

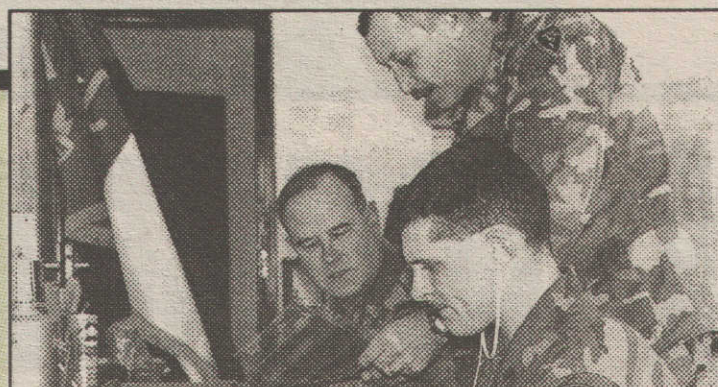
ALERTED
FOR CUBA

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ON THE GROUND
IN BOSNIA

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TROPIC
TRAINING

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THE ON GUARD

Volume XXV, No. 7

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

April 1996

Baca pushes Partnership

Former Warsaw Pact nations seek Guard's help in joining NATO

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Today's National Guard generals would not have dreamed that such a meeting was possible 10 years ago. They were lieutenant colonels and colonels and new general officers then, and Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia was the enemy -- part of the "Russian Bear" called the Warsaw Pact.

On March 6, Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and generals from 22 states were reminded at NATO headquarters in Brussels just how much the world has changed since the Berlin Wall crumbled five years ago.

Ambassadors from Poland and Hungary and a general from the Czech Republic asked the National Guard to help their countries get into NATO -- the same North Atlantic Treaty Organization that held the Warsaw Pact at bay in Europe for 40 years.

That remarkable request in 1996 was as significant a milestone for the National Guard as was its decisive involvement in Desert Shield and Desert Storm when this decade was new.

No one is happier about that turn of events than Baca, a 57-year-old three-star Army Guard general from New Mexico. He is an aggressive advocate for a greater National Guard role in the international arena.

"The Guard has the resources to be a

major player in this mission," Baca told a room full of Guardmembers.

Credit for the historic alliance belongs to a two-year-old NATO program called Partnership for Peace. It has linked the National Guard to 27 European countries looking to learn about democracy.

Twenty-two states have already established ties with these countries through the National Guard's related State Partnership Program. Illinois has been paired with Poland, for example. Ohio is affiliated with Hungary, and Texas is partnered with the Czech Republic.

Those are important links, the foreign diplomats explained, because they believe their countries have the best chance to join NATO if and when it is expanded beyond the original 16 countries.

More important is the idea that every prospective member will have to approach NATO through the partnership program.

"Partnership for Peace lets those countries prove they can be active members," explained Robert Hunter, NATO's U.S. Ambassador. "It is the way for those countries to have a permanent relationship

with NATO."

U.S. National Guardmembers are teaching military people in those countries concepts that Americans take for granted -- civilian control over the military establishment, part-time citizen-soldiers serving as part of the national defense and the role of non-commissioned officers.

"There is no one better than the citizen-soldier to talk about civilian control of the military," Baca said.

Now people believe the Partnership for



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton

MEETING OF THE MINDS - Lt. Gen. Edward Baca (left) discusses the National Guard with Romanian Gen. Cioflina (right) through an interpreter.



Photo by SSgt. John Zygiel

AIR
WARRIOR

SrA. Todd Phillips, a member of the Massachusetts Air Guard's 104th Fighter Wing, performs a preflight inspection on an A-10 during Air Warrior '96 in Nevada. See related story and photos on Page 13.

See PARTNERSHIP, Page 11

**DRUG USE
IS
LIFE ABUSE**



COMMENTARY

COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of March 22, the National Guard has assisted in 43,260 arrests and seized 4,130 weapons, 20,077 vehicles and nearly \$57.9 million while conducting 3,618 counterdrug missions this fiscal year.

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Mailing address:
NGB-PAC
2500 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-2500

Express Mail address:
NGB-PAC
Park Center IV, Suite 450
4501 Ford Ave.
Alexandria VA 22302-1454

Telephone numbers:
(703) 681-0716
DSN 761-0716
FAX: (703) 681-0732/0731

STAFF

Chief, National Guard Bureau
Lt. Gen. Edward D. Baca

Chief, Public Affairs
Daniel Donohue

Chief,
Command Information
Maj. Robin F. Carrington

Editor
MSgt. John Malthaner

Special Correspondent
MSgt. Bob Haskell



LETTERS

MACHO RESPONSE

*I opened the front page of the February 96 issue of *The On Guard* and immediately spied the commentary headlined, "Being Macho is Very Stupid" by Maj. Terry Thompson, Washington Army Guard.*

After 15 years in the infantry and as a rookie recruiter, I have to say his article is atypical of the beliefs of today's society; a shunning of the desire to develop physical and mental toughness in our youth and ourselves.

The need to perform tasks in physically demanding situations is a core to the development of unit and self-discipline which leads to success under the stress of combat.

After reading the article, one has the feeling that if you are "macho" you are outdated for today's kinder, gentler Army. I would like to share a quote with those who feel intimidated by macho soldiers.

'Any dangerous or physically demanding undertaking will invariably be derided as "macho," a derogatory word applied by those who can't to those who have.'

That was written by Fred Reed, a columnist for the *Washington Post*, in a commentary entitled, "The Gentling of the American Military."

As a "macho Ranger" myself, I believe this sums up my opinions on the attitudes and beliefs of those like Maj. Thompson. At what point do you develop unit discipline?

The BDU shirt has a function as a protective garment from the elements to include sunburn. If you are too hot, drink a quart of water an hour and you will be fine. Sweat is good for you. If you are cold or may be cold, wear an extra layer of clothing or carry it in your ruck ... but do not demean those with the intestinal fortitude to endure hardship.

Enduring hardship is an integral part of training and combat. Ask anyone who has been there. I am sure there are heated/cooled offices for those soldiers who are accustomed to the comforts of today's society and prefer not to be "macho."

If you do not understand why we must wear uniforms when it is hot, then you just do not understand what this business is about.

The soldier fighting on today's battlefield is no different than he was 200 years ago; the only difference is society and our style of living is softening. If you think you are cold, imagine Valley Forge in December with no shoes, (which is also an excellent example of a determined "macho" army defeating a better equipped and trained "civilized" army).

Be careful what you train for ... the next enemy may not require the comforts our soldiers demand and the next battlefield may not be sunny and warm. We owe it to our soldiers to train hard, but safe, and to demand that they accomplish difficult tasks in demanding environments.

That, my friend, will build something called self-confidence.

SFC Edward A. Brown III
Maryland National Guard

A HORSE WITH NO NAME

I appreciate your excellent newspaper, but in the February issue on pages 6 and 7, in a story entitled "Rebuilding a Democracy," the engineer battalions featured were actually Air National Guard Civil Engineering "Red Horse" units supporting an active duty Red Horse unit.

The 200th Engineer Battalion is really the Ohio Air Guard's 200th Red Horse Squadron from Camp Perry Air National Guard Station in Port Clinton.

The 201st Engineer Battalion is the 201st Red Horse Flight (Pennsylvania ANG) from Fort Indiantown Gap.

Finally, the 820th Engineer Battalion is the 820th Red Horse Squadron (active duty) from Nellis AFB, Nev.

Red Horse is the Air Force/Air National Guard equivalent to the Army/Air Guard combat engineer. These units were formed during the Vietnam conflict, when the Army could not support the beddown and sustainment of the Air Force in Vietnam.

Maj. James P. Mitnik
USAF

LETTERS POLICY:

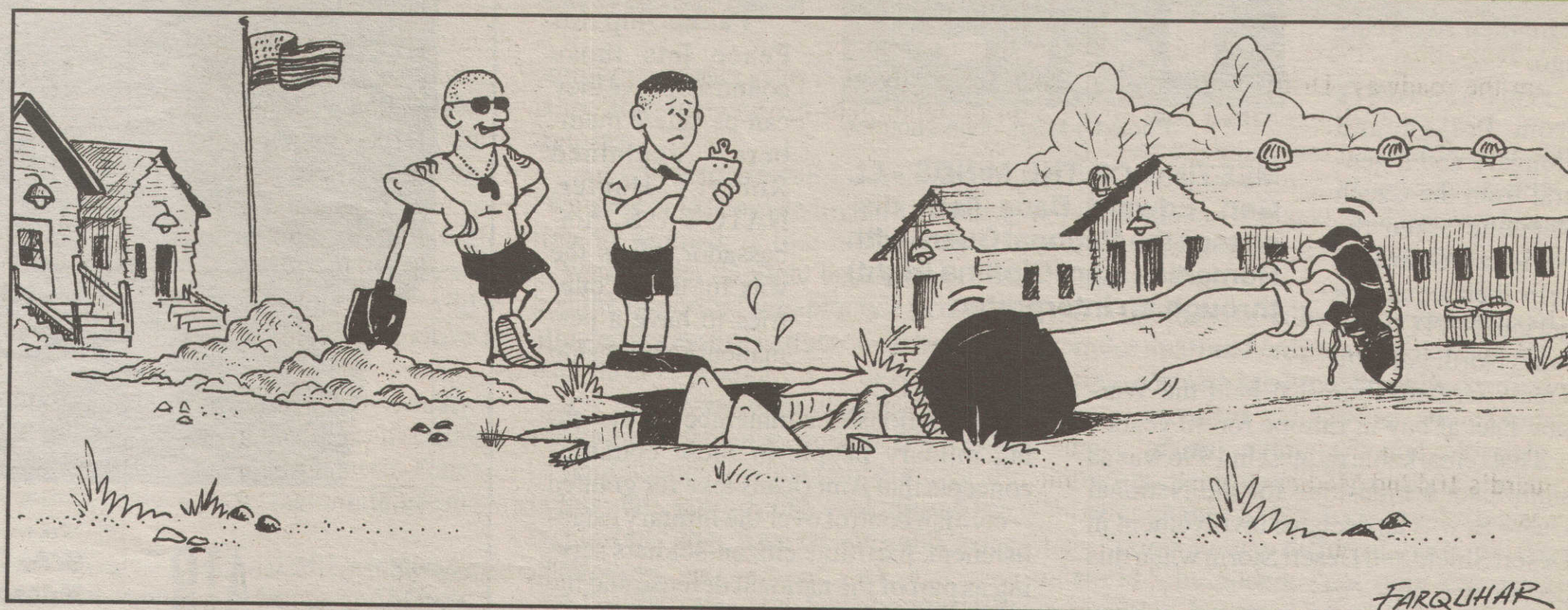
The On Guard welcomes letters from readers. All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone. Names may be withheld upon request.

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-PAC, 2500 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2500.

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar



"I wouldn't count that repetition. He's still not going down far enough."



IN THE NEWS

- Oregon Floods
- Air Guard Book
- Jayne's New Post

Norway, Minnesota sign pact

Lt. Gen. Baca travels abroad to make Partnership official

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The Partnership for Peace Program that pairs individual states with Eastern European nations is less than three years old and is still new to most members of the Army National Guard. The idea of a single state and a European country sharing military expertise, however, is old hat to Minnesota and Norway.

Citizen-soldiers from the Minnesota Army Guard and the Norwegian Home Guard have been training on each other's terrain, and learning each other's tactics and survival techniques, since 1972.

Now the exchange is official. Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, signed an agreement

between the United States and Norway March 5 to continue that exchange.

His trip to Camp Torpomoen in central Norway was one of many steps to secure closer National Guard ties to Europe that kept Baca busy during the first week in March.

"Future exchanges can only solidify that close bond of mutual respect and admiration shared by our two great nations," Baca told his Norwegian audience on behalf of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

He was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti, the Minnesota Adjutant General.

The occasion marked the Norwegian Home Guard's 50th anniversary. This country's National Guard is 360 years old.

"Our two nations' young men and women working together in harmony, sharing personal as well as professional experiences, is an inspiring sight," said Baca of the longest running National Guard foreign troop exchange in existence.

Floods produce daring rescues

By Kay Fristad
Oregon National Guard

Kerry Ridders was enroute to Albany, Ore., to pick up his son Christopher and take him to his Boy Scout meeting when the flood waters began rising. Having recently separated from his wife, he takes every opportunity to see his son.

As he traveled along Gilkey Road he noticed the water was about a foot up on the wheels of his car. That's when his engine died. As he opened his door the water started to come inside his vehicle. He closed the door and climbed onto the roof of his vehicle. As he stood on the roof of his car, the waters continued to rise. Suddenly, he felt the car break loose from the roadway. Drifting off the road, it did a 360-degree turn before becoming lodged on something under the water.

Ridders knew he was in trouble.

It was raining and getting darker when the Linn County Rural Fire Department arrived on the scene.

"I knew the fire rescue couldn't help me," Ridders recalled. "I didn't think I would get out of this one."

That's when the Oregon Army Guard's 1042nd Medical Company was called.

Piloting a UH-1 Huey, CWO4 Tim Baker, CWO2 Doug Jones (co-pilot), SFC Tim DelGrosso (medic) and Sgt. Scott Doran (crew chief and

hoist operator), teamed up with an OH-58 helicopter equipped with the forward looking infrared (FLIR) device. It was crewed by CWO4 Craig Stiff, CWO4 Larry Yadon and CWO Dan McCarron.

