

MAKING AMENDS

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HELPING OTHERS ABROAD

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TANKS A LOT

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THE ON GUARD

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July 1996

Guard helps douse fires

*Over 100 Coloradans
respond to call-up*

By Maj. Michael Yowell
and Barbara Atwell
Colorado National Guard

No bugs, no birds, no breeze rustling through the branches. Complete and utter silence dominates the ash-grey hillsides.

All that's left is the charred remains of pine trees and homes -- many still smoldering. Up the road, a Humvee is posted to a checkpoint next to a Jefferson County deputy sheriff's sedan. Across the road, repairmen work diligently to replace telephone service wiped out by the fire. Overhead, Army Guard helicopters, toting water buckets, are dowsing hot spots near the South Platte River.

Such was the scene recently when fires swept through Colorado, requiring the call-up of more than 100 Centennial State Guardmembers. California and Arizona Guard troops also were called by their states to battle fires.

Aided by strong winds, a five-acre hot spot quickly grew to a 10,000 acre inferno in the Pike National Forest and surrounding areas.

Col. Dale Howard, state military support officer, was one of the first people to spot the fire.

"I was on my boat at Chatfield Reservoir when I saw smoke coming up over the foothills," he recalled. "I knew it was a bad fire just by the amount of smoke." He quickly notified the State Office of Emergency Management.

"The command center was really sur-

prised that the Guard was able to respond so quickly and that we came so well prepared and equipped," said Maj. Fred Hoon, an operations officer for the Colorado Air Guard's 140th Civil Engineering Squadron.

Just two weeks prior, members of the 140th CES had successfully contained a grass fire at Buckley Air National Guard Base in Aurora.

In a meadow near Buffalo Creek, Colo., Army National Guard helicopter crews coordinated their firefighting efforts with the Forest Service alongside their civilian counterparts. They joined the firefighting effort on the second day with eight heli-



Photo by Maj. Michael Yowell

BUCKET BRIGADE - A Colorado Army Guard helicopter refills a bucket in the South Platte River while assisting in firefighting efforts in the Pike National Forest.

copters -- six dedicated to carrying and dumping water and two reserved for medical evacuation.

In one day alone, the birds averaged 60 hours of flight time, dumping nearly 200 gallons of water at a time.

"This is our kind of fire -- putting out hot spots, instead of a giant blaze," said Brig. Gen. William Westerdahl, Colorado's Adjutant General.

For the most part, the Guard's participation was an "individual" effort rather than a unit activity.

At the base camp, 1st Lt. Simon Harrison is the officer-in-charge.

■ See FIRES, Page 11



Photo by 2nd Lt. Len Gratter

DRUG FIGHTER

SSgt. Jerry Grappe, a crew chief with the Texas Air Guard's 147th Fighter Wing in Houston, inspects the landing gear on an F-16 jet. The 147th was in Panama recently supporting Operation Coronet Nighthawk, a mission designed to curb the flow of drugs into the United States.



COMMENTARY

COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of June 10, the National Guard has assisted in 71,461 arrests and has seized 6,898 weapons, 22,082 vehicles and nearly 75.6 million in cash while conducting 5,226 counterdrug missions this fiscal year.

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What you need know about 'Endeavor'

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Awright, listen up. I'm MSgt. Low Crawl, and this unit of instruction is for you people who are about to deploy to Europe for Operation Joint Endeavor.

We all appreciate the fact you National Guard personnel will be away from your homes and your families for the next few months to help the Army keep the peace in Bosnia.

You are all part of the second rotation under this Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up. Most of you will be in Germany or Hungary or maybe even Bosnia itself by the end of July.

I just spent a week in Germany meeting with National Guard soldiers. They told me some things. I have boiled them down to 10 items. Yeah, just like David Letterman.

Here is my Top Ten List of Tips for Serving on Active Duty in Europe. That's TTLTSADE, for you acronym addicts.

10. If you know or even suspect you're going to Bosnia, pack everything that's on the list and then expect to get even more stuff -- such as two pairs of cold-weather boots.

9. If you are told not to drink the water, then *don't* drink the water.

8. Expect numerous changes in where you are going.

7. Europe, especially Germany, may be more expensive than you think it will be. The rate of exchange is about 1.5

Deutsche marks to the dollar, not three or four to one like it used to be.

6. It will take one to two weeks for mail to reach home and for letters to get to you.

5. It can cost twice as much for you to call home as it does for the people from back home to call you.

4. Learn as much as you can as fast as you can about how the active Army people do the job. They will expect you to do your job the same way.

3. You can expect to have some leave time to travel around Europe, but that may cost you more than you expect.

2. Be prepared to go anywhere and do anything while you are on duty.

1. Remember you are on active duty. Army units are more strict than many reserve units. Be on time for work, remember your military courtesy and do what you are told. Article 15s and being relieved from duty are disciplinary facts of life.

Good luck.

LETTERS

PRESTIGIOUS MISSPELLING

Regarding your "Newsmakers" column in the May 1996 issue. I am the wife of the executive officer for the Florida Army Guard's 417th Signal Battalion and the sister of the late Navy Commander Richard Schram, for whom the [your words] prestigious Dick

Schramm (sic) Memorial Community Award was named that was given to the Rhode Island National Guard. I'd ask how prestigious is an award when you can't spell the name correctly?

Linda Schram Welsh
Gulf Breeze, Florida

BAD POINT

This letter is in reference to the picture on the cover of your May 1996 issue. The picture is of an Army Guard specialist aiming his weapon at your cameraman. The practice of aiming a weapon at another individual, for any reason, is not safe.

You should always handle a weapon as if it is loaded. Also, you should never have another object -- like keys -- in your hands when handling weapons.

CWO2 Michael G. Kitts
Delaware National Guard

LETTERS POLICY:

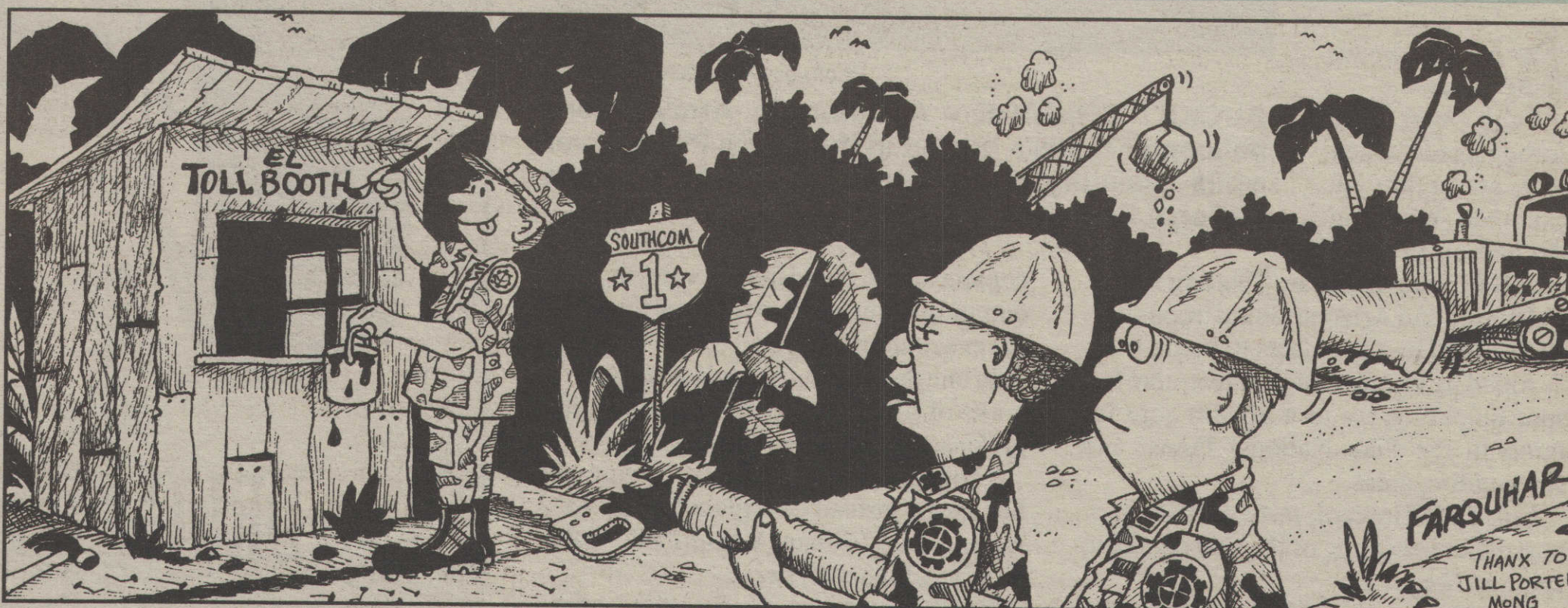
The On Guard welcomes letters from readers. All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone. Names may be withheld upon request.

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

FAX Letters to the Editor to DSN 761-0732/0731 or (703) 681-0732. Letters may be mailed to: NGB-PAC, 2500 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2500.

GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar



"I admire the lieutenant's entrepreneurial zeal, but this is an humanitarian mission."



IN THE NEWS

- O'Connell Speaks
- AAFES Service
- Lightning Strikes

Maryland picked top state

Arizona Army Guard picked top small state by ACOE judges

The Maryland Army Guard was picked the best "large" state in the Army Guard at the eighth annual Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. The first-place award included cash credits totaling \$140,000. The money is to be used to upgrade Guard services and facilities throughout the state.

The North Carolina Army Guard placed second, and Louisiana, a perennial finalist, third.

In the small state competition (less than 5,000 Guardmembers), Arizona won first place, followed by Wyoming and Montana.

Participating states were judged according to written submissions based on the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC), said Maj. Luis Morales, the Army Guard's ACOE program manager. In short, state's were judged on their total quality approach. Everything from facilities, environment and how they treated their soldiers and family members was considered. Finalists were visited by ACOE evaluation teams to determine the best of the best.

"We go to the front line providers -- the people working in the warehouses, mechanics, finance specialists -- and we asked them, 'How has your authority changed in the last year?'" Morales reported.

In Maryland's case, Morales said, empowerment is

alive and well.

He recalled a visit to a Free-State Guard maintenance shop where each mechanic has been given "final inspection" authority.

"There is pride in workmanship there," Morales said. "Maryland is living the philosophy of empowerment."

This fact didn't escape the eye of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Dennis Reimer.

"Maryland's commitment to provide professional services in excellent facilities embodies the essence of the ACOE program" said Gen. Reimer. "The Maryland Army National Guard has created an environment in which soldiers, civilians and their families can attain their highest aspirations for personal and professional growth."

Maryland's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. James Fretterd, said embracing Total Army leadership principles and practices is "paramount to our vision for the future."

"We also encourage feedback from the people we serve as a means to enhance our readiness," he added.

Maryland's commitment to continuous quality improvement resulted in consecutive Governor's Gold Quality Awards in 1994 and 1995. The state was also cited for its performance during blizzard operations, reducing accident losses by 91 percent and saving nearly \$400,000 in environmental costs.

The days of wowing inspectors with freshly painted rocks and mowed lawns are over, said Morales. "We measure specific results," he said. "There's no more of that esoteric stuff."

O'Connell says Guard is overachieving

Joint Endeavor success could lead to other missions abroad

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau



O'Connell

More than 2,000 National Guardmembers involved in this year's Bosnian peacekeeping mission may be accomplishing more than they imagined, according to one of the principal advocates for this country's reserve forces.

The thousands of Guard and Reserve troops have fit in well enough with active Army and allied soldiers during Operation Joint Endeavor to enhance the United States' posture throughout Europe, said Terry O'Connell, chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, after recently visiting citizen-soldiers in Germany, Hungary and Bosnia.

And the success of this mission could lead to missions in African

nations for National Guard and Reserve engineer and medical units, he added.

"We are trying to develop a virtual force to be involved in training exercises, primarily with Partnership for Peace countries, and to fill in for the huge drawdown in troops we've had (in Europe)," he said.

He further indicated that nation-building programs similar to those that the Guard conducts in Central and South American (see Pages 8-9) could be extended to Africa.

"There are many countries where some of those engineering programs and medical camps would be very beneficial," said O'Connell, a decorated and handicapped Vietnam War veteran.

His 24-member board, that advises the Secretary of Defense on matters regarding reserve forces, has been monitoring the Joint En-

deavor mobilization since it began.

O'Connell led a fact-finding team to Europe in early February to examine the initial deployment. He returned for a second look in May. He said he was impressed with how the National Guard and Reserve forces have formed a seamless force with active Army troops and with allies who were considered enemies before the Warsaw Pact crumbled with the Berlin Wall in 1989.

He marveled at how well two forward artillery observers from the Pennsylvania Army Guard's 28th Infantry Division have learned to communicate with Polish soldiers while serving with the Nordic Brigade in northern Bosnia.

He said the only complaints he heard about the 270-day deployments came from the citizen-soldiers who wanted to stay longer.

"From talking and observing the attitudes of people," said O'Connell, "this has probably been as much of a personally beneficial experience for the people that we have serving over there as it has been for the Bosnians."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

AAFES GOES FOR THE GOLD

The more than 11,000 Army and Air National Guardmembers supporting the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta can depend on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to provide the same services they've grown accustomed to since their enlistment.

AAFES currently provides retail shopping, barber shops, laundry and phone services, food concessions and free motion pictures for those deployed citizen-soldiers and airmen supporting the Olympics.

