Company these days.

"We are doing everything we possibly can to make sure you and your families are ready if you are deployed. We will not let you down," Maj. Gen. Carroll Childers, commander of Virginia's 29th Infantry Division, promised his troops during a Saturday pep talk.

He was preaching to the choir. Charlie

■ See INFANTRY, Page 13



Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Waters

**NORWAY or
the HIGHWAY**

A member of the New York Air Guard's 174th Fighter Wing uses a sleigh to get around at Andoya Air Station, Norway. The 174th was part of a 10 NATO-nation exercise called Adventure Express 97.



COMMENTARY

• Dakota Deeds • A Good April

ABOUT the PAPER

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GUARD MAIL

THANKS DAN

North Dakota newspaper editor Tim Fought became one of the National Guard's newest fans in the morning darkness of April 19 as flood water crept up the driveway of his home in Grand Forks.

The Red River of the North had broken through the dike and was surging through the city's streets higher and faster than Fought and his thousands of neighbors had believed possible.

At 2:30 a.m., a young North Dakota Army Guard soldier named Dan turned his four-wheel-drive Humvee into the driveway on the corner of Eighth and Walnut to carry Fought and his wife, Marcia Harris, 10 blocks to safety.

"Not until then had I formed any lasting impressions of the National Guard," said Fought. "Now, my lasting impression of the Guard is Dan from Bismarck."

It is a good impression.

Fought did not catch Dan's last name. Or his unit. Or much of anything else about the Guardsman who arrived to evacuate the editor and his wife from the dark and forbidding waters in their hour of need. There wasn't much time to get acquainted.

Dan, however, made an influential friend or two that morning before driving off to help someone else. Tim Fought is the opinion editor for the 40,000-circulation *Grand Forks Herald* that gained its 15 minutes of fame by continuing to publish after a fire that

same weekend reduced the newspaper's building to rubble in the flooded heart of the city.

He can tell a lot of people about what Dan and the National Guard meant to them and their city.

"He was a young guy. All business. He wanted to be sure I knew I had to get a tetanus shot," said Fought of Dan. "I can't tell you how happy I was to see him."

Added Fought: "With what the Guard and the Air Force brought in to help us, I don't know what we would have done without you."

Reported by MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

PAPER PRAISE

You really put out a nice issue in April. Usually they're good, but this one rises above that to excellent status. I like your listing of e-mail and web addresses in your masthead. I also liked the "I Am the American Flag" letter and "You Know You're a Soldier If..." letters.

MSgt. Bob Haskell's article on the Cohen/Chamberlain connection was good. Anyone who's watched Ken Burns' *The Civil War*, will never forget Chamberlain who was featured so prominently in those events and in Burns' program.

The Triple threat and Another Challenge articles were interesting, as was what you've done with the color on pages 4-5 and the headlines on page 5.

The photos throughout were excellent. I liked that engineer photo on page 6. The framing with the dozer bucket is

a nice touch. The flood article is interesting to me since I used to be stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., and will be moving to Southern Indiana after I leave the service. I also liked the picture of the three folks at the refueling point on page 13, too, and the sling load photo. Good stop action on the helicopter blades while blurring them so the picture doesn't look unnatural. Evidently the Guard has some high-quality training or talented journalists, or both.

The story on Death, taxes and the National Guard is also outstanding. I didn't know that a corollary to the Guard mission is enforcing federal laws. I thought Posse Comitatus prevented that.

The demobilization at home story is also very good. These are some interesting times we are living in and *The On Guard* newspaper is doing a good job in telling Americans about that story.

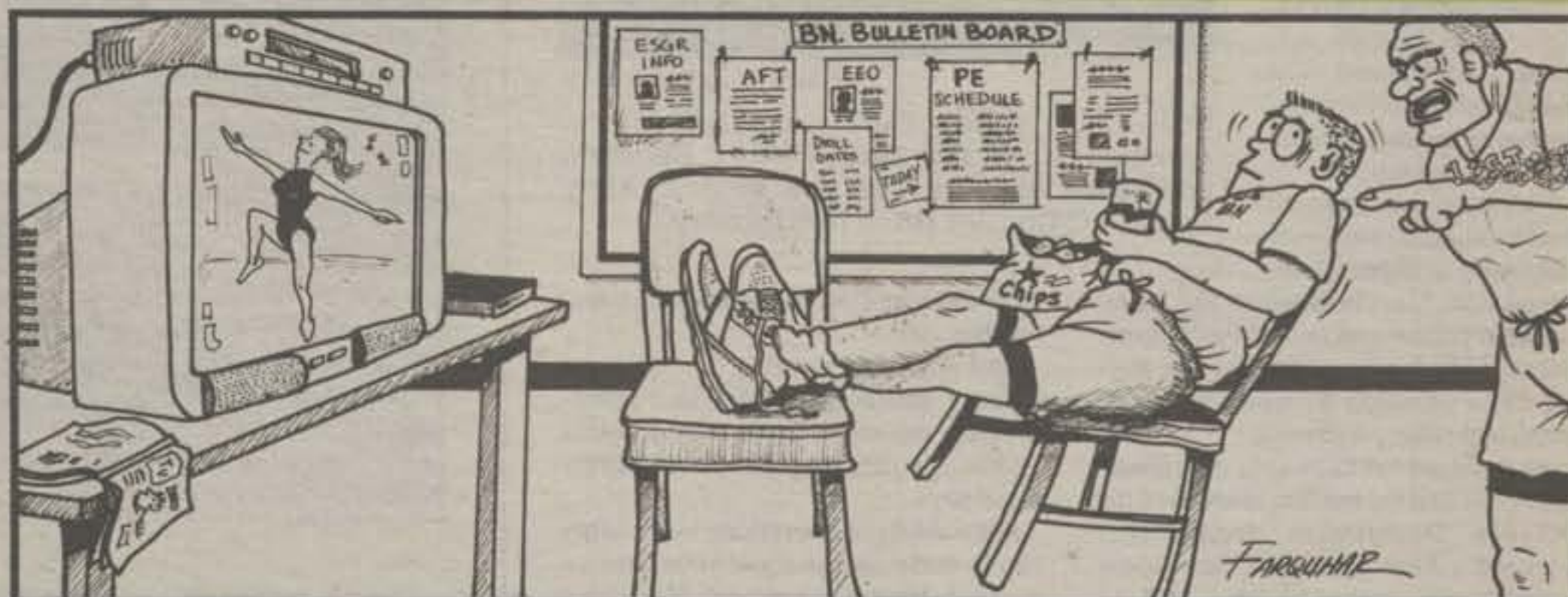
MSgt. George Smock
U.S. Army

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



"You clearly misunderstood me when I said you could use an aerobic video to warm up for PT."



IN THE NEWS

• Carolina MLRS • Global Command and Control System • AAFES Prices

Rocket launchers join Carolina arsenal

Palmetto State's 3rd Battalion, 178th FA to receive 27 MLRSs

By SSgt. Danny Brazell
South Carolina National Guard

Calling it "a great day in the life of the 178th," South Carolina Congressman John M. Spratt, Jr. helped unveil the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and propel the Palmetto State Army Guard onto the front lines.

Spratt was speaking to members and friends of the Lancaster-based 3rd Battalion, 178th Field Artillery at the National Guard's Fort Jackson training facility during a May 3 ceremony. The battalion officially received the keys to the MLRS, a surface-to-surface rocket artillery system that can effectively destroy a city-size target from more than 20 miles away.

"You have become the proud owner of the world's premier artillery system," said Spratt, who was instrumental in helping the South Carolina Guard obtain the system.

The 3-178th FA is converting from the much-loved, but obsolete, M110 8-inch howitzer to the MLRS, which can accurately fire 12 anti-armor or anti-personnel rockets at a time. The unit has already received 18 of the 27 promised rocket launchers, a project worth more than \$137 million once all the weapons and supporting equipment has been received.

The MLRS is the Army's most high-tech artillery system. The rockets, whose target is selected by sophisticated on-board computers, can be fired individually or



Photo by MSgt. Phillip H. Jones

ROCKET MEN - South Carolina Guardmembers and friends (above) view a Multiple Launch Rocket System on display. The state's 3-178th FA will receive 27 MLRSs.

in volleys of two-to-12 by the launcher's three-person crew. The tracked launcher carries a land navigation computer system that allows the crew to remain in the safety of the armored cab while pinpointing their position at all times. The highly mobile launcher, which can be fired night or day in all types of weather, can move rapidly to avoid enemy detection once it has fired.

"You can deter many aggressors just by showing up," said Steve Altman, the representative from the MLRS' manufacturer, Lockheed Martin.

The 3rd-178th, commanded by Lt. Col. Ronnie E. Gordon, is the tenth of 21 National Guard battalions that will ultimately receive the MLRS.

Spratt said receiving the state-of-art rocket system shows the confidence the Pentagon and Congress has in the capabilities of the South Carolina soldiers.

"Congress wouldn't have given you this \$137 million missile system," he said, "if you weren't ready and able to use this piece of equipment."

Air Guard acquires strategic computer system

The Air National Guard took another step toward becoming a seamless partner with the Air Force, announced Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, with its recent acquisition of the Global Command and Control System or GCCS.

