

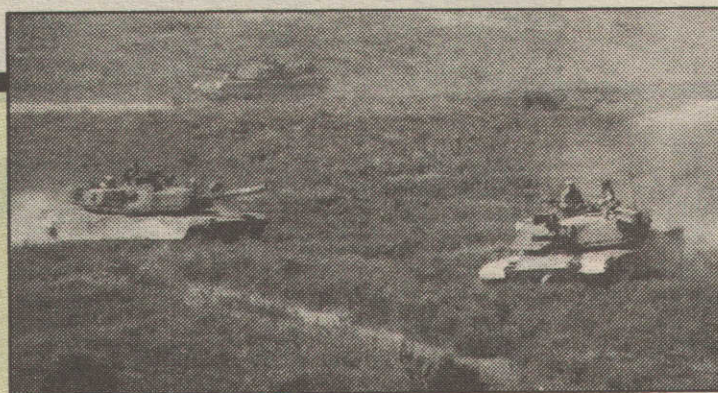
## ALASKAN FIRES

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## NETTING SUCCESS

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# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXV, No. 11

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

August 1996

## Oregon mobilizes at home

*41st Personnel Services  
Co. deploys to Europe*

By MSgt Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Call it the Oregon Army National Guard's six-year plan. That is how long that organization has been nursing the idea that many Army Guard units can mobilize directly from their homes to where ever the Army needs them without going through a bunch of middlemen; without stopping at a mobilization station.

Army and National Guard officials from the Pentagon to state headquarters in Salem, Ore., found out in July if the idea championed by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon's Adjutant General, would work. Oregon put it to the test.

That state's 41st Personnel Services Company from Salem became the first Army Guard unit in history to travel from home station to work station without having its payroll records or medical records double-checked, or even questioned, at a mobilization station before leaving the country.

The company's 48 citizen-soldiers, commanded by Capt. Laura Garren, maintain the records of thousands of other soldiers. The unit was scheduled to leave western Oregon's pastoral Willamette River valley for Germany on July 23 to support this year's Bosnian peacekeeping operation, Joint Endeavor. There would be no mobilization station stop at Fort Benning, Ga.

Imagine a father walking his daughter down the aisle on her wedding day without ever having met the groom. That is the level of uncertainty with which Army officials are regarding this idea of mobilizing from home stations.

"There's been a lot of burning eyes on us from the Pentagon on down, but it hasn't been so hot that I have wanted to

escape," said SFC Christian Allen, 38, the unit's top sergeant.

"We are building and setting standards so that, hopefully, other soldiers will not have to go through a mobilization station again," she added.

Nearly half of the unit's members planning to spend the rest of this year assisting American soldiers in seven German communities are women, and some of them have young children, said Allen.

"Not going to a mobilization station means they will have more time with their families before they leave," she added. "Everybody likes that idea."

Maj. Gen. Rees claimed the idea was born during the massive deployments for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He is a 1966 West Point graduate and a lawyer. He had been Oregon's TAG for three years when 250 citizen-soldiers in two of that state's units were sent to the Persian Gulf.



Maj. Gen. Rees

Those Oregon units -- the 206th Transportation Detachment and the 2186th Maintenance Company -- and 295 other Army Guard units had to be processed in their states and again at one of many mobilization stations before helping to drive the Iraqi army out of Kuwait.

It bothered Rees that Army Guard units had to spend additional time at mobilization stations while Air Guard units, as well as a Marine Corps Reserve outfit in Salem, were sent overseas directly from their home bases.

"All of that work was for naught," said Rees of the state area commands' efforts to prepare their Army Guard units for deployment. "It was a tremendous amount of inefficiency."

He believed the states have the resources to deploy their own Army Guard units. "I am comfortable with home station mobilizations for company-size units and below," he explained.

