

BORDER PATROL

Page 3



PROTECTING THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Pages 8-9



BIATHLON FINALS

Page 10



THE ON GUARD

Volume XXV, No. 6

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

March 1996

Floods prompt Guard call up

*Nearly 1,100 called up
in West Virginia alone*

By Maj. Chris Cleaver
Pennsylvania National Guard

First there was the blizzard. Then came the floods. For more than 2,500 Guardmembers in seven East Coast states, a record January snowfall brought with it flood waters and a call from their Governor. Hardest hit was West Virginia where, at its peak, nearly 1,100 Guardsmen and women were activated to help 21 counties that were declared a federal disaster area.

In the town of Alderson, W. Va., Mountain State engineers armed with backhoes, dump trucks and end loaders assisted in the cleanup effort.

"What these people owned is now gone. We've hauled 100 tons a day of their belongings," said Capt. David Shafter, Company B, 1092nd Engineer Battalion commander.

Alderson Mayor Tom Housby, whose own house was flooded when the town's sewage system backed up, was grateful for the Guard's help.

"There is no way I can put into words how much the citizens appreciate them (the Guardmembers)," he said.

For Pennsylvania Army Guard's CWO3 Dan Reggie, the call-up meant a night of flying his CH-47 Chinook helicopter through snow squalls, buffeted by winds, then descending into tight spaces to rescue people trapped by rising flood waters.

"All in all, I'd say the Army aviation support facility at Philipsburg (home of Company G, 104th Aviation) had a hell

of a night," he said.

Reggie flew one of four helicopters sent out on life-saving missions when heavy rains and melting snows posed life-threatening situations.

The first rescue came about noon Jan. 19, when a crew plucked a man out of a tree near the town of Bedford. By noon the next day, CH-47 crews from Company G had flown 14 missions and rescued 65 people.

Using night visions goggles and flying in sub-zero degree temperatures, Reggie's crew rescued 41 people in nine hours.

"It seems we would arrive some place to rescue a couple of people, then find there were several others waiting for help," Reggie said.

In a couple rescues, Reggie and his crew (Capt. Michael Jones and SSgts. Edward Blantz and Nicholas Gilleland) were able to lower the huge aircraft close enough for people to walk directly into the CH-47. Other times, a crew member would descend via a hoist and help lift people

into the helicopter.

While the CH-47 rescues provided high drama there were many other acts of heroism by members of the Keystone State's Army and Air Guard.

Members of Altoona's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry drove 2 1/2 ton trucks over roads so covered with water, soldiers had to rely on memory to stay on the road. Despite the conditions, they managed to evacuate more than 50 families.

In a two week period the Pennsylvania Guard completed almost 500 snow and flood related missions across the state.

West Virginia's SSgt. Jack McNeely contributed to this story.



Photo courtesy Pennsylvania Guard

FLOOD SUPPORT - A Pennsylvania Guardmember (above) gives a motorist assistance.



Photo by Capt. Richard Webster

HELPING HAND

Maryland Army Guard's SSgt. Charles Pinkham, a member of the 158th Cavalry, assists Angeline Seek to a dialysis center in Annapolis after a blizzard crippled the state. More than 500 Free State Guardmembers with 240 humvees responded to the call.

**DRUG USE
IS
LIFE ABUSE**



COMMENTARY

COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of Feb. 16, the National Guard has assisted in 28,569 arrests and seized 3,053 weapons, 19,057 vehicles and nearly \$42.3 million while conducting 2,832 counterdrug missions this fiscal year.

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LETTERS

TOP ENGINEER

An article in the December issue had a slight error. Capt. Jesus M. Figueroa Jr., a member of the New York Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing based in Westhampton Beach, was selected by the Air National Guard Civil Engineer Association (ANGCEA) as the Air National Guard's (not just New York's) Civil Engineer Association's Company Grade Officer of the Year.

CMSgt. Gerald Kurz
New York National Guard



**Capt. Jesus
Figueroa**

MLRS MISFIRE

I normally understand a few errors in a publication like yours, but the January story on multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS) was too much for me.

The range of the MLRS is 30 kilometers or 18.7 miles, not 300 kilometers or 187.5 miles.

There is also some confusion about the launcher's capabilities. In the third paragraph, it states one MLRS and a three-man crew is equal to five cannon battalions (with 100 cannons). In the seventh paragraph, it says it equals four cannon battalions. Which one is it, four or five?

Gary Nixon
California National Guard

Editor: Maj. Rick Beltran, the Army

Guard's force modernization officer for artillery at Fort Sill, Okla., said, "Generally speaking, an MLRS launcher can deliver the same amount of munitions as four 8-inch howitzer battalions."

PROUD MOTHER

In the January 1996 issue (Newsmakers section) you acknowledged that my son, SrA. Chad Gurnon (a member of the Rhode Island Air Guard's 143rd Airlift Wing) was the 1,000th graduate from the Arkansas Air Guard's Aircrew Basic Academic School.

The Guard has made Chad the man he is today. It has given him a purpose,

focused his life, but more importantly, made him believe in himself. This event, along with graduating with honors, was one he was very proud of.

Gail Gurnon
N. Kingstown, R.I.

POLICE PERSPECTIVE

This is a correction to two of your articles in the January 1996 issue.

The first is located on page 7, "Class is in Session." The caption about the picture of the security policeman and school teacher says the security policeman is explaining the components of the M-16 rifle. He is explaining the components of the M-60 machine gun.

The second error is on page 12 in the article about Arkansas' SSgt. Ben Dolan. The last paragraph should read,

"Dolan, a member of the 188th Security Police Squadron, is the first Air Guard security police person to receive the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Award as the Outstanding Enlisted person in the Peacekeeper 95 competition." His efforts directly contributed to the ANG team winning several first time events.

I look forward to receiving *The On Guard*. You have an outstanding product and extremely interesting articles.

CMSgt. Terry Triplett
National Guard Bureau

WING V. GROUP

Thanks for the great coverage in your January issue on the Maryland Air Guard's recruiting efforts.

While there has been much confusion about the conversions from Group to Wing, the 135th is still using the 135th Airlift Group distinction. The former 175th Fighter Group is now using the 175th Wing designation.

Maj. Jean Marie Beall
Maryland National Guard

LETTERS POLICY:

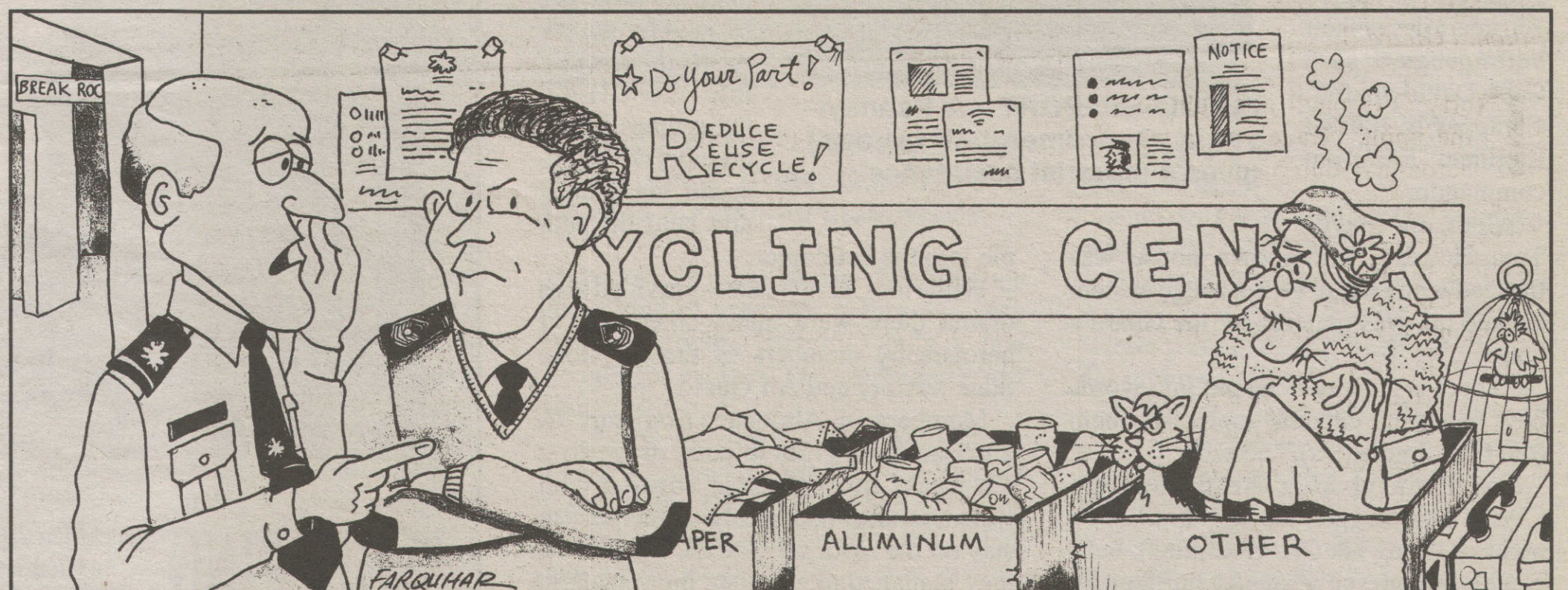
The On Guard welcomes letters from readers. All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone. Names may be withheld upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for style, content and space requirements.

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GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar



"I sympathize with your situation, Sergeant, but the EPA doesn't consider your mother-in-law recyclable."



IN THE NEWS

- Degrees Masked
- Hale Koa Expanded
- VIP Visit

Border support increased

Guard engineers help build fences, roads in California

By Maj. Kevin G. Sandri
California National Guard

Only a few years ago the U.S. Border Patrol estimated that nearly 5,000 illegal immigrants, some of them smuggling drugs, would sneak into San Diego each night.

Enter the National Guard, and their engineers, who have created a network of roads just inside the border enabling agents to traverse previously inaccessible terrain. A ten-foot-high fence was also erected to stop vehicles from crossing the border.

"Because of the National Guard's efforts, drug trafficking and illegal immigration has shifted eastward," said Capt. Stan Zegotarski, the California Guard's deputy public affairs officer.

Encouraged by the results, and bolstered by additional funding, the Guard's efforts on the border are expected to increase significantly this spring as nine rotations of Army Guard engineer units from California, South Carolina, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Texas, and Air Guard units from North Dakota, Oklahoma and Utah, will deploy to the border to complete seven miles of fence and road construction in seven months.

Nearly 900 citizen-soldiers, compared to about 150 currently assisting the U.S. Border Patrol, will be used.

As with previous border patrol missions, Guardmembers do not involve themselves with border crossers.

"We're there in a counterdrug support role," said Col. Robert Logan, the California Guard's public affairs officer. "We do not involve ourselves in immigration issues."

East San Diego County, and the landports in San Ysidro and Otay Mesa, will be the main beneficiaries of the Guard's efforts.