Shepperd, the Air Guard's director, called the new technology an "exciting development" in an official release.

"It will contribute enormously to the modernization of the Air National Guard," he predicted.

The GCCS has now replaced the World Wide Military Command and Control System (WWMCCS) as the Department of Defense's computerized system of record for strategic command and control functions. With GCCS, say officials, joint commanders can coordinate widely dispersed units, receive accurate feedback, and execute more demanding, higher precision requirements during fast mov-

ing operations.

"The new GCCS provides combatant commanders one predominant source for generating, receiving, sharing and using information securely," Shepperd noted. "It provides surveillance and reconnaissance information and access to global intelligence sources as well as data on the precise location of dispersed friendly forces."

The system also will allow ANG warfighters the ability to plan, execute and manage military operations, the General added.

"The system helps joint force commanders to synchronize the actions of air, land, sea, space and special operations forces," he said. "It has the flexibility to be used in a range of operations, from actual combat to humanitarian assistance."

The acquisition became necessary given today's technologies. The WWMCCS network, in use since

the 1970s, worked off of large main-frame computers.

"The new technology, based on a common operating environment, allows greater software flexibility, reliability and interoperability with other systems," Shepperd said.

For example, he noted, commanders can establish their own "web pages" at the secret level and communicate securely through e-mail with counterparts around the world.

The Air Guard's headquarters staff has been using the GCCS since July 1996. All ANG units, officials predict, will start receiving the system in the near future. In addition to connectivity to the GCCS system, units also will be connected to the global secure network.

"This is a tremendous step forward," Shepperd said. "It affirms our dedication to maintain a world class organization into the next millennium."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

AAFES launches major campaign to reduce prices

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has launched a major pricing strategy directed at returning millions of dollars in savings to its customers, according to Maj. Gen. A.D. Bender, AAFES commander.

Cost-cutting measures, improved sales and unexpected revenue from commissary tobacco sales, Bender said, allowed AAFES to distribute \$224 million in dividends to Morale, Welfare and Recreation last year.

MWR will not be the only people benefiting from AAFES' windfall, Bender said.

"For the first time, we will return a part of our earnings directly to our customers by substantially lowering prices," he said.

As a result, the General added, a pricing strategy, called "4-Ways to Save," has been launched. One of those strategies is to offer 25 percent off on high-demand merchandise.

"In recent surveys many have told us they believe that our prices are not low enough," said Bender. "Our younger military shoppers tell us price most often determines where they shop. In order to earn their loyalty we must lower prices."

ChalleNGe program recognized

ChalleNGe, the National Guard-run youth program that offers at-risk youth a chance to earn a General Educational Development (GED) certificate in five months of intensive instruction has been named as a semifinalist in the 1997 Innovations in American Government Awards presented by the Ford Foundation and Harvard University.

ChalleNGe, a residential program operating in 15 states for drug-free, 16 to 18-year-old high school dropouts, offers these teenagers a chance to earn their GED through a program that provides scholastic training and teaches life skills, health, fitness, hygiene and a respect for the value of citizenship and community service.

A survey of the 5,000 most recent graduates found that 43.3 percent were gainfully employed, 22.4 percent were attending college, 13.8 percent were attending vocational schools, 11.9 percent had returned to high school and the remaining 8.6 percent were serving in the military.

ChalleNGe was one of 99 programs selected as a semifinalist from a pool of 1,540 applicants. The Innovations Awards annually recognize effective government programs on the federal, state, county and city levels.

IN THE NEWS

'On Guard' judged best paper in DoD

The *On Guard*, the flagship publication of the Army and Air National Guard, was selected as the best funded newspaper in the Department of Defense recently.

That determination was made by a panel of journalism luminaries from the civilian and academic worlds during the annual DoD-level Thomas Jefferson journalism competition -- considered the Pulitzer Prize of military journalism. Before taking on the best papers in the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, *The On Guard* qualified for the contest by besting National Guard and U.S. Army-level papers from around the world.

"Our paper reports on the deeds of Guardsmen and women," noted MSgt. John Malthaner, *On Guard* editor and five-time Jefferson award winner. "If we're the best the DoD has to offer, then so are the people we write about."

There were other noteworthy efforts in the National Guard's journalism community. MSgt. Bob Haskell, *The On Guard*'s senior correspondent, was selected the best feature writer in the U.S. Army at the Keith L. Ware competition. Haskell, a former staffer at the *Bangor Daily News*, also won an honorable mention for sports-writing.

Other Army Guard writers to place at the Ware contest were: Mississippi's SFC William Jones (second place) for illustrative art, Maryland's 29th Public Affairs Detachment (3rd place) for field newspapers, Texas' Spc. Aaron Reed (honorable mention) for feature writing and Mississippi's Lt. Col. Timothy Powell (honorable mention) for TV information programs.

Air Guard scribes also made news at the Air Force Media Contest. *The Stewart Flier*, edited by the 105th Airlift Wing's (N.Y.) SSgt. Trish Heikkila, finished second in the magazine category. Kentucky's SSgt. Allen Dale Greer placed third for newswriting.

Ukrainians observe California

'People have been crying for freedom all these years, but they don't know how to use it'

By MSgt. Ben Delaney
California National Guard

Understanding the attributes of the American democratic system and then applying them can be a very daunting experience, especially to someone from a country that was once under the control of the former Soviet Union.

This is the case for the people of Ukraine, a country of 52 million; second in population only to Russia among former Soviet Union nations.

Fourteen Ukrainian military and civilian leaders visited California recently as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The contingent spent two weeks in the Golden State and then headed to Washington, D.C., for a week to learn about government and business.

The challenge was simple enough for the Ukrainians, said Alexander Krainiy, the tour group leader: observe the U.S. democracy to find ways to help their own country become prosperous.

Since voting for their independence in December 1991, progress has been slow. By visiting the United States, he added, Ukrainians hope to gain insights that will help them speed up the transition from a totalitarian government to a more democratic one.

"People have been crying for freedom all these years while living under totali-

tarianism," Krainiy said. "But they don't know how to use it."

While in California, the Ukrainians -- a delegation of four military officers and 10 civilian public officials -- were given a tour of local and state government in the Sacramento and Sonoma County regions. In Sacramento, they visited the state capitol where they met with state Senator Mike Thompson, who explained the state budget process and how a bill becomes law.

The delegation also traveled to Santa

eign Economic Relations, said the personal freedoms and absence of state-directed interference of the economy enjoyed by Americans was noteworthy.

"I am impressed by American attitudes toward cultural, historical and democratic traditions," Zhovtenko said. "I would especially like to point to the independence of city authorities in managing cities, formulating budgets and providing services."

California Army Guard's Capt. Steven Goff who helped organize and conduct the California tour, said the Ukrainians were genuinely interested in the U.S. way of life.

"There's nothing that says that we are doing everything right. I told them, 'I'll expose you to the way we do things, both right and wrong.' We're learning from each other."

Goff said their nation, with a 99 percent literacy rate (one of the highest in the world) and a stable government, hasn't reached its potential.

"They see what they could be and they can't get there fast enough," he added.

The Ukrainian's California tour also involved learning about the California National Guard. Zhovtenko received a positive impression of the Guard too.

"I am impressed," he said, "by the system and structure of the National Guard: a state institution for providing security for citizens of the country and state."

"This organization is especially outstanding in dealing with emergencies," Zhovtenko continued. "I like how the system works. It allows Americans to be active citizens capable of providing effective assistance to the society."



Photo by Lt. Col. Doug Hart

MONEY MATTERS - Ukrainian Alexander Krainiy (above, right) discusses economics with Sonoma County Economics Development Board coordinator Ben Stone as Capt. Steven Goff (center) listens in.

Rosa where they listened in on a Sonoma County Board of supervisors meeting. They were introduced and presented with a resolution from the board acknowledging the value of the cultural and political exchange between the two countries.

Valery Zhovtenko, Ukraine's Cherkasy region chairman of the Ministry of For-

'AWE' INSPIRED

A Wisconsin Army Guard 732nd Maintenance Battalion troop (right) guides an M2 Bradley fighting vehicle on to a Heavy Equipment Transporter. More than 300 Badger Staters went to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., to help soldiers get ready for the Army's Advanced Warfighting Experiment (AWE).



Photo by MSgt. Chuck Bolstad



PEOPLE

• Hampshire Heroics • Four-of-a-Kind

High rise heroics

1st Lt. Bob Blonigen
talks suicidal man off
Piscataqua bridge

By Maj. John Rice
New Hampshire National Guard

In a rescue both heroic and terrifying, New Hampshire State Trooper Bob Blonigen, and Maine State Trooper Bill Donovan, talked a distraught young man out of jumping off the U.S. Route 95 high rise bridge connecting Portsmouth, N.H., and Kittery, Maine.

Blonigen, a first lieutenant and personnel officer with the 157th Military Police Flight, New Hampshire Air National Guard, was on his way home to eat lunch when a dispatcher's call alerted him to the drama on the Piscataqua River Bridge. Blonigen made the nine-mile trip from the Hampton toll booth to the span in minutes.