Then in July 1991, Rees went to Wash-

■ See OREGON, Page 4



Photos by Walt Wheeler

## KOOL SCHOOL

New York Air Guard's Vicki Conners (above) tears open a cold weather MRE while attending arctic survival training, called 'Kool School,' on the Greenland Ice Cap. Her unit, the 109th Airlift Wing, flies ski-equipped C-130s (inset) used to support the National Science Foundation in the Arctic and Antarctic.





# COMMENTARY

## COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of July 10, the National Guard has assisted in 79,657 arrests and seized 7,952 weapons, 22,648 vehicles and nearly \$144 million in cash while conducting 5,785 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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## LETTERS

### DONE PROUD

*I am inquiring about a picture that appeared in the February 1996 edition in a story titled, "Proud Service," written by Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk, National Guard Bureau Historian.*

I'm a lieutenant colonel and an African American in the Kansas Army National Guard. I'm doing research on other members of my race throughout the U.S. who were members of National Guard units. I'm putting together a scrapbook/picture album to present to the Leavenworth, Kansas Chapter of Buffalo Soldiers Association. This particular picture caught my interest because I am also a field artillery officer.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article and was honored to read about the distinguished service of the members of the Massachusetts Guard's Headquarters Battery, 272nd Field Artillery Battalion.

**Lt. Col. Calvin S. Johnson**  
Kansas National Guard

*Editor's Note: For more information about the 272nd Field Artillery Battalion Association write to: PO Box 190272, Boston, MA 02199*

### LIGHT YEARS BETTER

*Our public affairs officer left the June 1996 edition of The On Guard on my desk the other day. It was the first*

edition I had seen in a while, and it caught me by surprise.

It was good -- really good.

I don't know when it was redesigned, but the current *The On Guard* is light-years better than its predecessor. For years I would glance at *The On Guard*, chuckle a little at the errors, cry a little over the layout and story selection and toss it in the can. I couldn't figure out why, with all its talent and resources, the Guard Bureau couldn't put out a better product. Eventually I stopped bothering to read it.

Now you've captured my attention and my admiration. What I see is a formula that's graphically pleasing, informative and timely. The new-look *The On Guard* is a publication that I'd be proud to see news of our unit.

Please add my congratulations and compliments to those I'm sure you've already received.

**TSgt. Edward M. Kelleher**  
Virginia National Guard

*Editor's Note: Thanks for the kind words. We try to make The On Guard reflective of the people in the National Guard. We are only as good as the people we write about.*

### CAPTURING KINDNESS

*I'm writing this letter to advise you of the good deeds my husband, Sgt. Michael J. Donnelly, has done without any recognition.*

For the last few years my husband has been donating animal photos, taken in zoos located in Texas, to two different hospitals. He has not asked for or received any recognition. Michael has

completed two full rooms at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, at great personal expense. Several of these pictures were donated in the name of the 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation, located at Ellington AFB in Houston. Another picture was done for the former First Lady, Barbara Bush, and one for a Guardmember whose daughters were murdered.

Michael has recently returned to his unit, and I would like to see him recognized for his efforts.

**Karen O. Donnelly**  
The Woodlands, Texas

### GENERALLY PLEASED

*I want to commend you on the quality of work put into The On Guard newspaper. I found the paper to be quite informative, while the articles are interesting and focus on current events involving our soldiers.*