SEVEN LOUISIANA SOLDIERS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

A medical unit with the Louisiana Army Guard has earned the right to add a bolt of lightning to its traditional insignia of a healer's staff wrapped with two serpents.

Seven members of Company A, 111th Area Support Medical Battalion had to be treated recently when a bolt of lightning struck an electrical line leading to tents they occupied.

The lightning sent a wave of electricity across the ground, shocking the Guardmembers.

While several experienced stinging sensations and were temporarily unable to walk, none sustained serious or lasting injuries.

"We were kind of dazed," said SFC Jules DeCuir. "Everything got in slow motion."

It happened while the Baton Rouge-based unit was training at nearby Camp Livingston.

Five of the six were released several hours after arriving at the hospital. The other Guardmember was released the following day.

"Not too many units get hit by lightning," SFC Rick Moore said. "Maybe we're special."

GEN. BOWEN ASSUMES KEY FIRST ARMY POST

Brig. Gen. M. John Bowen Jr. has been selected for assignment as Deputy Commanding General for the First United States Army in Atlanta. He was selected from a group of Army National Guard generals nominated for the position.

He will work for the First Army commander, Lt. Gen. Guy A. J. LaBoa, in meeting First Army's mission of assisting and evaluating the nearly 400,000 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers in over 3,000 units in 27 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

Carolina helps build border road

Roads designed to curb drug traffic from Mexico

By SSgt. Danny Brazell
South Carolina National Guard

The 10-foot high corrugated iron fence rises from the Pacific Ocean shore and snakes its way parallel with the Californian-Mexican border. Like a shadow, its companion, a 28-foot wide dirt road, follows as the fence makes its way east into the California desert.

It is the construction of this road that has brought the South Carolina Army Guard's Saluda-based 122nd Combat Support Engineers 3,000 miles to this location.

Since early March, the 150-member unit has been cutting 8 1/2 miles of new border road through the desert. More than training this time, the unit is on a mission perhaps as important as any they have undertaken before. The road they are improving, part of a project called Operation Castle Rock, is being built to aid the U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in their efforts to stop the flow of drugs from Mexico into the United States.

"We're out here to cut down these hills so the counterdrug people can run without slowing down," said Capt. Scott Coleman, 122nd's logistic officer. "It's hot, dry, dusty and dangerous out here, but this is the kind of mission that helps morale."

South Carolina is one of five states sending engineers to work on the road and fence. Castle Rock construction began in 1989 with the California Army National Guard completing the first 15 miles of road and fence. It is being built to prevent drug smugglers from crashing the border

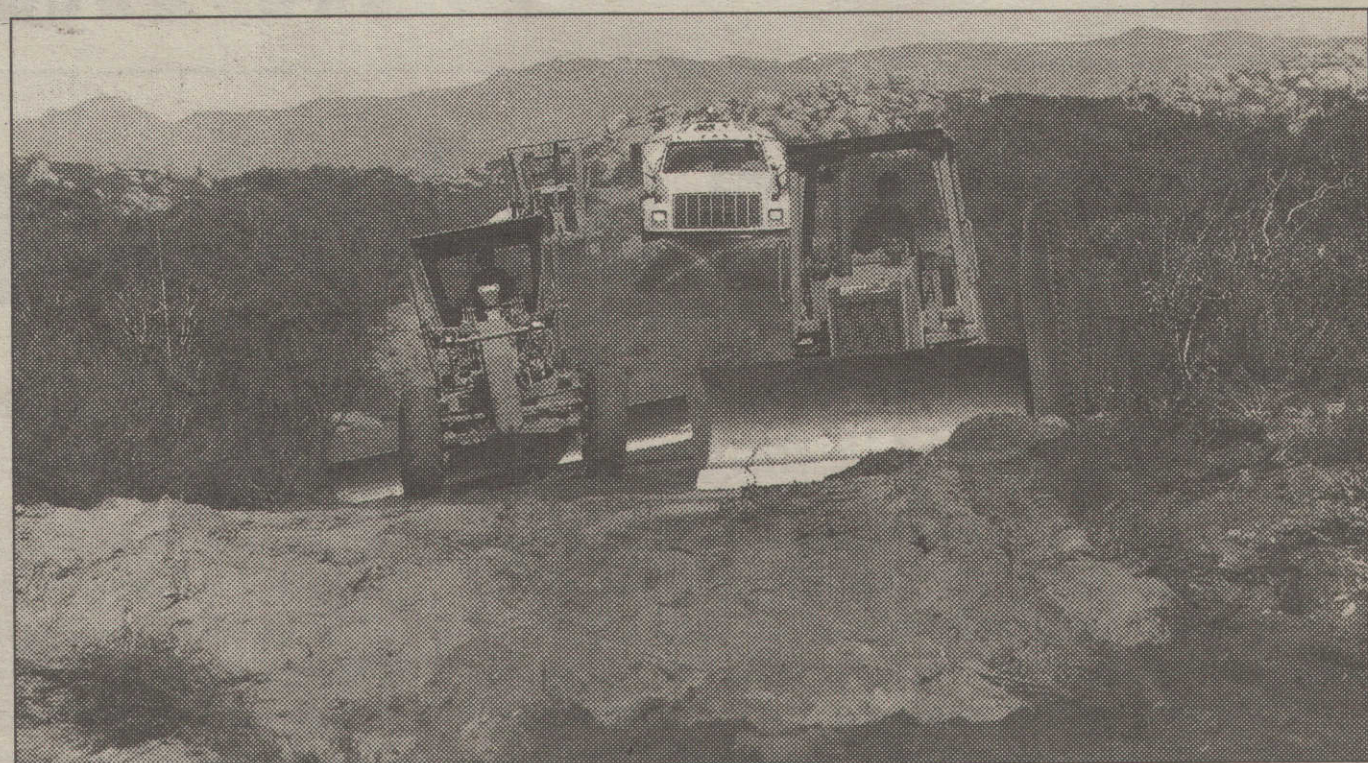


Photo by MSgt. Phillip H. Jones

BORDER ROAD - South Carolina Guard engineers work on a road along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"This area is full of what one of our guys called 'peak-a-boo' rocks," said SFC Charles Price, a 122nd platoon sergeant. "That means you don't see them until the (tractor) blade strikes them."

The 122nd rotated its three engineering platoons to California in two-week cycles, each group picking up where the other one left off. When the road grading is finished, an all-weather surface will be added, giving agents the ability to make a rapid response to areas where drug-smuggling or illegal immigration is detected.

The day before the unit prepared to go home, SSgt. Russell Berry reflected on the mission.

"One thing about being an engineer," he observed, "is that 20 years from now, no matter where you are, this road will still be here -- hopefully doing just what it is supposed to do."

in souped-up trucks and automobiles typically loaded with hundreds of pounds of illegal drugs. But the ambitious project was tedious and slow in the beginning, so the National Guard Bureau called upon other states to help.

The 122nd's past road building experience in Central America was helpful.

"Honduras prepared us for this mission," Coleman said. "This is the same kind of environment we faced there, steep hills and all. That was the training we needed to do to know what to do here."

As Coleman watched, members of the unit's third platoon were hard at work moving tons of dirt and rock on Bug Cut Mountain. The heavy duty road equipment was rented by California so that engineering units would not have to bear the cost of shipping their own equipment.

The 8 1/2 miles of road improvement assigned to the South Carolina unit lies in California's Bell Valley, a rocky, mountainous area that proved challenging, but in no way overbearing, to the soldiers.



Photo by CWO4 Terre Cochran

VITALS - Spc. Michael Carter takes Francis Miller's vital signs.

Delaware medics give children a sporting chance

By CWO4 Terre Cochran
Delaware National Guard

More than 230 underprivileged children will now be able to participate in a National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) thanks to the efforts of a few Delaware Army Guard medical professionals.

Two doctors, a physician's assistant, a nurse practitioner and four medical technicians from the 59th Health and Dental Detachment spent a Saturday drill giving physicals in a downtown elementary school.

"Without the support of the Delaware Guard, most of these kids could not participate in the summer program," said Ron Whittington, NYSP project coordinator.

Lt. Col. Louis H. Guernsey Jr., a doctor, said the service was helpful for parents, too.

"Since the physicals are given on a Saturday, it is definitely more convenient for working parents."

Medical technicians recorded height, weight and vital signs along with sugar/protein levels. Participants then saw a doctor for their physical.

The NYSP is free to children 10 to 16 years of age whose parents meet Department of Health and Human Services income guidelines.

"The kids are broken down into age groups and rotated to different sports every four days -- football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, track and field," Whittington explained.

"The lines are long, but well worth the effort," said a mother of a 12-year-old son in the program. "This program allows him to participate and learn about all kinds of sports. It will also keep him out of trouble."

HISTORY MOVERS

Members of the South Carolina Army Guard's 122nd Engineer Detachment (background), based in Johnston, help relocate a cotton gin made in 1810. The project, done in concert with volunteers from the York County Preservation Society, was a privilege, said SFC Larry Koon. "We feel as if we have preserved a part of history," he said.



Photo by MSgt. Phillip H. Jones



PEOPLE

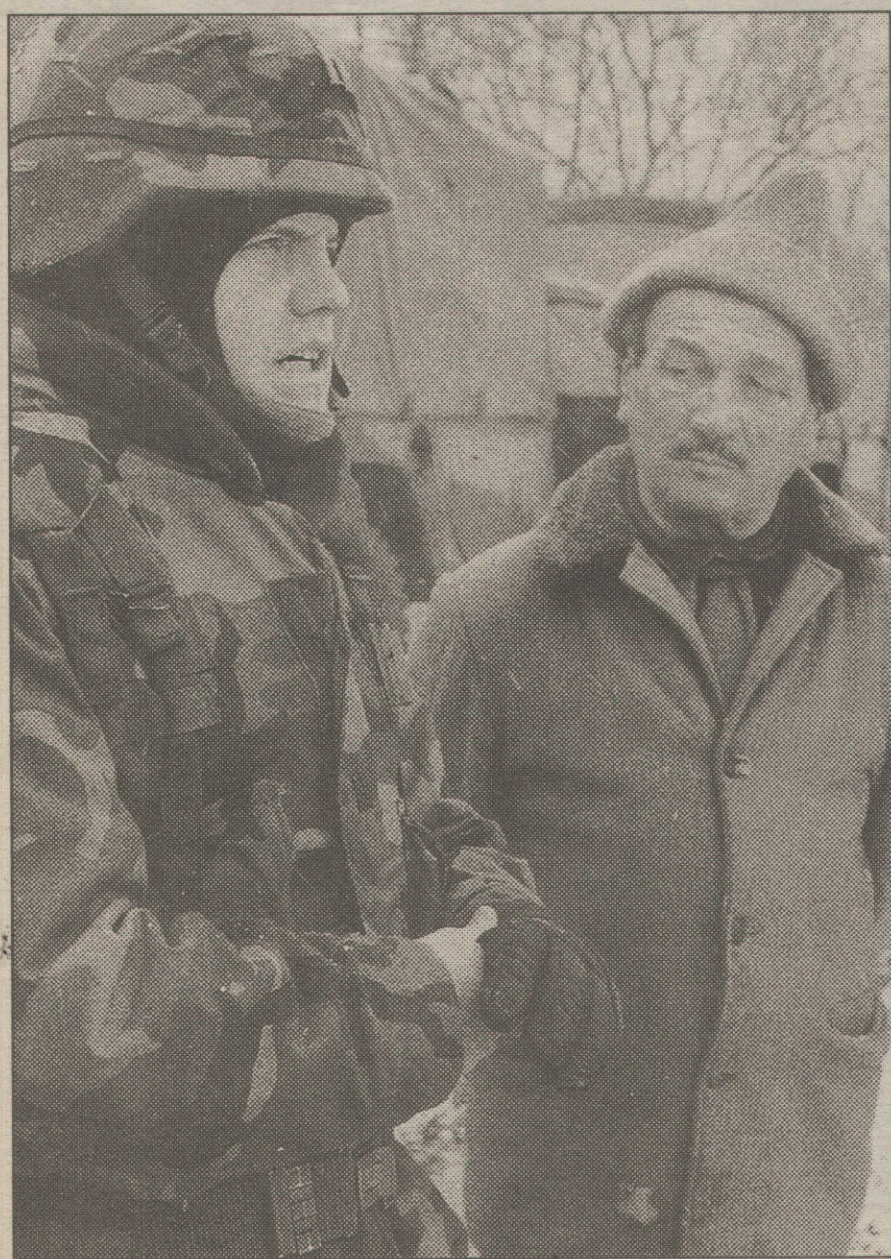


Photo by Sgt. Rick Roth

MAKING GOOD - North Carolina Guard's Capt. David Balmer speaks to a Bosnian. Balmer is in the former Yugoslavia to ensure residents there are compensated when their personal property is accidentally damaged by the U.S. Army.

North Carolina's Capt. David Balmer makes amends with the Bosnians

PERSONALLY ACCOUNTABLE

By Sgt. Rick Roth
Maryland National Guard

If you're a resident of the former Yugoslavia who has had a tank accidentally roll over your crop, then Capt. David Balmer is the man you need to see.

A member of the North Carolina National Guard attached to the 1st Armored Division's Judge Advocate General Office in Bosnia, Balmer is helping civilians collect for personal property accidentally damaged by the U.S. Army. As the foreign claims commissioner, he surveys property damage and determines whether or not claims are justified.