"There was a Maine cruiser in the breakdown lane in front of a parked car," the soft-spoken Blonigen remembers. "In front

of the car was a small gym bag containing two letters: one to the police and one addressed to 'Tammy'."

Blonigen read the letter for the police, politely leaving the letter to Tammy, the young man's former girlfriend, unopened.

"From reading the letter, I got the feeling he wasn't serious about committing suicide," Blonigen said. "I felt he was looking for attention, that he was susceptible to someone at least talking to him."

To do that, Trooper Blonigen scrambled over the side of the bridge to a suspended catwalk underneath the concourse. Donovan was already in the process of talking to the man, who had walked out farther under the bridge.

Although it was a sunny late March day, cold 30 mile-per-hour winds buffeted the two policemen. The dangerous waters of the swift-flowing Piscataqua swirled 80-feet below.

"It was a good thing I had white gloves on," Blonigen said. "The young man (Steve Goeddeke, 29) couldn't see my

white knuckles. I kept one hand on something solid all the time."

Goeddeke said he wanted his girlfriend, who was protected from him by a restraining order, to come to the bridge.

"I said, 'That's impossible,'" Blonigen remembers. "'That's not going to happen.'"

"Once we got that straight," he added, "we started searching for other alternatives."

As the situation developed, police gathered on both the New Hampshire and Maine shores. A Coast Guard cutter rushed to the scene. Up on the concourse, more police ushered backed-up traffic through one of the bridge's three lanes.

Using background information relayed by police radio, Blonigen -- certain that Goeddeke was bluffing -- coaxed him up on to the concourse after about an hour. He was taken to a local hospital for evaluation and released to Maine police.

"I was never really threatened by him or what he might do," Blonigen said. "It was more the place we were in. I kept thinking there's got to be an easier way to make a living."

New Hampshire's 1st Lt. Bob Blonigen (right) surveys the scene of his recent heroics.



Photo by SSgt. Dan Beaudreau

Maine family enlists on same day

Four Sworn

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Serving in the National Guard is a way of life for many families across the country. The Bresetts from the northern Maine town of Van Buren have turned the Army Guard into a family affair a lot more suddenly than most.

Four members of the Bresett family -- a father, his two sons and his son-in-law -- joined the Maine Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 152nd Field Artillery at the same time.

"They heard so many stories from me, they thought they would make some stories of their own," said Michael Bresett, 42, the father who rejoined the Guard after an 18-year break from military service that included tours in the Marines and active Army.

"My sons are older now. They're old enough to share the same things with me," added Bresett just before the



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

foursome was sworn in by Col. James Tracey, the Maine Army Guard's director of personnel, at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Portland.

The roll call included his sons Michael II, 22, and Joshua, 20, and son-in-law Michael Stanco, 24, all students at the University of Maine-Fort Kent. Dad manages the family's 40-acre farm.

All joined the Presque Isle-based 1-152nd, a 41-member detachment about 25 miles from their Aroostook County home. The father has reenlisted as a specialist and explained the four will be members of the same 155-mm howitzer crew after the three young men return from basic training and artillery school at Fort Sill, Okla.

"This is the chance to spend the summer in another part of the country and learn something new," said Joshua. "Nobody told me it's going to be easy. It just seems really interesting."

FUTURE CREW - Michael Bresett (far left) sold sons, Joshua (2nd from left), Michael II, and son-in-law Michael Stanco, on the Maine Army Guard.

Officials for the Maine Army Guard could not recall so many members of a Maine family enlisting at the same time.

"This is very unusual. I've never heard of anything like it," remarked Army Maj. Shirley Schneider, the station commander.

The wheels began turning last Christmas, explained Michael Bresett, when he checked out a furniture sale at the Presque Isle Armory and struck up a casual conversation with a noncommissioned officer about the possibility of getting back in.

"There have been times when I missed the military," acknowledged Bresett, who asked the three younger men if they wanted to join with him.

Stanco, who expects to receive a bachelor's degree in nursing next May, said he would like to become an officer. The Montgomery G.I. Bill's educational benefits appealed to the sons who are college sophomores.

The fact that all four passed the physical entrance tests also speaks volumes, indicated Capt. John McKenney, Maine Army Guard's recruiting and retention manager. "It's getting tougher to get in," he said.

The 2,355-member Maine Army Guard, that over the years has included large families such as the Alberts, Dumas and Clements, now includes the Bresetts.

FLOOD UPDATE

North Dakota may have gotten the headlines, but Minnesotans were also knee-deep in flood waters

Mucking in MINNESOTA

By Capt. Kevin Gutknecht
Minnesota National Guard

When Minnesota was hit with some of the severest flooding in its recorded history, its National Guard was called to help its neighbors before, during and after.

Thousands of Guardmembers were activated by Gov. Arne Carlson during three weeks in April where flood waters crested and threatened lives and property.

State and local officials expected severe flooding long before April. Minnesota had experienced a very wet autumn, and an even more difficult winter with record snowfalls. The final snowstorm dumped almost eight inches of snow on the Red River Valley in early April.

The National Guard got busy in that area in early April. Starting with the city of Ortonville, on the western border of the state, Guardsmen and women were a presence in almost every major city along that river.

In Montevideo and Granite Falls, Guardmembers worked alongside volunteers, city workers, residents and school children stacking sandbags, providing evacuation assistance and controlling traffic.

The city of Granite Falls was especially at risk. Residents there, armed with several Guardmembers, worked for several days prior to the anticipated cresting of the river to shore-up the dikes that ran through the center of town. During the last day of that preparation, the weather turned brutal, releasing cold temperatures rain and snow on the area.

The next wet spot along the river was the city of Montevideo. Guardmembers there also assisted with sandbagging, traffic control and dike monitoring. Guard equipment, such as the Small Unit Support Vehicle, was used to assist with evacuations from flooded areas.

As the water moved passed Montevideo and further along the river, the danger in the Minnesota River Valley began to sub-

side. However, to the north, the Red River was just beginning to spill over its banks.

The flood first hit the city of Breckinridge, Minn. Guardmembers there assisted with traffic control and dike work. As the flood progressed, and the water began to cover the city, their mission turned to evacuation.

The river then moved through the cities of Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn. There, the damage was significant, but the floods affects had been diminished somewhat by preparations in the city.

Other rivers in the northwestern part of



Photos by MSgt. Charles Farrow



RESCUE EFFORT - A Minnesota Guardsmen (above) helps evacuate a women stranded by the floods. The National Guard rescued more than 5,000 people. Water pumps (left) were also used to halt flood waters.

provided generators that powered the city's emergency operation center for almost two weeks.

The Red River, meanwhile, gained power as it coursed north toward East Grand Forks, Minn., and Grand Forks, N.D. Residents and city officials in those towns worked feverishly for several days adding height to dikes that were already above the record height for floods in the area.

The Gopher state's Air Guard flew

the state, as well as a phenomenon known as overland flooding, attacked other towns. The city of Ada, which lies 35 miles northeast of Moorhead, was almost completely enveloped by flooding. Almost everyone in the town was evacuated. The Guard secured the town and



Minnesota citizens and citizen-soldiers worked together to shore-up dikes.

more than 100,000 empty sandbags from the southern part of the state to East Grand Forks.

However, the work was all in vain as the river swelled well above the dikes, soaking the two cities. Minnesota Guardmembers, armed with five-ton trucks, worked many hours to evacuate stranded residents. National Guard helicopters were also called upon to transport people across the swollen river when the all of the bridges over the river were closed.

As the water moved past East Grand Forks, it swallowed up small towns along the way. However, the city of St. Vincent, which is just south of the Canadian border, fought a valiant fight. Guardmembers assisted that city with a sandbagging effort that kept the swirling waters out of the town. The situation was tense for a time, and Guard officials had helicopters ready in case immediate evacuation proved necessary.

By the end of May, the flood waters receded and Guardmembers took their leave of the flooded areas. Federal, state and local officials are still conducting damage assessments. They are also helping residents rebuild their lives.

For the cities along the Red River, the flood proved to be the most severe in history. It was four or more feet above previous flood records in many places. It was described by many as the "100-year flood."

All totaled, more than 3,000 Minnesota Army and Air Guardmembers served on state active duty. At its peak in mid April, more than 1,200 Guardmembers served at one time.



Spc. Janel R. George
North Dakota National Guard

Sometimes it is useful to be slightly behind the times.

Such is the case for a contingent of West Virginia Army Guard mechanics and helicopter pilots in Bosnia-Herzegovina tasked with flying and maintaining the only four OH-58 Scout helicopters left in Europe.

The Mountaineer State's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation operate the Scout back home in Wheeling. The aircraft, old by today's standards, is not widely used by active Army aviators.

"Our job is real important because the active Army does not have people to support the aircraft," said Sgt. Robert Braden, a full-time Guard mechanic.

However, because of the demands the Operation Joint Guard peacekeeping mission has created, the Scouts and its lone operators have found a unique niche.

They are also very busy, said SFC Michael Scully, platoon sergeant.

After logging 300 flight hours, he explained, each aircraft has to undergo a major inspection process known as a "phase."

The inspections, previously performed in Hungary, were conducted for the first time in Bosnia. The phase involves a major disassembly of the aircraft.