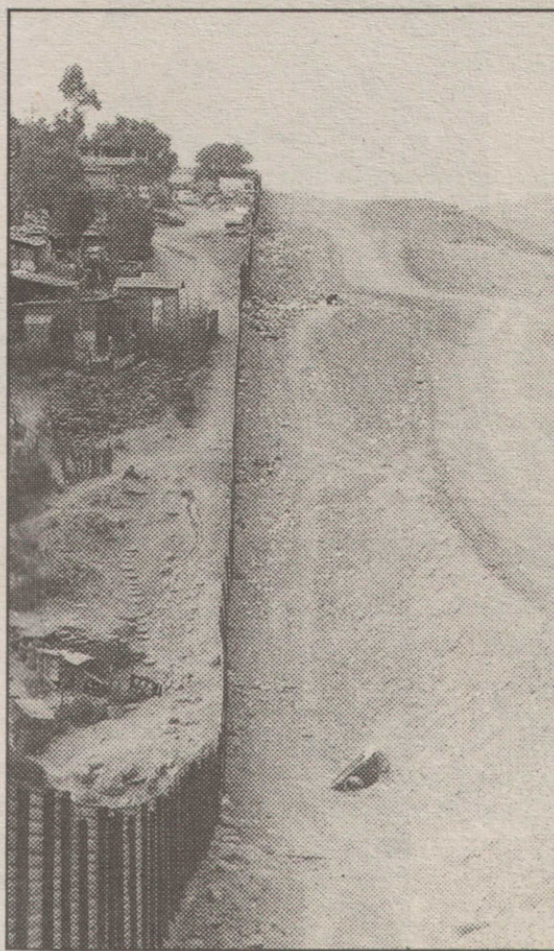


Photo by CWO4 Bill Wilson

ON THE BORDER - A fence separates a Tijuana, Mexico neighborhood from the United States.

mainly engineers and heavy equipment operators," said Logan. He said the Guard plans to send 50 more troops to help custom inspectors at the ports.

The Defense Department will fund the \$2 million Guard effort.

"We've had National Guard from out-of-state units at the border before, but this is the first time we are doing something of this magnitude," Logan added.

Besides road and fence construction, National Guard troops help Border Patrol agents with night vision equipment, computer data entry and communications.

"In these sectors, the California Guard's efforts will enable the U.S. Border Patrol to more efficiently perform their duties," said Lt. Col. Nickey Philpot, NGB's Southwest regional coordinator for counter-drug operations.

The additional troops will also allow the California Guard to take on other border projects.

"The Guard will send as many as 50 additional troops to the eastern portion of San Diego County,

O'Connell visits 'Endeavor' troops

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Terry O'Connell got right to the point. "Have you come across any dumb policies?"

The chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board directed that question to Maine Air National Guard's Col. Dennis Vanidestine at the Italian AFB Aeroporto Dall'Oro in Pisa in January.

Now that Guard units are in greater demand because of active duty draw-downs, people like O'Connell make it their business to ensure that their needs are met.

That is why O'Connell and his team visited the Air Guard's tanker refueling operation, where Vanides-



Terry O'Connell

Germany, Hungary and Italy. They explored such issues as pay, food and living accommodations

"We have learned lessons from Desert Storm to Haiti and from Haiti to now," said O'Connell.

O'Connell, a handicapped Vietnam vet, is in the Army's Infantry School Hall of Fame.

O'Connell, who reports to the

time was the commander.

The team spent the week of Jan. 28 visiting Guard and Reserve units supporting "Joint Endeavor" in

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, brought some heavy hitters. His team included the Air Force's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, three major generals, six full colonels, and one in-your-face SFC Lisa Hunter. Hunter, with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, asked every soldier she saw about the cooperation they were getting from their bosses back home.

"This is an extraordinary effort by these Guard and Reserve units," assessed O'Connell. "With all of the surprise of this deployment -- considering that the peace accord was signed in December -- these units haven't been doing the impossible, they've been doing the inconceivable, and error-free."

"They have been dealing with killer problems as if they are nuisances."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

ADVANCED DEGREES MASKED FOR SOME OFFICERS

Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman have changed the policy concerning advanced academic degree consideration by officer promotion boards.

Beginning with the major's board this spring, advanced academic degree status -- completion or non-completion -- will not appear on the line officer selection brief at the central selection board for promotion to captain and major.

The change affects active-duty, Guard and Reserve officers.

This information will continue to be included for promotion to lieutenant colonel and colonel.

DERUSSY EXPANSION COMPLETED

The residents and businesses in Waikiki have been putting up with the dust and construction at Fort DeRussy for years. Now it's over.

The Fort DeRussy redevelopment and expansion project, which was started in 1991, has created a green oasis in the heart of Waikiki for military families to enjoy. No tax dollars were used in the \$110 million improvement, which was the Department of Defense's largest non-appropriated fund construction project ever. The expansion was funded by monies generated by the U.S. Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

Included in the expansion is the development of the 66 acres of Fort DeRussy with the addition of over 1,000 trees, barbecue grills, volleyball courts, tennis courts, jogging paths and exercise stations. The park area and beach are open to the public. Kalia Road was realigned at the start of the project to allow room for the Hale Koa Hotel's Maile Tower, completed last fall. The 396-room tower doubled the number of guest rooms available to 814. Also included in the hotel's expansion is a new luau garden, swimming pool complex, restaurant, retail shops and a health and fitness center.

All National Guard, Reserve, active duty and retired officers and enlisted are eligible to use Hale Koa guest room accommodations.

Guest room rates vary depending on pay grade and present status as well as location in the hotel. The price range for double occupancy is from \$48 to \$132 per night.

Reservations can be made up to 365 days in advance by calling the hotel's toll-free number at 1 (800) 367-6027. Reservations can also be faxed toll-free to 1 (800) HALE-FAX.



SALUTE - Vermont TAG Maj. Gen. Donald Edwards (right) walks with Macedonia's Army Chief of Staff.

Vermont talks-up Guard in Macedonia

Maj. Gen. Donald Edwards, Vermont's Adjutant General, has returned from a visit to Macedonia to develop relationships with senior military officials working with the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Edwards was accompanied by Joel B. Resnick, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Strategic Plans and Analysis.

While in Macedonia, Gen. Edwards briefed senior Macedonian military leaders on the basic structure of the U.S. military and the National Guard. The general told leaders of the former Soviet republic that civilian control of the U.S. military is a positive aspect of a democracy.

It is one of the fundamental differences between the U.S. military and the nations of the former Warsaw Pact.

Vermont is the 19th state to be designated a partner with nations of the former Warsaw Pact.

The Partnership Program was established to provide transitional assistance to those nations who have only known a totalitarian style of government. In assisting these countries in their transition to a democratic state, National Guard teams emphasize and demonstrate by their successes the importance of having a government and a military that are led by civilians, and not military leaders.

The Vermont National Guard has sent Guardmembers to Macedonia to present ideas on the shaping of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps, as well as providing assistance in improving the nation's water supply.

The Vermont Guard has a member serving as a permanent liaison officer living in Macedonia.

Coloradans bridge 'final frontier'

By Maj. Michael L. Yowell
Colorado National Guard

Space, the final frontier. For members of the Air National Guard such a concept was science fiction. Recently, fiction became fact when the 137th Space Warning Squadron officially joined the Colorado Air National Guard.

It was the first time the U.S. Air Force transferred a space-related mission to an Air National Guard unit.

Formerly the 138th Air Control Squadron, the 137th SWS will be the home of the Air Force's only survivable, mobile satellite communication ground system. The system communicates with a network of special missile-tracking satellites orbiting 22,000 miles above the Earth.

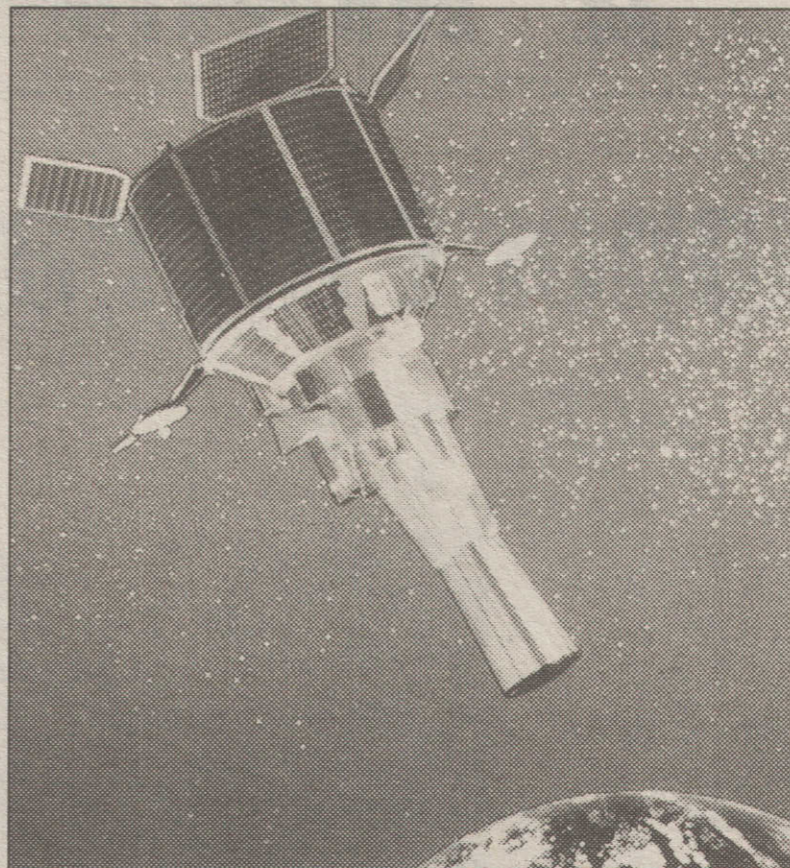
The system's effectiveness was demonstrated during the Persian Gulf War when the satellites detected the launch of Iraqi Scud missiles and provided warning to the civilian populations and coalition forces in Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Fixed ground stations around the world monitor the satellites, but the Greeley, Colo., based squadron will be the only unit that can be quickly moved to monitor the information.

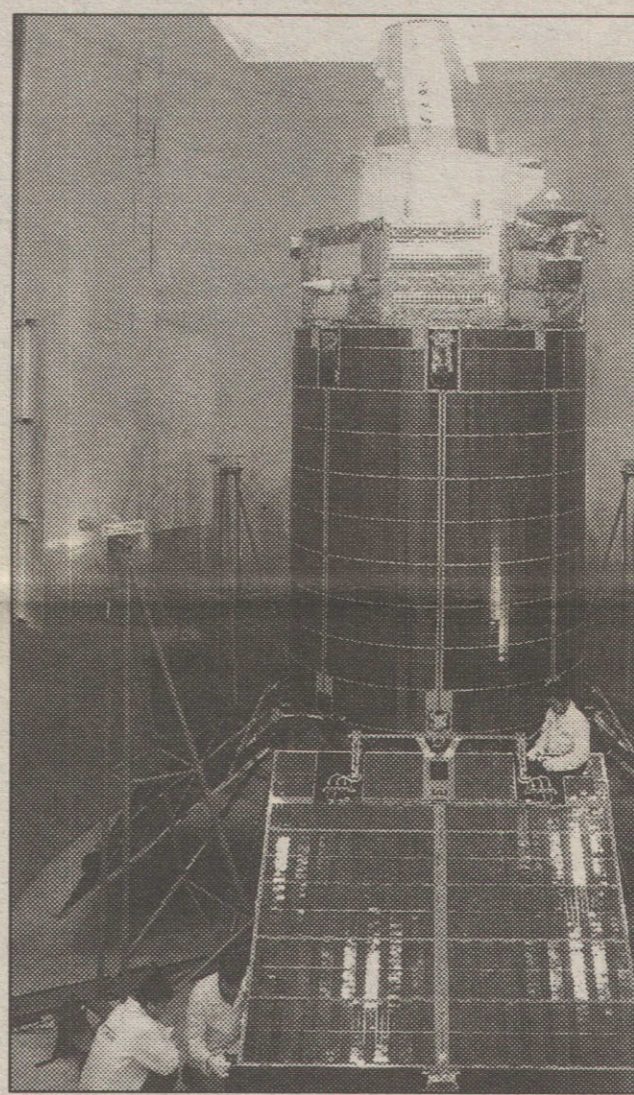
"Should something happen to our fixed ground sites, we have these mobile units ready to take over," said Brig. Gen. Gerald F. Perryman, Jr., commander of the 21st Space Wing (the gaining headquarters) at Peterson AFB, Colo.