When property is accidentally damaged by a member of the U.S. Army, the property owner is immediately notified that someone will come to investigate. As commissioner, Balmer investigates damages and has the authority to negotiate settlements of up to 5,000 Deutsch marks (about \$3,250).

Balmer said many Bosnians are not used to govern-

ments being responsible for destruction of private property.

"When they come here and get paid they can't believe that someone actually kept their word," he said.

Since arriving in Bosnia in early February, more than 20 claims have been settled.

"It's very exacting work," he said, after explaining that all paperwork must be completed in detail and filed before a claim can be paid.

Quite often claims investigations require Balmer and his team to travel to remote areas.

A recent trip involved a settlement over two pigs killed by a U.S. vehicle.

Through interpreters and his own knowledge of the language, Balmer learned that the farmer lost two sons in the war. The pigs, he discovered, were among his last possessions. When Balmer returned to pay, the farmer wept.

As lawyer for a large manufacturer of bricks used in home construction, Balmer's civilian occupation is reflected in his National Guard career where he serves as the 30th Engineering Brigade's trial counselor in drug cases.

Balmer agreed to volunteer for deployment after the JAG School, located in Charlottesville, Va., asked. After saying goodbye to his wife Mary Kay and 3-year-old daughter, Laura, he deployed to Bosnia.

Dealing with the people of the former Yugoslavia on a day-to-day basis, gives Balmer a chance to gain insight into their culture. On one particular mission, Balmer met a young boy whose father was killed in the war. During their conversation, the boy asked about Balmer's M-16 rifle.

"I told him 'you shouldn't be interested in all of this ... be interested in being a little boy.'"

Cadets know the name is synonymous with leadership

By 1st Lt. Karen Huff
S. Carolina National Guard

Knowing from experience that most people stumble over her name, Col. Diana Obenauer cheerfully volunteers, "Like Eisenhower, only it's Obenauer."

While her favorite general is Patton, Obenauer must often employ a touch of that Ike-like diplomatic leadership skill in her new job at Converse College.

Obenauer is the Director of the South Carolina Institute of Leadership (SCIL) for Women at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C.

SCIL began in 1995 to provide the kind of leadership training for women that The Citadel now provides only for men.

Obenauer joined the 21 SCIL students in the middle of their first semester. Prior to her trans-

Like Eisenhower, only its Obenauer

ferring to the South Carolina National Guard, Obenauer was a member of the Idaho National Guard and was serving at National Guard Bureau's Aviation directorate on the preventive risk assessment team. Now she is Assistant to the State Surgeon at the State Area Command.

Much of Obenauer's time is spent speaking to the press, as well as various organizations around the state, about SCIL and the value of leadership training for women. But SCIL is not The Citadel of the Upstate, nor is it OCS. It's a uniquely different program, she says.

"These are excellent students. They all have at least 3.5 GPAs (grade point averages) plus 1,200 SAT scores (minimum)," she began. "They're carrying 16 to 17 credit hours, plus all the PT (five days a week) we're requir-

ing, in addition to the military requirements."

The colonel said maintaining such a high standard is important.

"We would never consider ourselves as subordinate to The Citadel," she said. "In fact, if anything, it's my goal to make the Converse students better than The Citadel graduates. I believe we can provide the same kind of product, the same kind of leader, without having to destroy a system that has produced outstanding graduates."

The loss of single gender schools would be great for men and women, Obenauer said. One study found that 68 percent of the leading women in law, medicine and Congress are graduates of single gender universities.

"If The Citadel and VMI (Virginia Military Institute) go away,

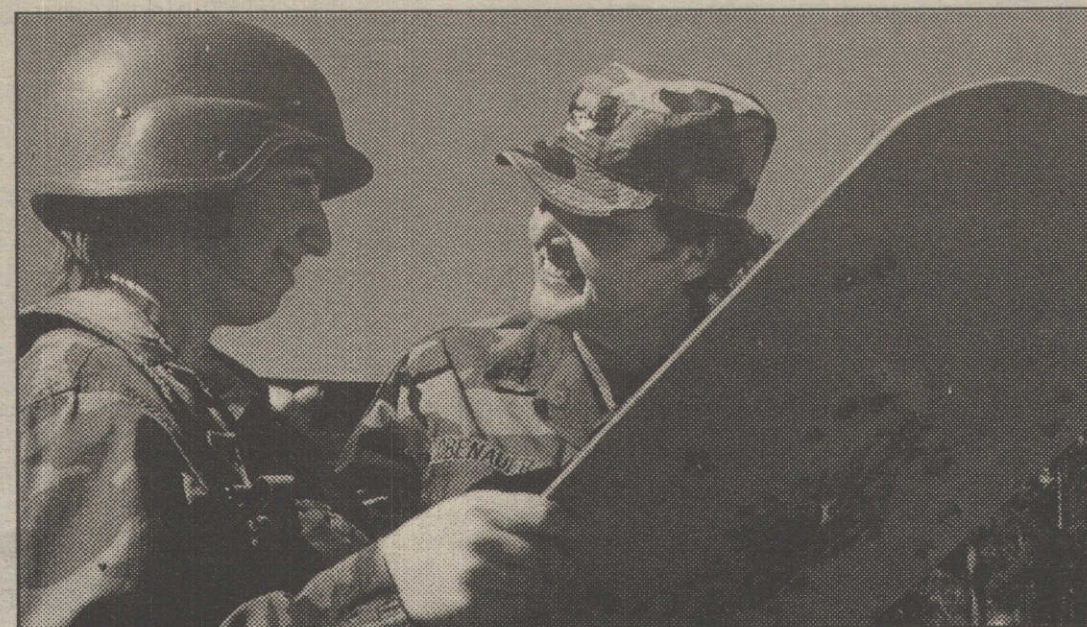


Photo by 1st Lt. Karen Huff

there could be 62 single gender female universities that also go away," she said. "Women, again, will be the losers."

Not one SCIL student has expressed a desire to attend The Citadel. Although six are interested in getting military scholarships. Obenauer, naturally, wants at least a few to choose the National Guard.

"The South Carolina Army National Guard really can be a partner in this," the colonel added. By "this" she means the successful integration of women in leadership roles.

ON TARGET - Col. Diana Obenauer (right) reviews Kelly Whitesides' shot group at Fort Jackson, S.C.

"There is a place for female leaders," she said, "but we're not trying to take over, dominate or monopolize. Just move over a little bit and let us share some of this responsibility."

Editor's Note: As this story went to press the Supreme Court ruled that VMI must admit women or lose its state funding. How this decision will affect SCIL is not known.



BOSNIA UPDATE

Kentucky's
123rd Airlift
Wing brings
aid to Bosnia

Delivering HOPE



Photos by SSgt. Dale Greer

By SSgt. Dale Greer
Kentucky National Guard

Edin Cesir spent his last four birthdays wondering if he would live to see another.

Since 1992 the 17-year-old and his family have been hostage to the cruelest warfare of the century. They have dodged snipers, scavenged for food and firewood, and hoped for peace.

"There were machine guns and tanks everywhere, but we had only people and heart," Cesir said of life in his predominantly Muslim neighborhood. "Everyday there were cannons. You could not sleep. It was very bad. Many innocent people died."

Before humanitarian relief supplies began arriving, food was so scarce that Cesir and his family survived on rain water and mayonnaise that Cesir's older brother, Muamer, stole from a shop.

As the siege of Sarajevo escalated, and fighting between Bosnian Muslims and Orthodox Serbians grew increasingly brutal, homes crumbled to dust.

Cesir's family had to move to another building after mortar rounds damaged their own, but they were unable to escape from Dobrinja entirely.

"There was no where to go," he said.

By his 14th birthday, nearly a year after the fighting first broke out, Cesir was in the hospital with more than two dozen stitches in his belly. A grenade exploded

in front of him while he was running through the courtyard outside his apartment.

The blast also wounded Cesir's leg. He did not regain full use of it until after another hospital stay on his birthday two years later.

This year, however, Cesir's birthday was something to celebrate.

"I got some cologne, and my mother made some cookies and chocolate cake," Cesir said, smiling. Later, he and his friends went out and drank beer.

None of that, however, meant as much as the gift that more than 60,000 NATO troops have brought to his country via Operation Joint Endeavor.

"This peace," Cesir said, "is my best present of all."

More than 30 members of the Kentucky Air Guard are playing a critical role in that peace, working with other Air Guard units to deliver troops and supplies to NATO Implementation Forces on the ground in Bosnia.

ENDEAVOR HAULERS

109th Airlift Wing, N.Y. (C-130)
118th Airlift Wing, Tenn. (C-130)
123rd Airlift Wing, Ky. (C-130)
124th Wing, Idaho (C-130/A-10)
127th Wing, Mich. (C-130/F-16)
133rd Airlift Wing, Minn. (C-130)
137th Airlift Wing, Okla. (C-130)
140th Fighter Wing, Colo. (F-16)
143rd Airlift Wing, R.I. (C-130)
145th Airlift Wing, N.C. (C-130)
146th Airlift Wing, Calif. (C-130)
153rd Airlift Wing, Wyo. (C-130)
167th Airlift Wing, W. Va. (C-130)
175th Wing, Md. (C-130/A-10)
179th Airlift Wing, Ohio (C-130)
182nd Airlift Wing, Ill. (C-130)
189th Airlift Wing, Ark. (C-130)

vor, crews have accomplished more than 890 sorties and carried more than 3,400 tons of cargo and 5,800 passengers.

CARGO CARRIERS - A Kentucky C-130 (above) lands in war-torn (inset) Bosnia.

The C-130s are used primarily to shuttle cargo from Taszar, Hungary, and Ramstein AB, Germany, where the Hercules operation is based, to distribution points like Tuzla and Sarajevo.

The C-130 is particularly suited to the Tuzla route because the landing approach is "kind of tricky," said Maj. Greg Hamilton, a Kentucky Air Guard pilot who also flew relief missions into Bosnia two years ago as part of the wing's Provide Promise rotation.

"We have agreed with the various factions that we will use a certain corridor," Hamilton said of the approach, "and we also have to fly at a higher altitude to stay out of the range of small arms fire. Then we drop down to a fairly short landing strip. The C-130 can handle that."

Tuzla AB, which serves as headquarters for U.S. forces in Bosnia, is nearly overflowing with personnel and equipment. Forklifts and humvees dart everywhere amidst a thick goo of mud, while pallets of mail roll in for sorting. C-130s, with their cargo doors open, idle on the ramp, awaiting their return cargo.

They don't idle for long. Tuzla's control tower is the busiest in USAFE, handling more 4,800 aircraft movements per month. With ramp space at a premium, that means aircraft need to get in and out

BOSNIA UPDATE

POW WATCHERS

West Virginia MPs are in Bosnia just in case their services are needed

By Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
Maryland National Guard

West Virginia's Capt. Rick Walker is happy he and his fellow military police are not providing the services they were deployed to Bosnia to perform -- operating a Prisoner of War Information Camp or PWIC.

"I'm relieved that we're not running a PWIC, because that would mean this mission has turned into a hot spot," explained the Martinsburg, W.Va., native and member of the 152nd Military Police Detachment 1.

"Even though we aren't doing our primary mission, we can handle any mission the Army throws at us," added Walker, an Operation Desert Storm veteran who serves as the unit's data processing section chief.

The unit is in Bosnia on a contingency basis to operate PWICs, should they be needed.

The 152nd, based in Moundsville, is one of only three PWIC units in the Army. During Desert Storm they had the best accountability record, handling information on nearly 70,000 Iraqi prisoners. Seventeen soldiers from the 64-member 152nd MP arrived in Bosnia in late February. Since then they have been given a new mission -- to evaluate the security of soldiers who are scattered throughout 38 separate base camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We're working with everyone to make sure we're doing security by the same standards," said Lt. Col. Marion A. Rose, the unit's operation officer. The 152nd unit has been busy evaluating how other MP units are manning gates at various base camps. The 152nd then makes suggestions on how the security could be im-

proved.

"Everyone in our unit realizes the importance of this mission. The protection and safety of all our soldiers, and the security of civilians working on the posts, is something we need to look at closely," said Rose, a Buffalo, W.Va., resident.

The issue of security is not a new subject to the 152nd. Many of the unit's members are law enforcement officers in their civilian occupations. Rose is a retired West Virginia state trooper who now is running for sheriff of Putnam County, W.Va.

"You've heard of absentee voters? Well, I'm an absentee candidate," he said with a laugh. The unit's personnel background also includes a practicing attorney, eight Desert Storm and three Vietnam veterans.

"We have very diversified backgrounds to draw upon, no matter what our mission is here in Bosnia," Rose said.

To achieve their goal of tightening security at base camps, the soldiers also will compile information on nearly 6,000 civilian employees working for the Army. The civilians include local Bosnians and contract employees from the United States and the United Kingdom.

"The automated data processing (ADP) section is really the heart of this unit," explained SFC Samuel F. Elson, a Marshall County deputy sheriff in civilian life.

"The ADP maintains information about people (including) fingerprints, photographs and a brief family history.

Our fingerprint section uses the same methods the FBI uses for fingerprint classification," he said.

Information about civilians is keyed into computers. It is then matched with records provided by civilian employers to ensure only authorized civilians are permitted on post.