**Maj. Gen. Harley C. Davis**  
5th U.S. Army,  
Deputy Commanding General

### LETTERS POLICY:

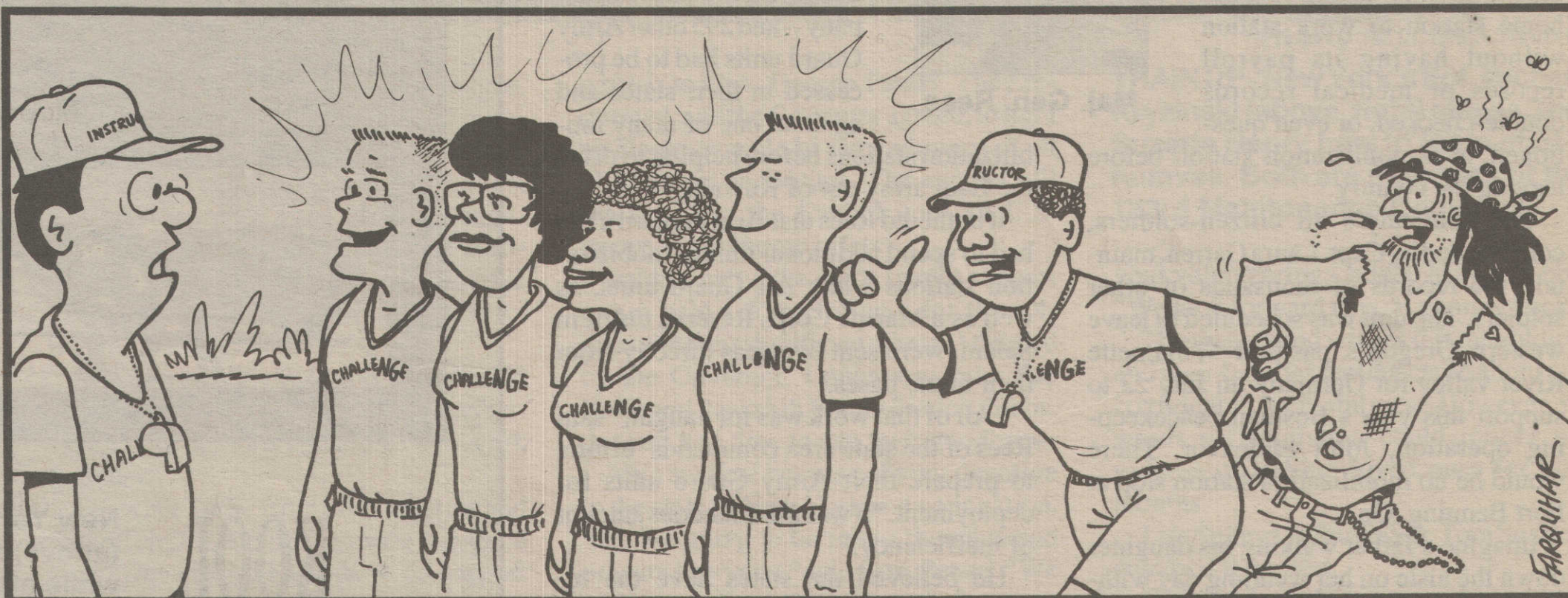
*The On Guard* welcomes letters from readers. All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone. Names may be withheld upon request.

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



"This ChalleNGe volunteer didn't come in with yesterday's group."





# IN THE NEWS

- New system
- 50th Anniversary
- Iowa Storms

*Crew delivers near flawless performance at Fort Riley range*

## Kansas tankers fire record score

By Maj. Jeff Coverdale  
Kansas National Guard

With a new driver at the controls and a new loader in the turret, Capt. John Nelson and gunner Sgt. Mark Cook hoped to get through their Tank Table VIII gunnery qualifications with as few mistakes as possible.

When the smoke cleared from their day and night runs at the SSgt. David Q. Douthit Range Complex, however, the M60A3 crew found that they had made only one mistake and in the process had established a new record Table VIII gunnery score for National Guard and Reserve units at Fort Riley, Kan.

Nelson and his crew, from the Kansas Army Guard's Company D, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor, based in Junction City, scored a record 993 out of a possible 1,000 points to eclipse the old mark of 969. It was set last year by another Kansas Guard unit, the 2nd Battalion, 635th Armor, from Salina.

Although Nelson is a veteran of six tank gunneries, and he and Cook have been through two of them together, his loader, Spc. Jarrod Trosclair, and driver, Spc. Eric Enblom, have been with them for approximately two months. They both, however, are former M1A1 active duty crewmen who brought with them a wealth of experience.