"One hundred hours a month would be easy to accumulate over here. That is if we were only using one aircraft," Scully said. "We use two to three helicopters a day, so on average we put in 60 to 80 flight hours each month."

The phase is a very time-consuming and detailed examination that usually takes six weeks to perform, he

BOSNIA UPDATE

Uniquely Qualified

The Army turns to West Virginia Army Guard crew to run its Scout mission



Photos by Spc. Janel R. George

SCOUT SAVIORS - Sgt. Robert Braden (top photo) makes a repair to an OH-58 Scout helicopter in Bosnia. CWO Douglas Nutter (above), a pilot, scrubs a Scout clean.

said, whereas a UH-60 Blackhawk costs \$1,600 an hour.

"We can take on the smaller missions of the UH-60, like recons and one-to-two passenger loads that don't require a big aircraft," said CWO Douglas H. Nutter, a maintenance officer and test pilot.

Aside from being well trained in the Scout mission, the West Virginia crew have another advantage over fellow aviators -- the former Yugoslav landscape is very similar, they insist, to the terrain back home.

"Walking out of West Virginia and into Bosnia ... it is just like home," Scully said.

added. However, given his crew's experience, Scully says, "we are hoping to have this one done in two to three weeks."

"It is something that needs to be done," added SSgt. Donald Miller. "I wouldn't want to be

the one out there flying around if the maintenance wasn't done." Miller, a civilian water department worker, hails from Vienna.

The OH-58 is used primarily for reconnaissance and observation missions. In Bosnia, however, the detachment has also provided lifts for chaplains and dignitaries.

"They (OH-58) are a more economical form of transportation for the missions we are required to do," noted Braden.

An OH-58 costs \$400 to operate for one hour, he

said, whereas a UH-60 Blackhawk costs \$1,600 an hour.

"We can take on the smaller missions of the UH-60, like recons and one-to-two passenger loads that don't require a big aircraft," said CWO Douglas H. Nutter, a maintenance officer and test pilot.

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NATIONAL GUARD'S BEST

Banks, Bruder, Cowgill, Ricchio named top airmen

Air Apparents

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

In the summer of 1996, a young man named Timothy Banks found himself working behind the scenes of a high-profile mission -- guarding the U.S. president's airplane, Air Force One.

In June and July of that election year, when President William Clinton visited St. Louis, Mo., two different times, TSgt. Banks supervised the Missouri Air National Guard's hand-picked, 10-member security police details that kept the distinctive Boeing 747 safe for the world's most powerful leader.

How well did he do that job? He was good enough to be selected as the Air National Guard's non-commissioned officer of the year.

The 28-year-old Banks, accompanied by his wife Terri, was among the Air Guard's four top enlisted people for 1997 honored in Washington, D.C., during the week of May 4 -- their organization's 50th anniversary year.

Michigan's SrA Maegan Cowgill, and MSgt. Darrell Bruder and MSgt. Joseph Riccio, both from New York, were also honored as the Air Guard's top airman, first sergeant and senior NCO.

"We have guarded B-1 bombers up-loaded with nuclear weapons. We treated Air Force One the same way," explained the trim Banks who has devoted his nine-year military career to protecting some of this country's most sophisticated warplanes and the people who fly them.

He has been the first to respond to a B-1 crash on the Ellsworth AFB flight line in South Dakota. He has searched for the missing pilot after an F-4 fighter crashed in Germany. He has helped evacuate people from another German location after bomblets exploded in ammunition cans. He has also known the anxiety of guarding Air Force One when George Bush was the president.

"I got a big lump in my throat the first time," Banks said of that 1989 mission.

Banks joined the Missouri Air Guard's 131st Security Police Squadron in St. Louis in October 1993 after more than four years on active duty. Securing Air Force One for 24 hours at the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport when the president was in town two different times may not have been as intimidating last

year, but it was serious business.

It meant working with members of the Secret Service; assisting Marine security people responsible for the presidential helicopters; and observing the bulletproof vans and special communications equipment that also accompany the commander in chief.

"It's amazing what they bring in," Banks said.

"I knew how seriously my supervisors had considered the mission in the past," said Banks about his preparations for that job at the world's 21st busiest airport last year. "By the time it was my turn, it was like second nature."

The Air Guard's other top enlisted people for 1997:

Airman of the Year: SrA Maegan Cowgill, 21, bioenvironmental engineering technician, 110th Medical Squadron, Battle Creek, Mich.

This native of Arlington Heights, Ill., initiated and developed a radio-frequency radiation program that included a base-wide inventory of all radio-frequency emitters and sources, including A-10 aircraft. No discrepancies were identified in the first-ever environmental compliance program inspection in her shop.

She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in industrial environmental health at Ferris State University.

First Sergeant of the Year: MSgt. Darrell Bruder, 40, first sergeant, Northeast Air Defense Sector, Rome, N.Y.

After more than 20 years in the Air Force, Bruder joined the AGR program last September. He identified a major problem for Title 32 Air Guardmembers. They did not qualify for Air Force aid or Red Cross support. His appeal to the Air Force Aid Society solved that problem.

He also arranged for members of the stand-alone unit to participate in sporting events with Rome leagues, and he established a recreational fund so the unit could buy fitness-room equipment.

He and his wife Judith have two sons. Bruder was selected to carry the Olympic torch through his community last year during the relay to Atlanta, Ga.

Senior NCO of the Year: MSgt. Joseph Riccio, 47, historian and quality advisor, 107th Air Refueling Wing, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

As wing historian, Riccio wrote and published a wing fact sheet and a history pamphlet about the 107th's contributions to the "Niagara Frontier." Because of those efforts, the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls and the counties of Niagara and Erie proclaimed May 26, 1996, as "New York State Air National Guard 107th ARW Day."



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

BEST IN BLUE - Bruder (above, left), Ricchio, Cowsill and Banks, the Air Guard's finest.

Top soldiers, airmen discuss issues affecting the Guard's future

Winning VIEWS

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Daniel Lankford is a lean, serious sort, nearly as lanky as his name implies, who intends to nail down a doctorate in exercise physiology around the turn of the century and then become a college professor.

His education took a decidedly different twist in early May. The young man from Enterprise, Ala., got a close look at the National Guard Bureau in the nation's capitol -- in the shadow of the Washington Monument and in the neighborhood of the Vietnam Memorial.

"I never realized the actual need of the National Guard on the world scene," said Lankford of the most important lesson he learned during a week filled with receptions, briefings and photograph sessions in Washington, D.C. "We don't often see that at our level."

Lankford, a specialist in an Alabama Army Guard personnel detachment, was in good company. He was one of eight members of the Army and Air National Guard honored as the top enlisted people for 1997.

The attention they paid to the busy week's details and the caliber of this cross section of enlisted citizen-soldiers spoke well of the National Guard as it approaches the 21st century.

"You give us the credibility to tell Congress we are the most ready reserve force in the nation," Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau chief, told the honored eight during a reception at his gracious, pillared home on Fort McNair.

Others concerned with the National Guard's future -- including Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Deborah Lee, Maj. Gen. William Navas, the Army Guard director, and Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, the Air Guard director -- also paid tribute to the

seven men and one woman during an otherwise unsettling week for the nation's military forces.

• Defense Secretary William Cohen proposed several streamlining measures, including reducing the seven reserve components by 70,000 troops, over the next decade to help pay for new equipment and weapons systems. The Army Guard, according to initial reports, would take the biggest hit.

• Sergeant Major of the Army Gene McKinney, the Army's senior enlisted man, was charged with 18 criminal counts of sexual misconduct.

• Army SSgt. Delmar Simpson was sentenced to 25 years in prison for raping six female trainees at Maryland's Aberdeen Proving Ground, a case that helped launch the Army's sex scandal.

The astute enlisted guests were certainly as aware of those developments as they were about the challenges facing their National Guard comrades back home.

"The policy's out there," said New York MSgt. Darrell Bruder, the Air Guard's top first sergeant, about the gender-related issues with which the Army and Air Force are dealing. "The professionals will shine through."

Most were more focused on what cutbacks in funds mean for the future of their units and the well-being of their citizen-soldiers at the same time that the country is depending more





Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell



CHANGING THE GUARD - The Army Guard's top soldiers (background) watch some of the U.S. Army's best -- the Honor Guard -- perform at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

and more on reservists for its defense.

Bruder said his Rome, N.Y., unit, the Northeast Air Defense Sector, is currently being evaluated with an eye toward its continued existence.

Meanwhile, he pointed out, providing day-to-day security for the U.S. border has evolved from an active duty to an Air Guard mission.

"It has come full circle," said

Bruder, with a measure of pride, about how members of the militia have again become responsible for safeguarding America.

"The Guard will continue because the Guard is people willing to pick up and bear arms," Navas assured the Army Guard's premier soldiers during a dinner at Fort Myer, Va.

"We should never get to the point where the defense of our country is not a shared responsibility," he added. "The combat structure of the Guard preserves that tradition."

But tough choices must sometimes be made.

Limited training funds force members of his unit to choose between going to military schools or annual training, said Colorado SSgt. Todd Smith, an Army Guard mobile main-

CHIEF CHAT - Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd (left), Air Guard director, talks with New York's MSgt. Joseph Riccio, the Air Guard's top Senior NCO at a tribute dinner.

tenance squad leader.