"My job is to make sure our database is kept up to date," said Sgt. Tracy L. Keener, who serves as the unit's programmer analyst. "We have to make sure if someone is fired one day, they are removed from the roster that day, so they can't get on post the next."

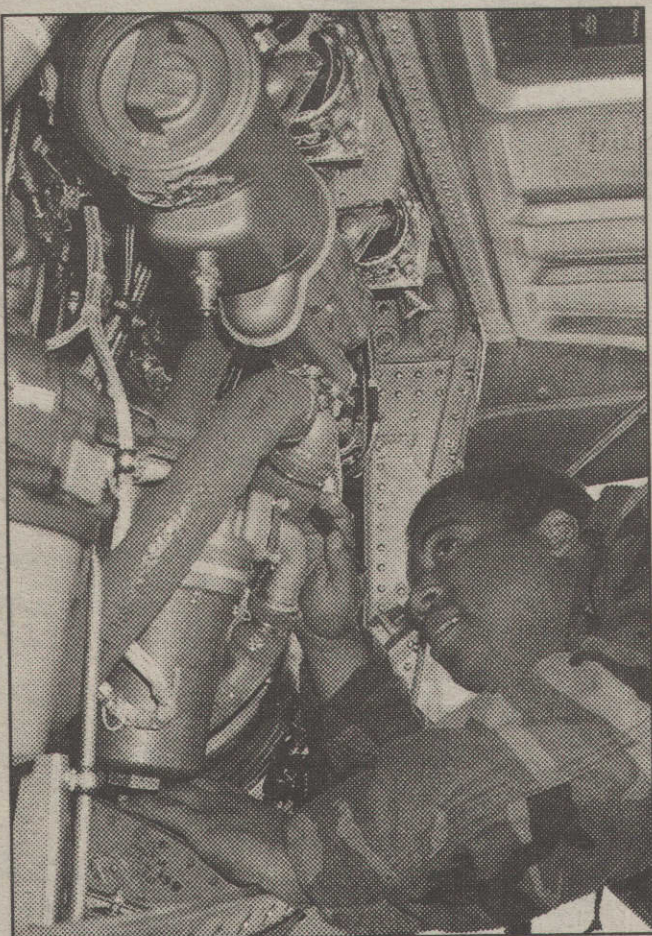
Although being far from home can be difficult, the deployment became a family affair for Keener. Her brother, SSgt. Peter Turner, is also a member of the 152nd. "We try not to act like brother and sister in front of the unit," she said, "but it makes it easier being away from home."

SFC Steven Durrah is

also no stranger to deployments.

The personnel sergeant has been on active duty most of his military career, having served in the 82nd Airborne Division, the Special Forces and as a National Guard recruiter.

"We may not really be doing what we're designed to do," he said, "but I think we're all thankful for that."



MAINTAINING - Kentucky's SSgt. Cedric Jones, a 123rd Airlift Wing crew chief, inspects a fuel line.

as fast as possible to clear the way for more landings.

The same fast pace holds true throughout Bosnia.

"The problem is these places can handle a limited number of airplanes at a time," said Maj. John Amshoff, a 123rd AW navigator. "In Sarajevo, it's not unusual to have seven or eight minutes from the time your gear touches down to liftoff."

This fast tempo, coupled with 16-hour crew days, makes for an exhausting tour. Hamilton said he doesn't mind the workload.

"I like being where the action is, and I like the fact that we're supporting our troops," he said. "In Tuzla, we take in these big old pallets of mail. No matter what they're doing on the ground, I know what it feels like to be sitting around and the joy of your day is to get a letter."

"News from home is important, too," he added. "We took a pallet of *Stars and Stripes* in yesterday."

Other Guardmembers appreciate the impact they've helped make on the world, as well.

SSgt. Cedric Jones, a crew chief who deployed to Ramstein, knows none of the cargo would get to its destination without maintenance technicians.

"We're crucial to this mission," Jones said. "If we don't fix the planes, the crews can't fly them."

Being such an integral part of Joint Endeavor, he said, is personally rewarding.

"I just like helping folks, regardless of who they are," Jones said.

Edin Cesir is thankful for the help.

And perhaps, because of it, his next birthday will be as good as the one he celebrated this year.

"I hope so," Cesir said. "We shall see."

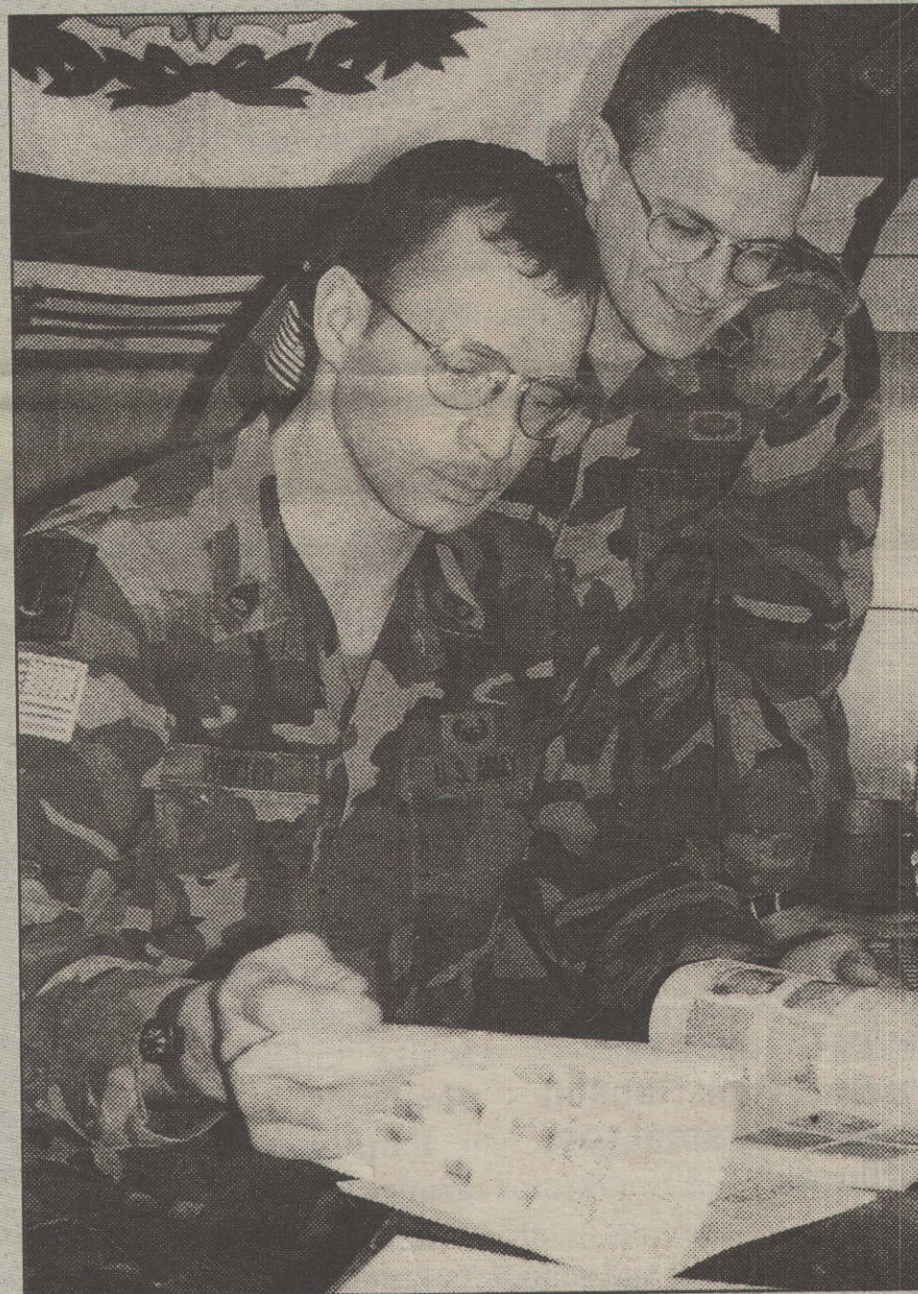


Photo by Sgt. Ed Rollins

COMPARING RESULTS - SSgt. Gary Woofter (above, left) and Sgt. Robert Bowman, members of West Virginia's 152nd Military Police Detachment 1, thumb through a fingerprint book.

HELPING ABROAD

Guardmembers are working
'for the children' in Honduras

Leaving a LEGACY

By SSgt. Tom Springer
Michigan National Guard

Instead of laying minefields, they laid sidewalks. Instead of stringing barbed wire, they strung electrical wiring for fluorescent lights. And instead of digging foxholes, they dug sand from a riverbank to mix concrete for new classrooms in a remote Honduran village where even the principal walks to school.

"During annual training we usually build obstacles like tank traps that have to be torn up before we leave," said Iowa Army Guard's 1st Lt. Jeff Lee. "When we leave here, we know we've accomplished something."

"Here" was a cinder-block school, deep in a sprawling banana farm outside El Progreso in northern Honduras. Lee and more than 50 National Guard soldiers from Keokuk's Company D, 224th Engineer Battalion, recently deployed to Central America to support a U.S. military project called "For the Children," an engineer-intensive, humanitarian exercise.

The Iowa Army Guard citizen-soldiers' work focused on three elementary schools in the villages of Quebrada de Yoro, Corocol and Suyapa.

At each site, a rutted dirt road wound for miles from a paved highway to reach rural communities where running water and electricity were luxuries. While diesel generators supplied the power, the Hawkeye state citizen-soldiers, along with Honduran Army engineers and local volunteers, furnished most of the muscle.

"I think we've learned as much from them (the Hondurans) as they have from us," said 1st Lt. Mark Coble. "They've given us a great appreciation for cinder-block and tin-roof construction. They're good at it because the termites are so bad here you can't use much wood."

Several rotations of Guard troops have traveled to Honduras to work on the school

project. During their stay the Iowa Guard added improvements such as fluorescent lights, ceiling fans, sanitary toilets and new kitchens. They also built new classrooms which at several schools will allow student enrollment to double.

Although interpreters were few, Coble said his soldiers worked around the language barrier.

"Through sign language, screaming and other stuff, we got the job done," he said.

Honduran parents and volunteers viewed the project as a hands-on way to help build a brighter future for their families and communities.

"We would have done some of this work without the U.S. soldiers," said parent Horatio Velasquez-Juarez. "But it wouldn't have been done this quickly nor have been this extravagant."

Velasquez-Juarez, 49, said he holds a third-grade education. He said his children will now receive at least a sixth grade education, the standard for rural Honduras.

Many residents made personal sacrifices to ensure a better life for their children.

At Suyapa, volunteer Jose Mario-Lazo said he took four days of unpaid leave from his job at the nearby Chiquita banana farm to join the citizen-soldiers.

At Quebrada de Yoro, Albertina Amaya served homemade lunches. Her traditional meals were a welcome respite from MREs.

And at the school in Corocol, 30 children turned out to paint the exterior walls of classrooms.

"They even got most of the paint on the wall," kidded SSgt. Jim Davis.

Family support groups from the 224th prepared packages of books and school materials that were left as gifts at each school.

At a closing ceremony Suyapa students hosted a farewell dinner that included dancing, skits and singing Honduran folk songs.

"We will never forget your faces and your kindness," a teacher told the soldiers. "You will be with us always in our hearts and thoughts."

By their tour's end, the combat engineers had proven their mettle as goodwill ambassadors. All three schools were several days ahead of schedule.

"These guys gave everything they had," Davis said. "If you wanted anymore, you'd have to get them organ donor cards."



Photo by SSgt. Tom Springer
SHOWING METTLE - Iowa's Spc. Rick Hackett helps install a steel roof in Honduras.

New Horizons are being
reached in Panama

BUILDING RELATIONS

By SSgt. Jack McNeely
West Virginia National Guard

With the exception of flying combat helicopter missions in Vietnam, commanding Task Force Eureka has been the most challenging mission of Col. Michael J. Nevin's much-decorated military life.

"This operation will be the highlight of my career," said the 30-year U.S. Army and National Guard veteran from his base camp office in the remote northwestern Panamanian province of Bocas Del Toro.

Task Force Eureka is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing "New Horizons-Panama," a joint and combined engineer and medical-training exercise in northwestern Panama.

From early January through June, about 6,000 engineers, medical specialists and other citizen-soldiers from the National Guard and Army Reserve are building a seven-mile, farm-to-market road, constructing eight new primary schools, building two medical clinics and drilling five fresh-water wells. They are also conducting three Medical Readiness Training Exercises, or MEDRETES.

New Horizons is part of a U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff-sponsored overseas deployment exercise headed by Task Force Eureka. The command element is mostly comprised of citizen-soldiers with the California Army National Guard.

The military mission serves to enhance various soldier-readiness skills while demonstrating continued U.S. support for democracy by improving basic infrastructure for the people of Panama.

The exercise goals are to cooperatively improve public infrastructure with the government of Panama for local citizens while conducting real-world overseas deployment training for U.S. active and Reserve Component forces, according to Nevin.

"Such training cannot be conducted in the United States because

the military cannot compete (by law) against private industry," said Nevin, who was appointed in 1994 to command Task Force Eureka.

Nevin, who served as senior National Guard advisor in Panama until his appointment to Task Force Eureka, likened his current duties to coaching a football team.