Kerry Ridders had been stranded on the roof of his car for three and a half hours when he heard the familiar sound of rotors.

"He was in trouble in a big way," said DelGrosso, who was lowered by a hoist to rescue Ridders. "He was standing on about four square feet of car roof with currents surrounding him running between 20 and 30 knots with the water coming up."

As he swung in, DelGrosso told Ridders to back off to keep from being thrown from the vehicle.

"He was really glad to see me. He didn't hesitate getting on," said DelGrosso.

Ridders was treated and released from a local hospital for a minor leg injury.

"There is definitely a sense of pride when you can successfully complete a mission such as this," said DelGrosso.

Twelve days later, the crew of the aircraft and Ridders were reunited.

"The meeting provided a great ending to the rescue. This story is now complete. Our training has been validated," Baker said.

Ridders agreed.



Photo courtesy KVAL TV, Eugene, Ore.

CREW CHAT - Oregon's CWO4 Tim Baker talks with his crew during a rescue mission.

"People take you guys in the National Guard for granted," he said. "If you weren't there, I wouldn't be here for my children."

His nine-year-old son Christopher told the flight crew, "Thank you guys for saving my Dad's life."

Beaver State crews were credited with more than 50 rescues during three days of flooding February. At its peak nearly 1,100 Oregon Army and Air Guardmembers responded. The California Air Guard's 146th Airlift Wing also delivered 250,000 sandbags to their neighbors.

The Oregon crewmembers were grateful for the help rendered by fellow Oregonians.

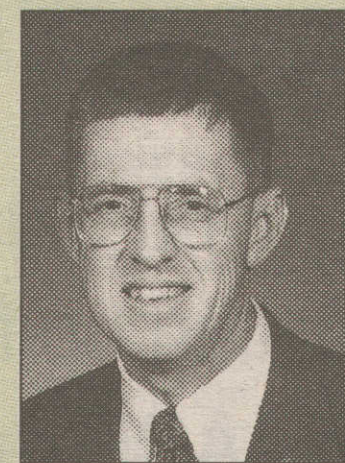
"From the air, we had a bird's eye view of people helping people; citizens, firemen, police. Oregonians really came together on this," Baker said.

"There are a lot of good people in this state," DelGrosso added, "and they probably live right next door."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

AIR GUARD BOOK ON SALE

Dr. Charles J. Gross has authored what some are calling the leading history of the Air National Guard. It's called, *Militiaman, Volunteer and Professional: The Air National Guard and the American Military Tradition*.



Dr. Charles J. Gross, author

"This book is quite a good piece of work," said Dr. Roger Launius, chief historian for NASA. "It will help people understand how the Guard came to be."

The book is a comprehensive history of the Air Guard, its militia roots and the emergence of early National Guard aviation from World War I through World War II. It also details the Air Guard's evolving relationship as a separate reserve component from 1947 through the Persian Gulf crisis.

Gross, the chief of ANG history in the National Guard Bureau's Historical Services Division, has already been nominated for the coveted "Air Force Excellence in Historical Publications Award."

States and units may relay official requirements for additional copies of the book to: NGB-PAH, ATTN: Gary Gault, 2500 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2500. If you have questions call DSN 761-0723 or (703) 681-0723.

Individuals may purchase copies of the book from: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. You may also call in your order at (202) 512-1800 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or FAX (202) 512-2250. The cost is \$29 per copy. Be sure to include the Stock Number (S/N) 008-000-00677-6. Visa and Master Card are accepted.

JAYNE ASSUMES KEY SPACE WARNING POST

Col. (Brigadier General nominee) E. Randolph Jayne has been named the Air National Guard Assistant to Air Force Space Command and United States Space Command headquartered at Peterson AFB, Colo.

His responsibilities will include advising the commander, Gen. Joseph Ashy, and coordinating with him on the Air National Guard's mission within the command.

"My priority is helping to get our new space warning role off the ground as the Air Guard takes on this critical part of our nation's defense," Jayne said.



Photo by Sgt. Kristi Moon Graves

TOUR - Louisiana's SSgt. Mike Plaiscia gives the Governor's Chief of Staff, Steve Perry, a tour of a Light Armored Vehicle.

Bayou Guard called up for NAACP rally

More than 100 Louisiana Guardmembers were called up by Gov. Mike Foster to assist Louisiana State Police at a recent rally in Baton Rouge.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People gathered Feb. 24 to protest Foster's stand on affirmative action.

Military police, public affairs specialists and members of the Directorate of Military Support assisted state police with crowd control, media coverage and documentation of the march and rally.

The crowds and marchers were predominantly peaceful. Only a handful of incidents were reported.

"I think for the most part, everyone understood why we were out here," said Spc. Shannon Trigg, a 239th Military Police Company member.

Trigg and other members of the 239th provided perimeter security for the Governor's mansion during the procession at Memorial Stadium for the initial rally and at the capitol.

The Guard's Light Armored Vehicle was repositioned from its usual station at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans to the parking lot behind the State Capitol.

Four members of the 241st Public Affairs Detachment assisted state police in photographing and videotaping the event.

"Working hand-in-hand with the state police gave me a more objective view of what troopers encounter on a daily basis," SSgt. Paul Sylvest said.

Florida responds to Cuban attack

125th Fighter Wing scrambles after two civilian planes are shot down by MIGs

By Capt. John Daigle
Florida National Guard

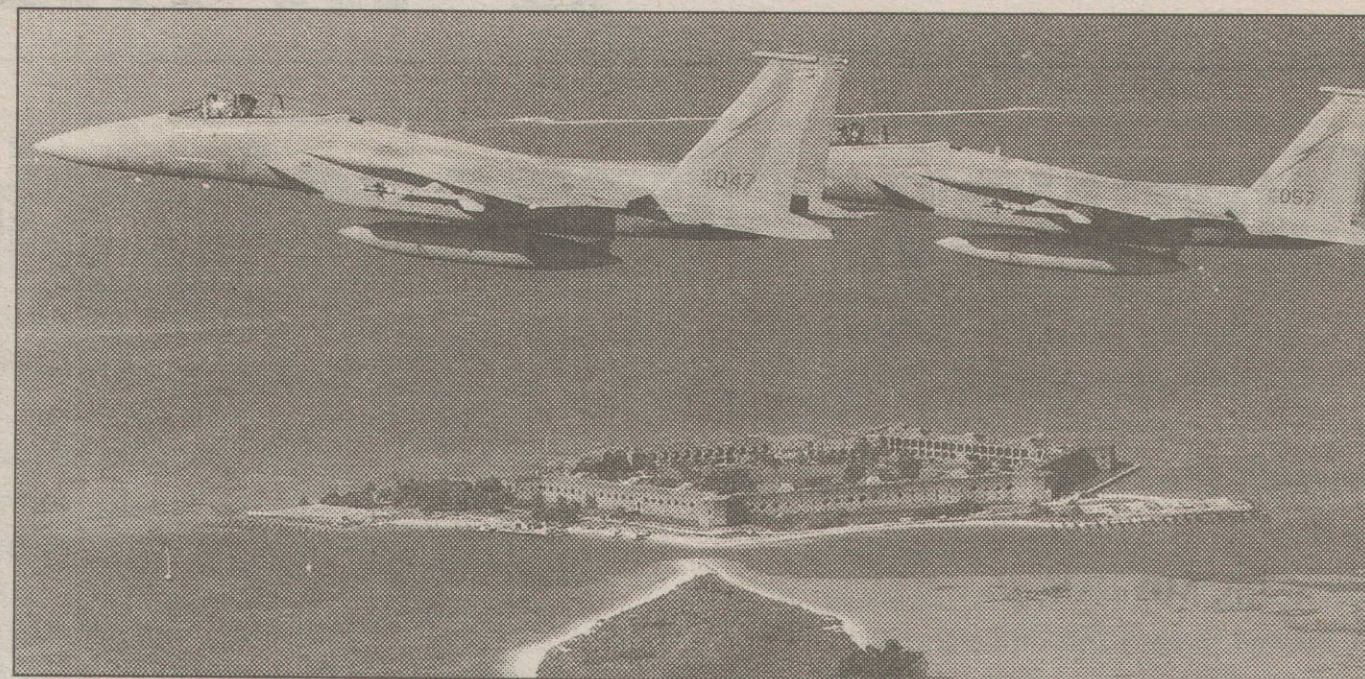
When Florida Air National Guard pilot Capt. Don Garrett scrambled and took off in his F-15 Eagle from South Florida's Homestead Air Force Reserve Base March 9, he wasn't sure what his mission would entail, only that it involved Cuba, MIG aircraft and hostile fire.

"Once we got into the air we started getting more intelligence and putting the pieces of the puzzle together," recalled Garrett, one of two Florida Air Guardmembers who received the initial scramble orders after Cuban fighters shot down two civilian aircraft over the Florida Straits. "With only 90 miles between the Keys and Cuba we didn't have much time to mentally prepare."

Members of the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing, like Garrett, have stood a continuous air defense watch over the Florida coast since 1956. So, when air defense radar first detected the MIGs' flight, the 125th was the first to scramble in response.

It's a responsibility the pilots and crews of the 125th take very seriously, said Capt. Sam Said after returning home to Jacksonville from two days of flying combat air patrol, or CAP, missions for the Coast Guard's search and rescue efforts in international waters off the coast of Cuba.

"We're not only highly trained to do



Photos courtesy Florida National Guard

this exact mission, but we fly this area regularly," noted Said. "For us, this was almost exactly what we've trained to do only at a much higher state of intensity."



ON PATROL - Florida F-15s (above) fly over the Florida Straits. Capt. Sam Said (left) returns from a mission.

All of the Florida Air Guard missions flew out of Homestead Air Force Reserve Base. The 125th returned to the rebuilt base in February after spending three years away while workers repaired damage from Hurricane Andrew.

The 125th's normal 24-hour air defense and sovereignty responsibilities include the airspace from Charleston, S.C., around the Florida peninsula to Tyndall AFB on the Florida panhandle. The unit's job is to intercept, identify and, if necessary, destroy unknown aircraft which penetrate sovereign U.S. airspace.

The Florida Air Guard is also preparing to accept full airspace control responsibilities for the entire Southeast U.S. Air Defense Sector, running from Virginia to Texas. The transfer of the SEAD responsibilities from the active Air Force to the Florida Air National Guard is expected to be complete by the end of 1997.



Photo by Maj. Paul Fanning

SNOW Assault

Cpl. David Herrera, a member of the New York Army Guard's Company A, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, takes up a position during a recruiting demonstration at Hunter Mountain Ski area in the Catskills.



PEOPLE

Oregon's
Winegar clan
has a reunion
every drill

All in the FAMILY

By Capt. Mike Allegre
Oregon National Guard

When the Winegar family reports to a weekend unit training assembly at Portland Air Base, it's like a small family reunion. Airman, NCOs and officer -- they fill many roles for the Oregon Air National Guard and bring more than 78 years of military experience.

A full-time aerospace ground equipment mechanic with the 142nd Maintenance Squadron, TSgt. Rick (Sande) Winegar, 38, has just over 20 years of service time. So it did not surprise him when his daughter, Jennifer, asked to sign up two years ago.

"She's been around this place her whole life and she decided it would be a good place to get some training and benefits and get a chance to serve," he said. "I know she enjoys it because she tells me most everything."

"I tell him because he's got clearance to know," A1C Winegar chuckled as she playfully pushed her dad's shoulder. She's the first woman in her family to join the military, and at 19, is the youngest in her family currently serving. She's assigned to the Wing's command post.

Her cousin, TSgt. Chris Bryant, 27, is a full-time firefighter assigned to the Portland Air Base Fire Department. Bryant, who has no immediate family in the Guard, was looking for educational opportunities 10 years ago when he joined the unit.

"Sande invited me out and it looked like a good way to go. Now that I'm in, we run into each other all the time," he said. "I hear Jennifer's voice on the radio and Sande is always around the flightline. It gives us a good bond and there's always something to talk about."

As traditional Guardmembers, Rick's brothers Vic



Photo by Capt. Mike Allegre

(Skip) and Scott also have put in their time. As Lt. Col. Winegar, Vic recently became the new commander of the 142nd Logistics Squadron. On weekdays, Lt. Col. Winegar, 49, is the head of the math department at Sunset High School. He was the first family member to join.

"I might have been an influence on the others to join," he said. "I came in during Vietnam and was enlisted for five years before being commissioned."

Not all the Winegar's wear blue. Maj. Scott Winegar, a 19-year veteran of the Oregon Army National Guard, is assigned to Detachment 1, Headquarters State Area Command in Salem. A Portland police officer, Maj. Winegar doesn't run into his military family during a weekend drill. He is more apt to share a turkey dinner with them over the holidays.

"Other than today, it isn't often that we're all in uniform together. Sande visited me when I was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs (Colorado) a few years back," he said.

FAMILY AFFAIR - Maj. Scott Winegar (above, left), Lt. Col. Vic Winegar, TSgt. Rick Winegar, A1C Jennifer Winegar and TSgt. Chris Bryant keep the Oregon Army and Air Guard strong.

A1C Winegar adds, "We'd love to go TDY together. We'd have our own little flight."

There is no Oregon Guard policy that would prohibit a family group to deploy on a TDY or assign them all to one unit. No family member, however, would be allowed to supervise another or fall within another member's chain of command.

Selected as the 142nd Fighter Wing's 1995 Airman of the Year, Bryant says having family in different areas on base is a plus.

