

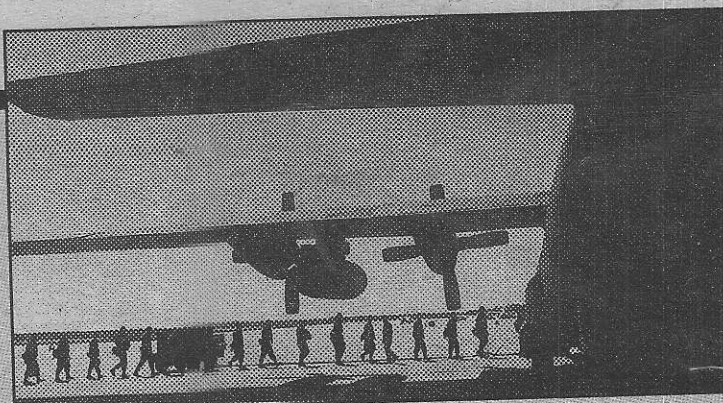
GUIDING FORCE

Page 6



THE GUARD GOES GLOBAL

Pages 8-9



PHANTOM SABER V

Page 11



THE ON GUARD

Volume XXV, No. 8

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

May 1996

Guard announces bold restructuring proposal

*Eleven combat brigades,
one scout unit may
convert to support roles*

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

Following a comprehensive analysis, the Army National Guard has developed a proposal to convert up to 11 of its combat maneuver brigades and one scout group into units with combat support and combat service support missions.

The new program, designed to meet the Army's identified need for more ground support-type units, has been presented to senior Army leaders. It maintains the viability of the Army National Guard to perform the full range of its federal war fighting and peacetime missions, including state missions.

"We're proud of our historic contributions to the development of this nation and its defense needs," said Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. Edward D. Baca, "and we're excited about this proposal. It is cost effective and realistic."

"Developing our plan wasn't easy," Gen. Baca said. "Some longstanding unit relationships will have to change, but we've faced change many times before. Adapting to change keeps us strong and relevant. Our proposal is good for America, good for the Army and good for the National Guard."

Changes to the world's military-politi-

cal situation and subsequent reductions in its defense spending have contributed to a dramatic reduction in the size of the nation's total military force. The peak was 1989 when the numerical strength of the Army National Guard was 457,000 and the active Army was 780,000. At the end of this fiscal year, Sept. 30, the strength numbers of both components have a congressional ceiling of 373,000 and 495,000, respectively.

As the Total Army reduced its overall size, a number of units have been eliminated. This reduction

includes 89 major combat maneuver battalions from the National Guard, a cut that will trim more than 90,000 Army Guard positions. During this drawdown the Total Army acquired a shortage of critical combat support and combat service support units. The Army National Guard's proposal will make up for this shortfall by converting many of its combat units to support organizations. This plan will move toward a fiscal year 1999 force structure authorization of 405,000, with fund-

ing to fill 367,000 of those personnel spaces.

As an example, a community that previously was home to an Army National Guard infantry or armor outfit may see that unit pick up a new designation as a quartermaster or transportation unit. The changes will be made over time as budgets permit, including requirements to

THE DEAL

- Guard force structure and end strength numbers unchanged
- Conversion plans must include resources for retraining and re-equipping units
- Remaining combat units are included in warplans and re-sourced accordingly
- Integration of Army Guard and active Army units is improved



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Blandy

TAKING AIM

Spc. Brian West (above), a member of the Rhode Island Army Guard's 119th Military Police Company, wields a pistol while defending an operations center at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. See related story on Page 16.

■ See PROPOSAL, Page 11

**DRUG USE
IS
LIFE ABUSE**



COMMENTARY

COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of April 10, the National Guard has assisted in 50,444 arrests and seized 5,094 weapons, 20,571 vehicles and nearly \$62.7 million of money while conducting 4,109 counterdrug missions this fiscal year.

The On Guard is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 by the Command Information team of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The 50,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

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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 REVISITED

After reading the commentary (Being Macho is Stupid) in the February The On Guard, I believe it adds truth to the rumor that some people perform self-lobotomies.

Admittedly, there is a fine line between hard core and stupidity. A real leader knows where it is and does not cross it. It is a poor leader who kills subordinates with kindness.

Having worked farming and construction, as well as soldiering, through many Texas summers, I have learned to beat the heat by engaging common sense. A foreman would never allow workers to remove their long sleeve shirts. They know that the cloth prevents moisture evaporation and provides a cooling effect whenever a breeze decides to blow. By remaining fully clothed, workers prevent dehydration, skin burns and skin cancer. That is why the colonel made the writer put his shirt back on. Being macho did not prevail over common sense.

Being a survivor of two Korean DMZ winter patrol missions, the extreme cold weather taught me to dress in layers. The troops wore only BDUs and long underwear when moving. We never moved fast enough to break a sweat. This prevented moisture build up that could potentially freeze the skin. Yes, we were cold and uncomfortable, but not frozen. We experienced the worst Korean winter in 16 years and engaged in more than 140 ambush and recon-

naissance patrols, and not one soldier suffered frostbite.

The Rangers who snickered because the writer used a blanket on an aircraft were acclimating themselves. They knew that when trouble occurred, acclimation meant survival. The Rangers used the common sense of any field soldier, which obviously the writer is not.

I agree that being macho is stupid, however, the examples that are cited reek of sniveling, whining and poor planning. Maintaining discipline and standards is not being macho, it is being professional.

Maj. Kim Thomas
Texas National Guard

SNOW SLIGHT

Your February issue detailing the Guard's response to the blizzard failed to mention that the Michigan Guard was called up in December.

On Dec. 8-9, 1995, the city of Sault Ste. Marie was hit with 60 inches of snow. After three days, the city was unable to dig itself out.

On Dec. 13, Gov. John Engler called on the Michigan Guard. In five days a total of 159,432 cubic yards of snow were removed and a total of 22 miles of city streets were cleared.

Capt. David Leask
Michigan National Guard

MEDICAL MENTIONS

In the December issue I was pleased to see that one of our members was listed in the Newsmakers section. I would like to add some information

concerning other members of Texas Air Guard's 147th Fighter Group.

The 147th had two other award winners. MSgt. Marieta Frazier was the recipient of the Annual Air Guard Outstanding Enlisted Health Services Manager of the Year Award. Maj. Connie Couch was selected the Officer of the Year.

TSgt. Kimberly N. Walters
Texas National Guard

RACING AGAINST DRUGS

I read with interest the story about the Guard's efforts to eliminate drugs in your January issue. Please tell me how to get a copy of the poster "Choose to be Drug Free" with racer Jeff Gordon.

Spc. Larry Simmons
North Carolina National Guard

Editor Note: Posters are available, in limited numbers, by writing to: OTAGNC-AGMS-D, ATTN: Counterdrug Coordinator, 4105 Reedy Creek Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607-6410.

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



"The First Sergeant told me to be ready to deploy anywhere in the world."



IN THE NEWS

- Battle Streamers
- RCAS Installed
- Increased Coverage

Air Guard assumes 'Comfort' mission

By Maj. Jim Finkle
National Guard

Units with the Air Guard and Reserve recently assumed the combat rescue mission for Operation Provide Comfort as part of the newly formed 1st Rescue Group based at Incirlik AB, Turkey. This mission was run by the 16th Special Operations Wing.

The 1st Rescue Group will perform the mission for about six months with just over 100 people. Approximately 80 percent of the personnel will be Guard or Reserve and 20 percent active component.

The units supporting the new group include the Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, N.Y., and Alaska's 210th Rescue Squadron. The Reserve's 304th Rescue Squadron, Ore., and Florida's 301st Rescue Wing and 71st Rescue Wing, both from Patrick AFB, Fla., round out the Group.

"This is truly team rescue," said Col. Tom Friers, detachment commander. Friers is an active duty officer with the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Va.

Combat search and rescue is a shift in the philosophy from special operations and brings with it a change. Special operations comes from the world of secrecy; combat rescue brings a purely humanitarian perspective. The motto of special operations is "we do things in the night." The motto of rescue is, "we do these things that others may live." The primary task of combat rescue is to rescue pilots downed in enemy territory. Some have likened it to Rescue 911 with guns.

The Combined Task Force of Operation Provide Comfort conducts operations within Iraq, north of the 36

degrees latitude, to deter Iraqi aggression against the people of Northern Iraq by enforcing the no-fly zone, maintaining a visible presence in the security zone and monitoring and reporting conditions in Northern Iraq. The mission of the 1st Rescue Group is to provide combat search and rescue to coalition forces in the area. These include aircraft from France, Britain and the U.S.

Incirlik AB, Turkey, was activated in 1954 when the Air Force had bases throughout the region and transferred operations from the former Wheelus Air Field in Libya. Operation Provide Comfort began five years ago and has been supported by more than 40,000 people deployed to Incirlik.

Operation Provide Comfort I, which started on April 6, 1991, one day after United Nations Resolution 688 was adopted, was a concentrated effort to deter Iraqi military operations. It also helped rescue displaced people from mountain camps, built temporary camps for refugees, and persuaded them to leave the mountains and return home.

Initially 13 coalition nations, most notably the U.S., U.K. and France, interceded on behalf of the Kurds. They established a safe haven in Northern Iraq for the Kurd's security and halted the Iraqi regime and its military from further persecution of the Kurdish people. The CTF's mission changed to Operation Provide Comfort II in July 1991. This signified the change in mission from emergency aid and confrontation to one of relief, resettlement and deterrence.

Historically, the area served by Operation Provide Comfort has produced some of the lengthiest and bloodiest conflicts known to man.

Unit awarded battle streamer 220 years late

By MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Lt. Col. Len Kondratiuk put the phrase "better late than never" to the test recently after discovering an oversight 221 years after the fact.

While vacationing in his hometown of Boston, Kondratiuk (the National Guard Bureau's Historical Services Division chief) had just finished reading *Paul Revere's Ride* by David Hackett Fischer. The book details the role of the Massachusetts militia at Lexington and Concord in 1775.

"The militiamen and minutemen of the Essex Brigade, (now the Massachusetts's Army Guard's 101st Engineer Battalion), from the towns of Danvers, Lynn and Salem, hearing of the Lexington-Concord fight from messengers, left their farms and grabbed their muskets," Kondratiuk said. "At the village of Menotomy (now Arlington), they engaged the British."



Lt. Col. Len Kondratiuk and streamer.

While the Army has credited the 101st's sister units, the 181st and 182nd Infantry Regiments, with taking part in the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the 101st's actions in the Lexington campaign were overlooked. His curiosity piqued, the colonel visited the Boston Public Library and the New England Genealogical Society.

He learned that the Americans inflicted some 120 British casual-

ties compared to 38 of their own.

"The entire day's fighting was an American victory and the beginning of the American Revolution," he noted.

With documentation in hand, Kondratiuk called the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

"Historians must provide evidence of a unit's participation in a particular battle, such as first person accounts, muster rolls and casualty lists," he said. Comparing the Essex Brigade's list of casualties against its muster rolls, Kondratiuk was able to prove that 18 Essex militiamen were killed or wounded at Menotomy.

A grateful 101st Engineer Battalion recently received their streamer.

"We are overjoyed," said Capt. John Chase, 101st operations officer. "It makes us feel good that we can carry that lineage."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

OKLAHOMA TO INSTALL RCAS

The Oklahoma National Guard will move from paper and pencil into the world of instantaneous electronic communication in the next six months when a \$2 million Reserve Component Automation System, or RCAS, is installed.

The state is the second to receive the restructured computer network; South Dakota was first.

A total of 511 new computer workstations will be fielded. Additionally, 111 existing workstations will be upgraded, and together they will form the backbone of the network.

SERVICEMEN'S LIFE INSURANCE INCREASED TO \$200,000

The starting benefit for Servicemen's Group Life Insurance increases from \$100,000 to \$200,000 beginning April 1.

The change will affect all members on active duty or in the qualified National Guard.

Thomas Tower, with DoD's Office of Compensation, said service members can still opt for the level of coverage they wish. "They can decrease the amount of coverage in \$10,000 increments," said Tower. "They can even decline the coverage entirely. But the starting point is now \$200,000."

Service members with less than \$200,000 of coverage who don't want the automatic increase must file an SGLI Form 8286. This will keep their insurance level the same and avoid an automatic increase in their premiums.

Tower said DoD increased the starting benefit to properly cover all service members, even while attending basic training, and to compensate families at the maximum level in case of an early training accident. Currently, recruits start at \$100,000, then get the option of increasing the benefit shortly after reporting for duty.

"If service members were to die before they could complete the insurance paperwork, they [families] wouldn't get the full amount," said Tower. "When a person dies and the benefit is only \$100,000, the family is often uncomfortable with this result. By changing this, families will know they're getting the maximum amount unless the member, not the government, chooses another level of coverage."

The \$200,000 benefit first became available in November 1992. Service members paying \$9 a month for \$100,000 Servicemen's Group Life Insurance coverage could double their benefit for an \$18 deduction. Since 1992, nearly 70 percent of active duty forces and over half of the reserve component opted for the increased benefit.

Pennsylvania unit issues old equipment

By 1st Lt. Richard Blandy
Pennsylvania National Guard

Finding a new home for millions of dollars worth of old Army equipment is the job of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Equipment Redistribution Center.

The Center recently added to its list of satisfied customers by issuing \$31,617 in used field gear to the New Jersey Naval Reserve's Fleet Hospital 22 stationed at Fort Dix, N.J. It was first time the Redistribution Center has ever issued equipment to a Naval Reserve unit.