"You can advise your players during practice, but it's not the same on game day. Things don't always go as

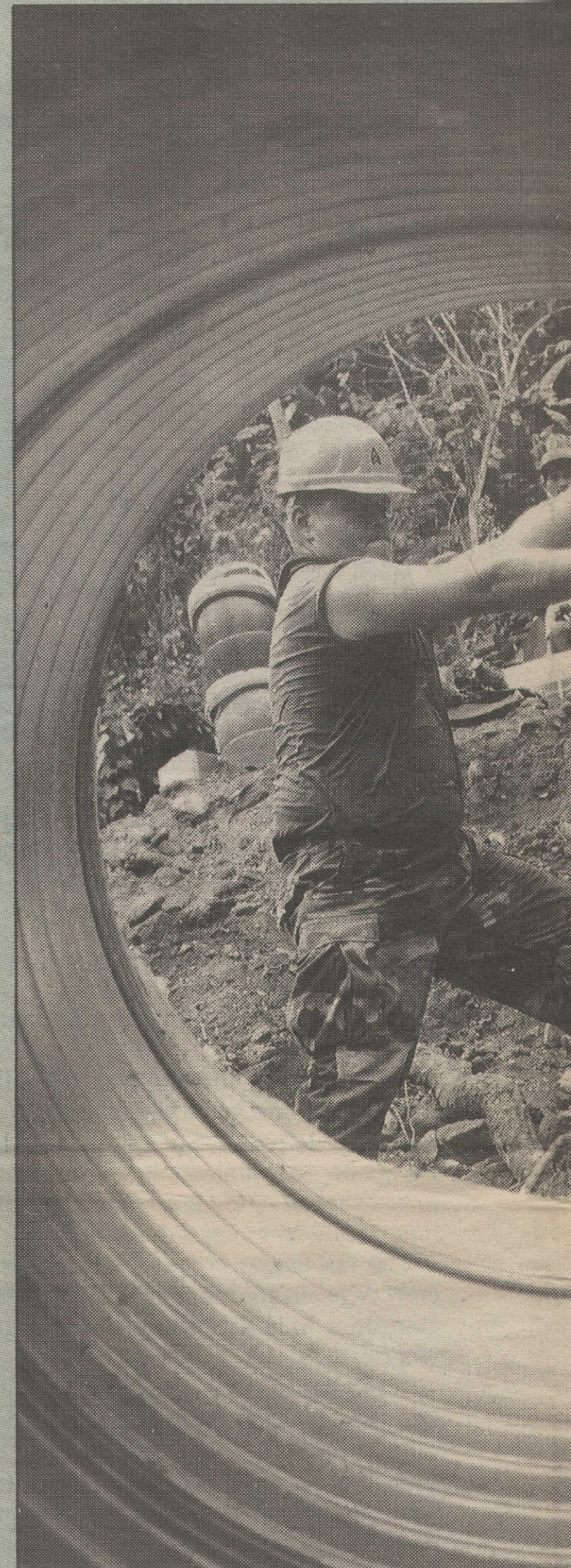


Photo by
MEDRETE - Sgt. Du medic with California Hospital, list manian boy's heart



Photo by SSgt. Jack McNeely


1st Lt. Heather Kinning
ne Watson, a
s 143rd Evac-
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closely with Panamanians, Nevin says he is proud of the task force's



Photo by 1st Lt. Heather Kinning

PIPE'S EYE VIEW - Missouri's Sgt. Matt Toeniskoetter (left) tosses a large rock. North Dakota's Sgt. Janice Dosch (above) operates a road grader.

accomplishments during New Horizons.

"We've already upgraded 12 kilometers of road, thus improving transportation in this isolated area of Panama. More importantly, it provides the local residents with countless opportunities for better health and education," reasoned Nevin, as he studied the day's work schedule from his command center at the tent-city base camp -- complete with hot and cold-running water, dining facility and post exchange.

According to Nevin, health care in Panama is good but difficult to obtain if a person lives far out in a rural area.

For instance, residents of Valle Del Risco must walk three hours across rugged terrain to reach a medical clinic seven miles away in the more-urban port town of Almirante.

Currently the infant mortality rate in Valle Del Risco is 44 percent, say local health-care officials.

"When our engineers finish that road construction in June, those residents will be able to access valuable health care more quickly," says Nevin.

Nevin and his wife, Candy, both know the importance of proper health care after raising two strapping sons of their own -- William and Gregory.

"Not only does this operation offer those citizen-soldiers an opportunity to train in their military jobs, it also offers an opportunity to learn about a different culture," Nevin added. "That is why this command position is such a thrill for me."



Photo by Sgt. Timothy Fischer

IN ECUADOR - Surrounded by Kentucky medics, Dr. Jorge Munoz (left) distributes medicine.

Educating ECUADOR

By 1st Lt. Gene Holt
West Virginia National Guard

The National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball champion Kentucky "Wildcats" are not the only ones from that state on the move.

Thirty-five Kentucky Army National Guard citizen-soldiers found themselves in Ecuador taking part in a Medical Readiness Training Exercise, or MEDRETE.

The exercise provided rural residents of west-central Ecuador with basic medical and dental treatment, as well as lessons about preventive medicine.

"This gives our unit an opportunity to train on deployment and treating patients in support of the Ecuadorian government," said 1st Lt. Yvonne Cepero.

"The exercise is also designed to promote good will and help secure the interests of the United States and Ecuador," she added.

The citizen-soldiers treated more than 600 patients a day during their two-week overseas deployment to the South American country.

"The biggest impact we will have is making patients aware of problems which may need further treatment," said Cepero, who resides in Louisville. "We are placing a large emphasis on education of how to prevent parasitic diseases and infections."

Children 12-years-old and younger were provided with worm medicine and vaccinations. Each Ecuadorian resident also received a basic medical examination by a physician and re-

ceived dental treatment.

Cepero's work managing the patient-administration process included the use of numbered tickets to track the oftentimes overwhelming patient load.

"The language barrier and number of patients made this a difficult process," she said. After the first few days, several local teenagers offered to help the residents complete the forms.

Troops working in the pharmacy maintained more than 35 types of medication for illnesses such as parasitic diseases, skin diseases and infections. They filled more than 1,400 prescriptions each day.

Dentist and dental assistants also ended their day with sore arms after long days conducting dental examinations and averaging 125-tooth extractions each day -- all with only three examining chairs.

Electrical failures at the make-shift medical clinics made the work more difficult, causing the dentist to rely on battery-powered penlights.

The citizen-soldier physicians primarily found patients to be suffering from poor diets, insect bites and skin infections.

The Kentucky citizen-soldiers also aided Ecuadorian health officials in their future work, Cepero said.

"What the doctors cannot treat, they will provide the patients with consultation information to see their local health department to receive treatment," she noted.

Meanwhile, treatment areas were erected in two separate rural schools. At times electricity and water were not available.

"The biggest obstacle was the selection of the locations," said Dr. Jorge Lopez Munoz, a medical lieutenant in the Ecuadorian Army and exercise coordinator. "We needed a location that could handle many patients."

Munoz said he enjoyed working with the Kentucky Army Guard.

"Your Army is very well-organized and very professional, which has helped make the exercise a success," he said.

Munoz also said it would appear the state of Kentucky possesses two champions.



SPORTS

- Marathoner
- Oregon Ref
- Top Snipers

SPORTS SHORTS

ROGERS GOES THE DISTANCE

Sgt. Curt Rogers, a member of the Kansas Air Guard, won gold at the 1996 Blue Angels Marathon, in Pensacola, Fla. Rogers finished the 26.2-mile course in 2:36:07 to finish second overall behind Pensacola's John Viitanen.

Other top National Guard marathoners were 1st Lt. Paul Laymon, South Carolina Air Guard, fourth overall with a time of 2:41:47; Capt. Robert Aunan of the Washington Air Guard, eighth overall in 2:45:14; and Capt. Mark Pierson of the Ohio Army Guard, ninth overall in 2:45:35.

National Guard marathoners weren't the only runners capturing headlines. Sgt. Kelly Wild of the Florida Army National Guard also took gold when she won the Blue Angels five-kilometer female Run in 18:20.

OREGONIAN REFS HOOPS TOURNEY

For the past four years, "March Madness" has kept Oregon's MSgt. Monte Page on the run.

Page was invited by the National Association of Inter-Collegiate Athletics (NAIA), to serve as one of the game officials at the organization's Division II national women's basketball tournament at Tri-State University in Angola, Ind.

For the last three post-seasons, the NAIA women's tournament was held at Western Oregon State College in Monmouth. At that tournament Page refereed up to two games a day and twice was voted by the tournament's coaches to officiate the championship games.

Page is a member of the Oregon Air Guard's 142nd Airlift Wing.

VanDeventer wins two golds

Ohio woman excels at Armed Forces Track and Field Championships

Sgt. Tracy VanDeventer ran for two golds at the All-Armed Forces Track and Field Championships held recently in Santa Barbara, Calif.

VanDeventer, an administrative specialist with the Ohio National Guard, finished first in the 3,000 and 5,000-meter events.

Although her times at the championships did not qualify her for the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, VanDeventer remains optimistic.

"I wanted to break 17 minutes in the 5K (3.1 miles) and 10 minutes in the 3K," VanDeventer said.

Her times at the championships were 17:11 in the five-kilometer event and 9:57 in the three-kilometer run.

Now that Atlanta is out, the Buckeye runner will focus her athletic attentions on Nagano, Japan, the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics. That's right, Tracy VanDeventer is also a world class biathlete.

Currently in Jerico, Vt., home of the National Guard's Biathlon team (skiing and rifle shooting), VanDeventer hopes to improve on her top 10 national status.

She competes in the 15-kilometer cross-country skiing (with four shooting requirements) and the 7.5k skiing (with two shooting stages) events.

"I do well in both events, but I usually get a higher score in the 15k," she said.

The National Guard will hold tryouts for the NG biathlon team this December at Camp Ripley, Minn.

GOLDEN EFFORT - Sgt. Tracy VanDeventer (far right), a member of the Ohio Army Guard, runs to victory at the All Armed Forces Track and Field Championships.

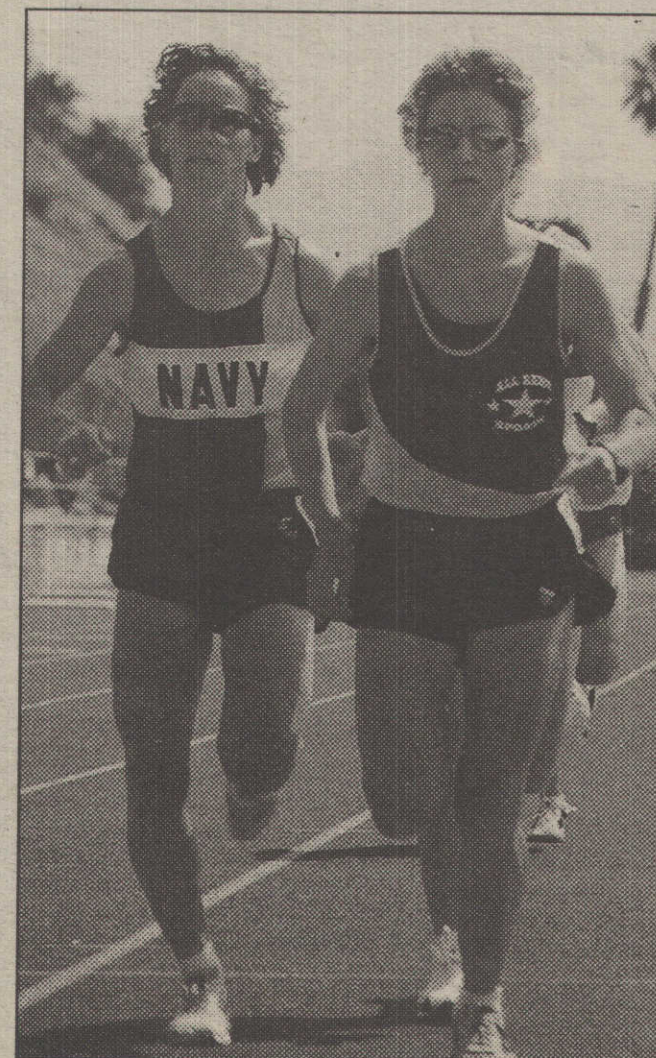


Photo by PFC Charlene Crandall

Gooch, Krause graduate as top snipers

By Maj. Sherri Daniels
Arkansas National Guard

Two Army National Guard soldiers proved to the Army that the sniper training in the National Guard is indeed top notch.

Oregon Army Guard's SSgt. Kent Gooch graduated number one and was named "Top Gun" in the Army Scout/Sniper school held recently at Fort Benning, Ga. His partner, SFC Roger Krause, a member of the Virginia Army Guard, graduated number two.

Gooch and Krause started the five-week school with 17 active component soldiers. Only 11 graduated.

Gooch credits his success in the class to two things: the skill of his partner, and his wife's insistence that he "kick butt" if he had to be away from the family that long.

"It's impossible to graduate number one unless you and your partner work well together," Gooch said. "Your observer is calling the wind and without him doing a good job, I can't do a good job."

There are three qualities required of a sniper -- being physically fit, having a high mental aptitude and being a good marksman.

Soldiers are given a physical fitness test on the first day of the course. A 70 percent score is required in each event -- pushups, situps and a 2-mile run.