"The mobile units based at Greeley can be loaded into Air Force airplanes already in the inventory and hauled overseas if they are needed to augment the fixed sites," Gen. Perryman added.

The squadron has drawn Air Guardmembers from the deactivated 154th Air Control Group as well as the 138th. In



Photos courtesy Colorado National Guard



SPACE MEN - Technicians on the ground (below) inspect a satellite (left). The Colorado Air Guard now has the mission.

addition, the squadron will be hiring personnel.

The former squadron had 29 full-time members and 92 traditional Guardmembers. The 137th's full-time strength will increase to 168 people, while part-time Guard positions will increase to 123.

While the squadron continues to grow, "their equipment is scheduled to start arriving this spring as they are trained to operate it," said Gen. Perryman. Much of the equipment will come from the 4th SWS located at Holloman AFB, N.M., which was deactivating. The unit will be fully

operational in mid-1997.

For years the Guard has been assuming missions from the active Air Force, Gen. Perryman said. The transfer of the space warning mission will save the Air Force about \$6 million annually.

"The Guard can do it cheaper than the active forces," Perryman said. "This is a good thing for the Air Force and the taxpayer. The real cost is in the people. The Guard has a variety of skills and their people stay with a unit for years. The active force is trained and then rotate to a new assignment after a few years."

University of Northern Colorado's economist Ann Garrison projected that the unit would create 340 additional jobs and an \$8 million addition in total income within Weld County.

"This is a real shot in the arm, particularly to have something positive going on. There aren't a lot of positive gains lately in the Department of Defense," said Colorado Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. William Westerdahl.

NOT JUST HOT AIR

The National Guard Hot Air Balloon Interaction Team, or HABIT, piloted by Oregon Army Guardmember SSgt. John Leisek, recently joined other service balloons in Billings, Mont. The balloon serves as a recruiting tool.



Courtesy Balloon Tour America



PEOPLE

FAMILY FEUD

Father/daughter pilots do battle over Arizona

By Maj. Chuck Roque
Arizona National Guard

Navy Lt. Janet Jacobson flew into the Tucson Air National Guard Base with Navy Cdr. Bob Rutherford. Each was flying the Navy's premier fighter attack aircraft, the F/A-18 Hornet.

It would be unusual enough to have a Navy female fighter pilot visit the Tucson Air National Guard Base to fly against the Arizona Air Guard's F-16 pilots. This visit, however, would be historically unique for a different reason.

Lt. Jacobson is the daughter of Arizona Air National Guard F-16 fighter pilot, Lt. Col. Mark Jacobson. During her visit, the two participated in an air combat training mission in what was probably the first father-daughter aerial combat training "dogfight" ever flown.

The elder Jacobson, a 1968 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., began flying Navy A-7Es aboard the *USS America*. During those years the colonel served a tour in South Vietnam.

He later worked at China Lake Naval Weapons Center in California, flying and testing A-7s.



Photo courtesy Arizona National Guard

"I flew every version of the A-7 ever made, including Greek and Portuguese versions of the plane," he said.

Lt. Jacobson grew up around Navy aircraft.

"I saw them zooming around the sky. It seemed like something fun and Dad never came home from work saying he wished he didn't have to fly," she recalled. "But I know that Dad would have supported me in whatever I chose to do."

Dad agreed.

"I tried not to encourage Janet one way or the other,"

A JACOBSON VICTORY - The combatants, Arizona Air Guard's Lt. Col. Mark Jacobson (left) and his daughter, Navy Lt. Janet Jacobson, share a smile after doing battle.

he said. "I wanted to let her make her own decision about whether or not to pursue a flying career in the military. I didn't hide the fact that I really liked to fly, though."

Jacobson said he tried to be as honest as he could about the challenges a woman faces in the military generally, and as a woman in the Navy specifically.

"She was choosing a difficult lifestyle as one of the first few women in the fighter business," he said. "But I let her make up her own mind."

Col. Jacobson joined the Arizona Air National Guard in 1982 as a traditional Guardmember. In 1990, when the Air Guard started phasing out the A-7D, he joined the Guard full time, transitioning into the F-16.

Lt. Jacobson, who flies F/A-18s aboard the *USS Nimitz*, has been in the Navy four years. She is a 1990 graduate of the University of Southern California where she earned degrees in chemistry and biology. Afterward, she attended Aviation Officer Candidate School and went on to receive her wings in Kingsville, Texas.

The lieutenant is presently serving a six-month tour in the Persian Gulf.

After an early brief, both father and daughter suited up and walked to their respective jets; Col. Jacobson in the F-16 Fighting Falcon and Lt. Jacobson in the F/A-18 Hornet. Led by Cdr. Rutherford, Lt. Jacobson opposed her father and his wingman in three separate two-versus-two engagements.

What was the result of the first father-daughter aerial combat "dogfight" in history? Each combatant said the outcome was an overwhelming win by a fighter pilot named Jacobson.

Capt. Gail McCandless sews her 'TDY quilt' over Bosnia

A stitch in time

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Some people read. Some people sleep. Some people stare and think of hearth and home they are leaving far behind. Gail McCandless patiently and persistently sews.

The New Jersey Air National Guard captain is making a quilt -- by hand -- during her spare time on long flights to and from temporary duty stations.

"It keeps me from getting bored," said the 34-year-old navigator. "I call it my 'TDY quilt.' I started it two years ago."

McCandless, and three air crews from the 108th Air Refueling Wing based at McGuire AFB, N.J., flew their KC-135E Stratotanker toward the dawn of another deployment in Europe.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

The destination was Pisa, famous for its ancient leaning tower, on the west coast of Italy. The mission would involve refueling NATO fighter planes patrolling the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Deny Flight, the 21-month-old air watch portion of the Bosnian peace-keeping mission.

For those Guardmembers not flying the plane, there was little to do during the

night-long flight. So McCandless sewed.

She draped her quilt over the red nylon crew seat beside her and sewed tiny stitch after stitch while the hum of the engines lulled other Guardmembers to sleep.

Two days later she was navigating a tanker during a refueling mission along the Croatian border. A panel crowded with switches, dials, radar scopes and maps occupied her attention.

AIR ART - New Jersey Air Guard's Capt. Gail McCandless (left) and her TDY quilt.

McCandless has been in the Air Guard for 15 years and a navigator for nine years, she said. She has kept her hands busy sewing and doing other crafts for as long as she can remember.

Her right thumb print is scarred from the countless times she has pushed needles through fabric. Just ask the security policeman who recently took her fingerprints, she said.

The North Carolina Lily is the pattern she is stitching into the quilt that is stuffed with a flannel blanket her grandfather once used. The colors of the blue-bordered quilt, she added, "are an antique red, white and blue."

"A friend gave me a book on quilts, and I just picked that pattern out," McCandless explained.

She anticipates spending more time on TDY because she has recently taken a buy-out from AT&T after six years.

Therefore, when McCandless is not keeping a KC-135 on course, she will be stitching her TDY quilt.

"I cannot take a sewing machine with me," she said.



BOSNIA UPDATE

OVER BOSNIA

Air Guard units are busy supporting Joint Endeavor

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

An ocean of clouds blocked the Adriatic Sea and the land mass called Eastern Europe from view.

Italy and Croatia lay somewhere beneath those clouds. So did Bosnia. The world seemed to be a peaceful place from above the clouds.

A four-member Air National Guard tanker crew intended to help keep it that way.

The Air Guard aviators from New Jersey, flying a KC-135E Stratotanker from Maine, gave the Bosnia peacekeeping mission "Joint Endeavor" many shots in the fuel tank during a recent mission.

The crew and plane were flying out of Pisa, the city famous for its ancient leaning tower on Italy's west coast, where a detachment from the Maine Air Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing was the lead unit.

"It's a good chance to work with other nationals," said New Jersey Maj. Bob Brazel, the pilot for the mission. "This is not training. It's operational. There is more of a sense of urgency."

Indeed, the seven NATO warplanes that the tanker refueled at 20,000 feet that afternoon were loaded for bear. Those were real missiles on the tips of the wings and real bombs hanging from the hard points.

The thirsty fighters came from the U.S. Navy carrier *America* and from France and Germany.

The common goal is to keep Bosnia's Serbs, Muslims and Croats from each others' throats for a year and preserve the

peace agreement hammered out last December in Dayton, Ohio.

"People in the former Yugoslavia have been disheveled and have lost their homes over the last three or four years," said Brazel. "I'm upset by all of the bloodshed. It's important that we return these people's lives back to normal so they can get on with living."

There was another reason to keep those fighters in the air. The 60,000 NATO peacekeepers on the ground will include nearly 20,000 American troops. The message is clear: Do not mess with them.

No one could be specific, but Guardmembers from Maine acknowledged that the operational pace quickened considerably immediately after a sniper wounded an American soldier in the neck in Sarajevo on Dec. 28.

"Everytime something happens, there is a response," said one Maine Guardmember.

FILLING UP - A Maine Air Guard KC-135 refueler (above) with the 101st Air Refueling Wing gasses up a French fighter.

The Maine Air Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing, based in Bangor, supplied a force of 120 Guardmembers and three tankers as the lead unit at the Italian AFB Aeroporto Dall'Oro. Three air crews and two tankers from New Jersey's 108th Air Refueling Wing, out of McGuire AFB, arrived during the final week in January to reinforce the operation for two weeks.

Meanwhile, Air Guard crews and tankers from Washington state arrived to take over as the lead unit in February.

The six-month Air Guard operation in Pisa -- between the Pisas Mountains and the Ligurian Sea -- is part of the Implementation Force's air component of 5,500 personnel from 12 NATO countries.

BOSNIA UPDATE

Pennsylvania Army Guard sends 40 combat soldiers into Bosnia

Providing FIRE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Confident? Yes. Excited? Of course. Anxious? That, too. Forty artillerymen from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard experienced all of those emotions while training at Fort Dix, N.J., recently.

Fifteen days after being mobilized for nine months to support the Bosnian peacekeeping mission "Joint Endeavor," the men from the 28th Infantry Division's artillery brigade were shipping out.

The 28th are the only Army Guard combat soldiers activated for the exercise.

A crisp, sunny day in New Jersey was filled with sadness and support for the men flying off to Eastern Europe to help enforce a peace agreement.

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard's family support team made it possible for wives, children and sweethearts to spend a couple of days with the Guardmembers before they flew out.

"It's somewhat of an adventure. I'm a little anxious. There is the possibility of danger," said SSgt. Lee Schrock of Pittsburgh, one of the detachment's forward observers. This is the first time he has been mobilized in nearly 14 years, Schrock said.

The artillery brigade is headquartered in Hershey. The Guardmembers also came from battalions in New Castle, Carlisle and Wilkes Barre.

The next stop would be Germany, for eight or nine days of additional training, and then on to northern Bosnia where these men will provide field artillery fire support to the Nordic Brigade.

That is a multinational force charged with keeping the peace between the war-torn country's cultural factions in the U.S. sector. One Nordic Brigade battalion includes units from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The 40-man Keystone State unit is unique because it was formed to fill a specific Army need, said Col. John Slonina, the Army National Guard's Readiness Chief in Arlington, Va.

"In the past, we have always mobilized entire units," he said. "We created a specific package to fulfill this requirement."

While it will certainly be an international experience, serving in a foreign land is not new to some of these citizen-soldiers.

"I'm not nervous at all. Whenever I got the call, my family knew I would be going," said Spc. Frank Spang. His service record includes an 18-month tour with the 5th Infantry in Panama. "This is almost expected," added Spang, whose father served in Korea and whose two brothers are former Marines.

"Fine. It's what he wants to do," said Barbara Sabol, who has accepted the idea that her husband John, a 50-year-old staff sergeant,

will be away until October. The vocational rehabilitation worker is one of the detachment's oldest members. He is pulling foreign duty 28 years after an infantry tour in Vietnam in 1968-69.