"Our unit is a Fleet hospital so when we're activated, as we were in Desert Storm, we go out to the field with the Marines and set up a 500-bed mobile hospital on about 500 acres," said Lt. Cdr. Zdzislaw S. Kordecki, head of materials management for Fleet Hospital 22. "We have very little organizational equipment right now. We used to get this at Fort Dix, but they have closed down these supply areas and turned all the equipment over to the Air Force. With no equipment and no way of borrowing it, this is a tremendous help to us."

The Equipment Redistribution Center has been open since 1993 and has received more than \$75 million worth of old Army organizational, clothing and individual equipment and repair parts. The center distributed \$29 million worth of this equipment to other military units in the last three years. This program has saved the Guard an estimated \$30 million.

"The equipment became available to the National Guard from the active Army because of the downsizing in Europe and the deactivation of the 7th Corps in Germany after Desert Storm," said Sgt. Shawn Altland, computer operator at the center.

Units needing equipment should call the center at (717) 861-8406/8408 or DSN 491-8406/8408.

Mississippi goes Hollywood

MP unit assists in making 'A Time to Kill'

By Maj. Tim Powell
Mississippi National Guard

Free Carl Lee! Free Carl Lee! Free Carl Lee!" shouted an angry crowd with fists waving high in the air. Nearby, an opposing group of klansmen yelled, "Fry Carl Lee! Fry Carl Lee! Fry Carl Lee!"

Bystanders stared with glazed fear as Mississippi Army National Guardmembers, equipped with riot gear and armed Humvees, marched forward on the old downtown square of this small Mississippi town to suppress the violence.

As tempers flared, the fighting broke out. Guardmembers left their ranks to separate the two opposing groups.

Then a shout penetrated the air, followed by total silence.

"Cut! Cut! Cut! Cut! Very good, thank you. Now, let's do it again, one more time. Everyone, back in positions, please."

The Guardmembers were not actually breaking up a civil disturbance; they were among 400 other extras on a movie set in Canton, Miss., during the recent filming of Mississippian John Grisham's novel *A Time to Kill*.

Hollywood was in town, and the Mississippi Army National Guard was part of it. More than 175 National Guardmembers, mostly from the 112th Military Police Battalion, played roles as MPs during various scenes filmed in the downtown Canton area.

Time to Kill Productions arrived in Canton last summer, and in preparation for the filming of the movie, literally took over the downtown area providing facelifts to many of the older storefronts on the old town square around the courthouse.

Hundreds of local and statewide residents were hired as extras in the movie. Out-of-towners created a steady flow of traffic through the small city just to get a glimpse of a scene being shot, or hopefully, a look at one of the stars (Sandra Bullock, Samuel Jackson, Donald

of supporting the motion picture industry, provided DOD guidelines are met. Producers and directors may not use the military, or their equipment, in a role that is not within training and mission standards. National Guard Bureau and Mississippi National Guard officials obtained copies of the movie script, made several changes, then gave the go ahead for the use of the Guard.

"These guys are finding out rather quickly that the art of movie making is not all glamour," said Charlie Price, National Guard Bureau public affairs specialist, on location to ensure the Guard was presented accurately. "There's a lot of standing around; waiting for the cameras to adjust, the setting up for different scenes, the lighting, and so forth. I think they now have a better appreciation for how movies are made."

The days were also long and tiring. During the six days of filming, the average day lasted about 12 hours, and it rained almost every day. Fortunately, many of the volunteers were versed in the old Army art of "hurry up and wait."

But the movie business wasn't new to all of the Guardsmen. CWO Sherrill Shows, a member of the 66th Troop Command, has done commercials in the past.

"I knew what to expect," he said, laughing. "A lot of waiting around."

The movie's director appreciated the Guard's effort.

"These Mississippi Guardmembers were excellent to work with," said Joel Schumacher. "They have done everything we have asked of them, and done it all very well. It's been a pleasure to work with such professionals."



Photo by SFC Bill Jones

TIME TO KILL - Members of the Mississippi Guard stand ready to quell a disturbance in the movie *A Time to Kill*.

Sutherland and Keifer Sutherland)

A Time to Kill, directed by Joel Schumacher (*The Client* and *Batman Forever*), is based on Grisham's first novel of the same title. The story deals with racial tensions in the town of Canton, Miss., when a black man, Carl Lee Haily, kills two white men who are accused of raping his daughter. Haily is put on trial for murder. The Guard is requested by the mayor and sheriff to help keep the peace between two racially divided groups.

The military has a long-standing policy



Photo by John Reinders

EARTHY ISSUES

Lt. Col. Tim Rensema, the National Guard Bureau's Environmental Programs Resources Division chief, removes debris from a stream in Alexandria, Va., as part of Earth Day activities April 22. The Army Guard's Earth Day emphasis was on restoring and maintaining the health and diversity of ecosystems.



PEOPLE

SGM Roy Rushing Sr. has made important friends abroad

Albanian ALLIES

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

It's not hard to figure out how SGM Roy Rushing Sr. makes friends. His warmth would melt an iceberg. He could charm a parrot away from a pirate.

Go ahead, ask Roy Rushing Sr. of Columbia, S.C., about some of his friends. They in-

clude a Minister of Defense and an equally warm and charming electrical engineer named Kujtim Proseku who is a colonel in the Albanian army.

That's right, Albania.

It sits just to the north of Greece, hard by the Adriatic Sea. It is one of the Eastern European countries sampling freedom and learning the ways of democracy now that communist governments in that part of the world have been overthrown.

That's where Rushing and other members of the South Carolina Army National Guard come in. Rushing, 56, is a sergeant major and oversees that state's Partnership Program. His state has been paired with Albania for two years in an effort to give those people a better life.

The most recent enterprise involved drilling two wells to provide the hospital in the capital city of Tirana with an adequate supply of clean water. Seventy-two South Carolina Guardmembers directed and worked on the Operation Uje



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton

Krystal (Albanian for *clear water*) last summer.

Two men were credited with that project's success -- SGM Rushing and Col. Proseku.

Secretary of Defense William Perry recognized Proseku's contributions during a ceremony at the Pentagon last January after the Blizzard of '96 had shut down most of the government and the East Coast.

His Albanian friends remembered SGM Rushing recently, at the Defense Ministry in Tirana. Safet Zhulali, the Defense Minister, praised Rushing

"for his professionalism and diligent efforts and his superb support which will have long lasting impacts on the State Partnership Program between Albania and South Carolina."

Those comments were included in a letter that Zhulali presented to Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, South Carolina's Adjutant General, who accompanied Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to Albania for a goodwill visit that concluded a week-long trip to Europe. The trip was largely devoted to reinforcing the National

REUNION - South Carolina Army Guard's SGM Roy Rushing Sr. shares a laugh with an Albanian friend during a visit to Europe.

Guard's partnership posture.

Rushing also made the trip and embraced those men he now calls friends because of the State Partnership Program. It has become an important part of his life.

However, he acknowledged, there is much to be done.

"The little houses without windows and the look of dismay in the older peoples' eyes make me wonder how any government could allow its people to endure those conditions," Rushing said.

"The taste of freedom the Albanian people have had since 1991 has been a new experience and they want more, more and more," said Rushing who hopes to help the Albanian people enjoy more fruits of their new freedom.

California Major leads aviation maintenance team to Europe

SEIZING Opportunity

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Sometimes, mucking out horse stalls is a good way to get away from it all.

"I seize every opportunity to spend time with my husband and our five horses," Maj. Melissa Mathiasen reflected at Fort Benning, Ga., during the first week in April.

She was a long way from her husband and horses. They were across the continent in California where her husband, Stan, is a Santa Barbara County deputy sheriff.

So what was the major doing at Fort Benning? She is commanding a 10-member aviation maintenance detachment from the California Army National Guard that was going through the mobilization station before proceeding to Europe for Joint Endeavor peacekeeping duty.

The mission is important for two reasons, she said.

- The United States should always be the lead agency in humanitarian causes.

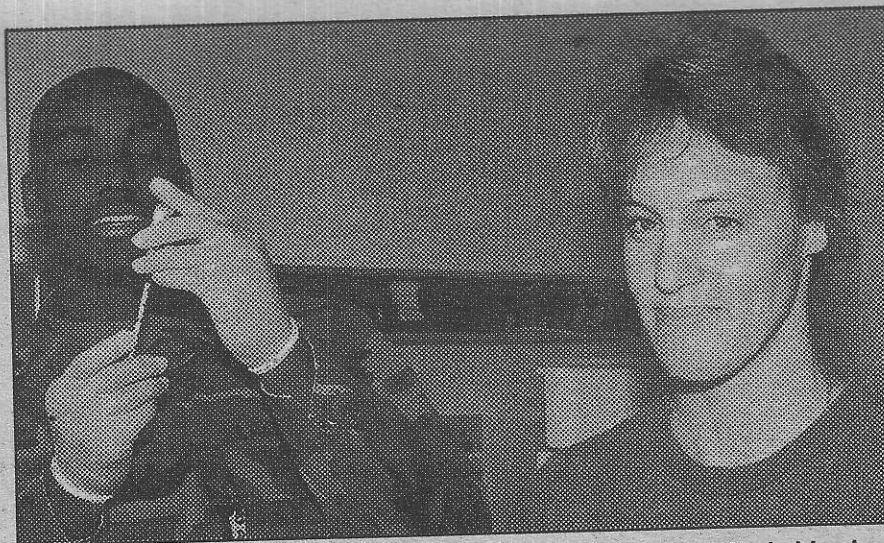


Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

- It is critical to maintain the peace so this nation's military resources do not get spread too thin while trying to serve in too many places.

Therefore, it will be awhile -- perhaps next December -- before Mathiasen can seize some time on the 2 1/2-acre spread in Lompoc, Calif., that she calls her ranch "because that's what I wish it was."

Now she is focused on getting her detachment from the 1106th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot gainfully employed in Europe as soon as possible. The task has not intimidated her because, at 36, Melissa Mathiasen has seized every opportunity the Army and the National Guard have given her.

Yes, this boss knows all about Benning. She graduated from the three weeks of hell called Airborne School in 1979, while she was an ROTC cadet at the University of Colorado.

She would have gone through the Ranger School at Benning, she said, if women were eligible for that program because she thoroughly enjoyed belonging to the ROTC Ranger team at Colorado.

Since earning her bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1983, however, she has let few other military opportuni-

SHOT IN THE ARM - Maj. Melissa Mathiasen (left) gets immunized before heading to Bosnia.

ties pass her by.

"I have had the most wonderful career," she said.

She has earned her wings as a fixed-wing and Blackhawk helicopter pilot and maintenance test pilot, and she has been a 24th Infantry Division flight platoon leader in Korea. She has repelled out of helicopters at Air Assault School. She has helped organize Operation Bahamas Air Taxi (OPBAT) with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Customs to cut down the drug traffic from South America into this country.

And she was handling two military jobs before leading the AVCRAD detachment's peacekeepers to Europe. Full-time, she is the National Interagency Counterdrug Institute's training division chief at Camp San Luis Obispo in California. Part-time, she commands 130 people as the 1106th AVCRAD's maintenance division chief.

She is clearly a driven woman. What drew her considerable energies to the Army?

"I've always admired the military. I've always wanted to be a part of it. I've wanted to fly since I was 5," Mathiasen explained.

She has had other ambitions, such as restoring ancient artifacts in China. That is why she studied fine arts in college. But a funny thing happened to Melissa Mathiasen on the way to China.

First she joined Colorado's ROTC program. Then she did jump school and air assault school. Then she got the chance to go to flight school. The rest, she deadpanned, is history.

Now she is commanding a detachment in Europe. That means the history of this remarkable woman's military career is still being written.

BOSNIA
UPDATE

Air Guard air traffic controllers and radar specialists help fliers reach the ground safely

A Guiding FORCE

By Maj. Ken MacNevin
Missouri National Guard

Air traffic control at Taszar AB, a Hungarian MiG 21 base, is truly a "joint endeavor."

Run by a 30-person team of Air National Guard air traffic control and radar specialists from several states, and a smattering of active duty Air Force controllers, they work round-the-clock to ensure that aircraft reach the ground safely.

Taszar is the main staging base for U.S. troop movements into Bosnia and nearby Croatia. During the main deployment phase for Joint Endeavor in January the skies were blanketed with giant C-5 and C-17 transport planes. A sign near the runway boasts that the operation is the largest strategic airlift since World War II.

Last year Air Guardmembers arrived to set up navigational aids and radar during a blizzard. They remain now, operating the array of equipment that allows aircraft to be talked down to the runway under low ceilings and low visibility.

"I'd say that 75 percent of the time we've had weather that ruled out coming in without radar," said SMSgt. John Hipes, a member of the Missouri Air Guard's 239th Combat Communications Squadron based at Rosecrans Field. He is the man in charge of what is called RAPCON, or radar approach control. "It's been snowy or foggy or rainy, everything you can think of."

RAPCON gets planes on the ground by sending signals out to aircraft like those used in U.S. airports. As aircraft approach Hungarian airspace, a controller in front of a standard circular radar screen talks with the aircraft to guide it onto its final approach until it is 10 or 15 miles away. The aircraft is then handed off to a second controller sitting alongside him or her in front of the screen for the precision approach radar, or PAR.

"We can bring them in with a one hundred foot ceiling and a half mile vis-



Photos by Maj. Ken MacNevin

ibility," Hipes said.