The training is also mentally demanding. A GT score of 110 is required to hold a sniper slot. Exams are given to test snipers' knowledge on

ballistics, sniper employment, wind formulas and moving target formulas.

Ranking in the class is based on scores of three written tests, scores in field skills (stalking, range estimation and target detection) and, naturally, marksmanship.

Gooch and Krause are both instructors at the National Guard's Scout/Sniper School at Camp Joseph Robinson, Ark.

"I have been to a lot of active and National Guard schools," Krause said. "Guard instructors tend to be more knowledgeable."

Krause admits to taking pride in besting active component soldiers.

"I try to show them that there are quality soldiers in the National Guard," he said. "I enjoy the heck out of kicking their butt."

The competition between the National Guard and Army is all in good fun. The two components are working together to accredit the National Guard school as a Scout/Sniper MOS producing course.

Krause said that in some ways the Army sniper school was more difficult (than the National Guard one) and that, in some ways, it was easier.

"The Army does a lot of things well in their course that we will emulate in ours as we refine our program," Krause said.

Gooch, a member of Oregon's Company D, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, began his sniper training with the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa in 1980.

Gooch finished the course with a score of 425; Krause had a 423.

Being partners only goes so far, however.

"I was trying to beat him, too," Krause said.



Photo courtesy Arkansas National Guard

TOP GUNS - SFC Roger Krause (above, left) and SSgt. Kent Gooch graduate tops in their class at sniper school.

Deploying TECHNOLOGY

Guard team brings high-tech simulators to train 'Joint Endeavor' crews

By MSgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A four-man Army National Guard mobile training team has reported to Europe with high-tech tank and howitzer simulators to help active Army soldiers on Joint Endeavor peacekeeping duty sustain those combat skills.

The mobile training team and equipment have come from the Army National Guard's 36-member Training and Training Technology Battle Lab (T3BL) at Fort Dix,

center that applies computer technology to efficient and inexpensive ways for training troops in the arts of war.

A-FIST is a computer simulator designed to test the skills of four-man M1 "Abrams" tank crews and, perhaps, teach them some new tricks of the trade.

Four television monitors that cover the visual ports on a tank simulate all kinds of conditions that the crews could encounter during the heat of a battle, explained Col. Ronald Krisak, the battle lab commander.

GUARDFIST-II is an artillery simulator that tests the abilities of forward observers and 155-mm howitzer gunners to plot fire missions and light up the night with illumination rounds and put high explosive steel on a target without touching a lanyard.

MSgt. Edward Quigley and SSgt. Lawrence Salerno are T3BL staff members headed for Hungary with an A-FIST simulator, said Maj. William Heineman. The ac-

N.J.

That is a multi-million dollar think tank and research and development

tive Army does not own any of those simulators.

SFC Harold Homan and SSgt. Mark Malinowski will take a GUARDFIST-II artillery simulator to Bosnia, Heineman added.

All four training NCOs belong to the New Jersey Army Guard.

The simulators are expected to stay in Europe for the duration of this year's peacekeeping mission, said Heineman. The training team is expected to stay in Europe for 51 days while teaching other soldiers how to operate the training devices.

While there is no substitute for driving tanks and firing live rounds at real targets, concerns for cutting costs, preserving equipment and protecting the environment do not always make that kind of training possible, pointed out Krisak, a former educator who developed innovative programs for teaching high school science and math before returning to full-time military service in 1980.

That philosophy also coincides with the support for simulation training expressed by the Army Chief of Staff.

"I am fully committed to getting the most out of simulations and simulators," wrote Gen. Dennis Reimer. "We need to trust simulators and simulations and treat them as tradeoffs for other more expensive training."

The battle lab's training devices are sophisticated enough to make the soldiers react as if the missions are the real McCoy and to feel the satisfaction of engaging targets, even if they are only digital displays.

Taking this type of training on the road is hardly new to the battle lab's staff and other Guardmembers who know how to show others the best way to use the equipment.

M60 tank trainers have taken their expertise to several countries, including Thailand and Tunisia.

For example, one four-man team led by SFC Michael Ramsey was on the island of Taiwan in March when the Chinese rattled their sabers by conducting missile tests into the Taiwan Strait.

The American Guardmembers were teaching Taiwanese how to repair the tank turrets.

For a few anxious days it seemed possible that their training could have had more serious applications.

SIMULATING - New Jersey Army Guard's 1st Sgt. Danny Issacs (left) demonstrates A-FIST, a simulator used to train M1 Abrams tank crews.

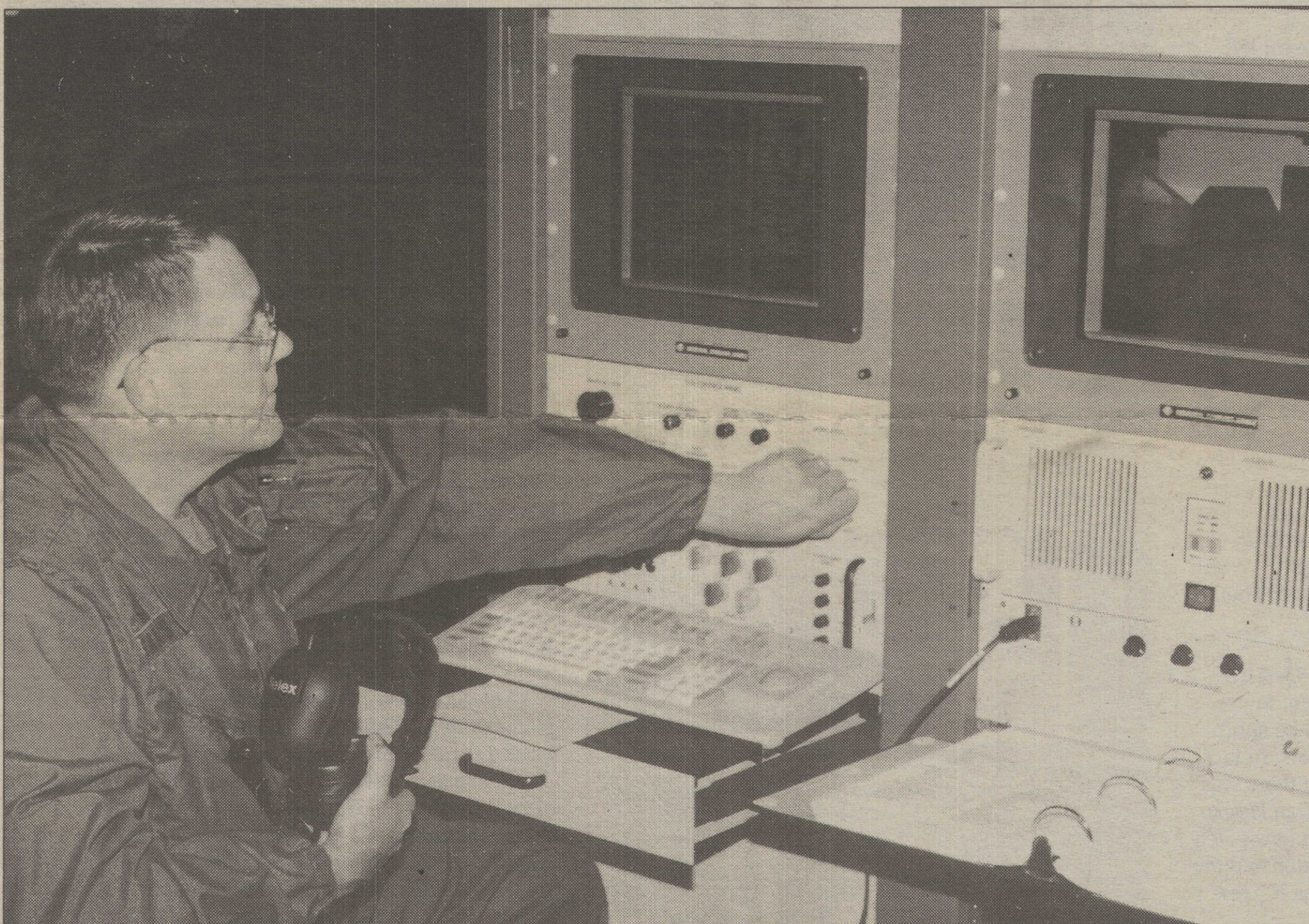


Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

FIRES

From Page 1

"The Guard is maintaining the only source of potable water for the crews," stated Harrison. "They are going through approximately 8,000 gallons a day." The Guard also shuttled 800 firefighters in 2 1/2 ton trucks to various fire sites -- a round trip took about two and half hours.

Sgt. Stephanie Predmore, with

Colorado's 220th Military Police Company, worked check points and roving patrols with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

"We've been performing basic MP duties in conjunction with the local authorities," she said.

Nearby, Spec. Sharon Foulk, normally a 220th administrative specialist, worked with maintenance crews to keep vehicles up and running. Only recently discharged from active duty, Foulk said she didn't realize that the National Guard "did this sort of thing."

"This is a learning experience," she added, "definitely a learning experience."

Her comments were echoed by SFC Michael Hill, a 220th maintenance NCO. In addition to working on military vehicles, Hill helped repair vehicles and equipment belonging to the various civilian agencies involved. Many of the civilian agencies use old military equipment including 2 1/2 ton trucks and generators.

"I brought an old generator up to speed today for Wyoming's Goshen County Fire Depart-

ment," he said.

The support for this emergency has been a joint effort by both the Colorado Army and Air National Guard.

SrA. Jim Sokoloski, a ground radio technician with the 227th Air Traffic Control Flight, found himself driving firefighters back and forth to the fire's frontline as well as serving as an ad hoc repairman for the Army Guard's radio equipment.

"Support from the Army National Guard has been great," he said. "We have been working together since the beginning to

make sure that no ones' needs go unfulfilled." Sokoloski, along with TSgt. Steven Lind, a 227th radar maintenance technician, even trenched phone lines at the base camp.

"This is good work," added Gen. Westerdahl, "and the crews feel like they're doing something worthwhile."

In total, the Colorado Guard responded to the state emergency with 34 vehicles, eight helicopters and three radios.

In addition to burning 10,000 acres of forest land, the fire destroyed 12 structures.

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

The Federal Aviation Administration presented the Outstanding Flight Assist of the Year award to an Alabama Air National Guard C-26 aircrew. Maj. Sam Wade, aircraft commander, and Capt. Matt Mathis, both members of the 187th Fighter Wing, were honored for saving a civilian pilot and airplane in Virginia on April 13, 1995. The C-26 aircrew was enroute to Alabama from Andrews AFB, Md., when their aircraft was vectored by the FAA to a Canadian Cessna 150, reported as lost and low on fuel. The plane was also encountering ice conditions and losing altitude. Wade and Mathis flew along side the Cessna aircraft in distress, calmed the pilot and led the aircraft to a safe landing at Roanoke Regional Airport, Va.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing was recently selected one of the top five Air Guard flying units in the nation after receiving the 1996 Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, an annual award sponsored by the National Guard Association of the United States. The 168th ARW was recognized for its support of operations in Bosnia, Thailand, Australia, Malaysia, Korea and Japan.

Oregon Army Guard's Spc. David M. Ward, a medic with HHC, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, was recognized for his quick actions at a lumber mill where he works. The hand of another member of the mill's staff slipped into the spinning knives of a molder Ward was operating. Use of his medical training prevented a serious accident from becoming a life-threatening one. "I just looked at him with a straight face and let him know everything was going to be all right," Ward recalled. "The bleeding had to be stopped. That's what I did."

The New Hampshire Air Guard's 133rd Air Refueling Squadron has gone back to the future. Soon members of the organization will be sporting a new patch that, well, isn't very new. In fact it's been around, possibly, since before there was an Air Force. Maj. Mark Sears, Capt. Dan Hogan and MSgt. Dave Lajoie came up with a new patch to supplement the current "football" patch and the new 157th Wing patch. "Everyone likes it," reported Sears.

CMSgt. James H. Honeycutt, a member of the Tennessee Air Guard's 134th Air Refueling Wing, was selected as the recipient of the 1996 Air Force Association's CMSgt. Dick Red Award. The award is voted upon by peers for those who have made the most significant contributions to aerospace maintenance.

Utah Air Guard's MSgt. Kenneth G. Topham Jr., a member of the 109th Air Control Squadron, is the Air National Guard's First Sergeant of the Year. As such, Topham will also go on to compete for the 1996 U.S. Air Force First Sergeant of the Year. The award recognizes the important contributions and leadership qualities exhibited by those in the first sergeant career field.



Lifesaver,
Oregon Army
Guard's Spc.
David Ward.



Colorado's 147th Combat Support
Hospital conducts bone marrow
registration drive.



CMSgt. Patti Winter-Schmidt
reaches E-9.



Dentist, Lt.
Col.
Michael
Conners,
successfully
graduates
Top Drill.

The Colorado Army Guard's 147th Combat Support Hospital joined the fight against leukemia and other fatal blood disorders when it held a bone marrow registration drive during annual training at Fort Carson, Colo. The 147th became the first Colorado Army Guard unit to take part in the Department of Defense Bone Marrow Registration Drive. Every year more than 10,000 Americans become critically ill with one of over 60 fatal blood disorders and are in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant. Those interested in donating should call 1 (800) MARROW-3.