"There is a specialist in my squad who went to the Platoon Leadership Development Course in March. That means he can't go to annual training this year," Smith observed. "I would love for him to go to A.T. because he's my future, just as the sergeants major here have said we're their future."

Therefore, the 5th Army's top NCO is stressing schooling.

"Career progression is the highest priority," Smith insisted. "Schools open up a wide range of possibilities."

Despite the concerns, there was a feeling that the National Guard will continue to offer its half-million members many opportunities for the cream to rise to the top.

The eight Guardmembers honored in Washington were shining examples of that confidence.

"Duty performance in an outstanding manner is an individual achievement, but it does rely on the support and encouragement of the overall team," pointed out Deborah Lee during a Pentagon presentation. "And I don't need to tell all of you in this room that message because I think you live and breathe that message."

Bob Gaylor, who retired in 1979 after becoming the fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, told more than 200 people attending an Air Guard banquet at Bolling AFB why the honored enlisted members fit his definition of winners.

"Winners know that the more good things they do for others, the more good things will happen to them," he said.

The inspiring speaker also encouraged the guests to "take your job seriously. Take yourselves lightly."

That was a tall order after the remarkable week in which the enlisted people, accompanied by members of their families and representatives from their states, were repeatedly praised and presented enough plaques, statues and other tokens of appreciation to fill a foot locker.

The attention also generated a sense of humility.

New York MSgt. Joseph Riccio, an historian and the Air Guard's outstanding senior NCO, thanked the leadership for "the empowerment to let us do our jobs."

"We did not meet all of you," he added, "but we appreciate all that you did."

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A Kiowa Indian warrior, an elite dog soldier named Ko-Et-Senco, was shot in the head and killed while standing his ground against a 19th century U.S. cavalry charge in a canyon near Amarillo, Texas.

Such is the legend that has made that warrior one of the honored ancestors in the family of James Redcorn Jr. Ko-Et-Senco was Redcorn's great-great grandfather on his mother's side of the family.

More than a century later, Spc. Redcorn, 31, is perpetuating his Native-American family's warrior tradition. He was an air assault soldier with the 101st Airborne Division in the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm. Now he is a scout in the Oklahoma Army Guard.

He is also one of the Army Guard's two soldiers of the year for 1997. Redcorn was selected as the 5th Army's top National Guard soldier for the western half of the country.

Spc. Daniel Lankford, from the Alabama Army Guard, is the 1st Army's top Guard soldier for the eastern half.

They were among four of the Army Guard's premier enlisted people of the year honored recently in Washington, D.C. Sgt. Richard Boggan, also from Alabama, and SSgt. Todd Smith from Colorado are the top noncommissioned officers for the 1st and 5th Army regions.

This is the second year that the top enlisted soldiers from the 1st and 5th Armies and from the Pacific region are being equally recognized by the National Guard Bureau which no longer hosts a competition for the regional winners, explained CSM John Leonard Jr., the Army Guard's command sergeant major. The Pacific region's winners will be selected in June.

James Redcorn Jr., who is three-quarters Osage-Kiowa Indian, knows about large regions. He has been a federal marshal for the Cherokee Nation in north-eastern Oklahoma for two and a half years. He has logged nearly 80,000 miles in his patrol car within his 14-county jurisdiction.

Thanks to his maternal grandmother, Mary Kay Keahbone, the citizen-soldier scout in Troop E, 145th Cavalry also knows about bearing arms.

"My grandmother said every man should serve his country," Redcorn related. Members of his grandmother's family have served in combat units in every major U.S. conflict since World War I.

"When that is instilled in you as a child,

SOLID Soldiers

Boggan,
Lankford,
Redcorn and
Smith: the Army
Guard's best

that's what you want to do," he added.

He joined the Guard in March 1994 after three years of active duty and after earning a degree in criminal justice from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

The scout troop came to him. He originally joined a military police company in McAlester. But that unit was disbanded, and the scout unit took over.

That was fine with Redcorn. "Being a scout is about as elite as you can get in Oklahoma."

His civilian training, he said, will help him as he progresses into the NCO ranks.

"You have to be real diplomatic. Most of the time you are the only one responding to a call in a rural area," Redcorn said. "You have to listen carefully because there are three sides to every story; one side, the other side, and the truth."

The Army Guard's other top soldiers: **1st Army Soldier of the Year: Spc. Daniel Lankford**, 28, 1993rd Personnel Detachment, Daleville, Ala.

After serving more than four years in the active Army, Lankford became a traditional Guardsman in his native Alabama where he is a senior at Troy State University, majoring in kinesiology, the science of human movement. He plans to earn a doctorate in exercise physiology and become a college professor.

1st Army NCO of the Year: Sgt. Richard Boggan, 28, Co. A, 1st Bn., 20th Special Forces Group, Auburn, Ala.

Two years after joining the Alabama Army Guard, Boggan has become his Special Forces detachment's junior weapons sergeant. He entered the Army Reserve in 1988 and was activated for Desert Storm duty in Saudi Arabia as a medic with the 382nd Field Hospital.

Boggan works full-time at a Veterans Administration medical center in Augusta.

5th Army NCO of the Year: SSgt. Todd Smith, 30, 3650th Maintenance Co., Golden, Colo.

Smith and his bride Stephanie were married a few months earlier than they had originally planned so the May trip to Washington could be their honeymoon.

He is an auto repair sergeant in the maintenance unit that he joined in early 1990, four years after enlisting in the active Army. He earned his bachelor's degree in environmental chemistry at Denver's Metro State College in 1995, and he works for a company that develops biodegradable plastics from corn.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell
TOP TROOPS - Redcorn (above, left), Smith, Boggan and Lankford.



SPORTS

• Bataan Marchers • Guardmembers Go the Distance

SPORTS SHORTS



Boll (left), Zana, Jones, Saunders, Dorn and Leonard.

Guard conquers Bataan Death March

Some 50 years ago, the Japanese forced the surrender of American troops in the Philippines, thus beginning the most infamous road march of modern times, the "Bataan Death March."

White Sands Missile Range, N.M., recently hosted the 9th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March. More than 1000 participants from the National Guard, active component services, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Canada took on the course described as "a 25-mile sweat-staining, arduous journey through hell."

Several Bataan survivors with the New Mexico National Guard's 200th Coastal Artillery were also present along the memorial march route.

"It was real motivational factor," said Capt. Tom Leonard, a member of the National Guard Bureau team that finished second in the co-ed heavy (35-pounds) category.

That team also included: Capt. Mark Boll, Mike Jones, Lisa Saunders, 1st Lts. Darrin Dorn, and Bill Zana.

Dorn not only completed the course that features severe elevation and terrain changes, but piloted the Bureau contingent to and from the event in a C-12 jet.

"We had the pedals padded for him on the way back," Leonard joked.

While the course left many blistered and sore, Leonard said it was nothing compared to what vets endured 55 years ago.

"Back then it was march or die," he said. "We didn't have people shooting us for slowing down."

Puerto Ricans claim marathon title

Colon-Malave, Wild pace Guard men, women at Nebraska trials

By Spc. Rick Breitenfeldt
Nebraska National Guard

Lt. Gen. Ed Baca traveled to Lincoln, Neb., May 4 with the goal of shaking hands with each of the 201 National Guard runners who crossed the finish line at the 1997 Lincoln Marathon -- the annual proving ground for the Guard's top distance runners.

The National Guard Bureau Chief had his hands full early, as seven of the first 10 runners to cross the finish line were members of the National Guard.

Puerto Rico Army Guard's Sgt. Ramon Colon-Malave was the first to be congratulated after successfully navigating the 26.2-mile course in 2 hours, 25 minutes and 26 seconds. He finished third overall.

"The pace was stronger at the beginning," said Colon-Malave immediately after the race. "The competition was there all the time keeping the pressure on."

Colon-Malave, a 32-year-old track and field coordinator for the municipal government of Puerto Rico, led the race at the 15-mile mark, but dropped off slightly at mile 20.

Although Colon-Malave logged a personal-best time at the Nebraska course, he said his performance left room for improvement.

"I did more distance this year and maybe needed to do some more work on speed."

Colon-Malave's finish, and those of the other strong runners from the Puerto Rico National Guard, helped propel the Puerto Ricans to the overall team title again this year. Sgt. Ramon Centeno-Ayala (2:38:19) and Sgt. Victor Cuevas-Cardona (2:38:54) helped pace the island trio to a team time of 7:42:39, eight minutes



Photo courtesy Nebraska National Guard

GOING THE DISTANCE - TSgt. Paula Lindahl (left), crosses the finish line at the 1997 National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials in Lincoln, Neb. Her sixth place finish among Guard women earned her a spot on the Guard Marathon team.

get out there and do this too."

"I have never wanted to be the kind of person who just goes to drill on the weekends," Wild added. "By running in this marathon, maybe someone else will see that and go a little bit above and beyond the normal drill weekend."

Winning this year's Master's Division was long-time marathon competitor Sgt. Dallas Workman. Workman, a native of Salt Lake City and member of the Utah Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, has run in four Lincoln marathons. He finished this year's race in a time of 2:33:29, the fourth best time of all the National Guard runners and seventh best overall.