The PAR screen uses two simultaneous displays to show the controller where the aircraft is in relation to the glide path down the runway and where it is in relation to the course to the runway. When the aircraft is on its final approach the PAR controller gives almost continuous course corrections to the pilot of the incoming aircraft. The controller must communicate with the aircraft at least once every 10 to 15 seconds.

"We talk them all the way down to the ground," assured SrA. Phillip Gregory of the 239th. "Then we hand them off to the tower."

"For departures the controllers work with the Hungarian civilian air traffic control center," he added. "We've had to adjust to the fact that they use some different terms."

The trailer the controllers work in is not roomy.

"It's like climbing into your closet with a flashlight and peering into a little window," Gregory said, "because you're looking at a pretty small radar screen. When there are two controllers at work, plus maybe a maintenance person and somebody who comes in to ask you a question, it can get pretty crowded."

The RAPCON team is made up of air traffic controllers, radar maintenance technicians, communications specialists and power production people who provide electricity from a pair of generators. The base European power system isn't considered stable enough to power the critical radar.

Everyone on the team must do their

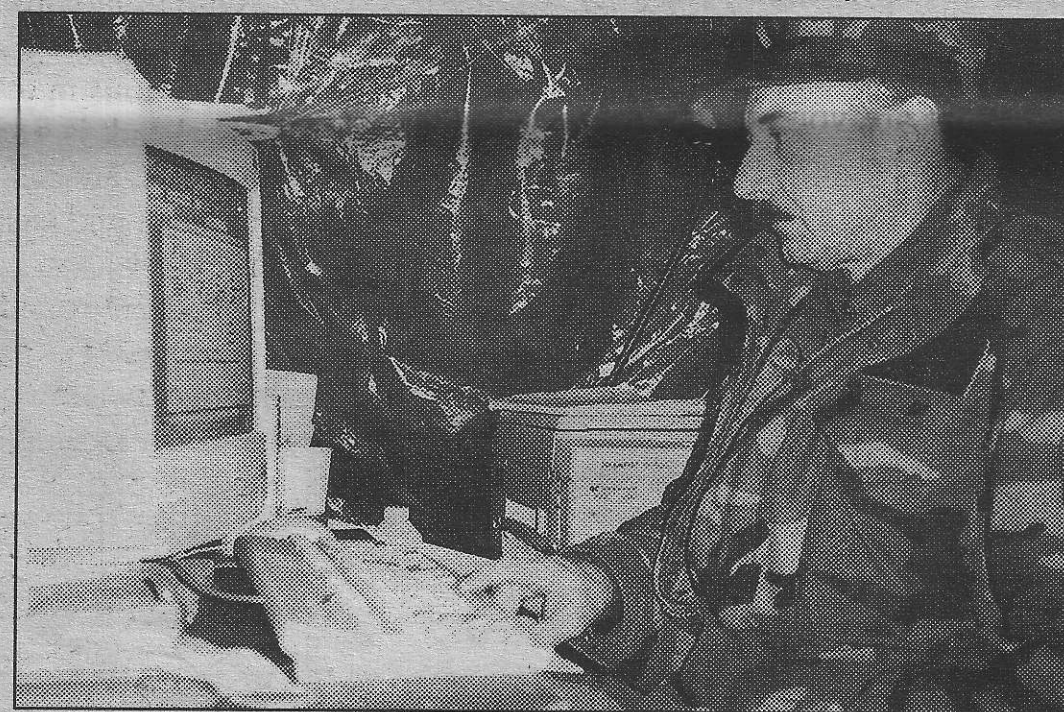
jobs perfectly all the time.

"There's a lot of pressure," Hipes notes. "Our jobs have lives at stake all the time. You've got to be focused."

Controllers are on flight status. Something as simple as the need to take antihistamines for a cold can take them off the job until a flight surgeon says they can return to work.

Working and living conditions for the team are a mix, with high-tech equipment being used under austere conditions. The controllers work inside a small trailer a few feet away from the trailer that houses the main radar and PAR. A rotating dish for the main radar and a small enclosed tower for the PAR sit on top of the radar trailer.

Pathways cut into a foot or more of snow lead to a pair of modular tents. The front room of one tent is the RAPCON office and has a work bench for maintenance. In some ways the inside of the tent looks like a scene from a winter camp years ago. A G.I. pot-bellied stove warms the room; winter parkas are piled on a



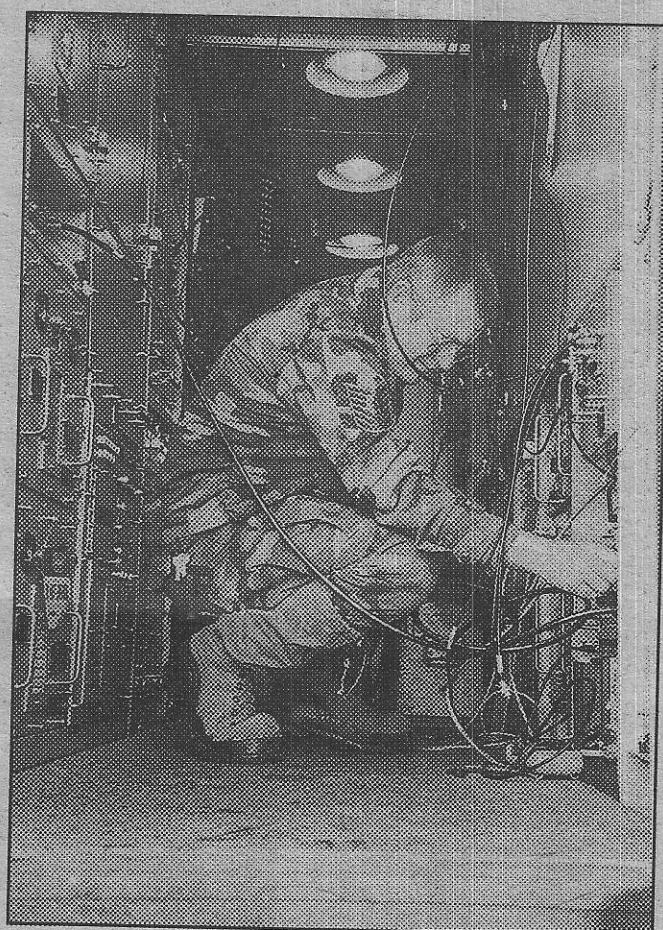
IN CONTROL - Missouri's SSgt. Jay Hollman (top photo) monitors incoming flight traffic on a radar. SMSgt. John Hipes (above) checks his computer in Hungary.

folding cot. A folding wood field table sits next to the cot, and on it is a modern computer used to run precision approach simulations.

The team lives in GP medium tents, sleeping on G.I. folding cots. But the tents do have wooden floors, overhead fluorescent lights and plenty of warmth from kerosene fired space heaters.

The people who make up the team come from all walks of life.

Sgt. Mark Ulrich, a member of Louisiana Air Guard's 236th CBCS, should be in his final semester in electrical engineering at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, not standing at a maintenance work bench in a tent in Hungary. The 14-year veteran could have been home for his son's first birthday earlier



WIRED IN - Louisiana's SMSgt. Ernest Williams checks the settings on the ground approach radar in Hungary.

this year instead of pulling maintenance on radar gear.

But when his unit called and said they needed maintenance people for the Joint Endeavor mission, Ulrich couldn't say no.

"What are you supposed to say?" he asked. "That you only take the cushy jobs."

People stationed at Taszar and in nearby Kaspovar are restricted to the base and are not allowed "downtown." But the people running the airfield work with the Hungarians assigned there. And, says Indiana Air Guard's TSgt. Reggie Jackson, there's no trouble with hospitality.

"We had lots of contact with them getting set up," he said, "and that's continued."

Jackson is glad to be one of the team's unofficial ambassadors. One day in mid-February he took time from stringing new telephone lines between tents to show around two young Hungarian service members who operate the Hungarian air traffic control radar.

"It's an old Soviet model," Jackson said, "It's nowhere near as good as what we have."

The Hungarians also enjoyed seeing the U.S. equipment. Their eyes really lit up, however, when they discovered a 25-inch TV/VCR combo used by off duty team members.

Working on an Hungarian base, where rows of MiGs sit under tarps, is different than duty at home or other foreign locations. This was a Soviet base, a place where Americans would not have been welcome only seven years ago.

"I think everybody's thought about that," said one Guardmember. "We're making footprints where I never thought we'd walk."

Missouri MP Company supports Joint Endeavor by securing Germany

Kaserne's CONCERNS

By Maj. Ken MacNevin
Missouri National Guard

The Missouri Army Guard's 1137th Military Police Company is no stranger to deployments. They were in Panama for Just Cause and Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm. These days they patrol the streets of Germany, providing law enforcement and protection for loved ones left behind by U.S. Army soldiers deployed to Bosnia.

"We're here to look out for the families," said Capt. James Tate, 1137th commander, "and to make sure law and order still takes place in our kasernes."

The company headquarters and one platoon are located at Fliegerhorst Kaserne, at the edge of the city of Hanau just east of Frankfurt, and patrol in installations in that area.

Other platoons are based on the Cambria Fritsch and Giebelstadt Kasernes. Cambria-Fritsch is one of the U.S. installations in the city of Darmstadt, south of Frankfurt. Giebelstadt is a small kaserne located about two hours (at autobahn speeds) to the south and east of Frankfurt.

Working round-the-clock, the MPs provide service to some of the kasernes located close to their main operating locations. The installations, or kasernes, are "compact little bases," says Tate.

"Here at Hanau there are actually around seven kasernes we're concerned with," he added.

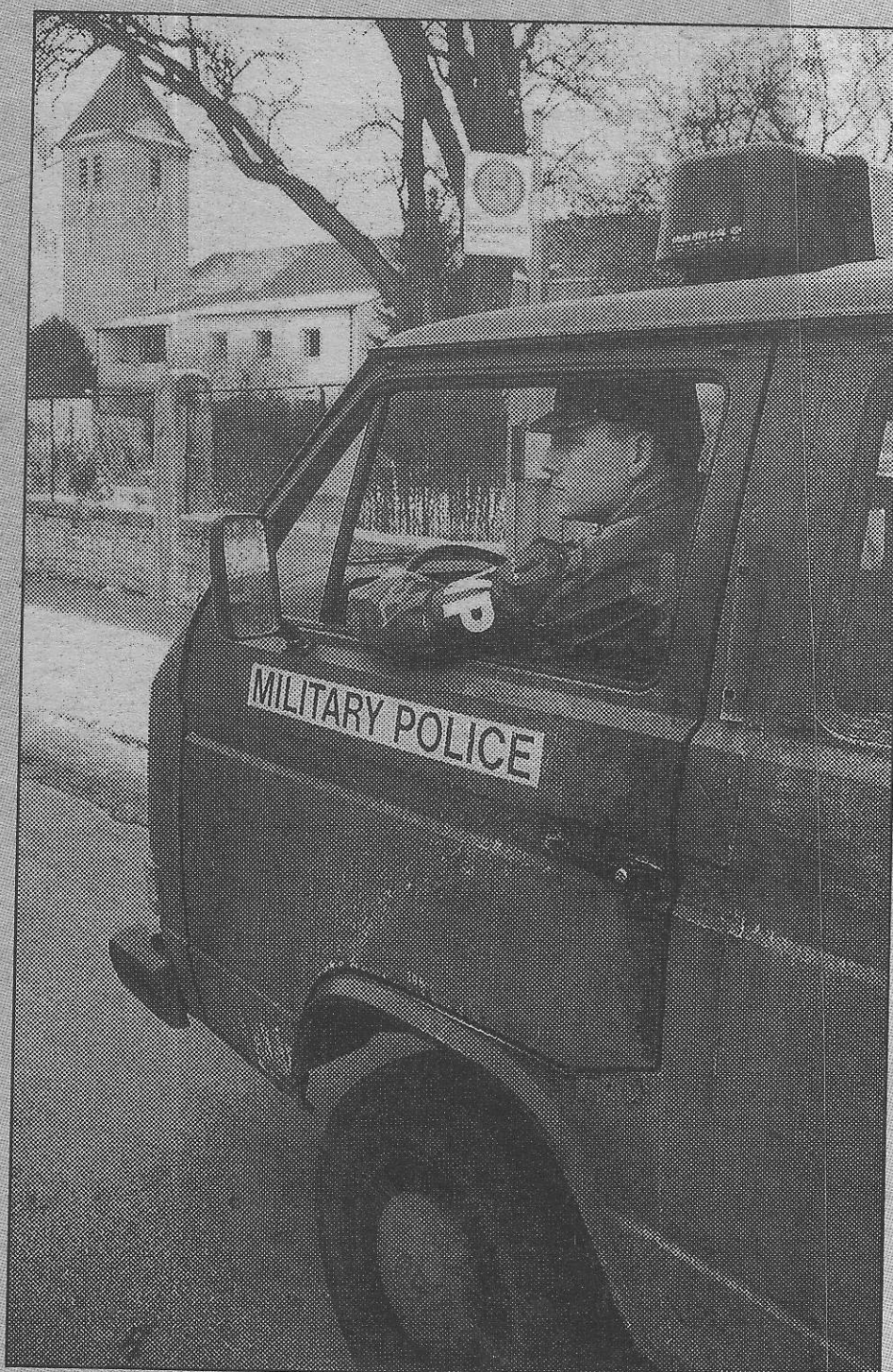
Some, like Giebelstadt, are out in the German countryside. But even there buildings stand close together. Others are within cities and towns.

The entrance to the 1137th's kaserne in Darmstadt is on a busy city street with a trolley car line running beside the street.