Levi H. Perry, a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Army, became the first African-American to achieve the rank of Colonel in the 10,000 member Georgia Army National Guard. Perry, the Chief of the Mobilization Readiness Division for Headquarters STARC, is responsible for managing the Georgia Army Guard's readiness, mobilization, force structure and force integration programs. Perry joined the Georgia Army National Guard in 1981 as a chemical staff officer. In civilian life Perry is a field branch manager for the Social Security Administration in Atlanta.

CMSgt. Patti Winter-Schmidt, a Wisconsin Air Guard quality service division supervisor, is the first woman to reach the rank of E-9 in the history of the 128th Air Refueling Wing. Her military career began in 1977 when she enlisted in the U.S. Army as a mechanic. After a short stay with the Army Guard, she enlisted in the 128th where she worked in the powered Aerospace Ground Equipment section. "My promotion is the result of many people who helped me during my career and I want to give something back so that other younger Air Guardmembers can see that, with hard work, they too can make it," she said.

TSgt. Shannon Tolley, a member of New Hampshire's 157th Air Refueling Wing, was named the Air Guard's Rookie Recruiter of the Year. The award reflects an individual's professionalism, mission fulfillment and involvement with community and school based programs. Rookie winners are permitted to wear a distinctive gold badge, emblematic of the award. Tolley will be officially recognized at the Air Force Sergeant's Association Conference in August.

Lt. Col. Michael Conners, a member of the Wisconsin Air Guard's 128th Air Refueling Group, recently completed the Air National Guard Operational Dental Course, called Top Drill, at Kingsley Field, Ore. Conducted by Oregon's 114th Fighter Squadron, Top Drill is designed to better prepare Air Guard dentists to understand and deal with the physical, mental and physiological problems of aircrews. The course lasts eight days and covers academics, medical responsibilities and flight training. The course finishes with the doctors actually taking the controls of a sophisticated F-16 fighter jet. "My flight in the F-16 was a once in a lifetime experience that I wish everyone could have," he said.

BIG DROP

Eleven Air Guard units take part in

By 1st Lt. Lisa Hollinrake
Rhode Island National Guard

TSgt. Gus Mesollesa calmly ushered members of the 82nd Airborne Division into the cargo bay of a Rhode Island Air Guard C-130. Weighed down with 75-pounds of soaking wet equipment, the paratroopers filed passed the 143rd Airlift Wing loadmaster and took a seat.

Their rest would be shortlived.

Over the next six hours they would join a 19-mile convoy of 140 aircraft and 5,500 U.S. and British airborne troops in the largest airdrop since World War II.

Big Drop III was an Air Force airlift exercise and part of Com-



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Hollinrake

ALL ABOARD - Soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., get ready to board a Rhode Island Air Guard C-130 at Pope AFB, N.C. All were part of Big Drop III.

"ESKE allows you to see all the aircraft around you, and this was a pretty impressive sight considering the weather conditions this particular night.

"We also acted as a weather ship for the formation," Johnson added, "which meant we were watching

bined Joint Task Force Exercise 96, a month long exercise involving members of the British and the U.S. militaries.

Eleven Air National Guard units participated in this exercise.

More than 10,000 U.S. and British air force personnel flew 537 missions from four bases to practice the kind of swift and massive response U.S. defense officials say will almost certainly be necessary in the next major

war.

Brig. Gen. Larry Northington, mission commander for the airborne forces of this exercise, said the object of the exercise was to put a large number of troops and equipment on the ground in a short amount of time.

"Anytime you can put almost 5,000 troops on their drop zones at night, and in inclement weather, you've been very successful," said Lt. Col. Stephan Stubits, Rhode Island Air

Guard's 143rd AW vice commander and ground missions coordinator for Big Drop III.

Those in the air also were challenged.

"Flying in a 28-ship formation was probably the most demanding night weather mission most of the crews have ever seen," said Maj. Edward Johnson, a 143rd navigator.

The task was made easier by using Enhanced Station Keeping Equipment, said Johnson.

for thunderstorms."

Lt. Col. Thomas Haynes, a pilot with more than 20 years in the cockpit, said Big Drop was a big thrill.

"The experience of managing a large formation in actual weather conditions and dropping actual personnel in inclement weather is unparalleled in my flying career," he said. "There were many lessons learned.

"Simply a fabulous experience."

TANKS A LOT

By MSgt. Dennis J. Campa
Texas National Guard

The Texas Army National Guard lent new meaning to the phrase "picking it up and laying it down," after coordinating the successful airlift of M-1 Abrams main battle tanks and other heavy equipment to the Armed Forces Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, La.

Texas' 49th Armored Division directed the 10-day Operation Armored Air Whale mission to support more than 1,300 division soldiers training at JRTC. In the process they also demonstrated the division's ability to rapidly deploy.

"This is a special airlift for us," said Maj. Larry Williams, the 49th's assistant G-4 (logistics officer). "We seldom have the opportunity to actually load our heavy equipment on aircraft. This airlift also represents what we would do if we mobilized for active duty."

The 13 C-5A Galaxy sorties transported nearly 2.2 million pounds of military equipment from Fort Hood and Laredo, Texas to Alexandria, La. The total aircraft upload and download time took 10 hours.

During this 10-day rapid deployment airlift the division equaled the total tonnage it has transported over the previous 10 years.

Under normal training conditions both active component and Guard units would receive a four year notification before a JRTC assignment. The 49th received notice last July.

The massive and rapid movement of equipment demanded a full range of coordination over multiple states and military forces.

"We trained a selected team of Texas National Guardmembers from different units for this event. This training opportunity now leaves us with trained people who can carry this training back to their units for future deployments," Williams said.

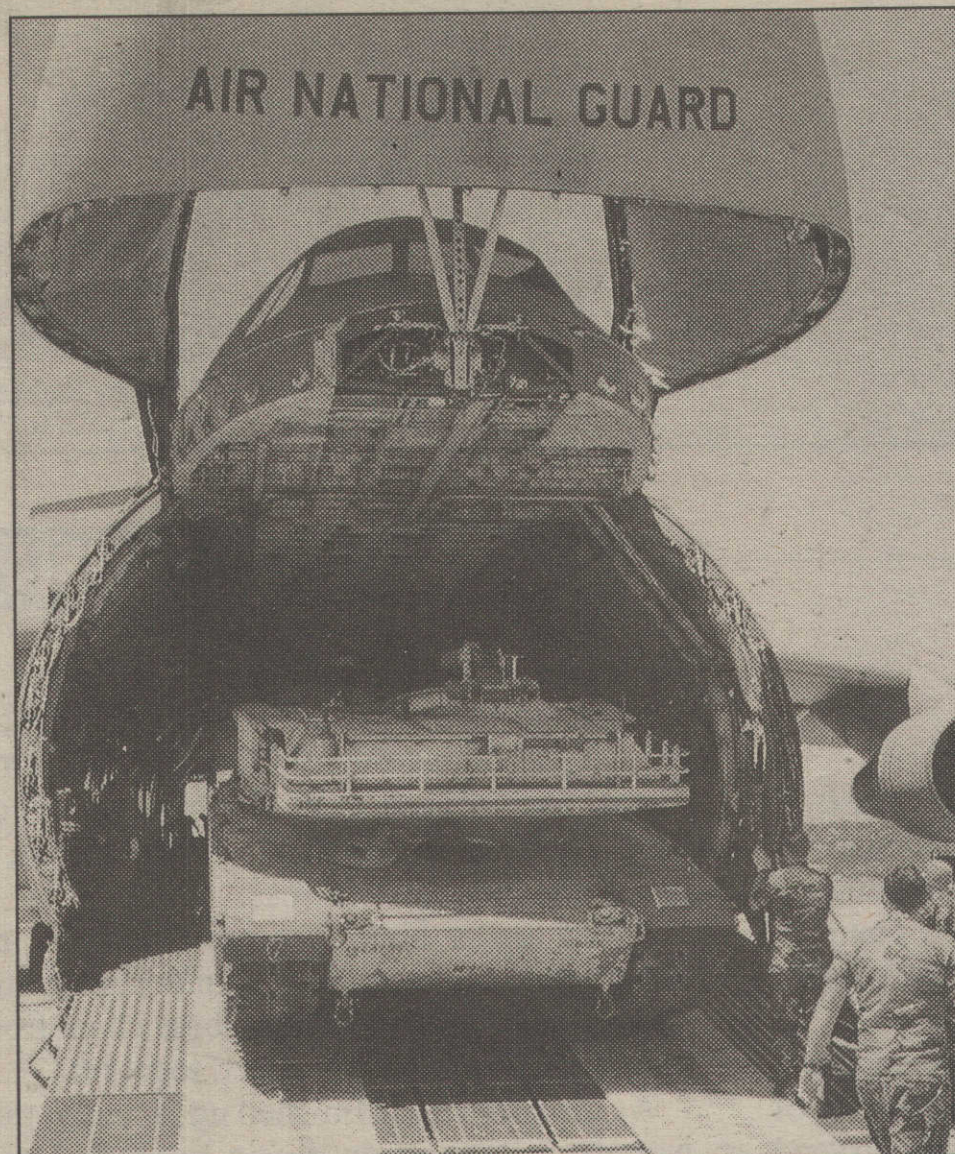


Photo by MSgt. Dennis J. Campa

OFF LOAD - An M-1 Abrams tank (left) rolls down a New York Air Guard C-5 ramp in Texas.

in the Air Force's inventory.

JRTC provided an ideal setting for Texas Army and Air National Guardmembers to practice their military and peacetime readiness. While there, Lone Star State Guardmembers worked directly with the actual units with whom they would deploy if activated.

"The overall purpose of the airlift is mobilization training and movement of our equipment from Texas to JRTC," Williams noted. "But we are also training our airload crews, hazardous material crews and joint inspection crews.

"This training event will help us complete our airload, rail load and overland qualification training plan," he added.

The airlifted cargo included nine M-1 Abrams main battle tanks, nine M-2 Bradley Infantry fighting vehicles, two M-88 recovery vehicles, eight M-113 armored personnel carriers, three M-1059 smoke generator track vehicles, one M-981 fire support tactical vehicle, and various trucks and trailers.

According to Williams, JRTC-type training events better prepare National Guardmembers to fulfill their multiple roles as a citizen-soldiers.

The 1,300 Texas citizen-soldier task force returned from the JRTC June 21.



STATES

- New Simulator
- Texan Alliance
- Bosnia Bound

WISCONSIN

The 128th Air Refueling Wing joined an elite group of Air National Guard units when the KC-135 simulator on base became operational.

The other ANG tanker units that have simulators are New Hampshire's 157th ARW, California's 163rd ARW and Mississippi's 186th ARW.

The simulator allows flight crews to be trained more safely and at a lower cost than the KC-135. The simulator operates at a cost of about \$500 per hour, whereas operating a KC-135 costs around \$2,000/hr.

VIRGINIA

In a Turkish town not far from where Marc Anthony first met Cleopatra, the 192nd Fighter Wing is having a rendezvous with destiny.

Incirlik AB, Turkey, is located only 25 miles from Tarsus, the birthplace of Saint Paul and the alleged fated meeting place of those two historic lovers. Most importantly, it is the site of the Turkish air base that hosts allied nations supporting "Operation Provide Comfort," helping Kurdish people and enforcing the 'no-fly' zone in northern Iraq.

The 192nd deployed 182 people to support the mission.

The Guard's portion of the mission is two three-month rotations per year.

Three state units rotate through each month. South Dakota had the first month, Virginia the second and Iowa the last.

Building BLOCKS

Spt. John Wintle (right), a member of the Louisiana Army Guard's 527th Engineer Battalion, carries a cinder block used to build a school in Belize. The Pineville, La., based unit deployed to the Central American country for two weeks as part of an humanitarian project.