"Anyone who thinks Guard units don't train hard need only to take a look at this battalion's scores," said Cook, a former M1A1 gunner. Three other tank crews in the battalion have cracked the 900 mark to earn "distinguished" ratings. Overall, 48 crews have successfully qualified, 35 of them on the first attempt.



Photo by SSgt. John Nee

**TOP TANKERS - Capt. John Nelson (left), Spc. Eric Enblom, Sgt. Mark Cook (kneeling) and Spc. Jarrod Trosclair set a Table VIII record.**

"You begin to understand that it's not the tanks, but how the unit prepares itself during the entire year leading up to gunnery," Cook added.

Nelson said his crew just tackled the course one engagement at a time, executing the way they had trained all year.

"Sgt. Cook was in the zone. Everything he saw, he hit," Nelson said. "Enblom, our driver, gave us a steady platform for firing on the move, and the loader, Trosclair, displayed good fast mechanics loading rounds into the main gun."

Enblom, a former M1A1 driver during Operation Desert Storm, said practice and attention-to-detail made the difference.

"I knew Capt. Nelson meant business when I saw him read the boresight instructions word-for-word out of the book," he said. "He and Cook did it by the numbers."

Nelson said he hopes the rest of the crews in his battalion do well during their qualifications... but not too well.

"This could possibly be the last gunnery using M60A3 tanks at this post," he said. "That means our score and record would stand forever. That would be something."

## New communications system being installed

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

The late Gen. Edward Packenham learned a hard lesson about the importance of communicating.

He commanded the British force that suffered 2,000 casualties while being thoroughly whipped by Gen. Andrew Jackson's militia during the half-hour Battle of New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815.

Packenham and Jackson did not know one important bit of information because they could not communicate quickly with their higher headquarters. The conflict between the United States and Great Britain, now called the War of 1812, had ended

two weeks earlier, on Dec. 24.

Now the Army National Guard is refining its ability to quickly communicate classified information to the people who need it.

The computerized, state-of-the-art Global Command and Control System (GCCS) is being installed at National Guard centers around the world from Harrisburg to Heidelberg -- at the same time it is becoming part of this country's worldwide defense system, said Lt. Col. Roy Jensen, chief of the Army Guard's Readiness Systems Branch in Arlington, Va.

"Information about unit strengths and troop movements must be timely, accurate and cost effective and presented in a format on which com-

manders can base their decisions," he said.

GCCS is hardly the Army Guard's first experience with computerized communications. But it is a lot faster and more efficient than the Worldwide Military Command and Control System that has been in service since the late 1980s, said SFC Michael Hunnel of the Readiness Systems Branch.

"With the old system, it might have taken between 45 minutes to an hour to transfer a file from point to point," he said. "The new system takes between 45 seconds to a minute."

The Army Guard has been phasing in the new system for about a year.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### 50TH AIR GUARD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO BEGIN

The Air National Guard (ANG) and the Air Force were established as separate organizations on Sept. 18, 1947. From September 1996 through December 1997, the total Air Force will sponsor a series of events commemorating that 50th anniversary.

The theme is the "Golden Legacy, Boundless Future" of the Air Force. Maj. Gen. Donald W. Shepperd, the Air Guard's Director, has urged the ANG community to actively support and participate in this historic celebration. ANG units across the country are planning events including open houses, air shows and reunions keyed to their own histories.

Gen. Shepperd appointed Col. Rick McCartney, Air National Guard Readiness Center commander, as his ANG 50th anniversary coordinator. McCartney's DSN is 278-8001.

Those looking to help tell the Air Guard's story are in luck. Several ANG histories have been written. Copies of ANG historical publications are available from the National Guard Bureau's Historical Services Division.

Contact Dr. Charles J. Gross for historical materials at NGB-PAH. He can be reached at DSN 761-0719 or (703) 681-0719.

Units are encouraged to share their plans, comments and suggestions on this commemoration with either McCartney or Gross.