The duties of the 1137th MPs are much like those of police anywhere. They drive in MP vehicles, mostly Volkswagen vans, and enforce traffic laws. They respond to calls from military and family housing areas.

Family members have noticed the new cops in town. Amy Burns is married to a soldier in a signal battalion. She moved to Germany earlier this year from Abilene, Texas.

"I feel very safe," she said of the Missouri MP presence. "I know it also makes a lot of other depen-



Photos by MSgt. Jerry Bratten

ON PATROL - Spc. Patrick Byrd, an MP with the Missouri Army Guard's 1137th MP Company, patrols the streets of Giebelstadt, Germany.



GATE DUTY - Spc. Gary Burchell waves a car through the gate as Spc. Doug Lawhon records its license plate.

dents feel good about themselves."

Before taking to the streets, the Show-Me-Staters were given refresher law enforcement training. It wasn't all fun, reports 1st Sgt. Danny Thomas.

"Sitting all day in a classroom, that was tough," he recalled. "We were getting anxious to get on the road and do what we came here to do."

The soldiers generally accepted their call-up, some more than others.

Spc. Christine Harris of St. Louis, Mo., an MP and Desert Storm veteran, left her position as a coordinator with the St. Louis Food Bank.

"Germany is actually a pretty great place to be," she said. "I'm

excited to be here."

But soldiers admit that their families, especially spouses, didn't dance a jig when word of the activation came. A quarter of the soldiers in the 1137th, after all, are veterans of Just Cause. Half of those called up for the Germany mission are also Desert Storm vets. And almost all of the soldiers called up for Joint Endeavor were away for almost two months during the major flooding in Missouri in 1993.

"My mom wasn't happy," one young soldier said. "She figured everybody here would get deployed to Bosnia."

Unit leaders say they expect to remain on duty in Germany until mid-year.



TRAINING

Ohio's Army Guard goes through the paces at Grayling

LANES training

By PFC Rick McGivern
Ohio National Guard

Usually one of the hardest parts of deploying for annual training is adapting to an unfamiliar environment.

Not so for nearly 3,600 Ohio Army Guard troops when they converged at Camp Grayling, Mich., recently.

The Buckeye Guard went into their annual training accompanied by 1,200 vehicles and 46 aircraft knowing members were expected to perform training without incident. The unit training at Grayling before them had launched an errant artillery shell, damaging a nearby civilian home.

The five major elements of the Ohio Army National Guard involved were the 37th Infantry Brigade, the 112th Medical Brigade, the 371st Corps Support Group, the Ohio Military Academy and its Troop Command.

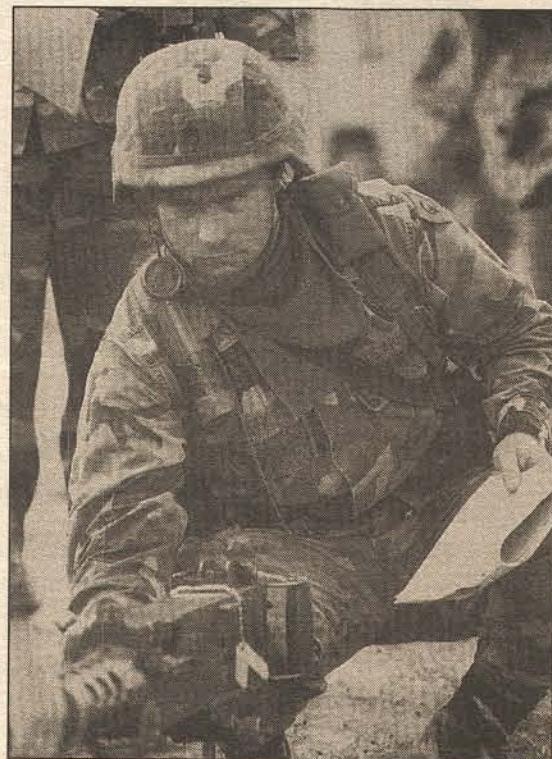
The 37th Infantry Brigade focused on improving their skills as tank crewmen, infantry soldiers and artillery gunners. Among the training tasks for the 37th was the school for M-113 Armored Personnel Carriers. Since the .50 caliber machine gun is typically mounted on this vehicle, soldiers were trained on its operation and maintenance.

"They have to know how to load and unload the weapon and how to fix jams," explained Sgt. Doug Heaster, 1st Battalion/148 Infantry Battalion. "Adjusting head-space and timing also teaches the soldier to control the speed of the weapon firing."

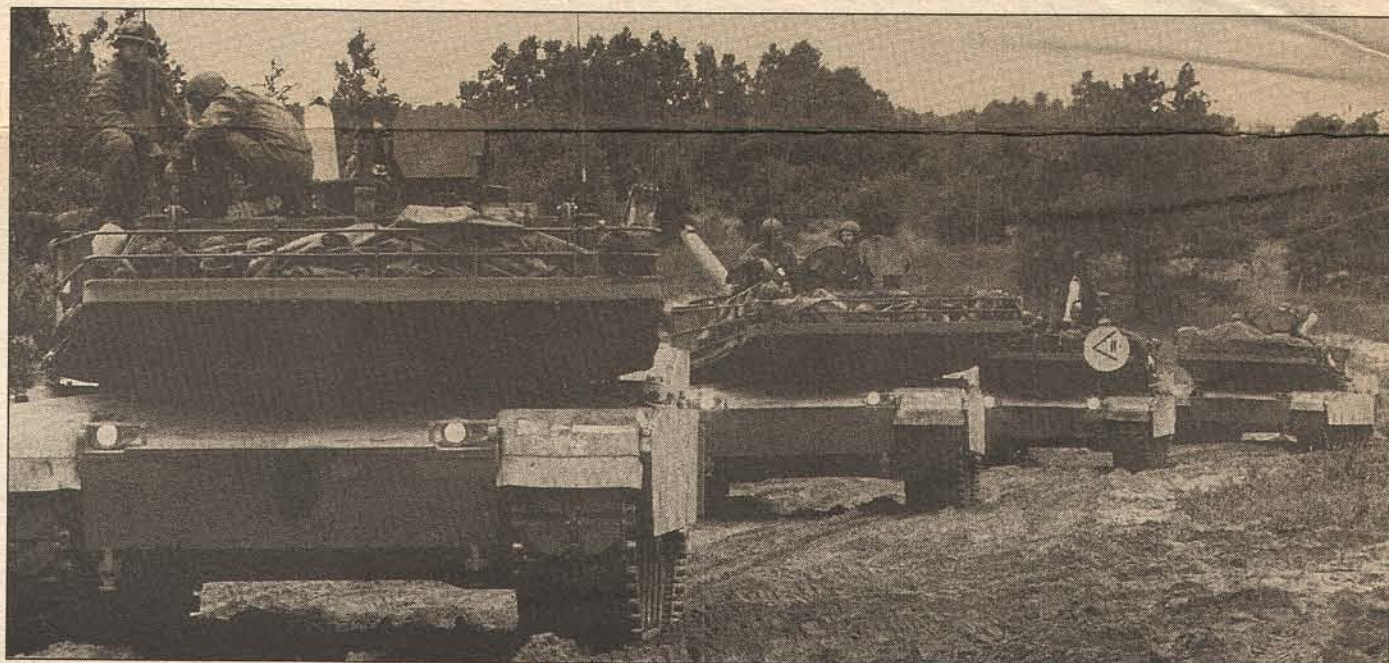
Lanes training, graded exercises which run soldiers through a series of specific tasks, was implemented for the first time for a large segment of the state's Army Guard.

The armored brigade used it as a means to train infantry squads and platoons, while the Ohio Military Academy used this technique to qualify soldiers as cavalry scouts.

"The troops performed a hasty dismount, provided security and breached the obstacle," said Cadet Mark Lastoria,



LANES TRAINING - Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 107th Armor (bottom photo) head to the tank gunnery range at Camp Grayling, Mich. SSgt. Kenneth Hughes (far left photo) performs a .50 caliber machine gun function check. A Buckeye soldier (below) sets a claymore mine.



Photos by PFC Rick McGivern

who supervised the training for squads from D Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry. "They were evaluated on probing for and destroying mines, breaching the wire, moving tactically and securing the area.

Maintaining the ability to fight means relying on service support units to provide for the needs of the troops.

While the 237th Forward Support Battalion responded to the fuel needs of the 37th Armor Brigade, SFC Ed Stoker, 371st assistant operations sergeant, met the fuel demands of the remaining units at Camp Grayling, which included the motor movements to and from Michigan.

The 371st also was responsible for running the ranges as well. Though loading

and dispensing ammunition, providing safety officers and broadcasting instruction from the tower wasn't their assigned military professions, Stoker said units were assigned these duties "so that soldiers training on the ranges could focus on just that, range fire, and not the logistics of the situation."

Military police companies provided support for all the missions and movements at Grayling, which included serving as gate guards, supplying personnel to handle road checks and responding to any calls about disturbances at the training site. Maintenance units provided direct and general support as required. The 637th Support Company provided field laundry services and shower facilities.

The 112th Medical Brigade was also on hand providing medical support for all of the units.

While the command and control of the entire operation fell under the responsibility of 73rd Troop Command, its commander, Col. James E. Caldwell, looked at the success or failure of the training as his personal responsibility.

"This was the major training effort of the year," Caldwell said. "We had it all here: warriors, healers, suppliers and fixers."

And, in light of the previous training incident, the colonel was happy to report no significant property damage or serious injuries occurred during the two-week period.

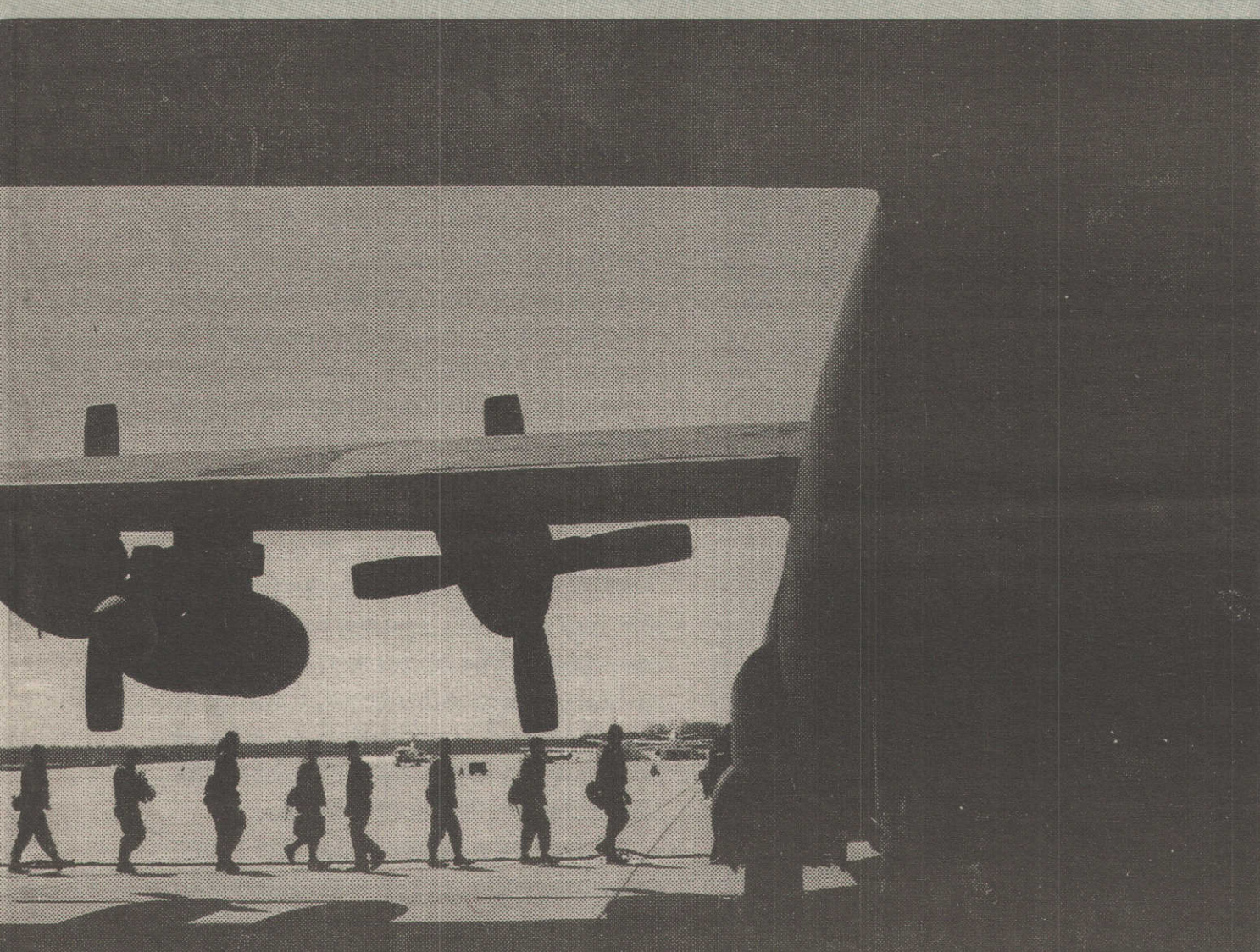


Photo by Katherine Frey

Hot spots such as Haiti, the Sinai Peninsula and Somalia have been ports of call for thousands of traditional Army and Air Guardmembers.

Nation-building programs in Central and South American, such as this year's Task Force Eureka in Panama and Partnership for Peace relationships between individual states and Eastern European nations, have also expanded the National Guard's international horizons.