All 40 Guardmembers volunteered for this mission, stressed Col. William Richar, the division's artillery commander.

"I think they're well prepared to do the job they've been asked to do," he added.

As January ended, 956 Army Guard soldiers in 23 units from 15 states and the District of Columbia had answered their country's call to support the Army's 20,000-member peacekeeping force. The Pennsylvania detachment was among the last to clear its mobilization station and leave for Europe.

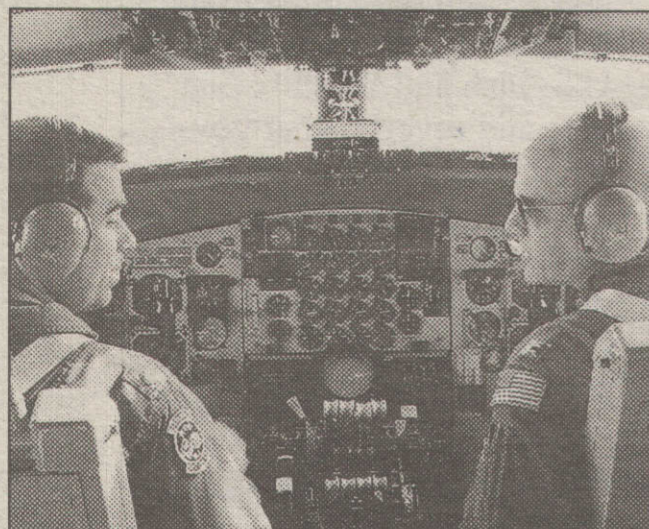
At Fort Dix, the Guardmember's records were checked and their skills on 155mm self-propelled howitzers were validated by members of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

"These guys have been going a hundred miles an hour since they got here," said Maj. Francis Mayer, the detachment's commander.

Mayer, who lives in Howell, N.J., has returned to active duty nearly four years after completing 13 1/2 years in the active

Army. He was last assigned to the 1st Armored Division. It is the major command for the troops the U.S. is sending to help keep the peace.

"I kind of looked forward to doing something like this, but I had no idea how hard it would be on my personal affairs," said Schrock who had three days during the Blizzard of '96 to make sure everything was in order for his wife Dawnrae and 7-year-old daughter Gigi. "We had to cover a lot of ground in a hurry."



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

AT THE CONTROLS - New Jersey Air Guard's Maj. Bob Brazel (left) and 1st Lt. Brian Tully talk during a recent mission supporting Operation Joint Endeavor. Both are pilots with the 108th Air Refueling Wing.

"You don't know what you're going to come up with," said Maine Col. Dennis Vanidestine, the Pisa detachment's commander. "Almost every friendly country in the world is involved in this operation."

Flying a refueling track into the heart of Croatia was one of the Maine unit's significant achievements, said Vanidestine of the potentially hazardous duty.

It was the Maine wing's first real-world deployment since sending crews and tankers to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The duty could be demanding, but the highly-regarded 'Maineiacs' maintained their sense of humor before heading home during the first weekend in February.

By midnight Jan. 30, tankers under the Maine unit's command had flown 59 missions and had pumped 2.9 million pounds of JP-8 fuel into 294 airplanes.

"I don't know of anybody who hasn't had a good time," said CMSgt. Mick Fish who supervised one of the three 20-member maintenance crews during the round-the-clock operation in a single hanger at the edge of the Italian base.

"The days were really busy," he added. "The nights could be busy but they were generally quiet, although they did fly some at night. It was better to be busy. Twelve-hour shifts go pretty fast when you're busy."

The Maineiacs certainly impressed a Texas Air Guardmember and Houston attorney who spent January in Pisa as the detachment's JAG officer.

"I've worked with a lot of people, and some of them don't quite meet the standards," said Maj. J. Willis Blackmon from the 147th Fighter Wing. "These guys exceed the standards in every way. I'm proud to say I served with the Maineiacs."



IN CHARGE - Maj. Francis Mayer, detachment commander.



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

SWEET EMBRACE - SSgt. John Sabol (above) gets a hug from his wife Barbara before shipping off to Europe.

ENVIRONMENT

Correcting past practices

Tennessee Air Guard bands together with community to save its future

Years ago, before people knew better, hazardous fluids like oil and antifreeze were dumped without any thought to the toll such acts would exact on the environment.

Many military installations are now forced to develop ways to get rid of trash left from the past.

Presently, the Tennessee Air Guard's 118th Airlift Wing in Nashville is doing just that by participating in a clean-up effort through the Installation Restoration Program (IRP).

The 118th recently hosted several community members who volunteered to help work with the base to develop a community relations plan.

The IRP is a nationwide program to identify and clean-up possible environmental problems that may have resulted from past practices on Air National Guard installations, said Peg Moffett, an Air Guard environmental public affairs specialist. As part of the program, the base and the community work together to find the best possible cleanup solutions.

"Each area around an installation is unique so the method that best suits one area may not be the preferred method by citizens of another area," Moffett said.

Through the community relations plan, the base and the community work together and keep each other informed of goals, methods and activities.

The community members involved came from local businesses, community leadership, environmental groups, neighbors and members of the 118th.

On environmental issues, there was a range of concerns noted for the base and the outlying Nashville area. Some of those concerns included funding, road expansion (a part of urban sprawl), tree and plant habitation, recycling and noise.

"The unit is taking positive action in taking care of the installation and participating in the Installation Restoration Program," Moffett said.

The IRP concentrates on cleaning up any damage caused by past activities.

"Years ago, some housekeeping proce-

dures were not as stringent as they are today," Moffett said. "Instead of simply ceasing these activities, this program provides the funds and efforts to clean up any possible damage."

The areas looked at are often the old fire training areas, former aircraft hangers, former aircraft washracks and similar areas, she added.

On the Nashville base, there was only one area that required attention, she said.

"They had an old oil change pit where waste oil and lead were found in the soil at levels slightly higher than the state standards," she said. "It will be cleaned up to meet both federal and state standards, whichever is more stringent."

"In the meantime," Moffett added, "there is no immediate threat to human health or wildlife."

In cases where an immediate threat is identified, Moffett noted, a different program is initiated. That program, currently undergoing a name change, used to be known as a "rapid response," because moral and legal responsibilities required fast action.

The 118th has fewer sites needing clean-up than other bases with similar histories. The number of sites identified for clean up often varies from base to base due to the different activities within the base history and the geology of the base.

The IRP falls into three main categories, Moffett said.

The first is to identify the problem through a preliminary assessment. In this phase, retirees and community members are interviewed and base histories are reviewed to find

trouble areas.

The second phase consists of the remedial investigation. It requires environmental engineers looking at the depth and breadth of a problem.

The third phase involves research design. It encourages the public to review and comment on clean-up options.

The final phase is the clean-up action.

"In some cases, an area may be cleaned up naturally through small organisms in the soil, or by using the sun's power to break down powerful chemicals," Moffett said. "In such cases the final decision, approved by regulatory officials and community members, may be to do nothing but let nature takes its course and monitor activities through technologically advanced equipment."

The IRP is applied to all active National Guard installations.



Courtesy Tennessee Guard

SAFE TANK - A fuel tank is loaded onto a truck. The soil on each tank is inspected for contaminants.

The Florida Guard teamed up environmental experts to find ways to protect its land without compromising its readiness

BLANDING'S BALANCE

By 1st Lt. John Daigle Jr.
Florida National Guard

In one of Florida's most rapidly developing counties lies 73,000 acres of pristine woodlands where clear, spring-fed lakes drain through majestic pine forests, sand-hill scrub and hardwood swamps that harbor many of the state's most rare plants and animals.

This ecological oasis -- situated between two of America's top three cities as ranked by *Money* magazine -- is also the principle field training site for thousands of Florida National Guard soldiers who travel each year to Clay County's Camp Blanding for training.

While much of the wildlife habitat that surrounds Blanding has deteriorated because of increasing suburban development and intense timber farming, the post has largely preserved its natural environment. And it has done so not despite its military ownership, but because of it, according to natural resources experts.

For these scientists, Blanding has become a huge nature laboratory. Their research is revealing important findings about the relationship between the military and the environment at Blanding.

"If Camp Blanding wasn't here one can only imagine what this area would look like today," said Don Palmer, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

While military training at Blanding has had minimal impact on the flora and fauna there, the tract has actually benefited from the protection the Guard's ownership provides, according to Palmer and others.

"If the military had not purchased this property, the northern tract today would be an intense-use timber plantation and the southern tract would

be housing developments," said Dan Hipes, a senior zoologist with The Nature Conservancy's Florida's Natural Areas Inventory.

The Florida National Guard in 1993 brought together a team of experts from the University of Florida, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and several other government and private environmental groups. This specialized team has collaborated in drafting an unprecedented program that will help balance Blanding's ecological needs with its military training requirements for generations.

The centerpiece of this program will be Blanding's innovative new Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan or INRMP. The plan will direct how the land can be used for military training and revenue generating land uses such as forestry. It will also outline the protection of threatened species, habitat restoration programs, water resources management, recreation activities and regional wildlife implications. The plan has been three years in development and is expected to be adopted in 1996.

The INRMP will bring together years of work by dozens of scientists, military officials, the environmental community and natural resource planners in a document that will direct future land management practices for the site, said Brig. Gen. Richard Capps, the Florida Guard's assistant adjutant general. As chairman of the Guard's Environmental Quality Control Committee, Capps has led the effort to develop the management plan.

"My goal in life is to ensure that we do what we are supposed to do with this land and that we are being aggressive in our resource management practices while also ensuring that we are able to train our soldiers there," the General said.

In developing the management plan, scientists have studied and

ONGOING

- An extensive Blanding's post the federally red cockaded pecker.
- General survey the endangered threatened animal species the track.
- A long-term management
- A reclamation old mineral a mine sites at
- A study of the ened gopher population.
- An entomological survey of the butterfly and insect population.
- A historical land use and ment at the War II training



SAVING WILDLIFE
Florida's Capt. M (top photo) I cockaded w
Capt. Richard (above) reloca tortoise.

STUDIES

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Photos by Mike Adams



LIFE - Flo-
ark Widener
olds a red
woodpecker.
rd Gallant
es a gopher

cockaded woodpeckers through a
grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

analyzed numerous aspects of Blanding's environment. The need for the plan spawned a unique and mutually beneficial relationship between the Guard and researchers at the University of Florida.

"Camp Blanding is an ideal place to study science," said Dr. David Wigston, program manager.

Indeed, the University of Florida environmental studies at Blanding have attracted the attention of national and international scientists including Harvard University's Dr. Richard Foreman, the leading landscape ecologist in the U.S. and Dr. Richard Hobbs of West Australia, one of the world's leading landscape scientists.

The list of rare species at Camp Blanding would make most land owners cringe with fear that endangered species protections would restrict possible uses of their property.

Bald eagles, gopher tortoises, Florida scrub jays and red cockaded woodpeckers are among the more than 60 threatened or endangered species identified at the site.

But Camp Blanding's natural resource managers have found advantages to sharing the land with rare animals and plants, including additional federal

funding for environmental studies that have helped them better use the land, said Lt. Col. Butch Redding, Blanding's training site manager.

"From the installation's point of view, it's been a good deal for us," Redding said. "I don't know of any training we've not been able to do."

Studies of species like the red cockaded woodpecker have resulted in Camp Blanding being permitted to conduct even more timber harvesting than planners expected would be allowed, Redding said. Limited timber harvesting in selected areas of Blanding is one of the few ways the Guard financially supports the operation of the post, he said.

University of Florida biologist John Kappes spent most of the last year studying Blanding's population of red

Service. His findings shows 92 percent of the 14 woodpecker clusters at Blanding produced fledglings last breeding season. Kappes counted 39 eggs.