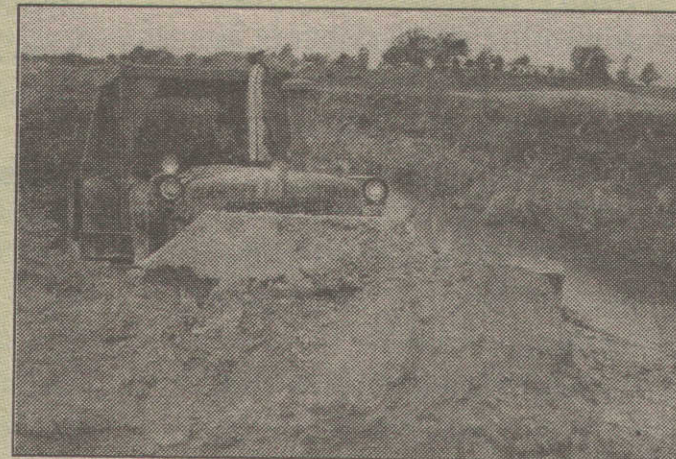


Photo by SFC Jim Salts

**STORM TROOP - Iowa's Sgt. Ed McDonough uses a bulldozer to help repair a levee system.**

### IOWA RESPONDS TO STORMS

Rain showers and thunderstorms led to the swelling of many rivers and streams causing a stream north of Nichols, Iowa, to breach the levee.

A task force from the Iowa Army Guard's 224th Engineer Battalion was called up for active duty to deal with the storm's aftermath.

Working from dawn to dusk, under adverse conditions, the engineers repaired the top of the levee.



## OREGON

From Page 1

ington, D.C. During the next three years he served as Director of the Army National Guard, Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the Bureau's Acting Director. He returned to Oregon as the Adjutant General in August 1994.

Those credentials and his reputation as an innovative leader gave him the influence he needed to make people listen when he talked about deploying an Oregon unit directly to a Joint Endeavor station.

The 41st Personnel Services Company got called earlier this year to join the second rotation of Army Guard units going to Europe. Rees went to work.

It was the right unit for several reasons, said Rees. It is small. It has a seasoned commander with a solid nucleus of full-time people who have mobilized other Oregon outfits for Desert Storm and for training missions in Japan and Panama. It could put its own records in order. It had far less equipment to move across the continent and the Atlantic Ocean than, say, an engineer company. And its basic combat skills, including rifle qualification, could be validated at Oregon's upscale Camp Rilea.

Rees sold the idea to active Army officials, including Lt. Gen. Marc Cisneros, the 5th Army commander.

"I firmly believe the (home station mobilization) concept is worth trying as a test bed and merits positive consideration," wrote Gen. Cisneros.

Yes, it is a test. But no one in the 41st is worried about failure.

"This unit is going to do just fine," promised Allen.

The real test involves how well the process can work for other kinds of units with more people and if it does indeed save money.

"The total Army is looking for us to save money and be better stewards of our resources," said Rees.

"I know my state headquarters staff's capabilities," Rees added. "Some people will say we had a lot of time to get this small unit ready to do this. I think we met all of the requirements very early in the process."

"This," predicted Col. Douglas Pritt, Oregon's plans, operations and training officer, "is the mobilization base of the future."

# Alaskans respond to wildfires

By Capt. Mike Haller  
Alaska National Guard

**W**hen the worst wildfire in the history of Alaska chewed through 37,336 acres of wilderness and destroyed almost 350 homes, the men and women of Alaska's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) responded.

The DMVA, made up of the Alaska Army and Air National Guards, the Division of Emergency Services, the Alaska State Defense Force and the Alaska Naval Militia, had soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians serve as a joint task force to help with the fire response and recovery effort.

The Miller's Reach Fire -- located to the north of Houston, Alaska -- which authorities now think was deliberately set by fireworks, started out small but quickly spread because of high winds and dry conditions.

"This was the perfect opportunity to pay back the goodwill that the community has always provided to the Guard," said Army Guard Lt. Col. Richard Blunt, the task force commander. "It was also a great opportunity for all kinds of community leaders to work together."