"I learn about what they do so we can work better together," he said. "It's also nice to see them around."

It's a family reunion one weekend a month.

Calculating his commitment

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Justin Smith discovered a love for advanced math and an aptitude for a special job in the National Guard when he was a junior at Macksville High School.

Seven years later, that mix has brought the 24-year-old specialist in the Kansas Army National Guard to the threshold of peacekeeping duty in war-ravaged Bosnia.

Smith, a teacher by profession, is among 26 members of a unique Army Guard artillery unit sent to Sarajevo to staff mobile

military radar units at the airport.

"It's just part of the deal," said Smith, a member of Battery E, 161st Field Artillery. "The Guard helped pay for my college. I owe them that much."

Truth be told, Smith never dreamed he would pull hazardous duty when he signed up to become a radar operator at age 17.

Now some people close to him fear his commitment to higher math and the Guard will put him in harm's way.

The Emporia State University graduate teaches calculus, physics and geometry at Clifton-Clyde High School in Clyde,



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

Kan., where he lives.

News of his mobilization alarmed many of his students.

"There were a lot of gasps and 'my Gods' going on. It really took them by surprise. First they distanced themselves from me. Then, the next day, they asked if there was anything they could do for me."

He is just as important to his target acquisition battery.

"Specialist Smith is incredibly competent, and he's able to express that competency as an instructor," said Capt. John Campbell, battery commander.

Smith seems to find his Guard work as rewarding as teaching.

"I enjoy it more than I thought I would," he said. "When we get out and do our job, it's extremely satisfying."

The job involves sitting in a small, two-person shelter and plotting the course of incoming rounds picked up on a screen 45-inches wide and 102-inches high

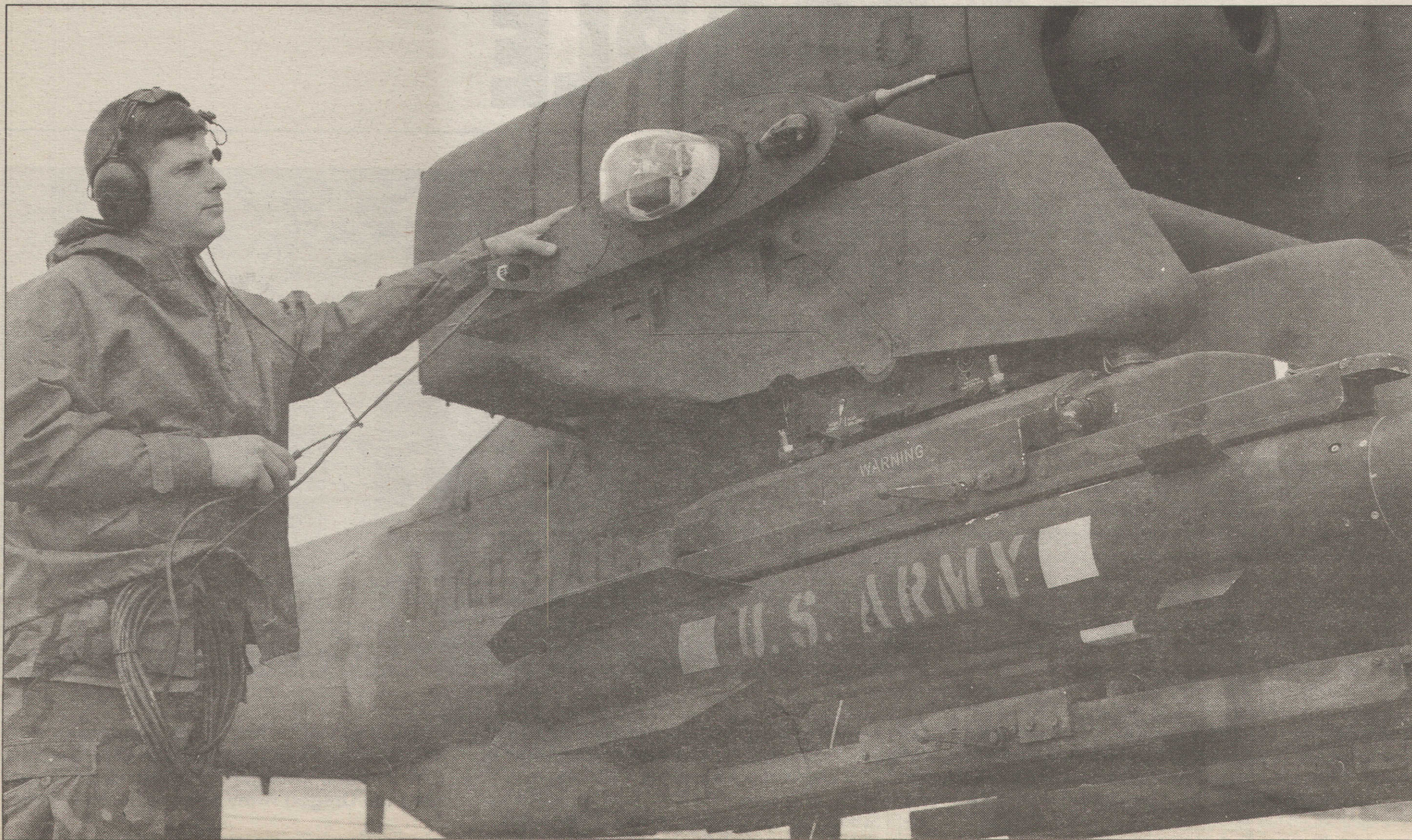
RADAR LOVE - Spc. Jason Smith (left), a math teacher, says he ready to deploy.

that sits on a small trailer. A state-of-the art computer system can track rounds from over 14 miles away.

"The radar catches them in the air and plots out where they're coming from and where they're going, usually before they hit the ground," explained Smith. The process takes about two seconds.

The radar can track 99 rounds at once, Smith said. Knowing trigonometry, he added, gives an operator a better idea of the angles to look for.

"He's the best operator in the battery," assured Sgt. Jeff Krohlow, Smith's section chief.



Photos by MSgt. Billy Varn

'Gator Hunt' validates South Carolina Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation

IN THE HUNT

By Sgt. Tripp Hutto
South Carolina National Guard

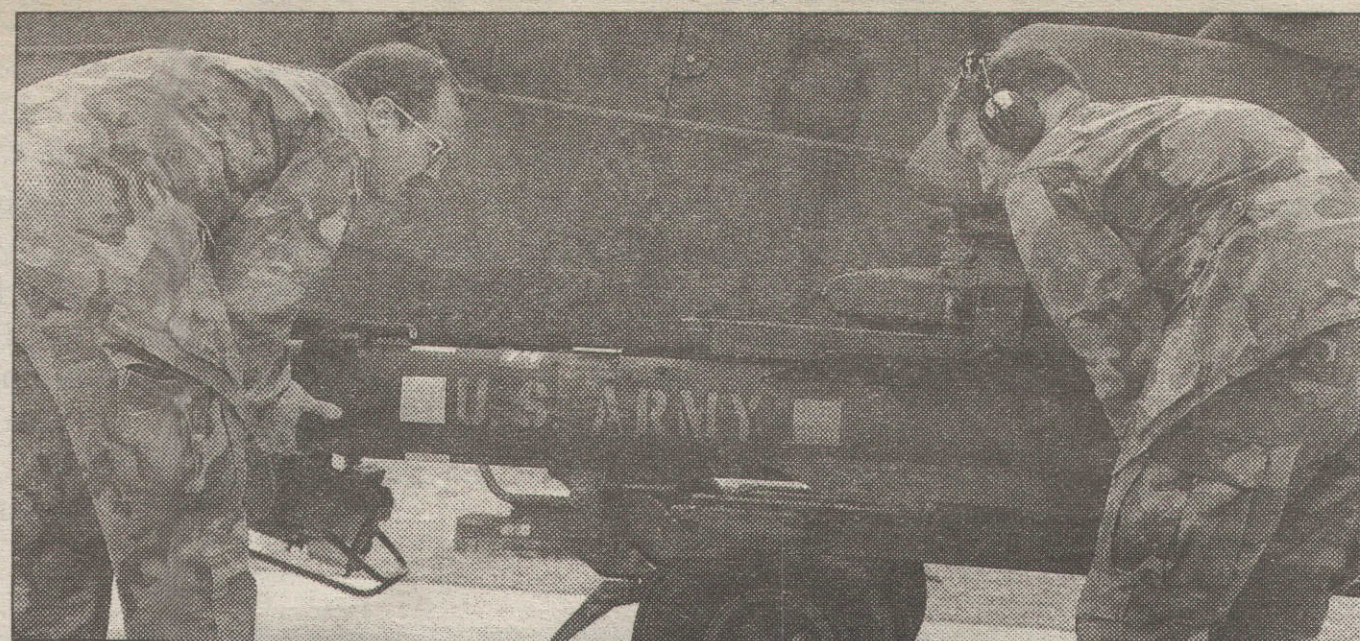
As the words "Ready to strike," bellow across the briefing room... "Hoo-ahh," was the reply.

And so began the participation of South Carolina Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation in "Gator Hunt III" at Eglin AFB, Fla.

The Gator Hunt is a "load-out" and hellfire missile exercise for the battalion, headquartered at McEntire Air National Guard Base in Eastover.

It all started with the "load-out," where a C-5 aircraft was loaded at McEntire with three Apaches, all of the gear and two vehicles.

"These men are the best at what they



INTHEHUNT-Sgt. S. Troy Coates (above) makes a final check of an Apache after a Hellfire missile is loaded. PFC Chris Lilly (left) and Spc. Louis Durgel load a missile.

do," observed CSM Charles Jenkins, the South Carolina Army National Guard's State Command Sergeant Major. "They can load a C-5 aircraft as quickly and efficiently as anyone I have ever seen."

When the C-5 came to a stop on the runway at McEntire, the ground crews were preparing to load the equipment. The nose of the aircraft opened up as the three Apaches were being led to the aircraft. The loading ramp came down and members of the 1-151st began to work.

"This was a working trip," said Sgt. Lonnie Griffin, an Apache crew chief. "They told us there was no way we would get all we had on the C-5, but we did. We have a good crew, and everything ran smoothly."

SSgt. David Rouffy, an operations/communications NCO, said great planning made the trip a success.

"This was a 'plug and play' mission," he said. "With the help of the advanced crew and all of the players in the unit, even the toughest parts of the mission went without a hitch."

Upon arrival, Palmetto State soldiers were reminded by battalion commander Lt. Col. Earl Yerrick Jr. of the importance of safety.

He also had one other request of his missileers.

"We want 100 percent hits," Yerrick commanded. "Get a good night's sleep and we will hit the ground charging tomorrow."

The next day started with the plans and preparations for the evening's events.

The pilots were in the Apache Collective Task Training (ACTT) simulator, going through scenarios.

"This is the only trainer like this in the

world," said 1st Lt. David P. Gellhus, an Apache pilot and the battalion's assistant S-1. Gellhus, who has been a member of the battalion for two years, came to South Carolina as a Cobra pilot from the Ohio Army National Guard.

"The best pilots in the Army are right here in South Carolina," he said. "With all of the missions they fly and their quality of training they prove themselves to be the best every time they fly."

While most people were heading home to start their weekend, members of the 1-151st were just getting started.

Over the tree line of the helipad, the distinctive profile of two Apaches came into view. A load team, already in place, awaited to arm them with Hellfire missiles.

Loaded, the Apaches flew off into the night.

"We can have the Hellfires loaded and the pilot back in the air in less than 15 minutes," said SSgt. Randy Jones. "This is great training for my guys. For a few of them it was the first time loading live missiles. They did a great job."

Meanwhile, in a control room, launch pad monitors kept a close eye on every movement in the air and on the ground.



SIMULATING - South Carolina Army Guard Apache pilot CWO3 Gilbert Terry tests his skills on a simulator during Gator Hunt III at Eglin AFB, Fla.

"Our launch area for the hellfires is six miles away and there is an eight mile radius around that area cleared and monitored for safety," said David L. Nuetzel, a Hellfire test engineer for Eglin AFB.

Nuetzel said the Hellfire missile was originally designed to last for only five years. The 1-151st, he reported, were given 38 ten-year-old missiles to fire. Because of weather only 32 were fired. Despite the age of the missiles, Carolina crewmen successfully hit more than 90 percent of their targets.

"The two missed shots," he added, "are still under investigation to determine whether they were malfunctions or the result of human error."

Gator Hunt provided other success stories. At the munitions test division, they successfully tracked a missile at night. It was the first time that had been done there.

"The ground crew was extremely professional," Nuetzel said, "and pilots shooting 10-year-old missiles with over a 90 percent success rate is extremely impressive."

"It says a lot for the South Carolina Guard," he added.



Photo courtesy National Guard

MEETING OF THE MINDS - Maj. Gen. James Fretterd, Maryland Adjutant General, (right) worked closely with officials from Estonia, the nation that is partnered with his state's National Guard. Fretterd is pictured with Ambassador Toomas Ilves (left) and Riina Kionka, chief of the political department of the Estonia Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Guard adds 'diplomat' to list of missions hosting Marshall Symposium

Sowing the seeds of DEMOCRACY

By Lt. Col. David J. Super
National Guard Bureau

National Guardmembers from more than 20 states added "diplomat" to their list of missions accomplished early this year after participating in the Marshall Legacy Symposium in Washington, D.C.