Operation Joint Endeavor, the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, is the most recent chapter. Tuzla, Sarajevo and Tazsar are the newest places in the Global Guard's vocabulary.

There are several reasons for this evolution:

- **The Active Guard and Reserve** program that flourished during the 1980s established thousands of full-time National Guard jobs and a nucleus of troops trained in nearly every military skill. The increased number of full-timers and the chance to go to numerous military schools led to a better trained force of part-time soldiers. The half-million member Guard force may be smaller than it was 20 years ago, but their citizen-soldiers are better trained.

- **They are better equipped.** "The Army National Guard has \$43 billion worth of equipment to draw from before we start mobilizing units to put in harm's way," said Col. William Crocker, Director of Logistics.

- **Packaging has made it possible** to mobilize fewer citizen-soldiers to fill the Army's needs and give the people who cannot be deployed for personal reasons the option to stay at

ON THE ROAD AGAIN - National Guard troops (above) board a C-130 bound for overseas.

home. "If the Army needs only 40 forward artillery observers, there is no need to mobilize an entire artillery brigade," said Col. John Slonina, the Army National Guard's Readiness Chief.

- **Emphasis on programs such as** Family Assistance and Employer Support of the Guard and the Reserve have made it easier for Guardmembers to leave, knowing that someone is looking out for their loved ones and their civilian jobs on the home front.

- **The level of experience is constantly increasing.** Supporting the peacekeeping force in Bosnia is not exactly new. An 82nd Airborne Division's battalion sent to the Sinai Peninsula for six months in 1995 to monitor the peace between Egypt and Israel included nearly 400 National Guard troops from 22 states. "This is the most prepared 82nd battalion to deploy to the Sinai," said Maj. Gen. William Steele, the division's commander at the time.

The training and the experience have produced a force of citizen-soldiers and airmen that is as professional as the active components.

"You couldn't tell the difference between our Guard soldiers and the active and the Reserve," Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, told the *Army Times* after visiting Army Guard troops on Joint Endeavor duty in Bosnia and Hungary in March.

"They're all working together," Baca added. "It was a real classic example of a seamless Army."

Joining the Peacekeeping effort

Californian aviation maintainers called up to provide expertise for Endeavor

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

John Davis, a staff sergeant in the California Army Guard, was still looking to the East.

Two days after flying from the city of Fresno, Calif., in the West to the Army's renowned center of higher infantry learning, Fort Benning, Ga., in the East, Davis and nine other hand-picked aviation maintenance experts wondered what the future held for them in Europe -- perhaps in Hungary -- as the Army Guard's newest members of the Bosnian peacekeeping mission Joint Endeavor.

"It'll be nice to get over there and find out what we're going to be doing -- to do our job," said Davis after learning he and his colleagues had passed medical muster at Fort Benning's Martin Army Hospital.

Davis, a full-time Blackhawk helicopter inspector from Avenal, Calif., belongs to the most specialized Army Guard unit mobilized for 270 days to help NATO's Implementation Force maintain peace in Bosnia among the Serbs and the Croats and Muslims.

The 10 Guardmembers, commanded by Maj. Melissa Mathiasen (see related story, page 5), have come from the 1106th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot in Fresno.

The technical troops spent about a week getting their personnel records examined and being issued the latest in cold weather gear at Fort Benning, where three airborne training towers dominate the main post and where a field and a gymnasium are named for Medal of Honor heroes Alvin York and Audie Murphy.

The 982 other "Global Guard" soldiers mobilized from 18 states have included artillery forward observers, military policemen and finance specialists. This is the first aviation maintenance detachment to get the call.

The unit's mouthful of a name, shortened to AVCRAD, means its 300 full-time and part-time soldiers tear

down and rebuild aircraft, tackle maintenance problems that other units cannot solve, and determine if millions of dollars worth of equipment can be used again or should be thrown away.

Their territory is the 13 western states, including Alaska and Hawaii, said Mathiasen.

"It takes us nine months to strip down a Blackhawk and rebuild it," said Davis. "It costs about \$2 million. A new aircraft costs \$6.5 million. So we're saving a lot of money."

These 10 people will not rebuild too many twin-engine Blackhawks in Europe between now and December, they conceded. Inspecting and testing helicopters repaired by others will be their main mission, they predicted.

Mathiasen is a test pilot. So is CWO4 DeWayne Browning, the only member of the detachment not from California. He has joined the team from the 1107th AVCRAD in Springfield, Mo., where he is the Quality Control Branch Chief.

It is somewhat of a homecoming since Browning flew Army Guard helicopters in California for 12 years before transferring to the Midwest's AVCRAD four years ago.

Some of his other qualifications? He flew Hueys in Vietnam in 1969-70, and was the aviation operations officer in Panama for six months.

Sgt. Ralph Pasillas said he volunteered even though it meant taking another leave from the National Electronics Co., where he is a machine operator, after spending two weeks in February on active duty in Panama.

"I volunteered after returning from Panama," he said.

Pasillas is 33. SFC Christopher Wachter, the detachment's top sergeant, is 53. As far as Wachter is concerned, timing is critical.

"The Guard has put a lot of money into me, and I am ready to fulfill my obligation," said the 22-year AVCRAD veteran. "I'm getting close to retirement. This may be my last hurrah. I figure if I do my thing, it will help keep the peace for the rest this year."

Wachter has seen many other members of the 1106th come and go as the Army has needed help since the Desert Shield and Storm years of 1990-91. Teams from the California depot have rotated to Egypt, Somalia, Haiti, Belgium and Panama, members explained.

The fact he did not get tapped for Desert Storm makes this mission even more important for John Davis who has been a Guardmember for 10 years.

"That's why you join the service -- to help. That's what's inside me," he said. "Not going to Desert Storm was a real disappointment. It was like being on a football team and never getting to touch the grass."

"I wasn't going to miss this one," said Davis who in early April was still looking to the East.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

FITTING - SSgt. Albert Montoya helps Sgt. Jeronimo Valdez with his gas mask.

Delivering Goodwill

Alabama Guard help send goodie boxes to soldiers supporting Joint Endeavor

By SSgt. Norman Arnold
Alabama National Guard

What began as a simple class assignment in a leadership course he was taking at Samford University in Birmingham turned into a major undertaking for Ross Cline.

The end result was more than 600 "goodie" boxes being collected for shipment to soldiers currently serving in Bosnia.

Cline is an officer candidate with the Alabama Army Guard's Alabama Military Academy and a senior at Samford.



"I received an assignment to do some sort of community service project in the course," Cline said. "I decided to begin a drive on campus to collect convenience boxes for the soldiers who are in Bosnia."

"As I developed plans and told people about it, they wanted to get involved, so I decided to expand the project," he added. "When you're away from home, there's nothing better than receiving mail from home."

As interest grew on campus, Cline enlisted the help of some area schools, ROTC units, churches and Veterans of Foreign War posts in the area. Cline dubbed the project Liberty Run II, after a similar project begun during World War II.

The first part of his project came to a culmination in March on the football practice field at Samford. With a CH-47D Chinook helicopter from Fort Campbell, Ky., providing a backdrop, more than 600 boxes of conven-



Photo by SSgt. Norman Arnold

LOADING LOVE - Alabama Guardmembers (above) load care packages destined for Bosnia with the help of the community. Cadet Ross Cline (left) spearheaded the project.

ience and personal items, candy and nonperishable goods were collected.

Samford students braved bone chilling winds as they walked to the site with their boxes in hand. School students and adults from other organizations unloaded boxes from vans and cars and brought them to the collection point.

Items included canned foods, games, batteries, tapes, disposable cameras, portable radios and letters.

"I'm so excited for Ross and this project," said Cline's classmate, Cherington Shacker of Greenville, S.C., as she waited to place her box on the stack. "He has worked long and hard on this and we are all proud to take part in

this effort."

Lt. Col. William Morgan, an Alabama Army Guard chaplain and Desert Storm veteran, spoke briefly and praised those present for their concern and support of the soldiers in Bosnia.

Cline serves in the Support Company of the Alabama Army Guard's 20th Special Forces Group. Fourteen members from the 20th Group were mobilized recently and are currently serving overseas in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

Another Alabama Army National Guard unit, the 131st Public Affairs Detachment in Montgomery, was recently selected for deployment in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

With the boxes collected, Cline still had several steps left to complete his project. The boxes were loaded in military trucks after the ceremony at Samford and transported to a local company in Birmingham where his sister, Jackie Tapscott, works.

At Jackie's suggestion, the company had volunteered to palletize and shrink wrap the items for shipment.

Cline did not stop there. He and his father, retired Army Guard MSgt. George Cline, arranged for the Alabama Air Guard in Birmingham to transport the palletized boxes to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery.

There, the "purple suit" operation continued as the Air Force Reserve's 908th Airlift Wing loaded the pallets on one of their C-130 aircraft and flew them to Mechanicsburg, Penn. From there, the Department of Defense routed the goods to Bosnia through their military channels.

Cline was happy as he watched the pallets being unloaded from trucks and placed on aircraft at Maxwell.

"I'm pleased about the way the project took off, the number of people who helped and the amount of goods we were able to collect and send to Bosnia," he said.

He added with a grin, "I got an A in the course, so that made me happy, too."

PLANTING S.E.E.D.S.

A forklift offloads three pallets of computers from a Wyoming Air Guard C-130 bound for rural schools in southern Colorado. The shipment was part of Operation Sharing Electronic Equipment District and State or S.E.E.D.S. The program allows NASA to transfer excess used technological and electronic equipment for educational purposes. Stored in a NASA warehouse in Florida, the computers were packaged and delivered by members of the Florida Guard to Patrick AFB, Fla. The Wyoming Guard -- on a training mission -- picked up the cargo and delivered it to Colorado. The Colorado Guard helped arrange the transportation.

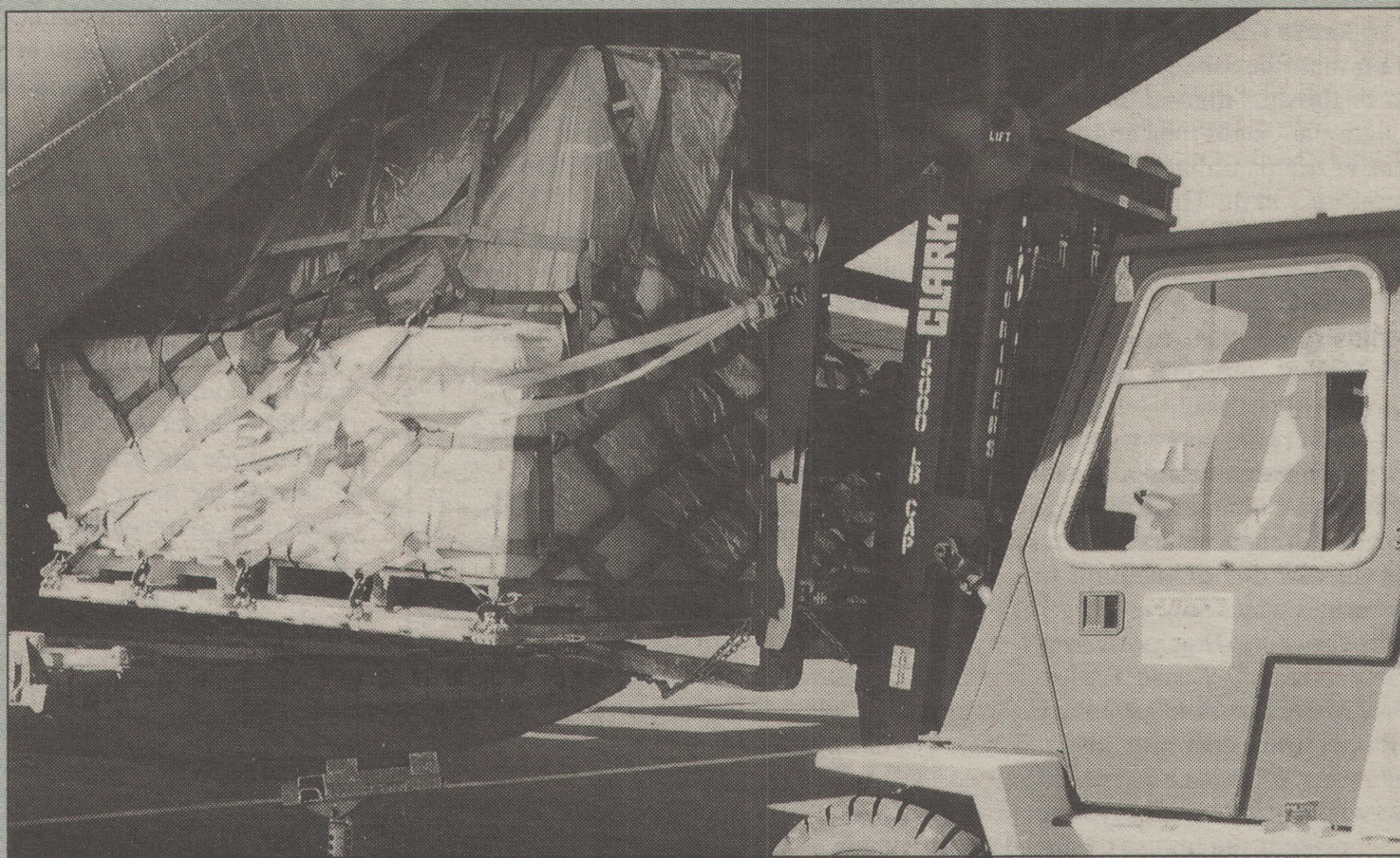


Photo courtesy Colorado National Guard

Texas Guard tests war skills at Phantom Saber V exercise

Unmasking PHANTOM

By SSgt. Anna M. Prusaitis
Texas National Guard

Reserve forces from as far away as Florida and others from as near as Austin, participated in Phantom Saber V, a train-up exercise at Fort Hood, Texas.