"That's a good sign," he said. "I don't see any evidence that training soldiers here is causing problems for the red cockaded woodpecker."

One of the strongest recommendations to come out of the studies so far is for the post to continue and expand its controlled burning program.

Like other conservation areas around the country, the absence of regular fires has degraded habitat for native species and allowed a thick underbrush to develop. This also makes training soldiers more difficult.

Blanding's full-time forestry manager Paul Catlett has set an ambitious goal of burning 10,000 acres annually.

The burning program is crucial to keeping Camp Blanding as close to its natural state as possible, Catlett said.

While timber companies have exploited much of the lands around Blanding, the Guard has chosen to use only a fraction of its land for commercial timber harvesting. That harvesting generated about \$300,000 for post operations last year.

"There's been a lot of timbering at Blanding," said Hipes, the nature conservancy zoologist. "But if you drive just west, where the land is owned by private timber companies, the difference is dramatic."

Another way Blanding has generated revenues has been by leasing land to a private sand and mineral mining company.

The resources management plan is expected to recommend management practices to assist National Guard resource managers with restoring the land used for decades in the mining operations.

Working again with University of Florida experts, National Guard officials are exploring an innovative plan that could see the 6,000 acres of barren mine-scarred land converted into a one-of-a-kind mine reclamation laboratory where University of Florida students could study the processes of biotic community restoration, wildlife corridors and other landscape phenomena.

"I think this cooperative effort can be a win-win situation for everyone," said Dr. Larry Harris, a wildlife ecology professor at the University.

Jeff Hardesty, the public lands program coordinator for the Nature Conservancy, an environmental protection group, said Blanding's environmental successes can be attributed to their proactive, openminded attitude.

"Blanding has taken a great leap forward by not assuming a defensive posture," he said.

PROACTIVE PROGRAMS

ILLINOIS

The Army Guard's Environmental Coordinator program has promoted environmental stewardship awareness and ensured that environmental protection and pollution control measures are implemented to protect human health and the environment. The goals for the program are to reduce the number of spills, eliminate spill costs, improve waste handling in the field and increase environmental awareness throughout the command.

IOWA

The Army Guard at Gowen Field has a recycling program that keeps approximately four tons of solid waste products from being discarded each week. Also, in the past year they have recycled 37,000 pounds of aluminum from shell casings of tank rounds.

MISSOURI

The Army Guard's Resource Protection Management Office and a company of combat engineers completed a bioengineering project at the Macon Training Site to protect a constructed marsh. Sapling black willows were planted in the area, thus dampening the effect of shore line erosion and sediment deposition.

MONTANA

An aggressive pollution prevention program by the Army Guard, in conjunction with its environmental training program, has resulted in an overall 79.4 percent reduction of special and hazardous waste for disposal and reduced all but one location in the state to "conditionally exempt" Small Quantity Generator status.

NEW JERSEY

The Garden State's Army Guard facilities have reduced the number of underground storage tanks (USTs) by more than 60 percent. The state has been involved in a campaign that has reduced the number of existing USTs from 212 to 83 over a period of five years. The use of Guardmembers for the removal,

transportation and delivery of 16,000 gallons of heating oil and 5,000 gallons of fuel for redistribution to other armories resulted in a savings of \$51,200.

NEW YORK

Three years ago, the Empire State's Army Guard and the State Historical Preservation Office conducted a comprehensive survey of the state's 45 pre-World War II armories. Today, they have 32 armories on the National Register and one -- the 7th Regiment Armory, 643 Park Avenue in New York City -- is listed as a National Historical landmark. It's the only armory in America to achieve that distinction.

WISCONSIN

The 1st Battalion, 147th Command Aviation Battalion and the 724th Engineer Battalion, participated in a unique public-private venture with the Department of Natural Resources to build spawning habitats for brown and brook trout in several remote areas of the Brule River.

WYOMING

For the past six years the Army Guard, in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Archaeologist's Office, has been conducting cultural resource inventories on its properties. A total of 600 sites have been identified and 75 are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historical Places. In addition, the Equality State's environmental engineering branch conducts historic tours of their Army Guard-owned properties. They also manage 12 miles of the Oregon Trail.

VIRGINIA

A pollution prevention program by the Army Guard has seen dramatic savings in 1995. Filtering waste diesel fuel and reusing it saved approximately \$15,000. Turning in undrained batteries to be recycled saved \$2,097 and crushing waste fuel filters to reduce the number of off-site transfers saved approximately \$7,000.



SPORTS

- Guard Biathlon
- PT Challenge
- Olympic hopeful

SPORTS SHORTS



Photo by SSgt. John Scheffler

PT RULES - Sports-caster Jon Schultz (above, left) and Iowa's Capt. Gary Freese discuss test requirements.

SPORTSCASTER TAKES IOWA 'PT' CHALLENGE

Iowa TV sportscaster Jon Schultz, known around the state for taking on all dares, recently accepted a challenge to take an Army PT test.

The challenge was issued by the Iowa Army Guard's Detachment 2, 1168th Transportation Company based in Audubon.

Schultz, 31, did 39 push-ups, 46 sit-ups and ran two miles in 17:10 for an overall score of 186.

WRESTLER PINS HOPES ON OLYMPIC BID

SrA. Donald J. Tabar II is pinning his hopes on making the 1996 U.S. Olympic Wrestling team.

Tabar, a fuels specialist with the West Virginia Air Guard's 167th Airlift Wing, has been involved with wrestling since he was ten-years-old.

The first step occurs this April, when he will wrestle in a competition that serves as the cut for the Olympic team. The top eight, and a select few additional wrestlers, will then compete for a place on the team.

Tabar's goal, for now, is to place in the top eight.

"I feel good to have made it to this level," he said.



Photos by Capt. Kevin Gutknecht

Minnesota captures biathlon title

Men's, Women's All-Guard teams determined

By Capt. Kevin Gutknecht
Minnesota National Guard

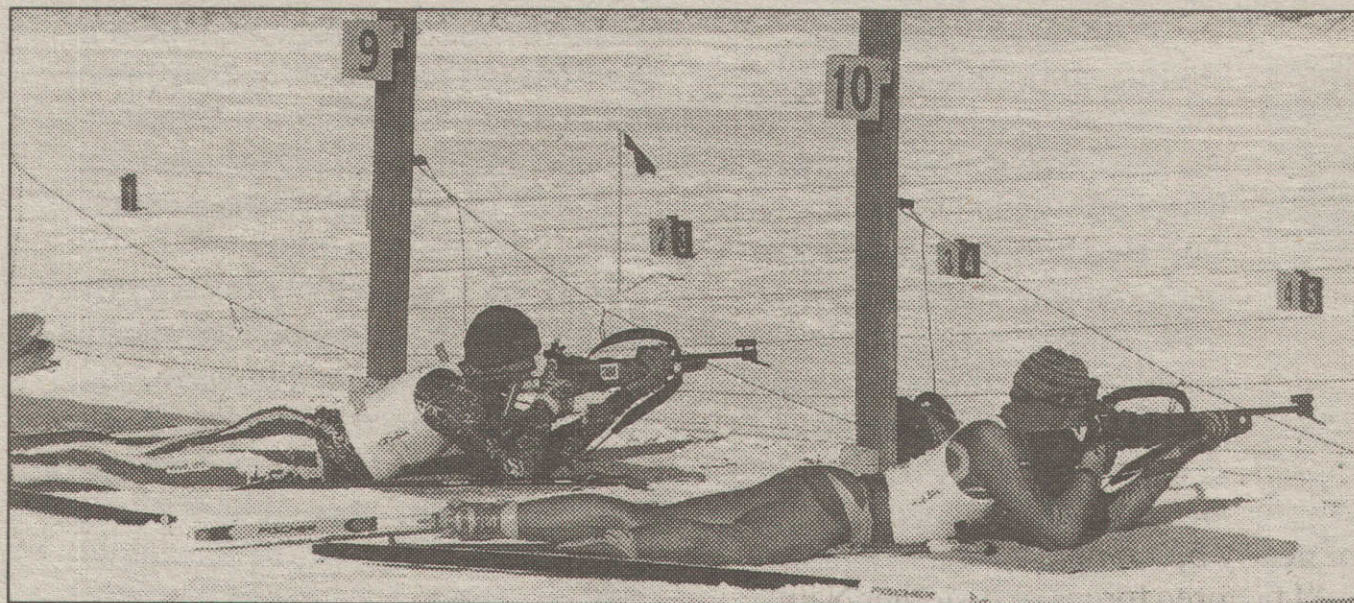
The Minnesota National Guard biathlon team came out on top for the third consecutive year winning the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championship at Camp Ripley, Minn.

Minnesota secured the win by taking firsts in two relay races, the 4-by-7.5 kilometer race and the military patrol race. In the team competition, Utah took second and Vermont finished third.

More than 180 skiers from 30 states skied in the week-long event Feb. 5-9. The race had been slated to take place in Jericho, Vt., but was moved to Minnesota because of poor snow conditions on the East Coast.

The week-long competition also determines the All-Guard men's and women's teams.

The men's team includes Utah's Maj. Tuck Miller, South Dakota's Spc. Jesse Hanson, Washington's 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Baltzell, South Dakota's Spc. Brian McDonald, Vermont's 2nd Lt. Richard Oliver, Minnesota's SSgt. Wayne



Gressman, Colorado's Spc. Andy Wilkins, Vermont's Spc. Benjamin Maki, Oregon's Spc. Matt Taylor and Utah's A1C Barry Schmitt.

The women's All-Guard team includes Utah's 2nd Lt. Dina Newhouse, Michigan's Spc. Sarah Lehto, Ohio's Sgt. Tracy Vandeventer, Vermont's SSgt. Sonia Rosser and Missouri's CWO Michelle Trembley.

The biathlon combines cross-country skiing and target shooting with rifles. Competitors ski a looping cross-country course, stopping periodically to shoot at targets from standing and prone positions. Points are scored for time and on target hits. Shooters who miss targets ski

BIATHLETES - Minnesota's SrA. Wayne Gressman (top photo) skis to the finish. Vermont's 1st Lt. Rick Oliver (above, left) and Alaska's Pvt. Karl Granroth fire at targets at Camp Ripley, Minn.

penalty laps.

The NGB biathlon program began in 1971 when the U.S. Army ended its biathlon program. It began as a regional competition on the East Coast and has grown to serve the entire country. It serves as a feeder program for the U.S. Olympic Biathlon effort. The U.S. biathlon team in the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, had five Guardmembers.

Army, Air Guard engineers deploy to Panama to build schools, roads

By Sgt. Greta Dawson
Kentucky National Guard

Army and Air National Guard troops are often at odds with Mother Nature.

And while torrential rains may have initially tipped the scales against joint-service Task Force Eureka in Changuinola, Panama, the California Air Guard's MSgt. Robert May believes members of his engineer unit persevered despite knee-deep mud.

"We've met the same thing with earthquakes, fires in southern California, riots in Los Angeles and also flooding. We didn't expect the rain, but when it happened, we kicked in and found out the capability of our citizen-soldiers," said May, first sergeant for the 146th Civil Engineering Squadron based at Channel Islands. "That in itself probably drew us together."

May joined more than 450 Army and Air Guard and Army Reserve citizen-soldiers and airmen supporting New Horizons-Panama -- led primarily by members of the California Guard -- to build more than seven miles of mountain road and three bridges, refurbish two schools, construct eight new schools and two medical clinics, and drill five fresh-water wells.

Construction is planned at the base of the Panamanian rain forest, amid banana farms, the Bocas Del Toro area's leading industry and employer.

"The troops have done a remarkable job pulling together to get the mission accomplished," said Col. Michael Nevin, task force commander. "We're far enough along now, for example in the mess hall, that some of the workers might have to walk in the mud to get there and walk in the mud at the site, but we're ready to start running plumbing and electricity."