The Jan. 8-12 meeting, conducted during an East Coast blizzard, brought together senior military and civilian leaders from the United States, nations of the former Soviet Union and elsewhere in Europe. More than 200 delegates discussed a wide range of topics related to ways they could solidify and expand democratic and economic freedoms for their nations.

Efforts by the National Guard to create state partnerships with emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe were a focal point for many of the talks. Among the delegates were adjutants general and staff officers from 21 states that are participating in the National Guard's State Partnership Program and Partnership for Peace activities.

President Clinton's National Security Advisor, Anthony Lake, opened the program.

"By supporting the tide of democracy, we help build a world where peace is more likely to be preserved and

human rights are more likely to be protected," he said.

Lake also acknowledged the National Guard's role.

"These partnerships between America's citizen-soldiers and their colleagues abroad are helping build mutual understanding," he added.

Organizers of the symposium selected the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan to highlight the spirit of current cooperative initiatives. The post World War II Marshall Plan helped rebuild western Europe after the war. Now the NATO partnership programs, including the National Guard's efforts, are helping to restore democratic governments and free market economies in former Warsaw Pact countries.

Lt. Gen. Edward D. Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, reviewed highlights from recent State Partnership exchanges and encouraged continued involvement.

"Our soldiers and airmen are uniquely suited for these missions," he said. "They bring with them experience and a frame of reference from virtually every facet of life."

"We're not just a professional military," Baca added, "we are a military of professionals."

States continue to expand their participation in the Partnership Program. Among military exchanges scheduled for this year is Baltic Challenge. Platoon-sized units from Maryland, Michigan and Pennsylvania will join with counterparts from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, respectively, in July for 10 days of training in Latvia. The Guardmembers and Europeans will train together on small unit peacekeeping skills.

The National Guard served as the executive agent for the conference that was co-sponsored by the White House, the Department of Defense and George Washington University.

Months of extensive planning went into the meeting, much of it conducted by the National Guard Bureau's International Initiatives directorate under the leadership of Col. Vance Renfroe. A record-setting blizzard struck just as participants were scheduled to

arrive. Coping with the storm added unique logistical challenges. While protocol officers unscrambled airline schedules, humvee drivers plowed through D.C. streets to ensure guest speakers, such as former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, arrived safely.

"These partnerships between America's citizen-soldiers and their colleagues abroad are helping build mutual understanding"

BOSNIA UPDATE

For Posterity's Sake

North Carolina, Kansas historians are making, documenting history in Bosnia

By Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
Maryland National Guard

A group of North Carolina and Kansas National Guard soldiers are making history while also recording it for posterity's sake.

The Tarheel State's 130th Military History Detachment and Kansas' 102nd Military History Detachment have been in Bosnia supporting Operation Joint Endeavor since January. Since then the soldiers have compiled photographs and interviews.

"The information we gather will be used for future reference and for future operations," explained Maj. Michael Yuzakewich, 130th MHD commander. "Basically, it's a living record of what transpired here."

When he's not on history detail in Bosnia, Yuzakewich -- who speaks Spanish, French, German and Polish -- is a foreign language training specialist at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Detail is the key to recording history, says SSgt. John S. Ruehl.

"If you look at World War I historians, they wrote about what soldiers looked like, their uniforms, what they ate, their equipment -- all important pieces that make up a puzzle.

"We don't analyze events or write what should have happened," he added. "We document what really happened."

Ruehl works in marketing and advertising in Raleigh.

He vividly remembers a recent mission interviewing men and women who built the now-famous pontoon bridge over the Sava River.

"I interviewed Sgt. Gerrit Allen, who was the soldier who placed the American flag in the center of the pontoon bridge," Ruehl said. "He was very emotional in expressing how proud he felt to be a part of that operation and to top it off with the flag.

"You could see the pain and victory of those engineers through him," he continued. "It was something that pulled on my emotions."

The man who puts it all together for the 130th MHD is Sgt. Durwood Shane Woodall, an administration specialist who gathers all the information from their interviews and types it into a computer.

"The most memorable scene for me is getting to see the countryside, which is very beautiful," he said. "We get to see people and kids waving at us. That's

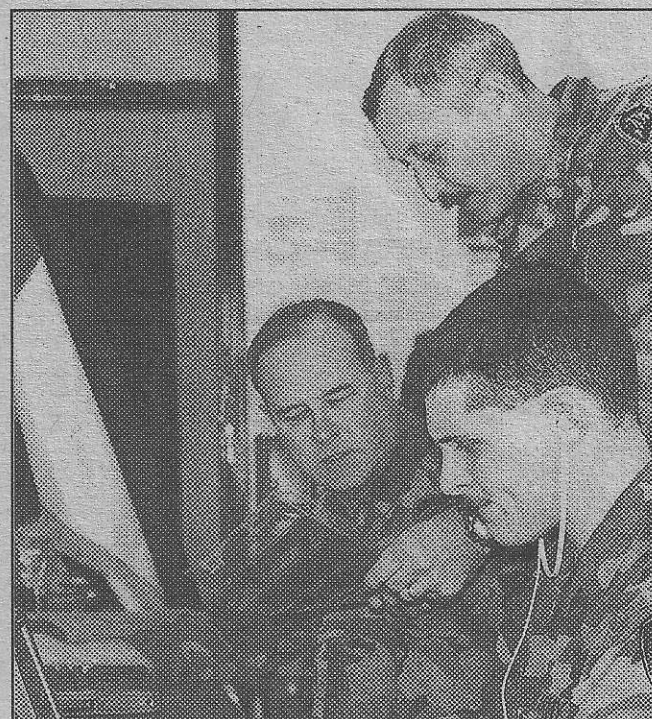


Photo by Sgt. Ed Rollins

JUST THE FACTS - North Carolina's Sgt. Durwood Woodall (foreground) transcribes an interview, while Maj. Michael Yuzakewich and SSgt. John Ruehl examine photo negatives.

something good that shows they really want us to be here to help do some good for their country."

When he's not in uniform, Woodall, who has a degree in sociology and criminal justice from North Carolina State University, works for Bayer Pharmaceutical in Clayton, N.C.

Maj. Nels Dolan took command of the Topeka-based 102nd MHD only three days before the unit deployed to Operation Joint Endeavor. Though he is an armor officer, the Manhattan, Kan. resident teaches high school history.

"(The deployment) was a real eye opening experience for me," said Dolan, who also served in Operation Desert Storm.

Dolan recently returned from Odzak, a town in the Posavina Corridor in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"It's now a virtual ghost town after the Serbs left. They would rather leave and burn their homes than live with the Bosnians," he said.

Dolan also documented an American first -- the U.S. turned over operation of "Checkpoint Shark" to Russian soldiers.

"A couple of years ago, that was unthinkable," he observed. "And there I was, at the Russian sector, eating in a Russian mess hall, sitting next to and talking to Russian soldiers. I'm glad to have had a chance to do it."

The other soldiers of the 102nd MHD include SFC Dennis Droge, who serves as the detachment's photojournalist and SSgt. Bryce Benedict, a judge in civilian life. Benedict is based in Tazar, Hungary.

Ruehl sees the mission as vital.

"Who knows?" he pondered. "Maybe someday our photographs will even be in the Smithsonian Institution."

Maryland's Public Affairs Detachment keeps Bosnia peacekeepers informed

FOR the RECORD

By Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
Maryland National Guard

Capt. John Goheen was on a Caribbean cruise with his wife, Mary, when he got the shore-to-ship deployment call.

"I went from the tropics to Tuzla (Bosnia) within a month," quipped the public affairs manager for the National Guard Association in Washington, D.C.

Goheen probably isn't the first soldier to have his vacation interrupted. However, the Maryland Army Guard 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment he belongs to was the first Army Guard unit to be deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

These days the Baltimore-based unit has been hard at work spotlighting the efforts of other servicemembers in Bosnia through video, radio and print stories distributed to Task Force Eagle soldiers. They also market their efforts to hometown newspapers and radio and television stations around the U.S. and Europe. The task force includes soldiers from half a dozen countries including the United States, Russia, Norway, Sweden and Turkey.

The 15 soldiers of the 29th MPAD were activated Dec. 14. The unit includes print and broadcast journalists, many of whom are professional journalists in their civilian occupations with such organizations as FOX news, Gannett and the Army Times Publishing Company.

Upon their arrival in the former Yugoslavia, the 29th MPAD took over production and editorial responsibilities for *The Talon*, a weekly newspaper distributed to Task Force Eagle-based soldiers.

The 29th succeeds the 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne), an active-duty PAD from Fort Bragg, N.C., which launched the newsletter on Dec. 24.



"Our unit will play one of the most critical roles in this mission -- providing information to the troops about Task Force Eagle, as well as news from outside Bosnia," said Maj. Robert Gould, 29th MPAD commander. "For some soldiers, we are the only means of communication to the outside world."

At his home in Baltimore, Md., is Gould's wife, Tricia, (a nurse with the Maryland Army National Guard),

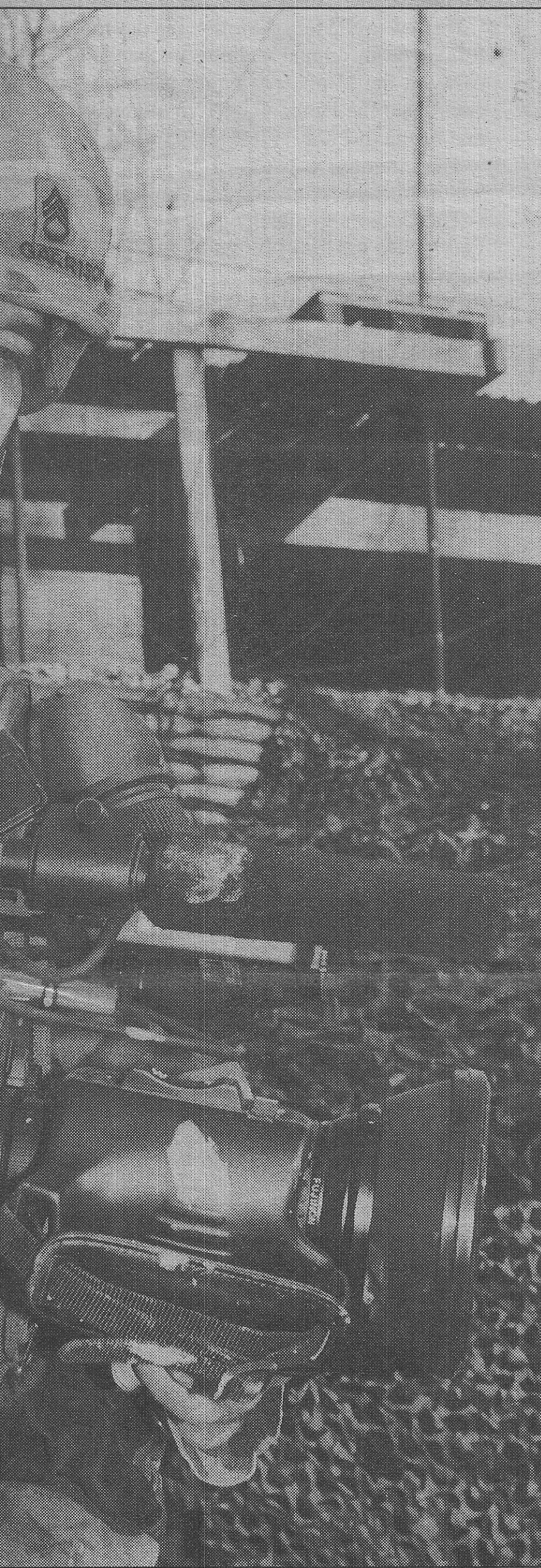


Photo by Sgt. Ed Rollins

NEWSHOUND-SSgt. Joseph Garrison (left), a veteran of Operation Just Cause in Panama and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, said the hardest part of covering news in Bosnia is dealing with the cold.

he said, "and with it a certain amount of responsibility to prove we are as good as our active duty counterparts."

Getting the story is not always easy. 29th journalists and broadcasters often waded through knee-deep mud in freezing temperatures while carrying heavy video recording equipment. They also have had to stay one step ahead of civilian media organizations like CNN. Outside of their operating base at Eagle Base, Tuzla, the Free-State soldiers have faced travel on deplorable road conditions through villages nearly destroyed by years of war.

While the deployment is the first for many of the 29th's younger soldiers, it isn't for SSgt. Joseph Garrison. The Dale City, Va., resident was deployed to Operation Just Cause in Panama and Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf War as a videographer with the 82nd Airborne Division. After having worked in those hot spots, Garrison said the unit's biggest challenge is "performing public affairs in a cold-weather environment."

The call-up meant postponing plans to go active duty for Spc. Mike Newman, 25, of Bowie, Md.

"I was very surprised. I always knew it was a possibility but I didn't think we would ever get deployed," he said.

"I'm a broadcast journalist, but when it comes down to it, we're all infantry," added

Newman, pointing to the live ammunition on his utility belt.

In addition to their public affairs mission, the 29th MPAD is also tasked to perform operations such as photographing tanks and heavy weaponry illegally located in the zone of separation (ZOS). The ZOS is a 4 kilometer-wide stretch of land separating the former warring factions.

3-month-old daughter, Rebecca, and his job as director of media relations and public affairs for CSX Transportation Inc.

Goheen, an Abingdon, Md., resident, left behind a wife and four-year-old son, Joshua, and two-year-old daughter, Alyesa. He says the Guard's mission abroad is important.