The exercise brought together Guard, Reserve and active-duty components.

Bad weather didn't keep the Texas Army National Guard away. Enroute to the exercise, they ran into freezing temperatures, sleet and snow, turning a one-day trip into a three-day excursion.

Guardmembers from the Texas Guard's 142nd Rear Tactical Operations Center based in Abilene did their part by keeping the rear area secure.

As terrain managers for the rear area, they act as landlords, telling units where they can stay.

"This prevents two or three units from showing up at the



Photo by SSgt. Brenda Benner

PLOTTING UNITS - Texas' Pvt. Charlie Roe (above) updates a map with troop and supply routes. SFC Danette Rodesky-Flores (left), 100th PAD first sergeant, responds to a media inquiry during Phantom Saber V.

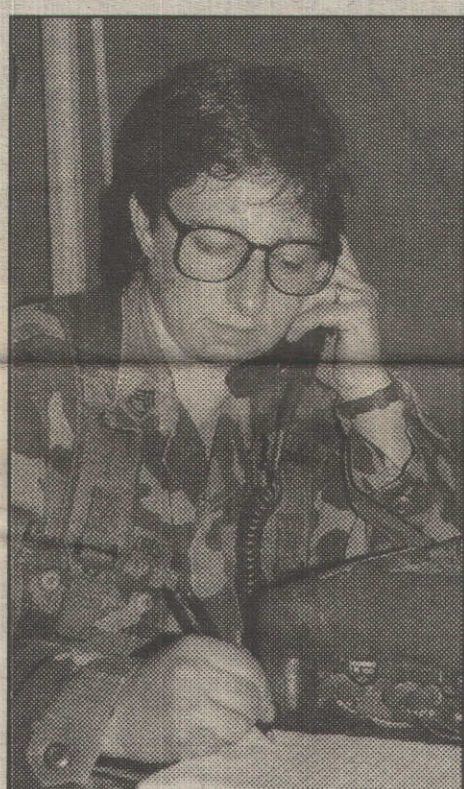


Photo by SSgt. Anne Prusaitis

same location wanting to set-up," said Capt. Linda Huffman, chemical officer for the unit. The unit also ensures that conflicting units do not set up side-by-side, such as a field hospital located next to

a refueling point.

Every assignment and exercise is a new challenge.

"We walk in with the basic knowledge and they (supported elements) tell us how they want

us to fit in," Huffman said.

Lt. Col. Jim Womack, III Corps rear operations officer, said the Texas Guardmembers made an immediate impact.

"They very rapidly integrated into the III Corps rear area operations. They are doing a fine job," he reported.

Army Reserve members from the 425th Chemical Detachment from Panama City, Fla., augmented the III Corps chemical section. They handled NBC operations and reports as part of their mission for this exercise.

MSgt. Anthony D. Clayton, a chemical operations NCO, said it was good to work with active duty people who were willing to

share their knowledge.

"We are learning ways to better use the equipment we have back at the unit," he said.

Most Guard units only participate in exercises of this magnitude every two or three years, making the training and evaluation of their skills invaluable.

"The reserve soldiers are very professional. They are doing a great job," said Col. Eddie Cain, III Corps chemical officer. "We couldn't do it without them."

The Arkansas Reserve's 460th Chemical Brigade supported III Corps with command and control of all chemical assets including smoke operations, decontamination operations and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical hazards.

Evaluation and feedback is important for the reserve units to implement some on-the-spot corrections. That is what the

460th got from MSgt. Jorge Rodriguez, senior chemical adviser, 5th Readiness Group.

"We found a few flaws and ironed them out along the way. They're doing a real good job," he said.

The exercise also provided the Texas Guard's 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Austin an opportunity to perform their wartime mission.

SFC Danette Rodesky-Flores, the unit's first sergeant, said exercises like Phantom Saber V allow the unit to use specific skills, which can only be honed by working at Corps level.

"This exercise will allow our active-duty command to see exactly just what we can do," Rodesky-Flores said. "Reserve forces honing their skills and accomplishing their missions at these exercises enhances the success of the entire Armed Forces."

PROPOSAL

From Page 1

integrate different equipment and training. Throughout the transition, all units will be fully available to meet state missions and for federal service, if required.

Throughout the conversion process the Army National Guard's recruiting program will continue at a vigorous pace for all types of units in all states.

Army National Guard leaders from all states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands began their analysis of the Total Army needs and structure one year ago. Fourteen proposals for change received extensive examination. These ideas were further reduced to eight, then refined to three and then developed into the final proposal. The Adjutants General Association ratified the proposal Feb. 6.

Factors that helped National Guard leaders shape their decision included:

- The National Guard is the foundation on which the nation's defense is built, with the active and Army Reserve forces growing and shrinking as dictated by world events and needs.
- There is a clear and present need for an active military force to deal with immediate threats abroad.
- While the Cold War has ended and budgets have been reduced, the nation's military must maintain offensive, defensive and strategic capabilities.
- With adequate resources, the restructured force will be capable of meeting national defense requirements.
- The National Guard remains available to the President, Congress and Governors in time of peace and war.

This proposal will result in significant adjustments for the men and women of the Army National Guard. Some units will change their designations, while others will continue to train and serve in their existing missions.

A special team of National Guard officials has started work on plans to shift people and equipment. No soldiers will be involuntarily cut from the National Guard resulting from these changes, however, some units may be relocated or re-sized to take advantage of demographics as well as armory and training site locations.

An additional element of the proposal is the concept to better integrate the active Army and Army National Guard. Under the proposal, the active Army will establish two new divisional headquarters, each assigned three National Guard brigades.

These headquarters will be staffed with a mix of active, Guard and Reserve soldiers. They will be responsible for pre-mobilization training support and readiness oversight of their three brigades. This concept will link Guard units to their active Army headquarters during peacetime training and after an activation.

Creation of these organizations will not take spaces or operational dollars from existing units.

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

MSgt. Jeffrey Goodman and TSgt. Nelson Lee, both members of the Texas Air Guard, recently won the Yates Award at Forecast Challenge, an annual Air Force-wide weather forecasting competition that recognizes the best overall weather forecasters. They are the first Air Guardmembers to win the award. The award is named for Lt. Gen. Donald Yates, the officer responsible for briefing Gen. Dwight Eisenhower on Operation Overlord, the Normandy invasion during World War II.

Missouri Army Guard's Spc. Gary Burchell, currently deployed to Germany with the 1137th Military Police Company supporting Operation Joint Endeavor, recently received an award for bravery. Burchell was given the American Police Hall of Fame Silver Star for Bravery award for his actions as a civilian police officer with the Poplar Bluff, Mo., police department. Last September Officer Burchell spotted a fast moving car with its headlights off leaving the scene of a reported robbery. Several miles down the road, a suspect ran from the car into a dark, wooded area. After a lengthy chase, Burchell apprehended the suspect.

Bridging the gap to the future, aviators at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., recently completed the Army's first distance learning class. Via a telephone line with expanded capabilities, instructors at Fort Rucker, Ala., -- the U.S. Army's aviation school -- taught aeromedical evacuation to a classroom of 12 Pennsylvania Army Guard aviators nearly 1,000 miles away.

New Hampshire National Guard's Lt. Col. Scott Wakefield was presented with the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his work organizing volunteers to provide music and fellowship to residents at the Manchester Veterans Hospital. The group has gathered every Saturday since 1992 providing coffee, donuts and conversation to vets as a way to link them with their community. His wife, Paula, and daughter, Regis, were also recognized for their efforts.

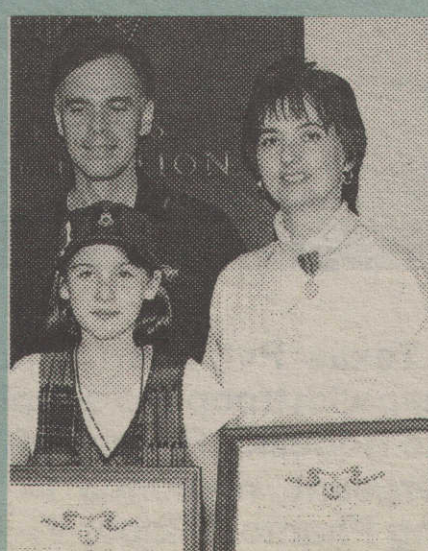
Maj. Warren Anderson, a member of the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Reconnaissance Group, received the Thomas P. Glenn Award recognizing him as the Air Guard's Outstanding Chief of Supply Management. "There is no substitute for good service," Anderson said. "You have to take care of your customers."

The Rhode Island National Guard was recently awarded the prestigious Dick Schramm Memorial Community Award for its open house and air show. The award is given annually by the International Council of Air Shows to the military base in the United States or Canada that best displays a commitment to nurture a long-term positive relationship with its neighbors.

TSgt. Kelly Lovely, a member of the Minnesota Air Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing, was named as the Air Force Reserve Component NCO of the Year for Public Affairs. The past two years Lovely has edited the award-winning *Northstar Guardian*.



Pennsylvania aviators learn from a distance.



First-rate volunteers, Lt. Col. Scott Wakefield, with daughter, Regis, and wife, Paula.



TSgt. Kelly Lovely, Outstanding Public Affairs NCO.



Brig. Gen. Alex Garcia, working for Vietnam vets.

Wyoming's 153rd Airlift Wing was awarded the Air Force Flight Safety Award for completing another year of accident-free flying. The C-130 unit has logged more than 135,000 hours of accident-free flying. The last recorded accident it had was in 1959 when a jet crashed on a runway.

Levi H. Perry, a 30-year veteran of the Georgia Army Guard, became the first African-American in the history of that state to attain the rank of full colonel. Perry, the chief of the Mobility Readiness Division at Georgia's State Area Command, enlisted in the Army in 1964. He was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1968 and later graduated from helicopter flight school. The colonel joined the Georgia Guard in 1981. In civilian life Perry is a field office branch manager for the Social Security Administration in Atlanta.

The Pennsylvania National Guard was recognized by the City of Philadelphia for its efforts during the January blizzard. The city's managing director, Joseph Certaine, said the deployment of the 28th Division's 56th Brigade was a "critical advantage" in helping the city's nearly 2 million residents after more than 30 inches of snow fell on the city. The unit received a mayoral citation and a scaled-down replica of the Liberty Bell.

CWO4 Dick Houser, the health systems chief for the South Dakota Army Guard, is credited with saving Arnold Snortland's life after administering emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Snortland was golfing near Houser's home when he collapsed from an apparent heart attack. Members of his golf party ran to Houser's home to call 911. When Houser reached Snortland he was unconscious, his eyes gray and dilated and he had no pulse. "CPR is one of those things you receive training on and hope you never have to use it," Houser said. As for Snortland, he had surgery to install a defibrillator near his heart and has returned to golfing.

TSgt. Douglas Henry, a member of the Iowa Air Guard's 132nd Medical Squadron, received the Col. Cleveland L. Parker Award given annually to the Air Guard's outstanding public health technician.

Brig. Gen. Alex Garcia, the Deputy Adjutant General for the New Mexico National Guard, received the Profile for Courage Award for his actions on behalf of Vietnam veterans. The award is presented to persons who have performed personal, quiet acts of courage. Recipients must be Vietnam-era vets and have shown involvement in veterans or community affairs. Garcia was recognized for his efforts in finding shelter for homeless vets.

Lt. Col. Barbara Hill, a member of the Missouri Air Guard, was selected as the Air Guard's Outstanding Reserve Judge Advocate of the Year when she won the Reginald C. Harmon Award. The award is given annually to the judge advocate who demonstrates initiative and technical skills toward his or her unit's mission. Winners are also judged on their contributions to their local community.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

SFC Richard Lassiter (left), a Texas Guardmember, trains OCS candidates at Fort Benning, Ga.

Reserve Component course," said Maj. W. Scot Gorske, a Georgia Guardmember who is the school's executive officer.

The Total Army School System that has been in effect since Jan. 1, 1995, Gorske explained, is establishing the same training and the same standards for the seven regional Army Guard OCS programs.

Five to 10 slots are available in each 14-week class for Guardmembers and Reservists who want to be commissioned, Gorske said.

Meanwhile, transforming the candidates into officers goes on.

Harr Barracks is typical of the temporary homes for military people in training built in this country since the middle of this century. It is constructed of cement blocks and painted a nondescript beige with white trim. It has been called spartan and austere and, undoubtedly, many other things.

It is home to Alpha Company of the 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry -- OCS.

Lassiter, 40, is the tactical NCO for Alpha Company's 1st Platoon. This is his first spring on the Army's OCS staff after spending most of this decade as an instructor and mentor at the Texas Military Academy in Austin. Before that he was an armor NCO in the active Army and the Texas Army Guard.

His defining moment as a military instructor, he reflected, came one night a few years ago when two Texas OCS candidates asked him how they should approach their first units as new officers.

As he spoke of the importance of learning from platoon sergeants and other veteran NCOs, Lassiter recalled, more candidates gathered around until he was discussing the issue with nearly the entire class.

That lesson was added to the Texas OCS curriculum, he said, and Richard Lassiter knew he had found his military calling.