Workman said that he didn't feel any additional pressure running as a member of the National Guard.

"I want to do well for my state and do the best that I can do," he said. "But the real bonus is to get to come back here and make good friends. There is a camaraderie between all the Guardmembers who compete."

According to SFC Nancy Kelly, National Guard Marathon coordinator, the top 35 Guardmembers running in the Lincoln Marathon were selected for the "All Guard Team." The team will compete this fall in Washington, D.C. at the Marine Corps Marathon or in the spring in Pensacola, Fla.

"Running a marathon is not an event that you can just go out and do," said Utah's SSgt. Jay Woods, fifth overall. "It takes dedication."

Woods, who has been running an average of 110 miles a week for the past 13 weeks, knows the meaning of commitment.

"It is not like basketball," he observed. "You can go out and shoot with your buddies once a year and then go out and play a basketball game."

"In marathoning," Woods added, "if you don't train consistently for it, it is not going to be as pleasant an experience as it would have been if you had."

DISTANCE DARLINGS

TEAM STANDINGS

1st - Puerto Rico
2nd - Utah
3rd - Kansas

MEN'S OPEN (Under 40)

1st - Ramon Colon-Malave, P.R. (2:25:26)
2nd - Jay Woods, Utah (2:32:58)
3rd - Chase Duarte, Ariz. (2:33:28)

MEN'S MASTER (Over 40)

1st - Dallas Workman, Utah (2:33:29)
2nd - Victor Cuevas-Cardona, P.R. (2:38:54)
3rd - Michael Ziegler, Wis. (2:39:18)

WOMEN

1st - Kelly Wild, Fla., (3:03)
2nd - Jessica Huff, Ill., (3:34:29)
3rd - Karin Kasupski, Vt. (3:26:12)

ahead of second place Utah. Kansas was third in 8:22:15.

Florida Army Guard's Sgt. Kelly Wild was the Guard's top woman marathoner for the fourth straight year, clocking in at 3:03.

Wild, 32, a training sergeant for the 653rd Signal Company, said she doesn't run the marathon because she likes it ... she runs to set an example.

"I run because I like representing the Guard," she said, "and I like going out there and letting people know that they can

Around the country, the Guard did their environmental best

Down-to-Earth DAY

By Nedra Delima
National Guard Bureau

SFC Veronica Powell was on a mission to save the Earth recently.

She was not alone.

Hundreds of environmentally-conscious Guardsmen and women from around the country deployed to local communities in April to participate in a myriad of Earth Day projects.

"I think it's great," said Powell, based at the U.S. Army Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. "It helps the community and it's good for a soldier's morale."

From Virginia to Hawaii, National Guard volunteers hauled trash, ripped out invasive non-native plants, replanted, landscaped or educated their neighbors on protecting and enhancing Mother Earth.

Airmen and women at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, at Andrews AFB, Md., were



Photo by Spc. Claude Dean

on the front lines in a cooperative effort with federal, state, county and city governments working with environmental and civic organizations to clean up the Potomac River Watershed.

Workers cleared trash and debris from more than 75 sites along the Potomac with 18 tributaries from West Virginia to the Chesapeake Bay.

Later in the month, Army Guard volunteers like Powell joined the town of Herndon, Va., in making way for native plants to reclaim Runnymede Park.

"The job was so massive that we couldn't do it with our own

manpower," said John DeNoyer, Herndon councilman. "Without the Guard's assistance, we would not have been able to do it."

At the 58-acre Runnymede Park -- a valuable public asset for wildlife conservation, low-impact recreation and environmental education -- National Guard volunteers removed five acres of exotic invasive plants introduced to the area through agricultural and ornamental plantings in the past. The plants were identified by botanists and removed by hand.

Larger trees were chain-sawed and pesticide applied to the bare

stumps. Heavy machinery was brought in on existing roads to clear extensive areas where no native plants existed.

"We appreciate the National Guard helping to restore the land. It's a major problem to land managers throughout the country," said Rob Simmons, Maryland Native Plant Society president.

Other Guard states were also doing their environmental best.

In New Mexico, Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, National Guard Bureau Chief, joined the Army Guard there to plant a tree and dedicate a new headquarters

DIGGING IN - Members of the National Guard Bureau (left) joined Herndon, Va., residents in cleaning up Runnymede Park as part of Earth Day activities.

building in Santa Fe.

In Michigan, members from the 110th Fighter Wing assisted the Battle Creek, Mich., community with a blitzkrieg of activity along the Kalamazoo River, hauling truckloads of tires, toilets and trash.

In Arizona, the Army Guard hosted students from the Montessori School in Tempe for several weeks at Papago Park Military reservation to learn about the importance of the saguaro cactus. This producer of the state flower has declined over the years due to scavenging, vandalism, military land use and a bacterial infection called "cactus rot." The children planted baby saguaros as part of a revegetation and restoration project.

The Aloha State's National Guard led a joint effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect two newly rediscovered rare and endangered species of sedge, or grass-like plants.

The day also produced a remarkable find. Volunteers discovered a sedge called kilii'o'opu, once believed extinct. It was last sighted on the island of Maui in 1939. Nineteen plants were found.

TANKS for the MEMORIES



Members of the Missouri Army Guard's 1035th Maintenance Company (right), based at Jefferson Barracks, carefully remove an engine cover from an M60A-1 tank with the help of a crane. Spc. Mike Schneiders (above) prepares to demilitarize the tank. The technologically-challenged tank now sits on a cement pad outside the new Missouri Veteran's Home in St. Louis County.



Photos by Spc. Patrick Cloward

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

A proud tradition continued in Washington's 141st Air Refueling Wing when Lt. Col. Mike Delaney enlisted his daughter, Beth, into the Air Guard. Delaney, the Chief of Air Guard bands, administered the oath to Beth, a flutist and vocalist, during an April drill. "Growing up around the Guard was very helpful in making my decision," said the newest member of the 560th Air Force Band. The elder Delaney commanded that unit for 11 years.

Air Guard Personnel superintendents converged on Tulsa, Okla., recently to discuss ways to operate more efficiently. "We had a 'Share Fair,'" noted CMSgt. John Etzel, the Oklahoma Air Guard's 138th Fighter Wing personnel chief. "Increased communications between military personnel flights have increased even in the short time since the symposium."

The following have been selected winners of 1997 Air National Guard Environmental awards:

- Archeological, Cultural, and National Resources Conservation Award -- 157th Air Control Group, Mo.

- Environmental Compliance Award -- 115th Fighter Wing, Wis.

- Environmental Pollution Prevention Award -- 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah.

- Environmental Quality Award -- 132nd Fighter Wing, Iowa.

- Archeological, Cultural, and National Resources Conservation Award for Individual Excellence -- MSgt. Arthur Schuermann, 157th Air Control Group, Mo.

- Bio-environmental Technician -- MSgt. Gaylon Burkhart, 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tenn.

- Certificate of Achievement for Volunteer -- CMSgt. Richard McKibben, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Ohio.

- Environmental Compliance Award for Individual Excellence -- Maj. Steven Wabrowetz, 148th Fighter Wing, Minn.

- Environmental Pollution Prevention Award for Individual Excellence -- Capt. Jack Wall, 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah.

- Environmental Restoration Award for Individual Excellence -- Maj. Steven Wabrowetz, 148th Fighter Wing, Minn.

- Environmental Quality for Individual Excellence -- Maj. Chico C.E. Messer, 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tenn.

The District of Columbia's TSgt. D. Christopher "Chris" Martin, full-time visual information manager, recently took home the U.S. Army's Outstanding Visual Information Operations Award. "Chris got the nomination because of his unparalleled effort and the results," said Lt. Col. Anthony Alford, deputy director of information, Headquarters, District Area Command. This has been a year of accomplishments for Martin, who recently served with the presidential press corps at the 118th National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Washington D.C.



The Delaney's, Mike and daughter, Beth, in tune with enlistment.



TSgt. D. Christopher Martin (above, left) with a fan of his work.



Florida Air Guard's SrA. Amy Whittemore (above, left) and SSgt. Edward Rojo had the competition 'scoped' at McChord AFB.



Lt. Col. Karl Elders, Maryland Air Guard's first African-American O-5.

Testing their mettle against the uncertainties of aerial combat and defending the homeland, a determined group of air defenders from Florida's Western Air Defense Sector took home "Top Scope 97," honors at McChord AFB, Wash. The competition tests the skills of North American Aerospace Defense Command personnel based in the U.S. and Canada.

The Pennsylvania Army Guard's Analysis and Internal Review Division recently became the first National Guard unit in the nation to receive the Army's Award of Excellence for the best Internal Review office with seven or more auditors. The division is part of the United States Properties and Fiscal Office. "It's nice to see that the benefits of our work are reaped," said SSgt. John Sando.