Maine Army National Guard MSgt. Mike Welsh, operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge, agreed that progress was being made, despite a loss of nearly 5,000 man hours.

"I factored forces like Mother Nature's heat and rain into the planning," he said. "I took into account that some of the people are from states like North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah where it has been cold, and would take some time adjusting to working in the environment."

Much of Task Force Eureka is comprised of California Guardmembers. But volunteers and technical experts from South Carolina to Arizona have answered the call to assist in the humanitarian effort, many leaving behind spouses, children and careers to serve a six-month tour. The project is expected to be completed by mid-June.

Nevin said more than 4,500 citizen-soldiers and airmen will rotate through New Horizons-Panama exercise in 10



Photo by Sgt. Greta Dawson

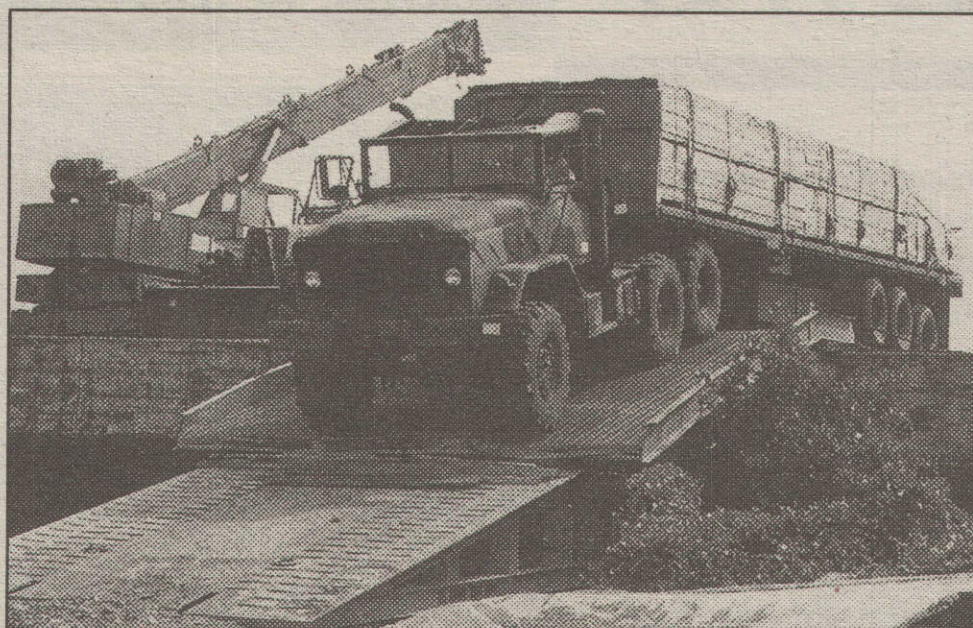


Photo by SSgt. Tom Roberts

EUREKA - North Dakota's Sgt. Todd Hillebrand (far left) inspects a water purification line. Equipment (left) rolls off a barge into Panama. California's SSgt. Mike Kears (below, left) and Sgt. Larry Charlton hammer base boards for leveling floors.



Photo by Sgt. Greta Dawson

Task Force EUREKA

separate, two-week cycles.

As troops arrive, preparation and school construction will begin in the outlying communities of Almirante, Quebrada Pinzon, Quebrada Platano, Bella Vista, Miramar and Valle del Risco. Health clinics in Chiriqui Grande and Valle del Risco are also expected to begin.

"Most of the personnel are set to arrive in mid-February to prepare for bridge construction set to begin on March 9," Welsh said. The majority of Task Force Eureka's construction projects are scheduled for completion by May 18.

Nevin said although rain is no longer a factor in base camp construction, he still voiced concern about getting equipment and personnel into rugged, high-vegetation areas that are not easily accessible. Plans are set for personnel and equipment to arrive by military aircraft and boats for the most effective use of terrain, he said.

Nevin said another of his main concerns are linked to potential environmental damage created by future development in the nearby pristine rain forest basin.

"We're going to work with the locals to

plant vegetation in bare areas to return (the base camp) to its natural state," Nevin added. "In this climate, that shouldn't take too long. Our drainage is taken care of so that over the long term it doesn't cause any damage."

Nevin said the most important factor in the mission's overall success will be the cooperation achieved between Task Force Eureka and the local communities.

"We're going to work with the locals so that they will learn from us and we will learn from them how to best meet their needs," he said.

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

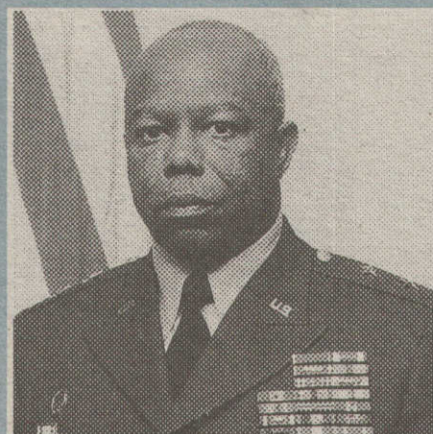
Maj. Gen. Warren L. Freeman was recently appointed the commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard. He replaces Maj. Gen. Russell C. Davis who was named the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Freeman began his career as a private in the D.C. Army Guard in 1966 and served as a bridge specialist and military policeman before earning a commission in 1969. Born in Jackson, Ga., he holds a master degree in management from National Louis University in Evanston, Ill. As D.C.'s commanding general, Freeman will lead a 3,200-person force.

Maj. Raymond S. Doyle was presented the Soldier's Medal recently, the Army's highest peacetime award, when he risked his life in the icy waters of the Long Island Sound to rescue a man in a downed plane. Doyle, 47, the commander of the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion, was enjoying a cup of coffee in his Baiting Hollow, N.Y., home when he saw the plane crash. After calling 911, Doyle swam out to the plane about 50 yards away. The pilot was on top of the plane frantically trying to get another man out. When Doyle arrived, the pilot swam ashore while Doyle helped the passenger. After a struggle to subdue the panicked passenger, Doyle swam to land, passing out a few yards from the shore. "I was so weak from the struggle and cold water," he said. "My neighbor tells me that I was so blue that he was sure I was dead." Doyle's heroic act is even more amazing when you consider he's afraid of water.

Brig. Gen. Dwight M. Kealoha was recently appointed as the Hawaii Air National Guard's commander. Kealoha, a highly decorated command pilot with more than 29 years service, has more than 3,600 hours in the cockpit, mostly as a fighter pilot. Before assuming his present post, he was the active duty commander of the 15th Air Base Wing at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Last November, somewhere over the Gulf of Mexico, the North Carolina Air Guard's Lt. Col. William Christian, piloting a C-130H3, logged the 100,000 accident-free flying hour for the 145th Airlift Wing. Officials at Lockheed, the company that manufactures C-130 aircraft, believe that the 145th is the only unit to shatter the mark. The 145th has been flying C-130s around the world since May 1971. In those 25 years, the 145th has participated in Operations Desert Shield and Storm, Southern Watch in Southeast Asia and Volant Oak and Volent Phoenix in Panama.

SSgt. William Watson, a member of the Mississippi Air Guard's 173rd Civil Engineering Squadron, was named that state's Outstanding Airman of the Year for 1995. Watson, an electrician, was cited for his effort on a deployment to Volk Field, Wis., where he led a team that pulled 9,000 feet of cable underground from the control tower to the air field lighting control vaults, giving air traffic controllers there manual and automatic control of the air field's taxi way lighting. Active in his church, Watson is a Sunday school director and coach of his church's softball team.



Maj. Gen. Warren Freeman, D.C.'s CG.



Soldier's Medal recipient, Maj. Raymond Doyle.



Brig. Gen. Dwight Kealoha, Hawaii's Air Guard commander.



South Carolina's 145th Airlift Wing lands safety feat.

Bettie Helterbran, the deputy chief of the Office of Policy and Liaison for the National Guard Bureau will retire after 40 years March 29. Starting as a typist at Fort Belvoir, Va., in 1952, Helterbran followed her husband to Alaska, Kentucky and Germany before returning to Belvoir in 1965. In 1982, she took a position as a congressional liaison officer at the Bureau's Office of Policy and Liaison. Almost 10 years later, she was promoted to deputy chief.

The results of the Air National Guard's Transportation awards were recently announced. The following will represent the Guard at the Air Force competition.

Aerial Port Unit of the Year - 133rd Aerial Port Squadron, Minn.

Base Transportation Activity of the Year - 116th Logistics Group, Ga.

Senior NCO of the Year - SMSgt. Preston Reedy, 181st Fighter Wing, Ind.

NCO of the Year - SSgt. Edwin Vos, 132nd Fighter Wing, Iowa.

Airman of the Year - SrA. Joseph Stymest, 116th Fighter Wing, Ga.

Pvt. Evelyn Littlefoot became the Utah National Guard's first women to enlist as a combat engineer when she joined the 116th Engineer Detachment, based in Tooele. Littlefoot, a Navaho, works as a machinist. She said she decided to join the Guard because of the benefits and travel the Guard offers.

Florida's 159th Weather Flight and Texas' 209th Weather Flight recently received the Air National Guard Maj. Gen. John W. Collens Award in the non-tactical and tactical categories respectively. The annual award recognizes outstanding contributions made by weather units.

Florida's SFC Armando Brana, one of the few members of the Cuban Volunteers, recently retired after serving 27 years. Brana, an operations NCO with the 50th Area Support Group based in Miami, came to America from Cuba at age 18. Upon arriving, he joined 12,000 others in the Cuban Volunteers, a military organization that was part of the Armed Forces. The Volunteers spoke no English and consisted mostly of Cuban, Mexican and Puerto Rican exiles. Formed in 1962, about the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, they were trained as part of an advanced invasion force into Cuba if the crisis escalated. When the threat ended and the volunteers were disbanded, Brana joined the active Army for two years. After a short stint in the Illinois Guard, he served out the remainder of his career with the Florida Army Guard.

Two New Mexico National Guard state employees received Army Guard environmental awards. Robert Concha, the environmental compliance and assessment manager, took home the National Guard Bureau's Army Environmental Certificate of Commendation for Natural Resources Conservation Award. Robert Gondek, the hazardous waste manager, received the NGB Certificate of Commendation for Environmental Quality Award.

Texas 'vet' unit helps
vaccinate coyotes

Taking a bite out of RABIES

By SSgt. Brenda K. Benner
Texas National Guard

The Texas Army National Guard's 1836th Medical Detachment of Veterinary Services recently participated in the largest vaccination exercise ever.

Members of the 1836th, the only Army Guard veterinary unit in the U.S., assisted in the Coyote Oral Rabies Vaccination Program in Cotulla for two weeks.

This marks the second year that the 1836th joined the Texas Department of Health and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in an effort to stop the spread of canine rabies in south Texas.

Approximately 1.3 million vaccine-containing baits were distributed by airplanes across rural areas in 18 counties where



Photo by SSgt. Brenda K. Benner

a high incidence of rabies cases were reported. The targeted area, in this phase alone, encompassed nearly 19,000 square miles.

Oral vaccine drops were also scheduled for Gray Fox populations in West and Central Texas during the six week project.

"This is the single largest vaccination exercise ever undertaken anywhere in the world," said Col. Leo G. Staley, 1836th commander. "The technique of vaccinating wild animal populations has been used in Europe

for several years, but not with this type of baited vaccine or aerial delivery system. This is an exceptional opportunity for our citizen-soldiers to be involved in a project that's on the cutting edge, and at the same time, helping our fellow Texans."

During the first day 100 large bait trays were prepared to stock the first few flights. The baits consisted of a rabies vaccine enclosed within a thin layer of wax, which is surrounded by an outer

coating of fishmeal to attract the coyotes. These baits are distributed at a low altitude of 500 feet by three specially equipped planes and teams of highly experienced pilots.