"When they offered me the chance to do OCS full time at Fort Benning, I jumped. I knew it was something that had to happen," he said.

He has lots of company. Eleven members of the OCS staff, including the second-in-command, are National Guard officers and NCOs.

"We do have a total Army focus down here," Gorske noted.

It began two years ago when 11 National Guardmembers joined the Fort Benning staff because the National Guard Bureau wanted to reinforce its commitment to OCS, officials said.

Arkansas Army Guard's SFC Dennis Keck joined that group after spending four years as an instructor at the Army Guard's Battle Skills School in Little Rock. He experienced the growing pains.

"It took about six months to feel each other out," recalled Keck about working with the active Army members. "The most difficult adjustment was for the National Guard people because only one of us, a first lieutenant, had any OCS experience. They let us shadow a company to see just what the cadre did."

"We all did things about the same way," he added.

Capt. Dana Johnson, a Columbus, Ga., native and an OCS staff member for two years, is the 1st Platoon's TAC officer. She is 29, a six-year Army veteran and Lassiter's 1st Platoon TAC partner.

The differences between the active Army and National Guard staffers have not been significant, she said.

"I didn't notice any difference between the NCOs. The Guard officers do have a different way of doing things," she added. "But in Alpha Company we don't really separate the two, as long as we get the mission done."

As for the candidates, they are too busy trying to survive to be concerned about which staff members are active Army and which are National Guard.

"It usually takes them until the third or fourth week to find out we're National Guard," said Keck. "It takes them that long to work up the courage to ask."

Finding the LEADERS

National Guard NCOs are training officer candidates

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Clouds filled with rain made it a raw day at Fort Benning, Ga. SFC Richard Lassiter, an imposing non-commissioned officer from Texas, shrugged off the chill and the occasional drizzle and went about his business of training troops in the field.

Weather, good or bad, goes with the territory of his profession.

Lassiter, who stands 6-foot-4 and weighs a solid 220 pounds, is a National Guardmember. The troops he was training were candidates in the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School.

"My job is to find out who can and who cannot be a leader," he said.

"We can't have any marginal lieutenants. I owe it to those platoon sergeants and other NCOs to send them only the best," Lassiter added. "We work hard to

fix any shortcomings, but if they can't be fixed, they don't graduate."

This serious sergeant first class with a quick wit and knowing smile from the Texas Army National Guard was on the staff that was guiding 91 candidates through the emotional highs and lows of the demanding, 14-week officer training program.

Most of the potential second lieutenants scheduled to graduate May 30 will become active Army officers. Half of the cadre preparing them for that milestone, however, belong to the National Guard.

These are interesting times for the 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Scott Armbrister. It has been training men and women to be Army officers for all but a few years since 1941.

Just as Guardmembers have established themselves as tactical NCOs and officers on the OCS staff, the school no longer offers a 10-week summer course for members of the Army Guard and Army Reserve. Five 14-week courses, averaging 115 candidates, are run each year.

"We didn't have the numbers to fill that

Commissioning Challenge

New Jersey's Michael Sheridan is earning his gold bar at Benning

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

So who wouldn't be intimidated?

You are a National Guardmember and you have checked into the active Army's only Officer Candidate School. You are at Fort Benning, Ga. Three 200-foot Airborne train-

ing towers across the street from your new military home are constant reminders of the infantry troops who cut their professional teeth there.

In your class are soldiers who have already become Rangers and warrant officers and helicopter pilots and who have gone to war.

"At first I was very intimidated," confessed Michael Sheridan of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Sheridan, who bears the name of a famous Civil War cavalry general, is 25 and lives in Philadelphia. He has put in three years



Cadet Sheridan

graduating from the demanding 14-week program. He had no regrets about the route he chose to a commission.

"I wanted more of a challenge than the state military program had to offer," said Sheridan, a Rutgers University grad with a 3.2 average in biology and chemistry. He was working in a laboratory in the Fitzgerald Mercy

Hospital in Philadelphia. He plans to study medicine.

After a few weeks of attending to a thousand duties and details -- from studying the principles of field artillery to taking a turn as their company's first sergeant -- no one cares about a candidate's component.

Teamwork is the important consideration, especially when your squad of eight is following a land navigation course while carrying a 65-pound box of sand.

"I wanted to live in the disciplined environment of a military school," said Sheridan. He is getting his wish.

"We give them a lot to do and just enough time to do it," explained SFC Richard Lassiter, the tactical NCO for Sheridan's

platoon. "If they can't deal with this kind of stress, how can they deal with the stress of combat?"

Physical fitness is the first major hurdle for the National Guard candidates.

The candidates must pass a physical training test when they arrive or they are cut from the program. Those who pass get to be tested many more times.

"I settled in in about 10 to 12 days," Sheridan recalled. "Regaining my military bearing was a bit tricky, coming from the civilian world."

Now he is anticipating the prestige of holding a commission from Fort Benning.

"I would encourage anyone to come through this program," he said. "It's a great challenge."



STATES

- Bombers Arrive
- Tons of Help
- In STEP

NORTH CAROLINA

Soldiers of the 196th Cavalry of Elizabethtown joined with other community organizations for a "Community Outreach" meeting. More than 200 participants -- primarily parents and their children -- learned about the dangers of substance abuse.

"We are trying to get the information out there about the three key drugs: tobacco, alcohol and marijuana," said CWO Troy Rollins. "These are the controlled substances that lead to the use of harder drugs."

OKLAHOMA

After four years of overcoming administrative obstacles, the Sooner State's second Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion is ramped up and ready to go.

The battalion includes seven units in southwestern Oklahoma and one unit located in Wichita Falls, Texas, just across the border.

The battalion, which began the switch from an eight-inch howitzer battalion to an MLRS unit in December 1991, completed its three-year train-up phase last year.

GEORGIA

An era for the Air National Guard began April 1 with the arrival of the first of 10 B-1B bombers at Robins AFB, Ga. The remaining bombers are scheduled to arrive in the next six months. The 1,100-member 116th Bomber Wing is only the second Air Guard unit assigned the B-1B.

DOUBLE PORTION

Twin brothers Sgts. Richard (left) and Robert Mitchell, both members of the California Army Guard's 579th Engineer Battalion, serve food to hungry citizen-soldiers and airmen deployed to Panama supporting New Horizons-Panama. They are 59-years-old and have been E-5s since 1963. Their goal: "To get E-6," said Robert. "Some things just take time."

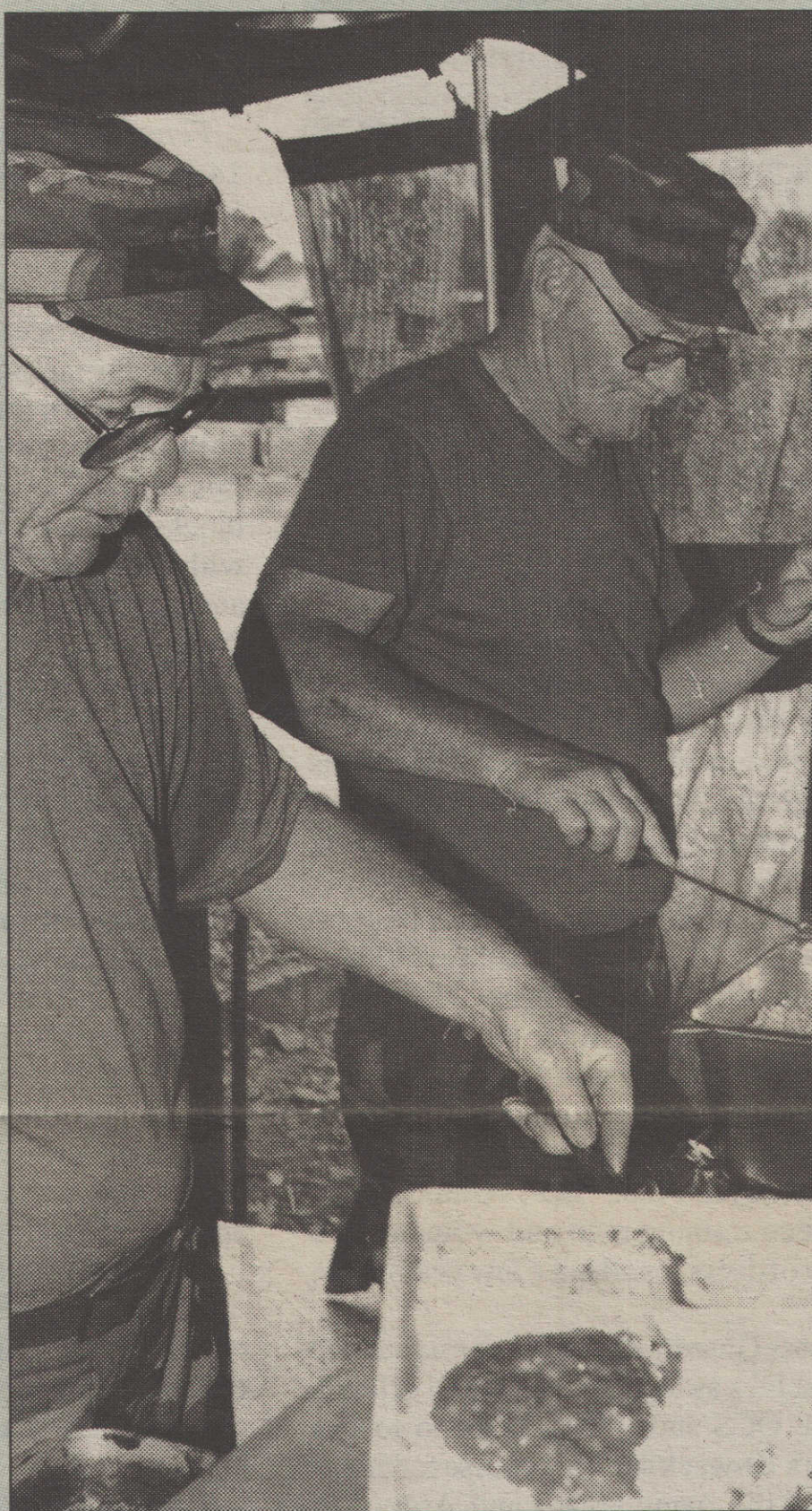


Photo by 2nd Lt. Stephen M. Skaggs

MARYLAND

The 129th Signal Battalion recently hosted seven Estonian visitors during a communications familiarization visit to Maryland. The group included six Estonian military communications specialists and one interpreter.

As participants of the Partnership for Peace Program, Free State Guardmembers help assist Estonians in understanding the American way of life and the role of the military in a civilian controlled democracy.

Classroom presentations and hands-on practical exercises were conducted on signal equipment for three days at the newly dedicated Steny Hoyer Maryland Army National Guard Armory in Cheltenham.

Four members of the 129th Signal Battalion are scheduled to visit Estonia later this year.

UTAH

With nine tons of medical and educational supplies loaded on a KC-135 tanker, members of the 151st Air Refueling Group flew to the Republic of Belize in Central America to deliver a community's gifts.

The donations included medical goods such as surgical supplies, first aid and emergency room equipment. Tons of books were also donated.

This service by the Utah Air National Guard was made possible through the Denton Program, a plan that permits the use of military aircraft for the delivery of appropriate humanitarian supplies.

CALIFORNIA

In the world of rapidly changing technology young people need to keep pace, and keep in STEP.

From "boot camp" types of experiences to high-tech computer and science classes, for the past three years California Guardmembers, along with team-teachers from the Los Angeles Unified School District, have left their collective footprint in the sand.

Through their unique partnership, Guardmembers and teachers have been able to get through to "at risk" students and make a change.

The Student Training and Enhancement Program (STEP) consists of seven separate programs, each designed to increase the numbers of minority students and young women who succeed in mathematics, science and technology fields.

One of the STEP's most popular programs is Angel Gate Academy, a five-week highly disciplined math and science camp experience for 10-12

year olds. The camp also teaches students teamwork and self-respect.

"Most of these kids are street-wise, have no positive role models and are used to blaming everyone but themselves for their problems," said SSgt. Maria Hidalgo. "They crave attention and want you to set the boundaries for them."

The program does just that. The day begins with a wakeup call at 5:30 am. Phone privileges and purchases of candy must be earned.

Upon graduating from the academy, students return to L.A. where they are given an adult mentor.

Editor's note: The STEP began in 1993 as an outreach program authorized and funded by Congress in the 1993 Defense Appropriation Bill. However, due to lack of Congressional funding for FY96, the program will be terminated in July 1996.

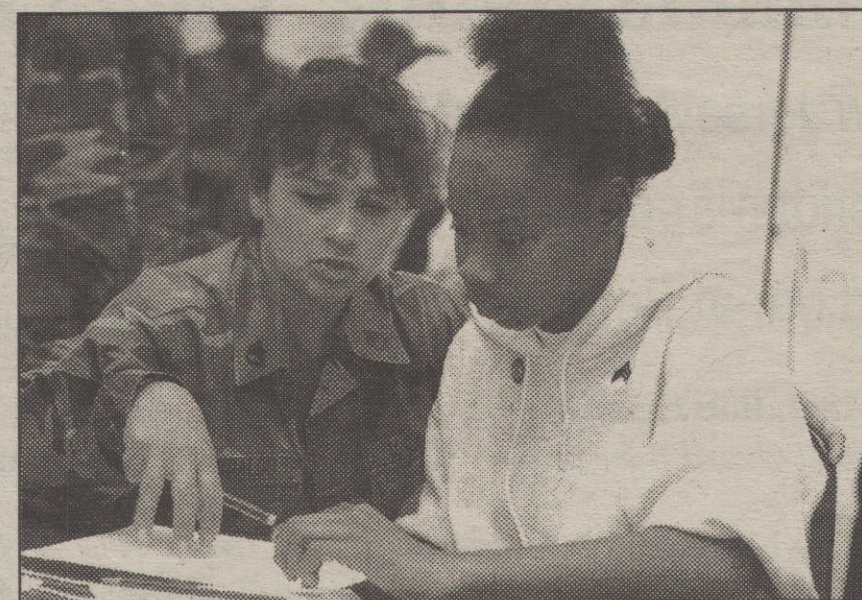


Photo courtesy LAUSD

IN SESSION - SSgt. Maria Hidalgo assists 12-year old Shaneka Gilbert-Johnson in science class at the Angel Gate Academy.