"There is a certain amount of pride being one of the few National Guard-members deployed to this theater,"

Calling in radar support

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Army National Guard hearts were beating a little faster in the Heartland of central Kansas in early February. Many members of a target acquisition artillery battery faced the uncertainty of staffing radar units at the Sarajevo airport in Bosnia as part of the year-long peacekeeping mission Joint Endeavor.

The 51 men of the Kansas Army Guard's Battery E, 161st Field Artillery, based in Larned and Great Bend, mobilized to help keep the fragile peace in war-torn Eastern Europe.

"Half of the guys went 'hoo-ah.' The other half swallowed their hearts," said 1st Sgt. Phillip Perez of the reaction to the call-up.

Perez said, "Hoo-ah."

"For me it's the track meet. I've run wind sprints for so long, I'm ready for them to turn on the clocks," said Perez, 47, who had spent 27 years in uniform without ever being deployed to a troubled area.

The unit replaced an active Army radar unit scheduled to withdraw two TPQ-36 counter-mortar radar units from the airport in the French-controlled southern sector in early March.

The men became the second Army Guard artillery unit sent to Bosnia. Forty forward observers from Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division moved out in January to support the multinational Nordic Brigade in the United States' northern sector.

The National Guard Bureau's concept of mobilizing specific groups to fill Army requirements, rather than sending entire units, is a change resulting from Desert Storm.

The Battery E men would follow three other Sunshine Staters to Eastern Europe. Those members of the 102nd Military History Detachment were mobilized soon after the Bosnian peace agreement was hammered out in December.

The Kansas battery, formed in April 1987, is commanded by Capt. John Campbell. He spent four months as a fire support officer with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Kuwait immediately after Desert Storm.

This mission would be different. "The last time I went alone. This time I took soldiers with me," he observed.

Spc. Eric Maack, on the battery's survey team, reenlisted recently for another three years because his first six-year hitch would expire while he is in Bosnia.

"When I signed up eight years ago, I always knew there would be that chance," said Sgt. Vance Baier, who was married Feb. 9.

His new wife, Polly, had mixed emotions about the prospects of this appliance repairman and farmer taking his radar skills to a country where land mines and snipers are a constant concern.

"She didn't want me to go. But she knows why," Baier said.

This sense of duty is as prevalent as the wind on the high plains of Kansas. The state boasts of such legendary figures as Wyatt Earp and Dwight Eisenhower. It is the land of Dodge City and Abilene where law men stood tall against outlaws. The streets of

Great Bend, on the Arkansas River, are named for such generals and presidents as Patton, MacArthur, Grant and Washington.

But the equipment has changed considerably in the 100 years since peace was kept with a six-gun.

E Battery, for example, is an artillery unit without big guns. Aside from their standard-issue M-16 rifles, these citizen-soldiers man radar units designed to track mortar

shells and artillery rounds fired by opposing forces.

"Battery E was selected because it has the best equipment readiness rating of any National Guard target acquisition battery in America," Col. Aaron Kelly, the Kansas Army Guard's division artillery commander, told reporters Feb. 10. "These guys are very good at this."

The two TPQ-36 radars that these men would take to Bosnia are punctuated by olive drab, trailer-mounted screens.

Computer systems plot where enemy rounds are fired from and where they will land from more than 14 miles away. The eight-man sections can track 99 different rounds in a 90-degree sector at the same time.

"We have at least three weekend shoots and at least three annual trainings every year," said Perez. "Whenever a Kansas artillery unit goes to shoot, we're there."

One man who wanted to be a part of the action was not able.

Sgt. Jeff Krohlow was on crutches. He had undergone a recent surgery on his left knee.

"I feel pretty bad," said Krohlow, one of the eight-man section chiefs. "I've trained with my section, and we work pretty well together."

While he certainly wanted to go, Krohlow expressed the hope of many Kansans - that the men from Larned and Great Bend would not have to stay over there for very long.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

LASTLOOK-Sgt. Vance Baier reviews his records before being deployed to Bosnia.

Gen. Joulwan praises Endeavor effort

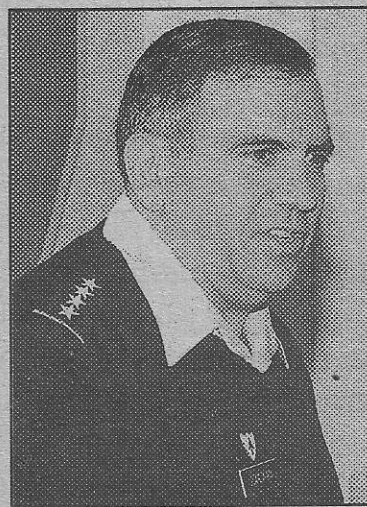
'No group plays a more important role in Europe'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

National Guard and Reserve forces are vital to achieving peace in Bosnia and to creating a unified Europe, the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe told National Guard officials from the United States in Stuttgart, Germany, on the first Sunday night in March.

"No group plays a more important role in the future of either the European Command or Europe than the Guard and Reserve, and I need your help," Gen. George Joulwan told the delegation headed by Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The group included representatives from 25 states, including 15 adjutants general, who were attending a two-day Reserve Component State Partnership Program in Stuttgart.



Gen. Joulwan

commander in chief of the U.S. European Command, explained his vision of how allied forces can help bring democracy to countries that have not known that form of government for centuries.

"We are now engaged in Bosnia. We are there not to fight a war, but to restore peace, which is a new mission for us," Joulwan said. "How do we engage in peacetime to prevent a crisis from evolving into a conflict?" he asked. "How do we structure ourselves to do that? No force is more important than the Guard

"The contribution that the Guard and Reserve is making right now in Germany and Hungary and Bosnia is superb," Joulwan said.

and Reserve in that capacity."

Those were encouraging words to the U.S. Guard leaders who traveled to several European countries that week. They also attended NATO functions and visited with National Guard troops who deployed to Europe to support the Bosnia peacekeeping mission Joint Endeavor.

"I'm a firm believer in this Total Force effort," said Baca. "The 25 states represented here have expressed the desire to be an integral part of seeing Gen. Joulwan's vision come to fruition."

"We believe that the half-million Army and Air National Guardmembers and the rest of the Reserve components can be the force multiplier to help him accomplish his mission," added the National Guard Bureau Chief.

Nearly 1,000 Army Guardmembers have been deployed to Germany, Hungary and Bosnia for nine months to support the implementation force, and many more Air Guardmembers are flying missions out of bases in Italy.

Baca is a straight-forward, aggressive advocate for a more active role by the

National Guard in U.S. military affairs in Europe.

He flew to Norway the following day to formalize an annual training exchange between the Minnesota Army National Guard and the Home Guard, an alliance that began in 1972.

The training consists of 10 days of winter warfare tactics and survival skills.

The Guard's involvement in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, in which individual states are helping 27 European countries understand the concepts of democracy and the citizen-soldier, is one program that Joulwan believes will help accomplish something that has not been done in 5,000 years ... to see a Europe whole and free.

"From the Atlantic to the Urals," Joulwan said.

"Your states are involved in the partnership programs with former Communist nations," Joulwan said. "That is not trivial. That is part of the strategy. That is engagement strategy. It is not by accident that most of these nations are now contributing forces with us in Bosnia, to include Russia."

"The role of the Guard here in particular is going to set the standard for the rest of our military," he said.

Army Guard CSM Larry Pence visits deployed Endeavor troops

Keeping a finger on the PULSE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Consider the Cardinals. Larry Pence does that every March, when spring training renews every major league baseball fan's hopes for the new season.

Larry Pence, 49, Illinois native and St. Louis Cardinals fan, is the Command Sergeant Major for the Army National Guard. He is the top enlisted man for 325,800 of this country's enlisted citizen-soldiers.

His baseball team is in Florida preparing to make a run for the National League's Central Division pennant. Members of his National Guard team are involved in quite another encounter in Europe. Nearly 1,000 of them have joined the Bosnian peacekeeping team Joint Endeavor.

Yes, the stakes are considerably higher for the National Guard peacekeepers than they are for the St. Louis pennant seekers. But consider this similarity.

Neither team is beginning its season with the players or the citizen-soldiers it expected to put on the field a year ago.

It's too early to tell how the Cardinals will fare, but from CSM Pence's perspective, the Army National Guard has demonstrated it has the depth to do its job.

"Those units we expected to be deployed first were not selected to be early deployers for Operation Joint Endeavor," Pence explained.

"What speaks so highly of our units in Joint Endeavor



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

is that they were not those units on which we had spent a large amount of resources over the past five years. Yet, they were able to mobilize and go," Pence added.

Foreign service is nothing new to this 27-year military veteran. He was the Illinois State Command Sergeant Major when 876 Army Guardmembers from seven of that state's units were mobilized for Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990. Mobility has been an Army Guard byword ever since.

"Our tempo has increased about 300 percent compared to what it was in 1991, at the end of Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm," observed Pence, who became the Army Guard's Command Sergeant Major in January 1994.

About 36,000 Army Guardmembers have deployed to Europe, South America and the Pacific for each of the past five years, he pointed out. Army Guardmembers made up 72 percent of a battalion that served for six months in the Sinai Peninsula. And Army Guard units rotated in and out of Haiti throughout 1995.

Does that mean the Army Guard is being tasked to do more than it can handle? Pence doesn't think so.

"All of our soldiers, particularly our traditional Guardmembers, are always balancing full-time jobs, their families and the Army National Guard," he said. "So far, they've been able to do a remarkable job."

TOP TALK - CSM Larry Pence (left) talks with the Air Guard's top enlisted man, CMSgt. Edward Brown. The two were in Europe visiting troops.

The Army Guard's concept of packaging units to meet specific Army requirements for Joint Endeavor is solving that problem, he said.

"We're trying to convince the Army to tell us what the mission is, what type of unit they want, and then let us fill the bill."

"The Army has asked for 125 people for each military police unit," he added. "Because the normal MP unit has about 176 people, we can go to those units for 125 people. That gives the unit the flexibility to deal with the soldiers who cannot take a year off from their jobs to go to Joint Endeavor."

That, Pence added, is far better than the Army ordering an entire unit to be mobilized.

"In an ideal world you'd like to maintain unit integrity," he said. "It's not an ideal world. We need to be aware of the fact that we're providing a product -- trained, deployable, combat-ready units."

The quality of that product means everything, Pence said.

"The future of the Army National Guard depends somewhat on providing trained soldiers and units to fit into the packages the Department of Defense needs," Pence said.

Packaging, he predicted, will make many citizen-soldiers stronger.

"Serving in a stressful environment for those folks who deploy should make them much stronger leaders, much stronger soldiers and much stronger human beings when they get back."

"The individuals left behind obviously will assume additional responsibilities and that should increase their capabilities," he added. "It's a win-win situation."

Pence has developed strong feelings for Army Guard people since becoming a traditional Illinois Guardsman in 1977. He joined the full-time force in 1983.

"I believe you find the best Americans in the military as a whole," he said, "and more especially in the Army National Guard."

South Carolina Army Guard helps bring 'Uje Kristal' (clear water) to Albania

By Linda D. Kozaryn

American Forces Information Service

After visiting a Balkan hospital, three American women turned to DoD for help in improving medical care in Albania, a country hidden for more than 40 years in the darkest shadows of the Iron Curtain.

The women's concerns and connections led to the people of Albania receiving help from the South Carolina National Guard and a combination of active and Reserve personnel from all four services.

In July 1994, Lee Perry, Gail Kruzel and Dede Kern visited a military hospital near Tirana, Albania's capitol. Perry is the wife of the Secretary of Defense; Kruzel is the widow of Joe Kruzel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy, who died on a peace mission in Bosnia in August 1995; Kern is the wife of Army Maj. Gen. Paul Kern, senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

"Because it is a military hospital, they are not eligible for aid from most humanitarian organizations," Perry said. "It was obvious the purpose of having us visit was to solicit assistance in some way." The women described their visit to Kruzel's late husband.

The mission of the hospital had changed. It is now the national trauma center for half the civilians in the country.

"At the time we visited, three-quarters of the patients were civilian," Perry said. "We visited the bedsides of many children."

PARTNERSHIP

From Page 1

Peace program has already proven itself. Many point to the success of the Joint Endeavor peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

"Partnership for Peace began preparing the groundwork for the implementation force, getting some of the countries ready to participate," said NATO spokesperson Jamie Shea after pointing out that many of the partner countries, including Hungary, "are providing extremely important engineering and support services."

Now it is time to take the next step.

"We consider Partnership for Peace as the stepping stone to NATO membership," Polish Ambassador Andrzej Krzeczunowicz told the American generals. "The existence of Partnership for Peace has already increased security in Europe."

Suddenly, Partnership for Peace is as vital to European security in the 90s as were the Reforger exercises in the 70s and 80s.

"The idea is that we never have to engage in a hot or cold war again," said Hunter. "Partnership for Peace is the best thing

going in Europe since the Marshall Plan and the formation of NATO," he told the generals. "You're the footsoldiers in the business of the Partnership for Peace."

"The best thing we can do now is to enhance these countries so we don't have to go to war. This will be the Marshall Plan of the 21st century," Baca added.

Of those in attendance at the three-day State Partnership Conference, the largest delegation came from the National Guard.

"The Guard is uniquely organized to spearhead the Partnership for Peace and State Partnership Program," said one.

"Our forefathers were brilliant in their concept of the militia. But even they couldn't conceive the level we've reached in international affairs," Baca observed. "We can share our knowledge with these countries to help them develop their own economies without doing it for them."