The fire's ferocity -- at one point, moving four miles a day -- quickly overwhelmed Department of Forestry fire crews. That's when the Guard was called.

"We brought a fire suppression team, with 10 firefighters and four trucks, deployed from Kulis Air Guard Base," said Air Guard Col. Jerry Gilleen, assistant crisis action team commander.

The Air Guard also rolled out the 176th Security Police Squadron to assist local law enforcement agencies. They manned checkpoints and roving patrols to cut down on looting of unaffected homes.

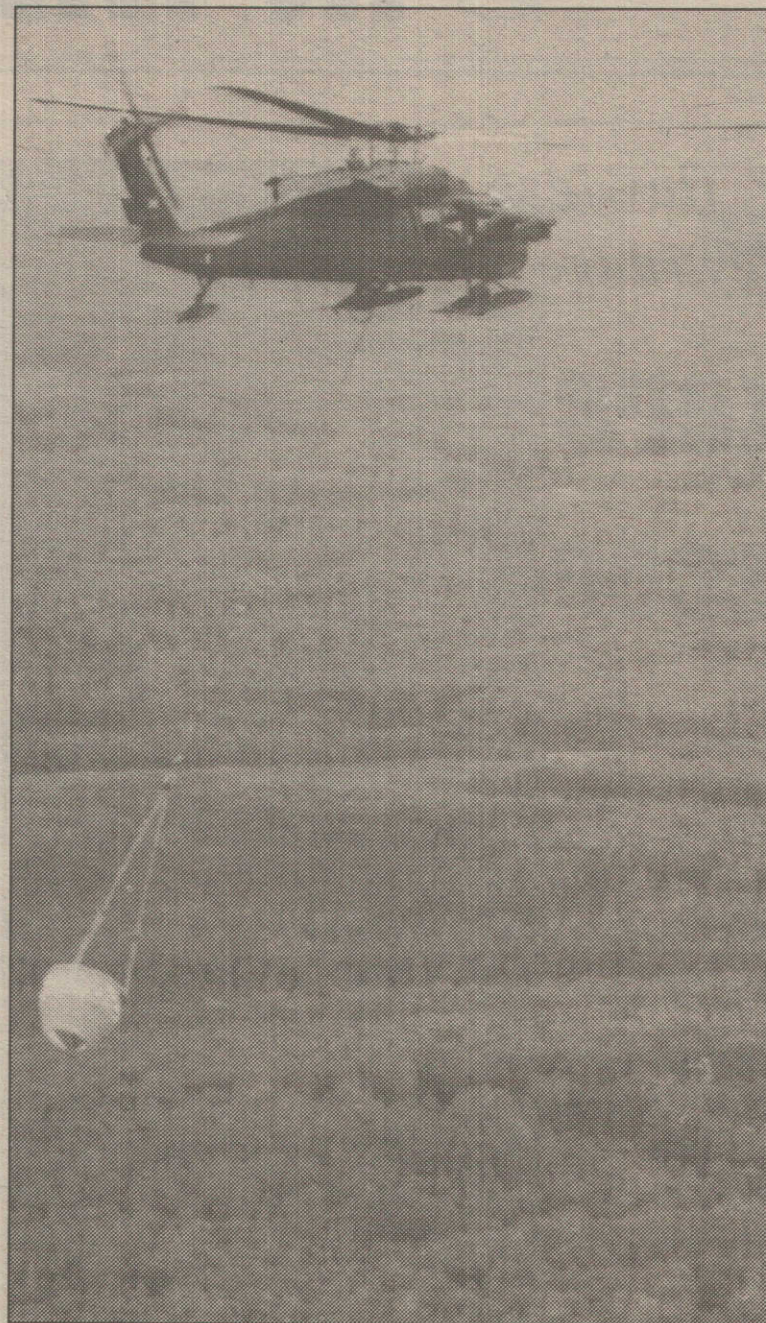


Photo by SrA. Derek Vincent

The fire had a fickle appetite as to which homes it devoured. In many cases it burned one structure while the home next door remained untouched. Nearly 1,500 people were evacuated from the area, despite the fire's indiscriminate taste.