HISTORY



Texas' 49th Armored Division traces its roots back to World War I

Lone Star DIVISION

The 49th Armored Division, dubbed the Lone Star Brigade, traces its roots back to June 1917, when the Texas National Guard's Headquarters, 1st Brigade, organized at Houston.

Two months later they were drafted into federal service for World War I. They were then redesignated as Headquarters, 72nd Infantry Brigade Oct. 15, 1917, an element of the 36th Division. Following their service in the first World War in France, the 72nd was demobilized on June 20, 1919, at Camp Bowie, Texas.

Three years later on Nov. 8, 1922, the 72nd Brigade was again reorganized and federally recognized in the Texas National Guard at Marshall as Headquarters, 72nd Infantry Brigade, 36th Division. The division headquarters moved to San Antonio on July 26, 1937, and relocated to Dallas on May 22, 1939.

Shortly before the United States was called into World War II, the 72nd Brigade, still in Dallas, was inducted into federal service on Nov. 25, 1940, along with the 36th Division for a period of one year to train. However, with the United States entering World War II, the 36th Division and its elements remained in federal service for the

duration of the war.

Headquarters, 72nd Infantry Brigade, disbanded on Jan. 31, 1942, at Camp Bowie, Texas, as the division reorganized from the old square configuration into the new triangular organization, eliminating brigades.

HQ, 72nd Infantry Brigade was reconstituted in the Texas National Guard on Aug. 25, 1945, and redesignated July 2, 1946, as Headquarters, 49th Armored Division. The division headquarters was organized and federally recognized Feb. 27, 1947, at Austin. The 49th Armored Division was one of two armored divisions organized in the National Guard.

Selected to command the newly organized 49th Armored Division was Maj. Gen. Albert S. Johnson. Johnson organized the division from existing units of the 56th Cavalry Brigade and the 144th Infantry Regiment. In its infancy, the division vigorously recruited to fill its ranks, competing against the other Texas division, the 36th Infantry Division.

The new armored division trained in its entirety for the first time at Fort Hood during the summer of 1948. However, due to funding constraints imposed on the National Guard, the division was only allowed to recruit 50 percent of its authorized strength.

The 49th Armored Division headquarters moved to Fort Worth on Aug. 4, 1949, with final organization



GUARD HISTORY

By Maj. Jeff Pope
ARMY GUARD HISTORIAN

recruiting and training paid dividends in 1950 as the 49th was selected, along with five other Guard divisions, to make up the Ready Reserve Strategic Army Force.

As a result of the Soviet Union's actions in Berlin, the 49th Armored Division was ordered to active federal service on Oct. 15, 1961. The 49th mobilized at home station armories and moved to Fort Polk, La., for post-mobilization training. From May 1-15, 1962, the division conducted a 15-day exercise, designated as Iron Dragoon. At its conclusion they were ready for deployment. However, when the situation in Berlin cooled significantly, the 49th was released from active federal service Aug. 9, 1962 and reverted to state control.

While at Fort Polk the division's 3rd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery was the first

National Guard unit to fire the new Honest John ballistic missile.

The 1960s brought much change to the Texas armored division as the Department of Defense wrestled with the future force structure of the Reserve Components.

On March 1, 1963, the division reorganized again, this time creating brigades in place of the three combat commands. Things remained relatively calm for the next few years, but on Jan. 15, 1968, the 49th Armored was broken up and its elements reorganized as the 72nd Infantry Brigade, 36th Infantry Brigade and 49th Armored Group.

Another reorganization brought the 49th Armored Division back into existence on Nov. 1, 1973.

The "Lone Star" division reorganized under "Division 86" in 1985 and was equipped with M-60 main battle tanks. Also in 1985, elements of the 49th Armored Division deployed to Honduras to participate in Big Pine III, a joint U.S.-Honduran training exercise designed to teach the Honduran Army how to defend against an armored attack.

The 49th Armored Division has remained basically unscathed by reorganizations since the 1980s while conducting annual training primarily at North Fort Hood, Texas.

With the inactivation of the 50th Armored

Division in 1993, the 49th Armored Division became the last National Guard armored division in the force structure. As a result of the inactivation of the 50th Armored Division, the 36th Brigade was redesignated as the 36th Brigade, 49th Armored Division.

Today, the modernized 49th Armored Division is located entirely in the state of Texas and still conducts annual training at North Fort Hood.



Photo courtesy Texas National Guard

HELPING HAND - Members of the Texas Army National Guard assist the community in getting water and other needed supplies after floods ravaged the state.

taking place in March 1950 followed by a second headquarters relocation to Dallas on Aug. 31, 1950.

The hard work that the division soldiers put into



TRAINING

Joint Readiness Training Center offers Guard troops a unique challenge

Pounding POLK

By Sgt. Barry Ciccocioppo
Pennsylvania National Guard

Guard and Reserve support soldiers from seven states recently put their basic soldier skills to the test in one of the Army's most advanced level training exercises at Fort Polk, La.

For two weeks participants received realistic training for low-intensity conflicts similar to recent situations in Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti.

The exercise was one of the first of its kind that considered support elements to be part of the full scenario and were susceptible to being simulated "casualties."

"Since Desert Shield and Desert Storm, we realized that combat service support groups have to know how to survive in the combat environment so that they can support the combat soldiers out there," said Maj. Ranay Blanford, senior observer controller for the Joint Readiness Training Center.

A staff of observer controllers carefully monitored the exercise to provide "real-time feedback" to participants.

"This training is about as realistic as you can get without being on an actual battlefield with real bullets and real bombs," Blanford added.

The JRTC exercise involved nearly 6,000 personnel, including soldiers from the 25th Division's 3rd Brigade based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and a mechanized infantry/armored team from the 4th Infantry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas. The Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 213th Area Support Group (ASG) based in Allentown, Penn., provided logistical support with the help of

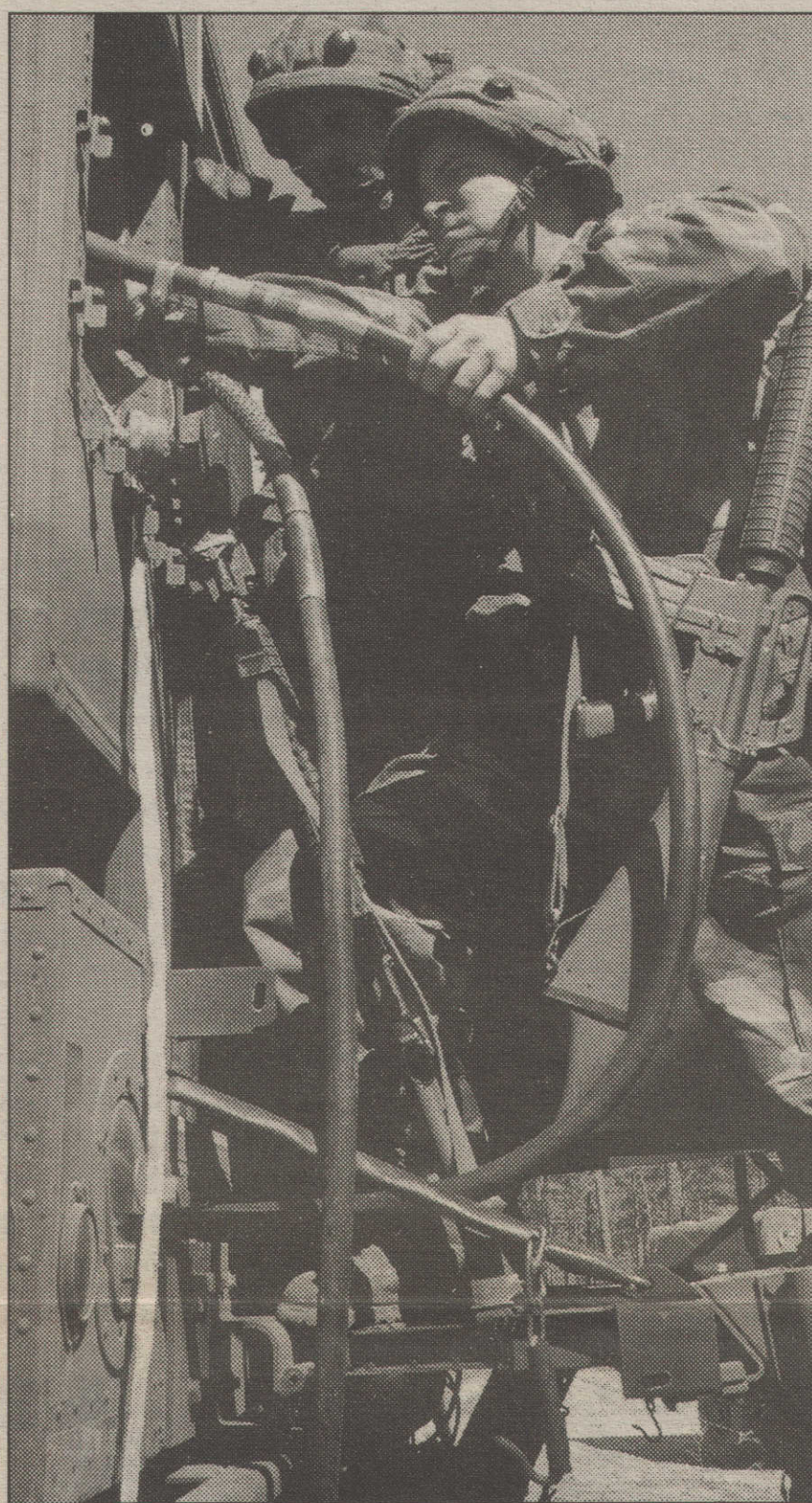


Photo by Sgt. Barry Ciccocioppo

units from around the United States.

Air Force units from all over the country also participated. Most activities took place at Fort Polk and the England Industrial Airpark near Alexandria, La.

This also is one of the first times that active duty, Reserve and National Guard support elements were integrated under a National Guard commander -- Col. Benjamin DiTullio, 213th ASG commander.

JRTC provides a forum in which soldiers learn to work together with their counterparts from other units just as they would in a real war, said DiTullio, noting that "the true strength of the 213th is team building."

Various support units from across the country, including medics, military police, cooks and truck drivers provided support for the 3rd Brigade as they honed their basic soldiering skills by operating in a competitive environment.

Participants were outfitted with MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) gear -- the Army's sophisticated laser system which sounds an alarm when a soldier is "shot" with a low-power, eye-safe, laser-equipped weapon.

The 28th Personnel Services Battalion got involved when soldiers became "simulated" casualties. Members of the Army

National Guard unit and two Army Reserve units, all based at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., staffed the holding area where "casualties" and "damaged" equipment stayed until units requested replacements.

"The unique thing about this training is that units actually lose time and soldiers," said Capt. Dan Schaeffer, the 28th PSB's operations officer. "The Guard doesn't usually play out the scenario this seriously. This definitely adds realism to the training."

Including support soldiers in the full scenario made the training more challenging, said DiTullio.

Despite being short of people to do things like fix vehicles or deliver food to troops in the field, DiTullio said the units adapted and accomplished their missions. JRTC also gave the support troops some realistic training in their secondary roles as fighting forces, guarding their field sites and protecting against attacks from opposing forces.

For soldiers like Sgt. Dwayne Meyers, a full-time 213th supply sergeant, the training was unique.

"We have 10 to 12 different units going out to the combat zone which makes it hard to control," he said. "An exercise of this size is unusual for us because we



Photo by Spc. William Beveridge

STAYING IN TOUCH - Pennsylvania's Cpl. Earl King (far left photo) and Sgt. Thomas O'Conner, attach cable to a communications truck. Army medics (below) work on a simulated patient. Pennsylvania's Maj. Thomas Helm (left) coordinates communication hookups at Fort Polk, La.



Photo by Sgt. Barry Ciccocioppo

usually handle things on a company basis. This makes accountability of equipment harder."

Despite the challenges, DiTullio said the 213th and other units will benefit.

"The competitive nature of the training here causes everyone to think about all of the security factors that impact our mission. Because of this training the 213th will be better prepared for any future mission."

That is what the training is all about, said Blanford, an observer.

"What soldiers learn here, they learn in a safe environment and will be able to apply it to future situations and save lives," she said.

The JRTC exercise also gave active soldiers an appreciation of their Guard counterparts.

"When we first arrived," recalled SFC Steve Theriault, a nurse with the active Army's 21st Combat Support Hospital at Fort Hood, Texas, "most of us felt we were coming from different directions. But after a few days, the Guard and active-duty soldiers started to really work as a team."

"By the end of the exercise," he added, "we found out the Guardmembers were not too different from us."