Indeed, some states have taken the program beyond its original

Out from behind the IRON CURTAIN



Photo courtesy South Carolina National Guard

STRONG LINK - South Carolina Guard engineers ready equipment for use in a renovation project at a hospital in Tirana, Albania.

Water was of uncertain purity and power supplies were sporadic, the women reported. There were no generators and no air conditioning. With the windows open, flies were everywhere.

"There was no gauze or plaster," said Perry. "Broken bones were wrapped in newspaper and placed between two sticks."

After hearing the women's report, Joe Kruzel turned to the South Carolina National Guard for help. The result:



Photos by MSgt. John Thornton

THE SUMMIT - Lt. Gen. Edward Baca (left photo, center) talks democracy with Albanian (above) comrades.

scope of sharing military knowledge with their countries.

Members of the Maryland Army Guard have spent three years teaching members of Estonia's reserve force, the Kaitseliit, how NCOs can be the backbone of an army.

"They even participate in our NCO academy," said Maj. Gen. James Fretterd, the Maryland Adjutant General.

In addition, the state has tapped into its resources at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Unit to expand the newly independent country's medical knowledge. It also has sent radiologists and engineers to Estonia to help develop disaster plans for its three nuclear power plants, Fretterd added.

Furthermore, 72 Guardmem-

bers from South Carolina directed an exercise called Uje Krystal (clear water) digging two wells to produce clean water for a hospital in the Albanian capital of Tirana. (See above)

"This relationship is not on a trial basis," Baca assured Safet Zhulali, Albania's defense minister, during his 10-day European visit. "Partnership for Peace is in it for the long run."

Yes, there will be challenges to make this program work.

Some leaders have wondered how often states can ask their part-time soldiers to take time from full-time jobs to support missions in Bosnia or nation-building projects in Central and South America, while remaining ready to respond to domestic emergencies at home.

Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears,

A joint engineering exercise named Uje Kristal (clear water in Albanian) was conducted last summer under the Partnership for Peace program.

South Carolina is linked to Albania through a state partnership program. Under it, state National Guards partner with comparably sized Central or Eastern European countries. During four 21-day rotations, South Carolina Guardmembers, Naval and Marine reservists, and active duty soldiers and sailors built two wells and installed a water chlorinator, hot water heaters and emergency lighting in several of the hospital units. They also put in an emergency generator, replaced portions of the internal sewage system, repaired drywall in the cardiac facility and built a security fence.

"Uje Kristal is just one example of the strong relationship that has developed between the United States and Albania," Defense Secretary William J. Perry said.

The Albanian government named a hospital wing to honor Joe Kruzel; a plaque in the trauma center bears his name.

The mission in Albania was an opportunity to demonstrate military skills in a high-profile humanitarian effort, a reserve component official said.

With the new facilities, the Albanian hospital can be more sanitary, according to South Carolina Guard's Capt. Charles Gibson.

"The backup power supply will save lives," he said. "The shoulder-to-shoulder training provides the skills the Albanians need to duplicate the process themselves."

The joint effort gave the Americans a chance to work together as well as with their Albanian partners, officials said.

"We fight together, so we've got to train together," said Lt. Col. Fred Cale, a Marine reservist. "Every problem we solve involving all key players brings us that much closer to a joint mindset."

South Carolina's Adjutant General, said a Partnership for Peace project with Albania every other year is a realistic goal for his troops. They want to stay involved, he added.

"They saw the good that Uje Krystal did. They really felt good about it when they came back," Spears said.

"This gives us another mission and another purpose," he added. "But we've got to get our training in, too. That's our real purpose."

If present trends hold course, Partnership for Peace will be busy in coming years. The program has pushed into Central Asia and is expected to be around for awhile.

"PFP will be a permanent part of NATO. It will be there for expansion," promised Charles Dale of NATO's international staff.

Baca said the National Guard, and its force of a half-million men and women, are committed to help keep Europe free.

"We will do everything possible to bring the message back to America," he told the Albanian defense minister.

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

U.S. Army history was made recently when the Iowa Army Guard promoted Dale Klinkefus to the rank of chief warrant officer five. He joins his brother, Gerald, as the first brothers to achieve the rank since the Army established the rank in 1991. Raised in Audubon, Iowa, Gerald enlisted into the Guard in 1953 as an infantryman. Dale joined four years later as a radio operator. Before retiring his military position, Gerald served as his state's quartermaster and orders officer. Dale is presently a unit maintenance technician at state headquarters.

With a rucksack on his back and a machine gun cradled in his arms, Kentucky Air Guard's SSgt. Will Hill was greeted by more than 300 cheering students at Mount Washington Elementary School in Bullitt County. A member of the Bluegrass State's 123rd Airlift Wing combat control team, Hill spoke to students about past war experiences as part of a career day at the school. "Who knows," Hill observed, "some of these kids may end up taking over for me."

MSgt. Thomas Darras, a full-time AGR soldier with the New York Army Guard, traded his staff position at Fort Drum to train in the field with active component troops at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. Darras was honored for his efforts serving as the Brigade Operations NCO for the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade. MSgt. Darras received an Army Commendation Medal, a brigade coin and was designated an honorary "Commando."

Alaska Air Guard's TSgt. Connie Lamprecht, a contracting NCO with the 168th Air Refueling Wing, recently received the John Levitow Award while attending the active duty NCO Academy at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. The Levitow Award, named after a Medal of Honor winner, recognizes the top student in each graduating class. Lamprecht isn't the only 168th member to come home with the award. In 1994, MSgt. Jeff Mason also was tops in his class.

Brenda Kennedy became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of sergeant major in the Alabama Army Guard. In her 23-year career, Kennedy has served as the Adjutant General's secretary, pay clerk, administrative assistant, recruiter and personnel sergeant. "The National Guard is the best opportunity around for women to succeed in any field they want to enter," said SGM Kennedy.

The Outstanding Air National Guard Personnel Manager of the Year Awards were recently announced. The winners are:

Col. Gerald Kean, Air Guard Readiness Center, headquarters-level senior personnel manager.

Maj. Michael Zinno, 143rd Mission Support Flight, R.I., senior personnel manager.

SMSgt. Loretta Charleston, 131st MSF, Mo., personnel superintendent.

TSgt. Michael Lovett, 143rd MSF, R.I., personnel technician.

SrA. Kyle Lightbown, 143rd MSF, R.I., personnel specialist.



CWO5s Dale and Gerald Klinkefus.



Kentucky's SSgt. Will Hill and friend.



MSgt. Thomas Darras, an honorary 'Commando.'



Alabama's first female sergeant major, SGM Brenda Kennedy.

The Montana Army National Guard received three National Guard Bureau environmental honors recently. Montana won the NGB Eagle Award in the Installation Pollution Prevention non-industrial category. Clifton Youman, PhD, also won the individual environmental quality award for his contributions to the Limestone Hills unexploded ordnance project. SSgt. James Hamburg was recognized for his design, construction and modification of pollution prevention equipment.

New Mexico's 1st Lt. Kenneth Nava was awarded the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism for his actions last September. Nava, a member of the Army Guard's counterdrug support program, was walking to his car with his friend, Wayne Viguerie, when sounds of gunfire rang out. Seeing that Viguerie had been shot, an apparent gang-related drive-by shooting, Nava risked his life by going to Viguerie's aid and rushing him to a hospital. Viguerie has since recovered from a bullet wound to the neck.

The Massachusetts Army Guard's Battery E, 101st Field Artillery recently received an award for cleaning up the Walnut/Turner Street area of Brockton, Mass. Spc. Wayne Glynn, Spc. Robert Travis and PFC Brian Sherry worked with residents cleaning abandoned lots and sweeping streets. The citizen-soldiers also helped transport more than 120 discarded tires to a local recycling center and cleared away debris and shrubbery.

Chaplain Bill Hower, a member of the Wisconsin Air Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing, recently met with Pope John Paul II. The visit came about through a friendship Hower had forged while working in Cuba with Father Mitchel Wilk, an Army Chaplain who was ordained in Krakow, Poland. Wilk, it turns out, had served five years as a personal assistant to Cardinal Carol Wotila, known today as Pope John Paul II. Wilk, celebrating his 25th year as a priest, invited Hower to join him in Rome to celebrate with his old boss. The Holy Father presented them with a papal blessing and invited them to celebrate mass with him in his private chapel.

MSgt. Timothy Welter, a member of the Arkansas Air Guard's 189th Airlift Wing, was recently selected as the Little Rock Police Department's 1995 Officer of the Year. Welter, the NCO in Charge of the 189th Security Police Squadron and a quartermaster for the LRPD, was cited for his work in upgrading the Department's firearms from the Glock 9mm to the more effective Glock 40 caliber. He also helped computerize the Department's training division, and designed, manufactured and installed new target frames for their firing ranges.

South Carolina's 169th Fighter Wing received an "Outstanding" rating recently, the highest score the Air Force gives for an Operational Readiness Inspection. Located at McEntire Air National Guard Station near Columbia, the F-16 unit was graded for its ability to mobilize personnel, deploy troops and equipment and fight and survive under harsh simulated war conditions. The 169th was the first reserve unit in the nation to be assigned the F-16.

Air Guard's 104th Fighter Wing helps show Army the value of close air support

Validating Air Power

By SSgt. Charles R. Cangemi Jr.
Massachusetts National Guard

Once Capt. Christian Bigelow entered the simulated battle theater there was no reprieve from the multiple tasks a forward air controller must perform simultaneously.

He received target instructions over the busy radios from the ground theater air controller. With this information, he hunted for the six-digit grid coordinates on one of the numerous maps he had strewn about. He then searched for the enemy positions with high-powered binoculars from over 10,000 feet away. He relayed the description and grid coordinates of the unlucky enemy vehicles to the fighters and then scrutinized the F-16 strike to make sure the target the fighters intended to kill was the one specified.

Oh yeah, he's also flying an attack jet, trying to avoid being shot down by surface-to-air missiles or bombarded with anti-aircraft-artillery.

Bigelow, an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot with the Massachusetts Air Guard's 104th Fighter Wing, received this training when the unit deployed recently to support Air Warrior 96-5 at Nellis AFB, Nev.

Air Warrior is designed to provide close air support training for fighter aircrews and forward air control training for pilots and theater air controllers. One fundamental goal of the exercise was to show the Army the significance of close air support on the battlefield.

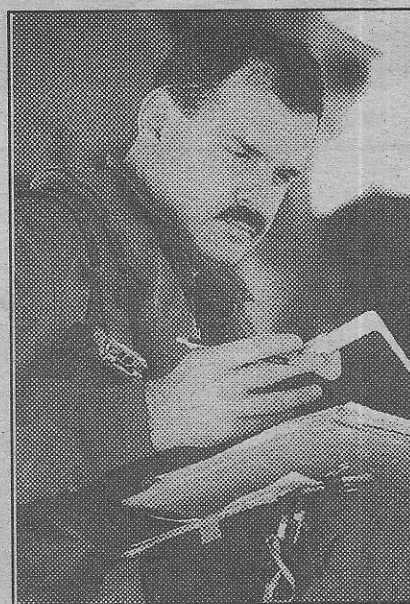
"If the Army uses close air support wisely, they can minimize casualties for the friendly forces and maximize them for the enemy," Bigelow said.

104th personnel accompanied nine A-10 aircraft. Six were designated to provide close air support for the opposing forces (OPFOR), considered the "bad guys." Three A-10s were tasked with forward air control for the "good guys."

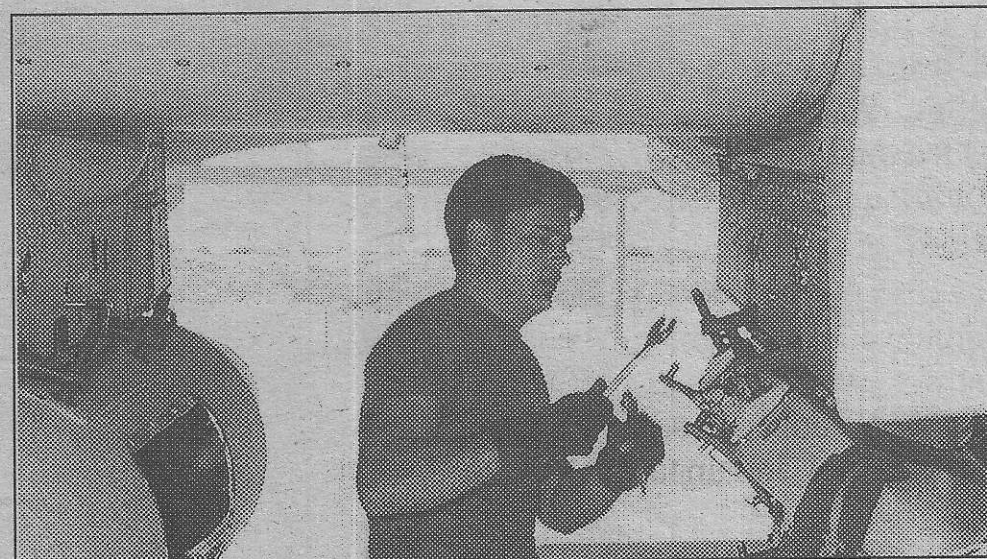
Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 1st Mechanized Infantry Division used the exercise to practice offensive assaults and how to use close air support.

"It's the closest thing to real combat without actually firing real bullets," said Army Lt. Col. John T. Janeczek, the 104th's ground liaison officer.