At the peak of the disaster, 427 Guardmembers, Naval Militia and State Defense Force members served.

"Many soldiers told me that they felt it was a privilege to patrol their community," said Army Guard Col. Mike McCourt.



Photo by SSgt. Denise Ebertz  
**TOTHE RESCUE** - An Alaska Army Guard Blackhawk (left) delivers water to the Miller's Reach fire. An Air Guard firefighter (above) works on a hot spot.

Several soldiers lost their homes to the flames, but never abandoned their posts, added McCourt.

"I'm from Big Lake," said Army Guard SSgt. G.B. Jones, who was part of a roving patrol set up for security purposes at an evacuation center located at a local high school. "I know the majority of the people I've seen here at the evacuation center. It helps them to see a familiar face in a uniform."

The Guard also provided four UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters for water bombing purposes. Each had a bucket attached to it that carried 700 gallons of water or flame retardant to dump on fire-infested areas.

Guardmembers worked 10-14 hour shifts at the height of the disaster. Air Guard worked alongside Army Guard.

"I had no idea if they were Army or Air until I made it a point to look at the tag on their uniforms," McCourt insisted.

## THIRSTING for ADVENTURE

During a 'Humvee Rodeo,' (sic) and in the interest of showing local media representatives and the public the capability of the multi-purpose vehicle, a Maryland Army Guard soldier drove it through a deep waterway. Both vehicle and soldier reportedly waded through the obstacle without a hitch.