Each National Guardmember is assigned to a crew who keeps the delivery system fully stocked. Conveyor belts linked with the computerized navigation system control the timing of the bait drops to ensure consistent distribution. The goal is to deliver 70 vaccines per square

BAITED - Texas Guard's Ssgt. John Silva (left) and Ssgt. Ernie Cortez practice bait loading procedures in flight.

mile.

SSgt. Ernie Cortez Sr., a soldier with Texas Army Guard's HHC, 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation and former 1836th Veterinary Detachment member, helped unload the trucks, prepare bait trays and put vaccines onto the conveyor belts during the flights.

This was his first experience with the vaccination effort.

"It's a great cause," Cortez said. "It will prevent a lot of rabies. I'd hate to see rabies come into the Hondo, Medina County area."

Medina County was one of nearly 50 counties scheduled to receive oral vaccines for their fox populations.

The vaccination program was originally designed for a 5-7 year period, but favorable results from last year's initial efforts may reduce the extended treatment period, say officials.

"We're already reaping the benefits of this project in that far fewer people will be exposed and domestic animal losses will be greatly reduced," said Staley. "There are many foxes and coyotes within the San Antonio city limits, and certainly in smaller rural communities, that pose a real threat to domestic pets, and therefore, people too."

COOL HAND

Record cold weather didn't stop SSgt. Janie Santos, a member of the Texas Army Guard's Headquarters, 71st Troop Command, from brushing up on her land navigation skills at Camp Mabry, near Austin. The 375-acre Camp Mabry has been Texas National Guard headquarters for more than 104 years.



Photo by Ssgt. Greg A. Griffith



STATES

- Drug Bust
- Turkey Bound
- Blizzard Response

WEST VIRGINIA

Members of the 167th Security Police Squadron assisted their state police in locating, seizing and destroying nearly \$50 million worth of marijuana plants. The bust also resulted in five arrests.

MINNESOTA

The 682nd Engineer Battalion built a three-quarter mile long road that will give students access to a multi-level environmental center in Willmar. The facility will offer year-round environmental education programs to students from kindergarten through college.

OHIO

Members of the 251st Combat Communications Group, based in Springfield, deployed two units -- the 235th Air Traffic Control Flight and the 269th Combat Communication Squadron -- to Taszar, Hungary, to support the Bosnian peace-keeping mission Operation Joint Endeavor.

They are expected to serve a 90-day tour.

HAWAII

The 203rd Air Refueling Squadron has returned home after supporting Operation Deny Flight, a NATO effort protecting the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Air Guard units have supporting Deny Flight since April 1993.

DRUG MISSION

SMSgt. Dennis Budworth (right), a member of the Oregon Air Guard's 142nd Fighter Group in Portland, oversees a check of one of the unit's F-15 Eagle jets. The 142nd recently returned from Panama after supporting Operation Coronet Nighthawk, an ongoing military counterdrug effort designed to stem the flow of drugs into the United States.



Photo by SSgt. Virgil Workman

VIRGINIA

About 200 members of the 192nd Fighter Wing, based in Sandston, deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey, in February to support Operation Provide Comfort II.

The 192nd is one of three Air Guard units rotating through Turkey. The others are South Dakota's 114th Fighter Wing and Iowa's 185th FW.

NEW YORK

In a move to minimize hazardous waste in the Empire State, 21 environmentally-sensitive 30-gallon parts washers were bought for each of its organizational maintenance shops.

"These machines will return their purchase value in just three years," said Capt. Larry Fawcett, environmental protection specialist.

CALIFORNIA

The 261st Combat Communications Squadron spent their holidays distributing boxes and donating food to nine Head Start Child Care Centers located in the Los Angeles area.

"Almost 20,000 low income people had a meal that wouldn't have been possible without their help," said MSgt. Denise Meyers.

TEXAS

The 147th Civil Engineer Squadron finished construction of a 6,800-square-foot fire management building for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Towaoc, Colo.

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

By Capt. William Wiggins

District of Columbia National Guard

During a week of record snowfall (almost two feet) that left the District of Columbia shut down and paralyzed, almost 100 D.C. Guardmembers were on duty to provide emergency transportation to the Washington Metropolitan Police (MPD) and Fire Departments.

The Guard quickly set up around-the-clock operations and provided 14 soldiers with High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, or "humvees."

"Last night we couldn't move, the humvee was the only way to get there," said MPD's Jose Acosta, 4th District sector commander. "Our scout vehicles were stranded even with chains on their tires. We had one serious assault where the Guard got us there in the 'humvee' and we arrested the assailants."

"They (the assailants) had no idea that we could respond that quickly," he added.

One D.C. Guardmember, Spc. Lois L. Rhodes, had to bike through the snow to a nearby subway station to get her armory.

"I've worked all types of support missions in the Guard and with the MPD," Rhodes said. "Every year we receive cold weather training -- so that helps."

Also activated during the snow emergency was SSgt. Clarence B. Collins, an MP with the 372nd Military Police Battalion.

"Earlier, we had to reach an elderly person who needed immediate dialysis treatment, so we transported her to the nearest medical facility," recalled Collins, a 21-year D.C. veteran.

"This (operation) has been especially rewarding," he added, "because it directly benefits the District residents."

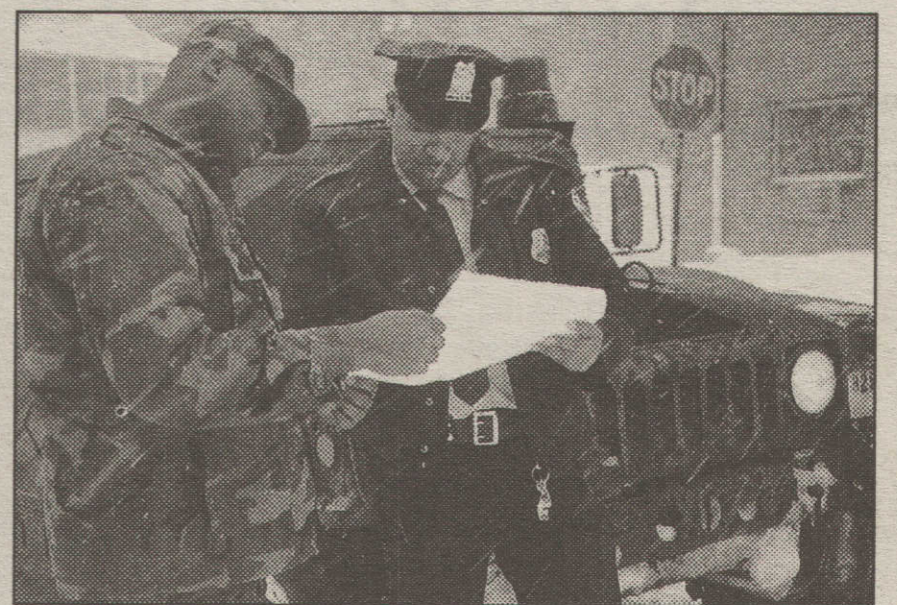


Photo by Capt. William Wiggins

TEAMWORK - D.C. Guard's PFC Maurice Nicholson coordinates activities with a District police officer during the blizzard.



HISTORY

The Guard's divisions have a long, distinguished history of service

The BIG EIGHT

Today there is a great deal of discussion concerning the future of Army National Guard divisions. Some argue that Guard divisions are not needed in a post-Cold War era where there is a limited threat. Supporters point to the Guard's long history of cost effective service to state and country.

As history tells us, one thing is certain, National Guard divisions have always been ready when called upon in time of need. With the organization of the first National Guard division in Pennsylvania in 1879, now the 28th Infantry Division, the Guard has provided divisions to our nation's defense.

The number of divisions the National Guard has supported and contributed to national defense has varied throughout the years. Currently there are eight divisions in the Army National Guard.

During World War I the Guard organized 17 square divisions. A square division had four infantry regiments. Nine divisions saw combat while five others served as replacement or depot divisions. With the end of war the Guard divisions were inactivated for a short period. As a result of the National Defense Act of 1920, the Guard reorganized 18 infantry divisions and four cavalry divisions.

Anticipating entering the war in Europe, the 18 National Guard infantry divisions were activated for one year while the four cavalry divisions were inactivated. Four divisions (30th, 41st, 44th, and 45th) were the first mobilized on Sept. 16, 1940. The remaining divisions entered federal service by March 1941. When war was declared on Dec. 8, 1941, the Guard infantry divisions were still organized as square divisions, but were reorganized as triangular with three infantry regiments per



GUARD HISTORY

By Maj. Jeff Pope
ARMY GUARD HISTORIAN

division. These divisions represented approximately 50 percent of the total divisional strength of the U.S. Army in December 1941.

Of the 18 divisions, nine deployed to the European theater while nine deployed to the Pacific theater.

At the end of WWII, all National Guard divisions were again briefly inactivated. Between 1946 and 1947, 27 National Guard divisions were organized to include two armored and 25 infantry divisions.

As a result of the North Korean invasion of South Korea in June 1950, eight Army National Guard divisions (28th, 31st, 37th, 40th, 43d, 44th, 45th and 47th) were mobilized. Of the eight divisions, the 40th from California and the 45th from Oklahoma deployed to Korea. The 28th and 43rd deployed to Europe to reinforce U.S. Army Europe.

Between 1954 and 1958, four infantry divisions were reorganized and redesignated as armored divisions changing the mix of divisions to six armored and 21 infantry.

In 1959 Guard divisions were reorganized as Pentomic divisions. The Pentomic division consisted of five infantry battle groups instead of three infantry regiments to conduct operations on the nuclear battlefield.

On Oct. 15, 1961, Army Guard divisions were once again ordered into federal service. As the Berlin Wall was going up, President Kennedy mobilized the 32nd Infantry Division and the 49th Armored Division for potential duty in Europe.

In 1962 Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara concluded there were too many reserve component divisions in the force structure. McNamara wanted a lean quality force, not an overly large force which was difficult to man and equip. At the time there were still 27 Guard divisions as well as ten Army Reserve divisions.

As a result of McNamara's downsizing, the 34th, 35th, 43rd, and 51st Divisions were reorganized into separate divisional brigades. The remaining 23 divisions were

reorganized from Pentomic to Reorganization Objectives Army Divisions (ROAD), which consisted of three brigades per division.

In 1967 it was again decided to reorganize the force structure of the reserve forces. One new concept was the Selected Reserve Force (SRF). The SRF was to be the most ready Reserve Component force in history.

The three SRF Guard divisions were Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division, Indiana's 38th Infantry Division, and the 47th Infantry Division of Minnesota.

In 1968, 15 additional divisions left the force structure, reducing the Guard's count to eight.

As a result of the 1960's Civil Rights movement and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, rioting broke out in many major cities across the nation. Elements of several Guard divisions were called into state service to quell the disturbances. The 28th, 33rd, 40th Infantry, and parts of the 42nd Infantry of New York and Michigan, provided troops to restore order.

In 1975 three of the Guard's eight divisions underwent realignment. The 28th Infantry Division, previously split among Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, was realigned entirely in Pennsylvania. The 42nd Infantry Division of New York, and Pennsylvania consolidated entirely within New York while the 50th Armored Division realigned in New Jersey and Vermont. Four of the eight Army Guard divisions were now configured in single states.

In 1977 the realignment of the 38th Infantry Division made the division a two-state division located in Indiana and Michigan. The 73rd Infantry Brigade was activated in Ohio to replace divisional units displaced by the realignment of the 38th Infantry Division.

In 1984, the 35th Infantry Division reorganized from existing separate brigades; the 67th Infantry of Nebraska, the 69th Infantry of Kansas and the 149 Armored of Kentucky. In 1985, the 29th Infantry Division (Light) was reorganized from existing brigades; the 116th of Virginia and the 58th of Maryland.