While the brigades duked it out, air power is implemented to add training for



STEPPING UP - Lt. Col. Steve Stengel (far left photo) climbs into an A-10 cockpit. Capt. Christian Bigelow (left), a 104th pilot, goes over preflight checklist.



WRENCHED - Massachusetts' SSgt. David Whitley Jr. (left) takes a wrench to a problem. 104th Airlift Wing weapons loaders attach a bomb to an A-10 during Air Warrior 96-5 exercise.



Photos by SSgt. John Zygiel

fighter pilots and to show the Army the damage fighter pilots can inflict.

"This training is designed to build a relationship between the Army and the Air Force and aid commanders to plan for and use close air support," Janeczek said.

In addition to showing the Army the advantages of close air support, Air Warrior provided the 104th training in a simulated combat environment.

"With Air Warrior you're training under the fog of war," Bigelow said.

Another major advantage of Air Warrior is the battle monitoring system called Air Warrior Maintenance Data Systems.

Pods attached to the aircraft and ground vehicles allow for the system to display and record 36 aircraft and 700 Army

ground players at once. Three screens cover a wall of the briefing room at Nellis where pilots and Air Warrior staff can monitor the war as the battles unfold from 180 miles away.

One screen displays actual live video of the ground battle, taking feeds from one of six cameras; two stationary and four of which are shot from a mobile combat camera team. The other two screens are dotted with red and blue graphics, displaying where OPFOR and friendly forces are respectively on the battlefield. Aircraft are blips on the screen, also being traced. Controllers can zoom in and out of the battlefield with a joy stick.

The monitoring system really helps a lot, Bigelow said.

BOMB LOADERS - Armament specialists (above) with the Massachusetts Air Guard's 104th Airlift Wing load a 500-bomb on an A-10.

"A typical sortie lasts 2.3 hours, one hour of which is in battle," he said. "It's hard to remember everything that transpired."

"Watching the tape after I return gives me a chance to see where the bad guys and the good guys were," he added. "I also can listen to the communication and see if what I did was tactically smart."

At a debriefing, pilots get a chance to talk to ground air controllers, ground commanders and Air Warrior staff to receive feedback and discuss the battle.



STATES

- Latvia Guard
- Refueling AWACs
- Over Oman

MICHIGAN

Members of the Wolverine State's Army and Air Guard were invited to Latvia, the former Soviet Union republic, to teach members of that country's newly formed national militia about the mission, structure and philosophy of the U.S. National Guard.

"They were eager to learn how we function," said CMSgt. William Livesay. The Chief added that some Latvians were uneasy with such freedoms as asking questions.

GEORGIA

The 116th Fighter Wing, which recently became only the second Air Guard unit to take on the B-1B Bomber mission, completed a successful relocation from Atlanta to central Georgia after signing a Record of Decision.

The relocation came after a year-long effort to comply with environmental airspace concerns.

ALASKA

The 168th Air Refueling Wing will be busy once again providing nearly 60 percent of all the refueling needed to support Air Force, Guard, Navy, Marine, Canadian and British aircraft for Cope Thunder. Cope Thunder is the Pacific Air Forces' annual combat exercise.

Based at Eielson AFB, the 168th will provide nine aircraft and 700 people. Cope Thunder is scheduled to run through July.

ROARING WELCOME

Just as the last note of 'God Bless America' was sung, four F-15s from the Louisiana Air Guard's 159th Fighter Wing roared over a crowd gathered for the inauguration of Governor Mike Foster, the Bayou State's 51st governor and commander in chief of the Louisiana Army and Air National Guards.

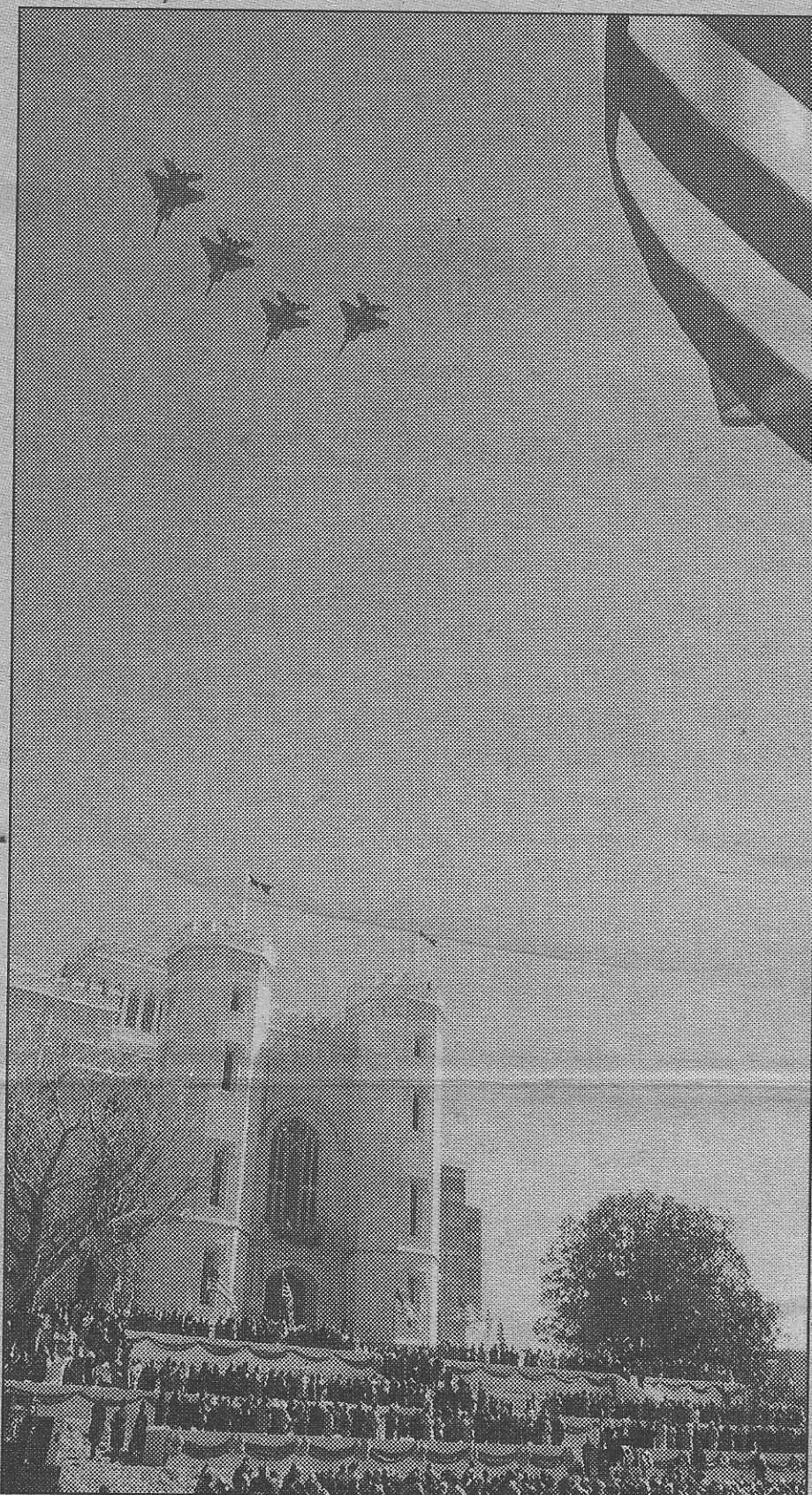


Photo by Brad Kemp

IOWA

About 180 members of the 185th Fighter Wing deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey, for a second round of duty in the Persian Gulf region supporting Operation Provide Comfort II.

The Sioux City Air National Guard unit had deployed to Turkey in late 1993 and early 1994 to enforce the Iraq no-fly zone in support of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 688.

TEXAS

Four Lone Star State Guard helicopters were called in to help put out a 25,000-acre brush fire at Fort Hood, Texas, in late February.

The fire burned nearly 10 percent of the 339-square-mile post.

"It's kind of ironic calling in the National Guard to help the Army," observed Jo Schweikhard Moss, a spokesperson with the Texas' Division of Emergency Mangement.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Twenty-six members of the Granite State's 157th Air Refueling Wing deployed with two KC-135 tanker aircraft to Geilenkirchen, Germany, to refuel NATO E-3 AWACs radar warning aircraft supporting Operation Deny Flight in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"It's good training for all our crew members, not only European operations, but for over water flight," said Lt. Col. Matt Gallagher.

NORTH CAROLINA

By SSgt. Brian Keith
North Carolina National Guard

Thirty six members of the North Carolina Air Guard spent three weeks in the Sultanate of Oman. Along with Air Guard units from Alaska, Florida, New York, Ohio and Oklahoma, Tarheel Guardmembers supported Operation Southern Watch, an on-going mission designed to monitor military activity in the Middle East.

Bordered by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and 1,700 miles of coastline, Oman is about the size of Kansas.

A monarchy whose economy is based on petroleum, Oman produces over 600,000 barrels a day. Oil accounts for 99 percent of export revenues. Since 1970, petroleum revenues have helped build roads and housing, provide electricity, expand irrigation,

develop manufacturing and modernize the fishing industry.

Maj. Jill Hendra, a 156th Airlift Squadron flight surgeon, went to ensure living and eating conditions were safe for the six-state, 70-member detachment.

"I believe there is a level of comfort among the troops when they see their medical care givers go with them to the field," she said. Once a week she also pulled medical duty at the U.S. Embassy where 200 Americans are employed.

As part of Operation Southern Watch, Tarheel crews hauled people, food and freight to eight countries in 21 days.

Participants of Operation Southern Watch monitor military activity in the Middle East. They also help create diplomacy with the Omani Moslem. Oman is one of the most liberal and accepting nations of the United States in the Middle East.



Photo by Dieter B. Melhorn

IN OMAN - Members of the Tarheel Guard pose for a picture in the Sultanate of Oman.

"I felt safer (in Seeb) than on the streets of Charlotte alone," said Hendra.



HISTORY

After the Cold War, the Air Guard's volunteer force was the right answer

FLYING 'Comfort'

When the Cold War ended the active Air Force was forced to absorb significant reductions in personnel and budget, while still maintaining support for real world missions across the globe. Help would be needed.

In stepped the Air National Guard, ready and able to lend its cost-effective volunteer force to the cause.

While the ANG had enjoyed a rich history of supporting airlift and refueling missions overseas, only in the past few years have their fighter units been regularly called upon to support a broad array of operations.

As late as Operation Desert Shield in 1990, the Air Guard had been reluctant to employ anything less than entire mobilized fighter units in wars or contingencies. However, a declining Guard fighter force structure and the need to demonstrate its relevance in the post-cold war world changed all that.

Operations Provide Comfort and Provide Comfort II were prime examples of that historic shift.

It all began in March 1991, after a failed revolt against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein forced Kurd refugees to flee Iraq and seek safety in Turkey. They arrived in Turkey homeless and without food.

A short time later, Operation Provide Comfort was born.

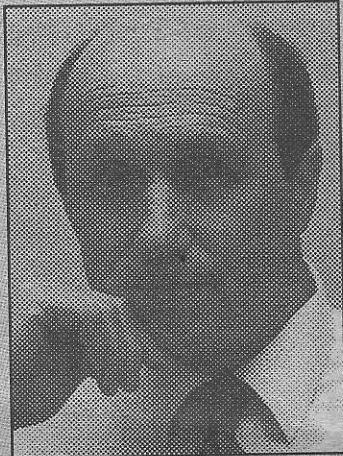
Provide Comfort, which began April 6, 1991 and is still ongoing, originated as a humanitarian relief effort to help the Kurds and other refugees spawned from the Persian Gulf War.

A multi-national military force rescued the refugees from their mountain camps and provided food, water, and medicine for them.

The force established a security zone in northern Iraq and persuaded the refugees to leave the mountains and take shelter in the camps built for them in northern Iraq.

The force's focus changed in Operation Provide Comfort II. Their new goal was to demonstrate the coalition's resolve to deter Iraqi military encroachment into the security zone.

The areas from which the allied forces launched Operation Provide Comfort were within the sovereign territory of Turkey. Despite the uneasy status of the negotiations over the implementing principles of the operation, the Turkish government extended Provide Comfort



GUARD HISTORY

By Mr. Gary Gault

AIR GUARD HISTORIAN

Operation Provide Comfort.

Within a matter of hours the National Guard responded. Due to a short lead time to allow for planning and the diminishing number of fighter aircraft in each ANG unit four Air Guard units were sent to Incirlik AB, Turkey, to participate as a composite, or "rainbow" unit. Colorado's 120th Fighter Squadron, Virginia's 149th Fighter Squadron, South Dakota's 175th Fighter Squadron and Iowa's 174th Fighter Squadron had arrived there by Dec. 4.

three times, on July 18, 1991, and in September and December 1991. Occasionally, differences over the Kurds continued to make the relationship between the coalition and the Turkish host government an uneasy one.

On Nov. 12, 1993, Gen. John Shalikashvili, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, approved the use of National Guard and Reserve flying units to augment active Air Force units already participating in

Airlift Group and California's 146th Airlift Wing. Each unit supplied one C-130 aircraft and 50 Guardmembers, to include maintenance and support personnel.

The C-130s were needed to supply U.S. military sites in Turkey. This tasking required the airlift of approximately 50 pallets of cargo weekly from Ramstein AB, Germany, to Turkey.