In their 76th year, the Maryland Air Guard has celebrated some significant first: the first woman Chief Master Sergeant, the first African-American woman to make E-8, and most recently, the first African-American lieutenant colonel. Karl L. Elders, a part-time C-130 pilot with Maryland's 175th Wing and full-time United Airlines aviator, enlisted in the Air Force in 1975 and trained as a nuclear weapons specialist. In January, 1979, he earned his commission, and was assigned an air traffic control officer before being selected for undergraduate pilot training. "Growing up, my father used to drive us to the end of the runway at Chicago's Midway Field Airport so we could watch the planes make the final approach for landing," he recalled. "It was inscribed in my consciousness then that flying" was my niche."

One of this century's worst winter storms has brought life on the Dakota plains to a virtual standstill. It also has brought the South Dakota National Guard to the rescue. With snow accumulations of nearly 60 inches, combined with sub-zero temperatures and fierce winds, the Prairie State's Army and Air Guard first got involved Jan. 9 when Gov. Bill Janklow declared a state of emergency calling more than 600 soldiers and airmen to active duty. As of mid-April, Guardmembers were still plowing. Operating snow blowers, bulldozers and plows, Guardmembers helped break through snow drifts, some 20-to-30-foot-tall and a mile long. "The drifts were so big and frozen so hard that we literally tunneled through them with our loaders," said Sgt. Rick Allen, a member of the 842nd Engineer Company in Spearfish.

Some recent call-up highlights:

- Snowplow operations began Dec. 20, 1996.

As of mid-April, several crews were still working after a late-spring blizzard hit the Dakotas.

- Thirty Guard units participated during this state active duty mission.

- More than 570 soldiers supported the blizzard operations in mid-January. A total of 1,100 soldiers eventually become involved.

- A helicopter crew helped round up 1,500 buffalo that got loose.

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The day before he died, on July 21, 1861, Confederate Gen. Barnard Elliott Bee uttered the phrase that has become the 116th Infantry's legacy.

Based on three eyewitness accounts, "Yonder stands Jackson like a stone wall; let's go to his assistance," is what Bee probably said that Sunday afternoon when he saw Gen. Thomas Jackson's brigade of 4,500 Virginians maintaining a critical "reverse slope defense" that helped turn the tables on the Union army during the first battle of Bull Run.

Such is the authoritative account in *"The Civil War Dictionary"* (David McKay Co., 1987) by Mark Boatner.

The Confederate Congress approved the designation "Stonewall Brigade" on May 30, 1863, 20 days after the legendary Lt. Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson died of pneumonia after being wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville.

Gen. Bee never knew the weight

his words would carry because he was wounded at Bull Run and died the next day. But the "Stonewall" legend lives on in the lineage of the Virginia Army National Guard regiment that is preparing a company of light infantrymen for peacekeeping duty in Bosnia later this year.

Charlie Company in Leesburg became part of the 116th Infantry in May 1996, officials explained, after the 170th Infantry was inactivated. It has joined a proud organization.

The 116th's history precedes the Civil War by more than a century, according to Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk, the National Guard Bureau's chief historian.

It originated from the Augusta County Regiment that was formed in 1741, and elements fought under Col. George Washington during the seven-year French and Indian War.

The regiment also saw Revolutionary War action at Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse and the conclusive Battle of Yorktown.

"Because of the high quality of leadership and experience of the company-level officers and NCOs," wrote Kondratiuk, "this militia unit was considered as good as a regular army unit and was assigned to the front rank next to the Continentals in every battle."

'Like a STONE WALL'

The 116th Infantry need only look at their guidon for inspiration



Painting courtesy NGB Historical Services

FIRST WAVE AT OMAHA - An historical painting captures members of the 116th Infantry Combat Team wading ashore on D-Day.

and over the bluffs."

"The success of that landing at Omaha Beach is due to the courage and leadership that the 116th displayed that day," he added.

It received a Presidential Unit Citation. Twenty-four soldiers were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. One got the Medal of Honor.

Now, 53 years after that critical action, part of the storied 116th is preparing for more duty in Europe. With it will go the legend of the Confederate general who stood "like a stone wall."

After earning its stripes as one of the Army of Northern Virginia's elite units, it was reorganized after the Civil War as the 2nd Infantry, Virginia Volunteers and was mobilized during the Spanish-American War and the Mexican border crisis around the turn of the century.

It became the 116th U.S. Infantry Regiment and was assigned to the 29th "Blue and Gray" Division during World War I, and it fought in the Meuse-Argonne and Alsace campaigns.

The 116th's next date with destiny was June 6, 1944 - D-Day at Normandy. Still part of the 29th Division, it made the initial assault on Omaha Beach and, Kondratiuk reported, "tenaciously fought its way past the beaches, through the draw

INFANTRY

From Page 1

Company is committed to this operation.

"There is no way, unless hell froze over, that I wasn't going to be a part of it. I feel I can offer too much," said Sgt. Robin Lotz, an anti-armor squad leader who re-enlisted for three years May 17.

"This is the first chance for us to deploy as a unit," added the sales representative for a Richmond credit card firm. "They're not having to drag people into this armory."

Indeed, 104 other members of the brigade volunteered to fill about 35 slots needed to round out the company, said Col. Stephen Arey, the 116th's commander.

"We think we deserve this

mission because we have a good reputation," Arey added.

Patterson stressed the importance of preparing his "light fighters" four months in advance.

"They need to have the mindset that they are being mobilized," said Patterson who has commanded the company since February.

"It is easier to take them out of that mindset than it is to get them into it late in the game."

Learning the ways of the Bosnian people and boning up on defensive operations will continue this summer, added Patterson, especially during the last half of July when the company will undergo annual training at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and Fort Benning in Georgia, the home of the infantry.

The educational assets include people who already know about



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

foreign duty, such as 35-year-old SSgt. Gary Nelson, one of the company's squad leaders, and 46 members of a Virginia field artillery battalion from Danville serving with the Nordic Brigade in Bosnia until November.

Nelson was a section chief in an active Army artillery battalion that stormed into Iraq with the 3rd Armored Division during Desert Storm.

"My three sons aren't happy about this because it's my sec-

BOSNIA BOUND? - Virginia Army Guard's Sgt. Robin Lotz (left) showed his resolve for the peacekeeping effort by reenlisting.

ond hazardous duty assignment," acknowledged the mail carrier from Reston who understands that foreign deployments have become a way of life for America's Global Guard. "But this time we're not at war. That makes it a little easier."

That the operation has been consistently conducted under combat conditions is one reason it has been so successful, U.S. defense officials have maintained.

The Army Guard's combat posture increased significantly as the operation has progressed into the second year.

Eighty-four artillerymen and special forces soldiers comprised just 8 percent of the Army

Guard's initial nine-month rotation. So far this year, 53 percent of the 448 Guardmembers mobilized for the Stabilization Force have belonged to the artillery, infantry and combat engineers. Nearly half of the Guard's force earmarked for the second half of 1997, including the Virginia infantrymen, are combat troops.

In all, 3,410 soldiers in 96 units from 43 states have been mobilized as peacekeepers, according to the Army Guard's Readiness Center. Forty-three units have served in Bosnia, Hungary and Croatia.

If the members of the 116th Infantry push off this fall and if all U.S. troops pull out of Bosnia next summer, as President William Clinton has promised, the National Guard's infantrymen from Virginia may be among those who help end the operation.



STATES

• Exhibiting History • ChalleNGing students • Warranting Notice

NORTH DAKOTA

Members of the Peace Garden State's acquisition and contracting community actively participated in DoD's Acquisition Reform Week recently.

Army and Air National Guard Contracting specialist, capitalizing on cybertechnology, interacted live with DoD senior leaders via the Internet.

Highlights of the conference included TV interviews with North Dakota Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Keith Bjerke, United States Property and Fiscal Officer for North Dakota Lt. Col. Terry Scherling, and Rosalie Jordan from the office of the Director of Acquisition Program Integration.

ILLINOIS

The Illinois State Military Museum is currently featuring an exhibit which highlights the 33rd Division in World War I. The Division consisted of Illinois citizens who fought and trained together on the battlefields of France.

The exhibit features the personal accounts and photographs of several soldiers who served during the war as well as the weapons and equipment they used.

The museum is located on the grounds of the National Guard Headquarters at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

The
GUARD's
GEPETTO

Maj. Dan Gardner (right), the Indiana Army Guard's full-time drug demand reduction coordinator and part-time puppetmaster, teaches campers at Camp Atterbury that "Even dummies don't do drugs."



Photo courtesy of Indiana National Guard

LOUISIANA

The Pelican State's ChalleNGe program has been selected the best youth program in the United States by the United Services Organization (USO).

The USO and *USA Today* honored the program at the *USA Today's* Headquarters in Arlington, Va.

Louisiana's ChalleNGe program, in its fourth year, has met the educational and other special needs of nearly 1,400 at-risk high school dropouts. Approximately 1,000 of those students have received their General Educational Development diplomas.

Louisiana is one of 15 states nationwide to offer this DOD-funded program.

IOWA

Five Hawkeye State Army National Guard soldiers recently established a record for the most warrant officer candidates from one state to begin and graduate from the Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Ala., from the same class.

CWOs Jeffrey Craven, Hugh Olson, and Dale Goebel, assigned to Headquarters State Area Command; Michael Stewart, 734th Maintenance Battalion; and Scott Weber, 3657th Maintenance Company, graduated from the four-week course March 21.