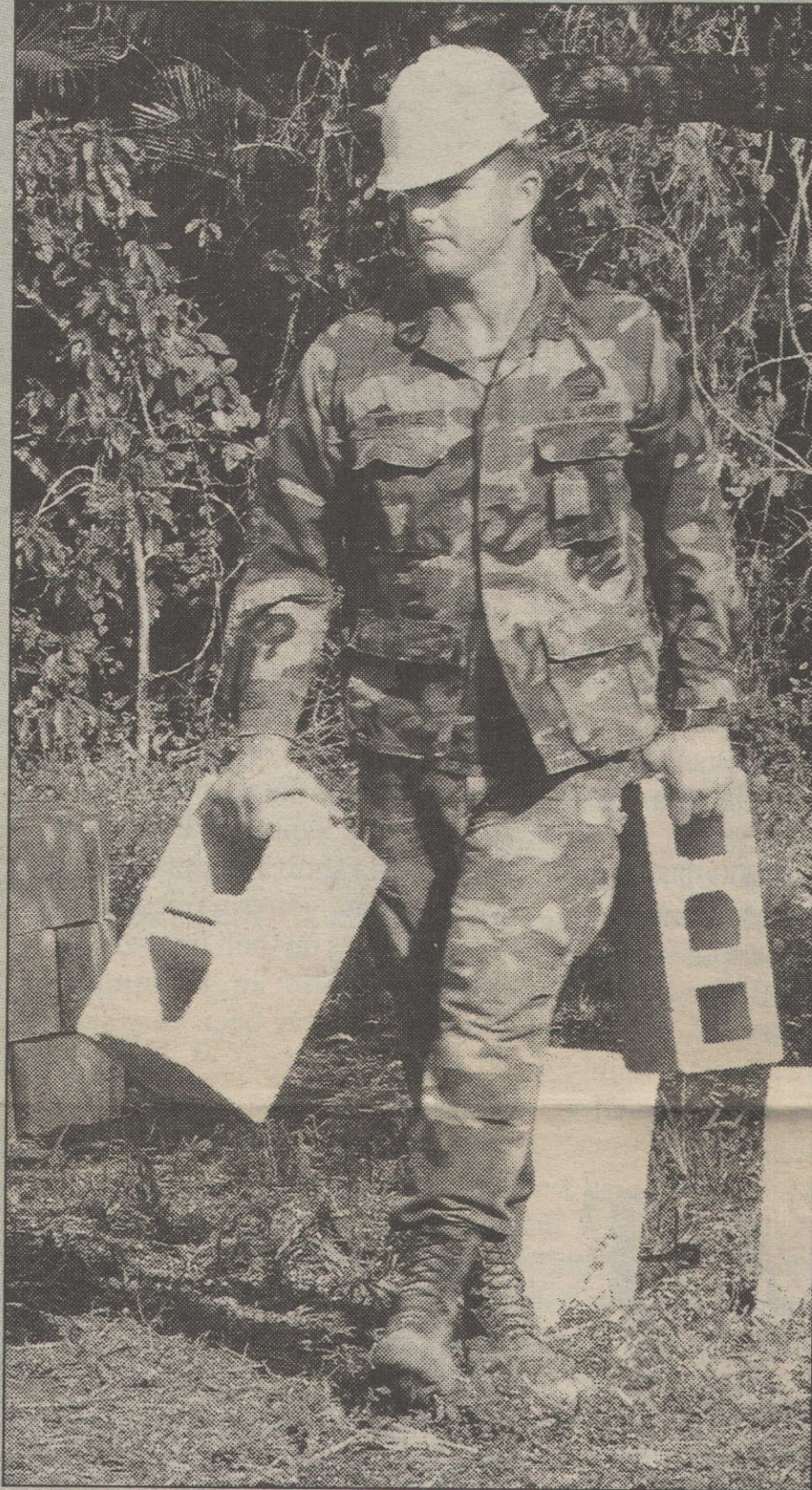


Photo by 2nd Lt. Tamara K. Anderson

TEXAS

The Texas Army Guard and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) began an 18-month-long training mission in Grand Prairie.

The mission, dubbed "Peace Prairie," is designed to train RSAF personnel in the use of the CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

The RSAF determined in 1994 that it needed to update its helicopter fleet and improve its search and rescue capability. They decided that the CH-47 Chinook, manufactured by Boeing, would be the ideal aircraft for the mission.

The Lone Star State Army Guard was selected to train their aviators, based on its extensive experience and long-standing safety record with the CH-47.

More than 150 members of the Singapore Air Force and their families have relocated to Texas.

Members of Company G, 149th Aviation Regiment will conduct the training.

NEW YORK

Several senior officers of the Slovakian Air Force visited the 106th Air Rescue Wing in Westhampton Beach to learn more about combat search and rescue.

The Slovaks spent a week in the Empire State observing the 106th.

"As the people of the world come together, such efforts work hand-in-hand with the mission of rescue," said Col. David Hill Jr., 106th commander.

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

By Maj. Mike Milord

District of Columbia National Guard

They might seem too young to understand the U.S. armed forces peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, but most of the 100-plus boys and girls at the Minnieland Academy in Stafford, Va., knew that their countrymen and women were in a faraway place helping to further the goal of peace.

Stacked amid the multitude of cards, drawings and posters the students created this spring were boxes of candy, cookies, CDs and books they collected to send the troops a taste of home.

The project to send some comfort items actually began during the winter, said Becky Mounts, assistant director, when she learned that Tenisha White's mother, Maj. Camilla White, had been working feverishly before the winter holidays to prepare a unit for deployment in support of Operation Joint Endeavor,

the U.S. peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

Maj. White is an administrative officer for the District of Columbia Army Guard's 74th Troop Command. She spent most of December getting five soldiers from the 715th Public Affairs Team ready for activation before Christmas.

"They get a hold of something like this and it snowballs," said Jean Harleman, second grade teacher. "The kids made a red, white, blue chain from (paper) to show how we are all linked together."

As the collections finished up recently, the students boxed up all the candy, music, books and good wishes and sent them to the D.C. National Guard armory in Washington, where White and D.C. Guard chaplains made the final arrangements to get them shipped.

"When I saw all the things that had been donated from just one school, I was really amazed," said White. "The soldiers were really excited when we told them to expect some greetings from home."

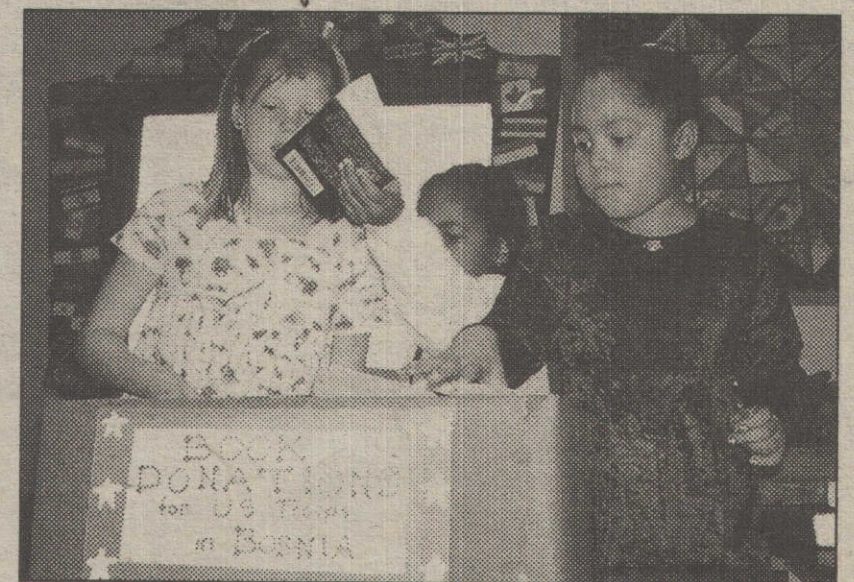


Photo by Maj. Mike Milord

IT'S IN THE MAIL - Students (above) at the Minnieland Academy in Stafford, Va., drop books in a box earmarked for troops supporting Operation Joint Endeavor.



HISTORY

A visit to Lexington and Concord reaffirms appreciation for sacrifice

ONE and ONLY MILITIA

Many Guardmembers, particularly those of us who have studied our nation's militia heritage, feel we know about the traditions of those who came before us. A recent visit to the battlefields of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts where, on the morning of April 19, 1775, American minute men fought the opening engagements of the American Revolution, gave cause for reflection.

One visit to Lexington and Concord would help affirm the importance of the traditions of the American minute men; traditions that should be of serious interest to all men and women in today's National Guard.

When the colonists came to America, they brought with them from Great Britain the practices of the organized militia.

In America, all males over the age of 16 served in the militia, and they provided their own weapon. Musters were frequent and mandatory. Towns assessed punishments against those soldiers absent from drill or improperly equipped.

The American militia companies took on several immediate missions, including keeping the peace in their own communities, dealing with the Native Americans and protecting their land against foreign incursions.

During the later stages of the Colonial period, a sharp distinction developed between the militia and the minute men. The colonists wanted the capability to respond quickly to unexpected threats. They designated approximately 30 percent of each militia company as "minute men." These soldiers were expected to have their weapons and equipment ready at all times and to deploy within an hour.

Minute men served in militia units, but they were set aside as a separate and distinct group, well-trained, well equipped and designated as a ready force.

The National Guard's heritage is more accurately drawn from the "minute men" concept, rather than from the militia force in general.

The American minute men were a community-based, family-oriented organization. Each town had its own

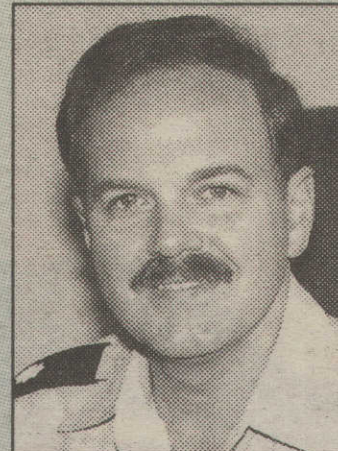
militia company and complement of minute men. It was not unusual for father-son combinations to serve in the militia or even with the more combat ready minute men.

The ties to local community and family are best seen in the opening engagement at Lexington. Of the approximately 77 men who turned out to defend the town, 16 were father-son combinations.

And the minute men were willing to fight to defend their communities. The battle at Concord started when Americans were unable to stand by idly as the British set fire to their town.

As citizen-soldiers, the minute men had confidence in their training, their cause and themselves. Many of the minute men were veterans of major wars or smaller actions; almost all of them had previous combat experience.

In Boston, the garrison of British regulars had contempt for the skills of the armed farmers. But the minute men knew what war was like, and they were convinced that their



GUARD HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Michael Doubler
ARMY GUARD HISTORIAN

ment of the minute men. They often supported their cause by hiding illegal military supplies, weapons, and equipment in their own homes. In fact, the British came to Concord to search homes for hidden war materiel.

The first shots at Lexington were the result of a confused meeting engagement, but the fight at Concord bridge was an organized attack by the Americans. Standing near the north end of Concord bridge where the earliest National Guard soldiers fired the first, deliberate volley of the Revolutionary War, is inspiring.

On that exact spot stands the original Minute Man Statue, emplaced in 1875, a near replica of which now stands at the entrance of the Army National Guard's Readiness Center.

The traditions of the militia and the minute men are central to our national heritage and to our own history as National Guard soldiers and airmen. The traditions of service to community and family, and commitment to military readiness and the national defense, are unchanged.



Photo courtesy NGB Historical Service Division

FIRST SHOTS - Reenactors (above) fire shots at the British in Concord, Mass.

Lately, there has been some discussion about so-called "militia" organizations. The U.S. National Guard is the only force who has paid the price and has earned the right to be identified with the revered terms "minute men" and "militia."

weapons, training and fighting spirit put them on an equal footing with the British. When they faced the Redcoats on the morning of April 19, 1775, the minute men knew they were squaring off against the most professional military organization in the world. Still, they fought with great confidence in their abilities.

Until one stands at Lexington Green and at the North Bridge in Concord, you cannot fully appreciate the commit-



TRAINING

New Hampshire's 114th
Public Affairs Detachment is
finding Croatia informative

NEWS HOUNDS

By 1st Lt. Scott Loring
New Hampshire National Guard

Five members of the New Hampshire Army Guard's 114th Public Affairs Detachment arrived at Croatia's Camp Slavonski Brod in late April. They've been beating the bushes ever since.

The Manchester, N.H., based unit's main mission supporting Operation Joint Endeavor is to produce a weekly, eight-page newsletter called the *Sava Sentinel*.

"I'm very excited to be a part of the mission that is going on down here," said Capt. David Durling, a graphic designer for a New Hampshire desktop publishing company and the 114th's broadcast officer. In Croatia, Durling is the Public Affairs Officer for Camp Slavonski Brod.

As such, he sees the mission of publishing the *Sava Sentinel* as an important means of keeping everyone informed as to what others are doing in support of the entire operation.

The deployment has also allowed other members of the 114th PAD to see the devastation exacted in the former Yugoslavia.

"I drove down from Camp Slavonski Brod to Lukavac, Bosnia with the 'Eagle Express,'" said Spc. Savo Wise referring to the only supply convoy that brings supplies from Germany to Bosnia. "I saw a lot of the effects of the war and what the rural life is like in Bosnia. I took a lot of pictures."

Wise, a photojournalist, plans to put together an historical portfolio of black and white prints and show them in galleries in New England when he returns home.

For Spc. Aaron Towle, a 114th photojournalist, the deployment has been illuminating.

"For the first time in my life," he observed, "I've been able to travel out of the states and for an extremely worthwhile cause."

"I have realized the world's a much



Photo by 1st Lt. Jerome Loring

NEWS GATHERING - SFC William Haulenbeek (left), a broadcast journalist with nearly 27 years in the business, gets ready to roll video in Croatia. Spc. Aaron Towle (below, right), a photojournalist, interviews Sgt. Gary Goodwin.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jerome Loring



Photo by Spc. Savo Wise

bigger place than I ever thought," he added.

SFC William Haulenbeek, a broadcast journalist with nearly 27 years in the National Guard, volunteered to deploy with the 114th.

"I'm glad for a chance to experience another culture in another part of the world," he said. "It's been great to be a part of the operation going on here."

Despite the potential for danger, 1st Lt.

Jerome Loring is happy to be in Croatia.

"It's exciting to have an opportunity to be here, to be a part of history," he said. "Our second day here, we walked across the Brcko bridge into Bosnia. It was incredible. You see it on the news, but until you're here, it's hard to imagine. There were bombed out buildings and signs of the recent conflict everywhere."

"There's still a lot of tension."

The 114th is scheduled to return to the

HOT OFF THE PRESS - Vlatko Vladislavljević (left), a Croatian printer, delivers a new edition of the *Sava Sentinel* to New Hampshire's SFC William Haulenbeek, Capt. David Durling and 1st Lt. Jerome "Scott" Loring.

United States in early August to begin outprocessing from active duty. Their 270-day tour will end on Sept. 8.