By 1986 the Guard's divisions consisted of ten divisions: five infantry, two mechanized, two armored and one light.

In 1993 the 26th Infantry Division, 42nd Infantry Division and the 50th Armored Division were consolidated into the 42nd Infantry Division (Mechanized) leaving the Guard with its present eight divisions.

As the Guard division's role continues to be discussed, so must their past and present contributions.

28th Infantry - Mech

- (Penn., W. Va.)
- Oldest division in the Army, organized in 1879
- Called the "Iron Division" in World War I
- Took brunt of the German attack at Battle of the Bulge
- Assigned to U.S. Army Europe during Korean War
- 40 soldiers presently supporting Operation Joint Endeavor

29th Infantry - Light

- (Mass., Va., Conn., N.J., Md.)
- Landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day 1944

- Only light division in the Army National Guard
- Was first Guard unit to pull six-month peacekeeping mission protecting the Sinai Peninsula
- 29th Public Affairs Detachment is presently deployed to Tuzla, Bosnia

34th Infantry

- (Minn., Iowa, Ill.)
- First Army division to deploy to Europe in World War II
- Served more than 500 days in combat in WW II, more than any other division
- Reorganized in 1991

35th Infantry - Mech

- (Kan., Neb., Mo., Colo.)
- Former President Harry Truman served as a field artillery captain with the 35th Division in WW I
- Noted for its solid performance in both world wars
- Reorganized in 1984

38th Infantry

- (Ind., Ohio, Mich.)
- Landed at Subic Bay in January 1945 and secured the Bataan Peninsula after 19 days of bloody fighting, earning the nickname, "the Avengers of Bataan"

40th Infantry - Mech

- (California)
- After World War II, the 40th performed occupation duty in Korea and was the last National Guard division returned to the U.S.
- Fought in the Korean War
- Activated for the 1992 Los Angeles riots

42nd Infantry - Mech

- (N.Y., Mass., N.J., Vt., R.I.)
- The famous "Rainbow" division name of World War I was conceived by Maj. Douglas MacArthur who also served in the 42nd.

- During 1918, the 42nd spent 176 days at the front, captured 34 miles of territory, 1,317 prisoners and took heavy casualties. One out of every 16 Americans who died in Europe served in the 42nd Division.
- Activated for seven days for the national postal strike in 1970

49th Armored

- (Texas)
- Only armored division in Army National Guard
- Mobilized for the Berlin Crisis in 1961
- Presently supports counter-drug effort along the Texas-Mexico border

DIVISION DIVIDENDS



TRAINING

ARTBASS has given the Ohio Guard a cheaper, realistic way to train

WAR GAMES

By SSgt. Diane Farrow
Ohio National Guard

Ask any foot soldier where he first battled an enemy, you may hear vivid descriptions of torrid deserts, tropical jungles or wooded terrain.

Ask some members of the Ohio Army Guard's 612th Engineer Battalion about an enemy they faced recently and they are likely to describe the basement floor plan at the Ohio Military Academy.

Illuminated by the glow of computer screens, leaders from each line unit in the battalion were busy defending their sector from the Soviet 22nd Motorized Rifle Division, which was moving east toward Alsfeld, Germany. The engineers spent hours assessing the terrain, setting up obstacles and destroying bridges and just as much time digging in to their defensive positions.

Outside, 200 yards away in a GP medium tent, the Tactical Operations Center responded.

With his eyes fixed on a wall-size map, the battalion operations officer (S-3) plotted the latest move of one of his units. Three field phones rang at once as other companies sought guidance for their next move. One unit reported losing an M-2 and nine personnel in their own mine field.

"This is not good," the S-3 grumbled.

But it is good, or so says MSgt. Robert W. Marsh, threat instructor for OMA's ARTBASS program.

ARTBASS, short for Army Training Battle Simulation System, is the academy's newest high tech training tool: a computer program that provides real-time simulation of wartime operations.

"You don't have to win to learn," Marsh said. "With ARTBASS, the idea is to go away with knowledge."

And Ohio soldiers have been able to do just that since September 1994, when the 1st Battalion, 107th Armored Cavalry first trained on the equipment.

The Academy has the active Army to thank for receiving this system-- one of nine in existence. After acquiring an even higher tech system, the Army retained one ARTBASS set-up in Fort Lewis, Wash., and dispatched the remaining to the National Guard in various states.

An ARTBASS exercise is broken down into three phases: off-line editing, initialization and run.

"Off-line editing is conducted well before the units show up at OMA," said Maj. Philip A. Richardson, ARTBASS Team Chief. "This is when units build the battle scenario."

"Battles are not 'canned,'" he asserted.

in battle, just that they are getting ready."

After setting up, 612th representatives headed to the computer room, where the ARTBASS system is divided into six stations. Company "players" were set up at two maneuver stations, one administrative/logistics station and one fire support station. With operation orders in hand and field phones at their side, players move their units with a menu-driven, multi-function keyboard. Assisting two company teams at each station, ARTBASS team "interactors" punch in the commands that tell the computer what to do.

While those four stations share a common area, the threat cell and brigade cell are isolated. Staffed by two members of the ARTBASS team, the threat cell represents the "bad guys" and responds to the actions of the engineer battalion. The brigade cell replicates the higher headquarters -- for requesting reconnaissance flights, additional personnel, or equipment the battalion doesn't have.

"ARTBASS is meant to test the communication between company and battalion staff," Richardson said.

"It's exciting," said Lt. Col. David

shoot from one graphic to another.

"You actually see the hole in your defense when you lose a unit, and you have to deal with it. That's when realism comes into play."

Though the ARTBASS system brings visions of video arcades to mind, players don't have the control to single out a target and shoot. The computer responds as real soldiers would -- following orders, firing when fired upon -- and the results can be just as unpredictable.

Ervin said players needed to constantly monitor the status reports from units in the field. When the computer reported that a platoon was running low on supplies, the logistics officer (S-4) needed to be notified so that additional food, fuel or ammo could be sent.

And just because the system is computerized, doesn't mean mistakes don't happen.

"We ordered more supplies for one of our platoons, and later, while my guys were getting dangerously low on ammo, the unit next to them was suddenly getting resupplied," recalled Ervin. "Evidently our location was misread, so we called the S-4 to redirect them to the right people."

The most obvious bonus this system offers is maximum training with minimal spending.

"The only cost involved for units drilling would be the cost of bringing the personnel here," Richardson said. "The equipment was given to us by the Army, and the full-time civilian who maintains it is salaried by the Army."

Boyer agreed.

"Short of taking the entire battalion to the National Training Center or the Joint Readiness Training Center, it would be impossible

to engage in a mock battle of this magnitude," he said.

Buckeye Guard soldiers had other reasons to like ARTBASS.

"I played three Reforgers in the active Army," said SSgt. Daniel P. Jeremy. "Here, you can do in a weekend what we did in three weeks."

Richardson says ARTBASS also offers a viable option for Ohio's 25 battalion-size units looking for staff training opportunities.

"It's a chance to determine a unit's strengths and weaknesses, and a great way to train for other exercises," he said.

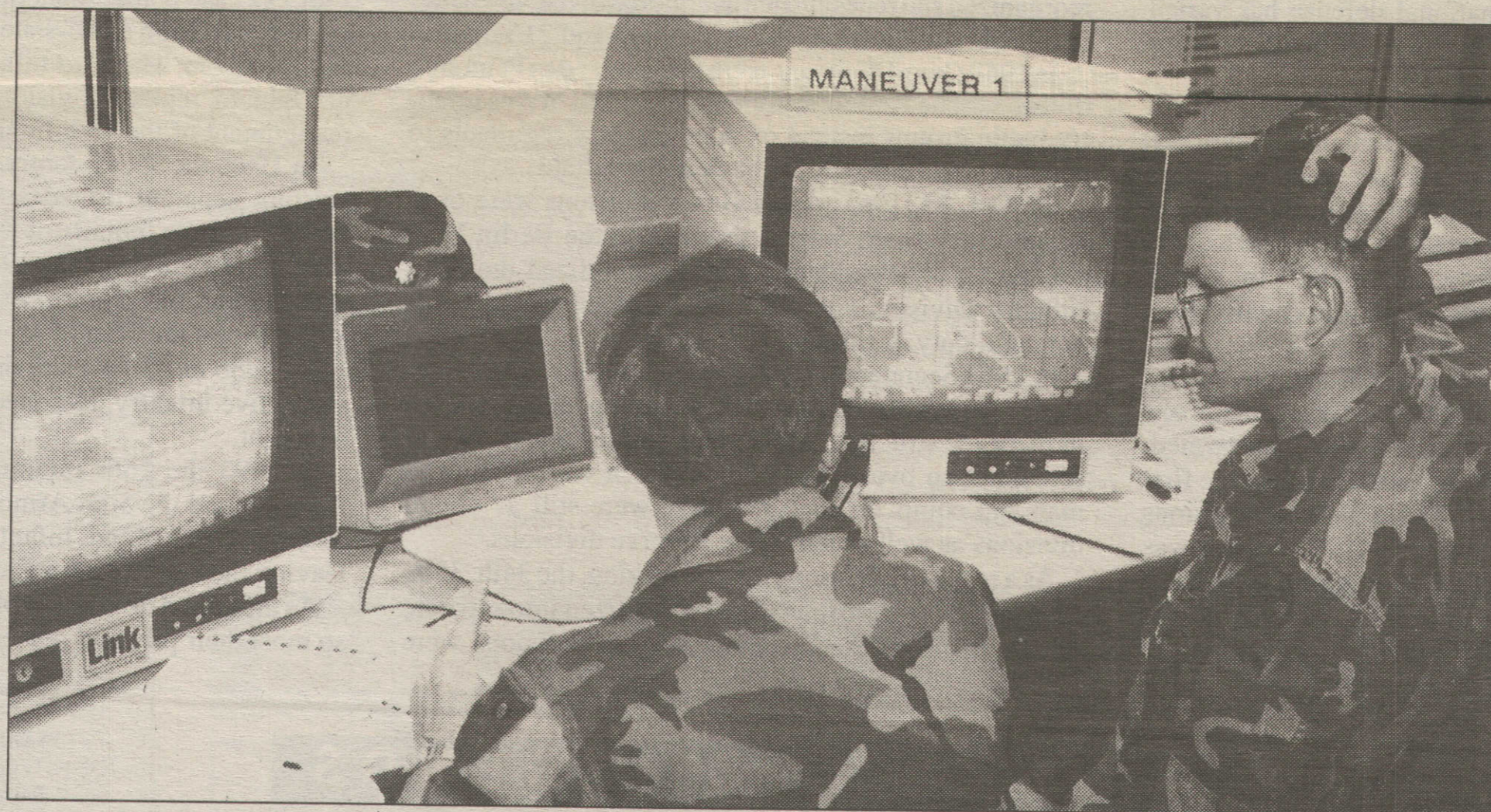


Photo by SSgt. Diane Farrow

DOING BATTLE - ARTBASS had some Ohio Army Guard combatants scratching their heads.

Boyer, 612th commander. "We've done these kind of exercises before, but they were paperwork driven -- only a few people got excited. The computer keeps things moving."

"You're looking at a screen with threat forces in red and friendly in white," added Capt. Dean Ervin, Company A commander. "During the battle, the red is moving closer and closer to you, and, as they fire, little streaks of white lightening

Richardson said units pick one of seven potential geographical areas and the type of threat force they'd like to fight. Then the ARTBASS staff spends three to six days building the friendly and enemy forces in the computer.

The second phase, or initialization, occurs in the first few hours of the three-day exercise. In this phase, units are positioned in their assembly areas, and command and control graphics are added.

"When company-level players start moving, shooting and communicating, the third phase has begun," Richardson said. "This doesn't mean they're engaged