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

A seriously ill four-year-old son of an Army major got new hope recently when the District of Columbia Air Guard's 201st Airlift Squadron launched its first air evacuation, or AIREVAC, mission, a C-21 Learjet flight from Andrews AFB, Md., to Boston, Mass.

Spence, the son of an Army major, was suffering from complications of a birth defect that were attacking his liver. The doctors had done all they could for him at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington and determined that he had to receive immediate treatment by specialists in Boston.

Unknown to the boy's family, the 201st had begun the groundwork for converting one of the unit C-21s for an air evacuation mission two years ago. Maj. Dave Morales, a 201st pilot, started an initiative to transport sick babies for Bethesda Naval Hospital to compliment a program already exist-

ing with the 89th Air Wing's 1st Helicopter Squadron at Andrews.

The initiative led to the 201st's acquisition of the "Spectrum 500" critical care unit and changes to aircraft #60374 to carry the Spectrum.

On April 11 the 201st was put to the test.

Shortly after 2 p.m., two ambulances arrived at the 201st with Spence, a Navy doctor and nurse, and Spence's dad.

After carefully loading him on the Spectrum 500 and into the airplane, 201st's Capt. Scott Yackley and Lt. Col. Alan R. Westrom flew to Boston.

"The aircraft and Spectrum unit performed flawlessly," Westrom said. "The doctor and nurse worked on Spence constantly on the hour and five-minute flight to Logan International Airport.

"It was a good day for the unit, for the Guard, and hopefully for Spence," he added.



Photo by MSgt. Ashley Taylor

MISSION OF MERCY - Crewmembers with the District of Columbia Air Guard (above) give a seriously-ill boy a lift.



HISTORY

• Celebrating the Air Force's 50th Anniversary

APOLLO's Warriors

The Air Guard's Special Operations community continues to perform important stateside missions

When the decision makers at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force planned to phase-out the three remaining active duty Air Resupply Groups (ARGs) in 1956 -- known today as special operations -- they were faced with the same thorny question it had attempted to answer when they activated ARGs several years prior: who would provide air support for military and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) if a war were to break out?

While the Air Force's enthusiasm for special operations had clearly waned, the potential for the cold war to suddenly turn hot clearly had not. At a minimum, a low-cost cadre of aircrews and aircraft had to be maintained.

But where, and by whom?

A year later, following a complex series of inter-departmental meetings in Washington D.C., and several state capitols, that answer became evident.

In the end, the Air National Guard in California, West Virginia, Maryland and Rhode Island agreed to form Air Resupply Groups (ARGs) to train for the Air Force's wartime unconventional warfare mission. Despite this state-federal agreement, however, the sensitive nature of the new Air Guard mission was deliberately downplayed within the states themselves for quite some time.

In the absence of an active-duty force, the decision to go to the Air Guard had one great advantage -- unlike the never-ending personnel rotations that characterize the active forces, Air Guard crews frequently spent their entire careers flying and maintaining aircraft at the same unit. That overwhelming advantage of continuity has been frequently demonstrated in tactical competitions in which Air Guardmembers outperformed their active duty contemporaries. This experience proved doubly fortunate as no concerted effort seemed to have been made to recruit ARG personnel, leaving active duty, into these new Air Guard units.

In California the 129th Air Resupply Group (ARG) formed up in April 1955; West Virginia formed the 130th ARG that October, with Maryland beating them by two months with the 135th ARG; Rhode Island did the same in November of the same year with the 143rd ARG. Concurrent with establishing four Air Resupply Groups came the obvious issue of what aircraft would be selected for the ARGs.

Initially all four Air Guard units were equipped with both the C-46 Commando and the SA-16 Albatross. While the C-46s were phased out within the first years, the versatile Albatross amphibian continued on to become the standard workhorse for the Air Force's unconventional air warfare missions.

The standardization of one type of aircraft within the ARGs further simplified operational and maintenance programs, which in turn, expedited the pace at which the Guardmembers could hone the skills necessary for their new mission.

The mission of course was identical to that of the active-duty units that the Guardsmen were replacing:



GUARD HISTORY

By Col. (ret.) Michael E. Haas
GUEST HISTORIAN

If organizational titles were fluid, the arrival of additional types of aircraft also added versatility to the Air Guard's special operations capabilities. All units began picking up the new U-10 "Helio-courier," a single-engine, short-takeoff/landing (STOL) liaison-type aircraft ideally suited for remote area operations.

To replace the C-46s, both the California and West Virginia units received the big C-119 "Flying Boxcars." In the absence of active duty special operations forces in the late 1950s, all Air Force expertise in unconventional warfare clearly belonged to the Guard.

In June 1971, Maryland's 135th Special Operations Group (SOG) was re-designated a Tactical Air Support Group, with the Tactical Air Command becoming the gaining command. Its HU-16s and U-10s were phased out and replaced by the O-2A "Skymaster." Four years later, California's 129th SOG became the 129th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, part of the Military Airlift Command. During that same year both Rhode Island and West Virginia SOGs were equipped with the C-130 transport and re-designated Tactical Airlift Groups.

The special operations era for the Air National Guard passed into history ... or did it?

If the enthusiasm for special operations forces seems to fluctuate within the military community, the enduring



Photo courtesy Rhode Island National Guard

SPECIAL OPERATIONS - A Rhode Island Air National Guard SA-16 (above) lands at Marana Air Park, Ariz., in 1964.

unconventional and psychological warfare. With the organization established and the aircraft coming in, the most pressing question quickly turned to the subject of training. Single-ship, low-level flying in and out of remote airstrips, both day and night, not to mention, water operations, were a stretch for a group of Guard fighter pilots used to flying at high-altitudes during the day.

In the ensuing years ANG pilots and crews would learn that while their mission would remain essentially unchanged, little else would remain static in their organizations.

The C-46s were largely phased out by 1958, the same year in which all four states underwent name changes that converted the Air Resupply units to Troop Carrier Groups. In 1963, all four states were designated Air Commando Groups, following the revival of the active duty Air Commando force at Hurlburt Field, Fla. Five years later, in still another name change, both active and Guard units became known as Special Operations.

reality is that the need for these skills in a seemingly dangerous world never diminished entirely. West Virginia's C-130s are seen years later at Hurlburt Field, Fla., home of the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). And the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing, based in Harrisburg, still makes a very unique, low-profile contribution to AFSOC with its specially-equipped aircraft.

Clearly, the sensitive files for Air Guard special operations duties must still be marked "ongoing."

The preceding was excerpted from Apollo's Warriors: United States Air Force Special Operations during the Cold War by retired Col. Michael E. Haas, due for release this August. Haas, a former California Guardsman, has an extensive background in U.S. Army and Air Force unconventional warfare operations.



TRAINING



Photo by Larry Sommers

By Larry Sommers
Wisconsin National Guard

The active Air Force and Air Force Reserve met the Army and Air National Guard in an exercise at Wisconsin Air Guard's Volk Field.

Said those involved: everyone benefited.

California-based loadmasters and aerial port personnel practiced loading and securing Army Guard tracked-vehicles in a C-5 Galaxy cargo plane — tasks likely to be required in performing wartime missions.

"Some of them have had this type of training, but they never had hands-on," said their supervisor, MSgt. Tommy Lee.

The participants belonged to the active Air Force's 60th Air Mobility Wing and the Air Force Reserve's 349th Air Mobility Wing. Both units fly out of Travis AFB, Calif., sharing the same aircraft

under the Air Force's "associate unit" concept. The tracked vehicle loading practice was one part of a week-long Readiness Safeguard exercise that brought about 700 unit members to Volk Field.

The Wisconsin Army Guard's Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) brought tracked equipment — an M-109 155mm self-propelled howitzer and an M-901 Improved TOW, and soldiers to drive them.

Both vehicles can fit easily in the 19-foot-wide cargo hold of the massive C-5. The tricky part, say loadmasters and aerial port specialists, is securing them after loading. Since the TOW launcher weighs 27,600 pounds and the howitzer more

Just-in-time TRAINING

Many of have used
Wisconsin's Volk Field

than 30 tons, they need to be tied down with enough chains in the right places to guarantee they will not shift in flight. Such movement could be disastrous.

"It's been an interesting day," said Army Guard SSgt. Mike Prissel, a member of Wisconsin's

1158th Transportation Company. "I had never driven a howitzer into an airplane before."

The Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center sponsored the training under the Readiness Safeguard/Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) program. The program gives visiting units a chance to practice their normal mission within a very realistic simulation of adverse war-

RAMP RIDE - Wisconsin's SSgt. Mike Prissel (above) keeps his eyes on hand signals as he navigates a 30-ton howitzer down a C-5 ramp.

time conditions.

The Readiness Safeguard staff designs each ATSO exercise for the visiting unit's specific training needs. Units may also request training in special skills such as rapid runway repair or, in this case, tracked vehicle loading. Training scenarios closely resemble anticipated real-world challenges.

"Many of the units that come through here take our training shortly before they deploy on actual missions," said Maj. Terry Meissner, the program's chief. "It can function as just-in-time training."

Since 1990, Volk Field CRTS has hosted 47 week-long ATSO exercises for units from the Air Guard, Air Force Reserve and active Air Force.