The mission had its challenges. There were no cargo agreements with the Turkish government to move cargo from Adana airport to Incirlik. There was also an edict prohibiting the transfer of hazardous cargo through Adana. If that wasn't enough, the C-130s were required to land in a limited space at nearby auxiliary fields where the runways were only 75-feet-wide and 9,000-feet-long. They were forced to do this because the runways at Incirlik were being resurfaced.

The pilots were not the only Air Guardmembers confronted with challenges. The airlift operation also tasked the maintenance and aircrews to the limit, requiring many to work long hours with few days off.

The new runways at Incirlik AB were finished by Dec. 22, 1994. Shortly thereafter, a rotation of Air Guard and Reserve aircraft began flying in from the U.S.

A total of 282 sorties were flown with a minimum of problems, according to Lt. Col. James H. Hull, Jr., a member of Maryland's 135th Airlift Wing and airlift mission commander.

While many ANG distinguished themselves throughout Provide Comfort, Idaho's 124th Fighter Group had the singular distinction of providing F-4G "Wild Weasels" for support of the operation from Dec. 1-31, 1994.

The F-4G was equipped to hunt and destroy enemy anti-aircraft sites. Even though the F-4G served in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the Air Force had removed it from its own aircraft inventory by 1992. The 124th also staked the lone claim of possessing the only F-4Gs (48 in all) in the entire Air Force for about a year.

Despite its removal from the active Air Force's inventory, a requirement still existed for the Weasel to fly in Southern Iraq to enforce United Nations sanction. Because of this, the active Air Force formed a new squadron of F-4Gs to assist the Idaho fliers. The new unit, the 561st Fighter Squadron based at Nellis AFB, Nev.,

Photo by Maj. Tim Heck

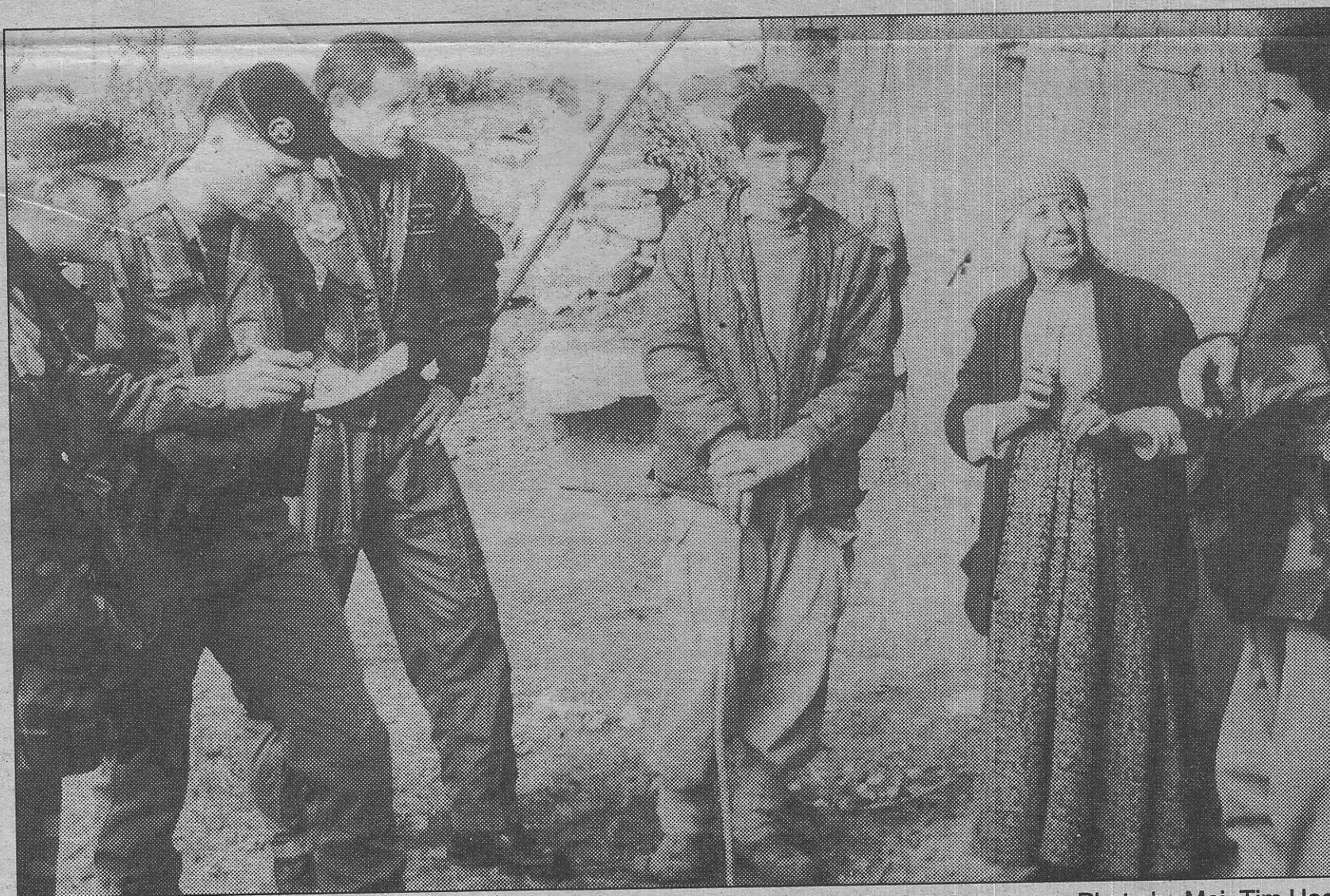
COMFORT - A Louisiana Air Guard pilot (3rd from left) and members of the coalition force talk with a Kurdish woman.

Three of the units each provided three F-16s, while the 149th was only required to provide one. All totaled, 184 Air Guard aircrew and ground personnel were deployed.

From Sept. 22 to Dec. 31, 1994, ANG airlift units supported the operation in Turkey. The units were Minnesota's 133rd Airlift Wing, Michigan's 191st Airlift Group, Maryland's 135th Airlift Group, West Virginia's 167th Airlift Group, Rhode Island's 143rd

was assigned 12 Weasels by Oct. 1, 1993. Those aircraft had been refitted from the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (the "bone yard") at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Also, Hawaii's 154th Fighter Group took their F-15s to provide fighter cover support for the operation in Southwest Asia from Dec. 3-31, 1994.

Operation Provide Comfort is a continuing effort involving several Air National Guard units. The operation reaffirmed the Air Guard's place as a player in the Total Force with the packaging of its fighter and airlift communities. It also demonstrated the growing importance of volunteerism.





TRAINING

Arctic warriors trade snow, frostbite for sunburn

From the TUNDRA to the TROPICS

By Spc. Sharon McBride
Alaska National Guard

As a member of the Alaska Army Guard, MSgt. James Lynch usually concerns himself with frostbite. This year, sunburn was the issue of the day.

He and other "scout" troops recently traded several feet of snow for warm, tropical breezes on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Troops with Company B, 1st Battalion and Company B, 2nd Battalion, both with the Alaska Army Guard's 297th Infantry, conducted their annual training at the Pohakuloa Training Area.

"Hawaii training is unique just like the Scouts themselves," said Lynch, 2nd Battalion senior Army advisor.

"Our scouts are expert arctic warriors who carry on the traditions of the Alaska Territorial Guard, having roots back to World War II," added Lt. Col. Delance Wiegele, 1st Battalion commander.

Scouts are considered the "eyes and ears of the Alaskan Command," explained Wiegele, and both battalions are mostly made up of Native Alaskans from tiny villages peppered around the state. Reconnaissance and surveillance without detection from the enemy are their specialties.

But they live and train in the arctic year-round, Wiegele added, and it isn't often that they get to train in different elements.

Terrain at Hawaii's PTA has sparse vegetation with old, hardened molten lava beds as far as the eye can see. Very different from Alaska's terrain, but just as tough to walk across.

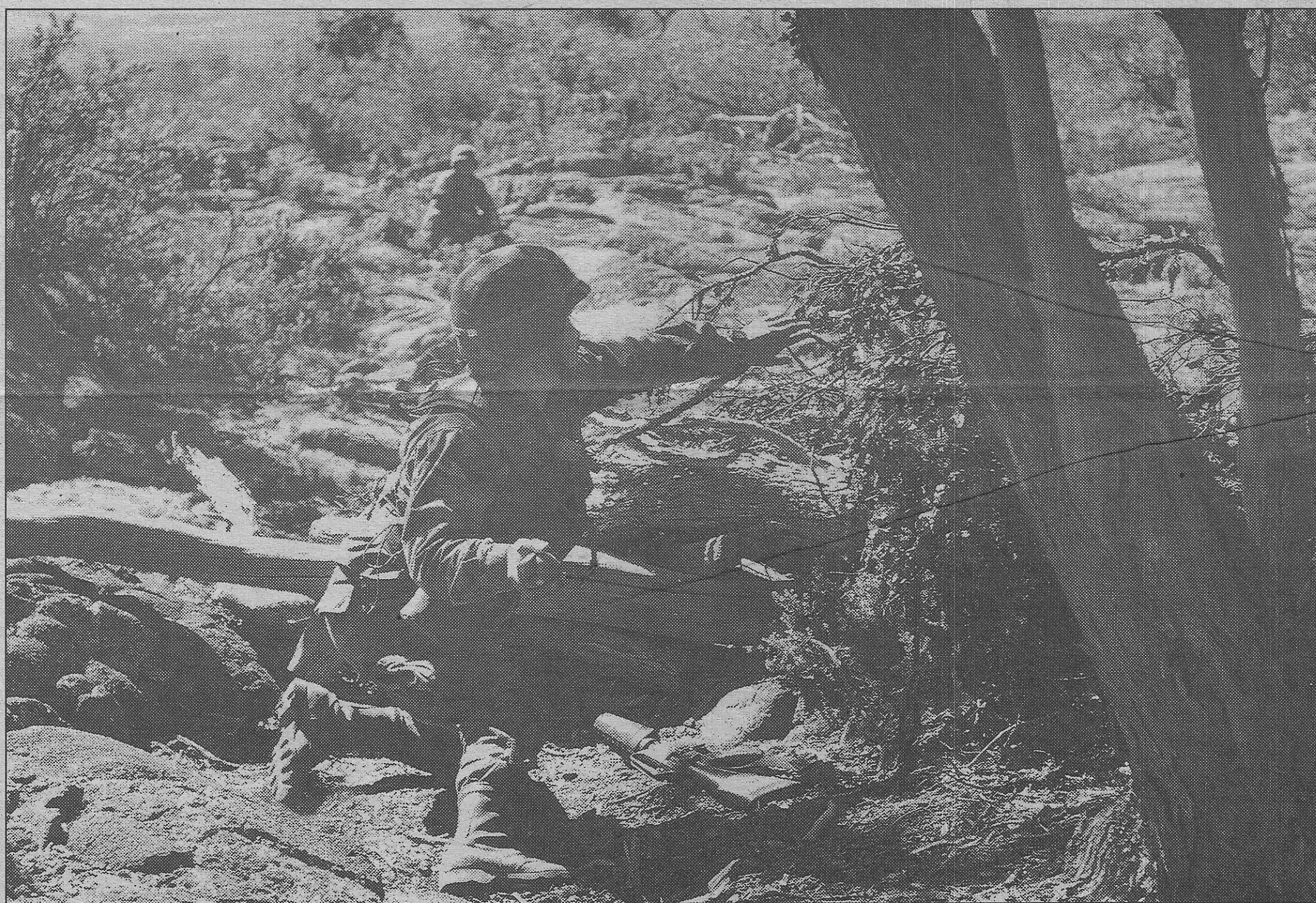
Many soles of combat boots had been eaten away just from walking a few miles



RIGHT COURSE - Soldiers (left) with Alaska's Company B, 2-297th Infantry plot their next move.



GRENADE - Spc. Steve Liskey (below) throws a grenade while training at PTA on Hawaii. A soldier (left) from Quinhagak, Alaska adjusts his gear.



Photos by Spc. Sharon McBride

on the abrasive lava formations.

The training site itself lies between two active volcanoes and is situated at an elevation of 6,300 feet. In Alaska, the sun in the winter is a scarce companion.

"The biggest reason for conducting training in Hawaii is we don't have to worry about cold weather survival," said Lynch. "Here (in Hawaii) we can train to fight, and not train to survive."

Alaska's winters are well-known for their harshness. Temperatures can sometimes dip to 60 degrees below zero. Temperatures, said Lynch, that could create loss of life.

AT for Alaska Guard soldiers is always held in the months of February and March. But, because AT was held in a different

environment this year, Alaska's soldiers were able to lengthen their time spent training.

"By going to Hawaii," said Wiegele, "we were able to enhance quality training time by as much as four hours a day."

With longer daylight hours the Scouts had the opportunity to practice skills not allowed because of extreme cold and long, dark days of Alaska.

Just qualifying with weapons in itself can be a real challenge, explained Wiegele.

"But just try it when temperatures are below zero, you're cold, shaking and trying to hold that weapon still and get a good score."

AT is also one of the few opportunities when all the troops from different villages

can come together and train as a team, explained Lynch.

"For example, we had soldiers from Manokotak, a tiny village near Dillingham, to Fairbanks, and soldiers from Goodnews Bay to Quinhagak," said Lynch.

Man of these villages are hundreds of miles apart and only accessible by plane, four-wheeler, snowmobile, or by dogsled.

"It broadens the abilities and experience of our soldiers," said Wiegele. "Without the worry of frostbite, there's a better chance to just focus on training."

"Trips to see different parts of the world," he added, "not only enhances retention, but provides quality training as well."