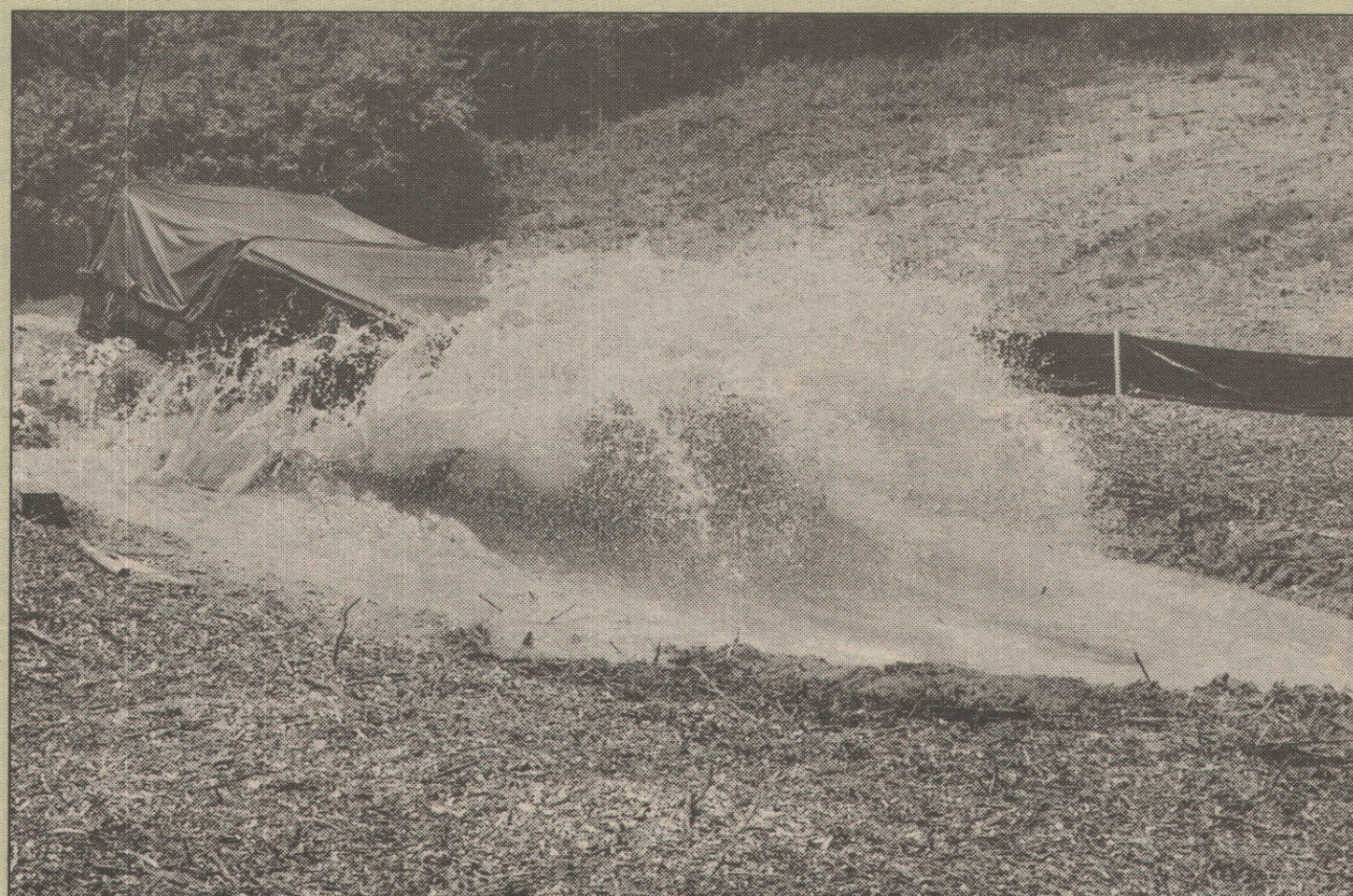


Photo courtesy of the Maryland National Guard





# PEOPLE

## IDEA MAN

**MSgt. Joseph Layton's research is saving the Air Guard, his country money**

By TSgt. John Loser  
Michigan National Guard

**S**MSgt. Joseph Layton found a problem and developed a solution. Now, he's traveling the world sharing what he's learned.

In the process, the Michigan Air Guard disaster preparedness specialist has saved the Air Force and Air National Guard nearly \$150,000.

Two years ago, Layton -- a member of the 110th Fighter Wing based in Battle Creek, Mich. -- received a new computer system to help in his emergency management. The Emergency Information Systems (EIS) software runs on a PC-compatible computer. It has 23 interlinked databases -- items like personnel profiles, maps, aircraft characteristics, weather and chemical product information.

"We can set an icon on a map and start linking information to it," Layton said. "The system is so sophisticated we can use it to run simulations of an event as a training tool or use it in a real event as things happen."

Layton attended a training class on the software system at the publisher's facility in Rockville, Md.

"I discovered we had a Ferrari and I didn't even have a driver's license," he marvelled. He needed to find a way to learn the system, use it effectively and share his

knowledge with others in his office.

Layton said the system is so big that it can be daunting. So he broke it down into a series of simple processes.

First, he got an alphabetically-sorted roster of unit personnel from the base personnel office. He then wrote down the entry process step-by-step. He did the same for each of the data bases and the processes needed to gather information and use it in the program. This became his EIS operating instruction.

"Very soon, I realized that I wasn't the only one doing this," said Layton. The Air National Guard had bought the system for 18 bases. He talked with his counterparts and shared his procedures with them. However, a problem "popped up" when he was asked to share.

"I couldn't give it to them because of the Privacy Act," Layton said, "So I took the time to build a simulated wing." He developed data bases with about 50 personnel, aircraft and other information. "It is just enough data to allow the simulations to run in a realistic manner," Layton said.

As more bases bought the software, the need for ANG-specific training grew. Layton had become the Air Guard's EIS authority. Soon, Layton was training others at Fort Fisher, N.C.

His first training class had members from 10 Air Guard bases. Six more classes followed over the next two years, with 42 Air Guard bases ordering software.

The active Air Force and the Air Force Reserve also

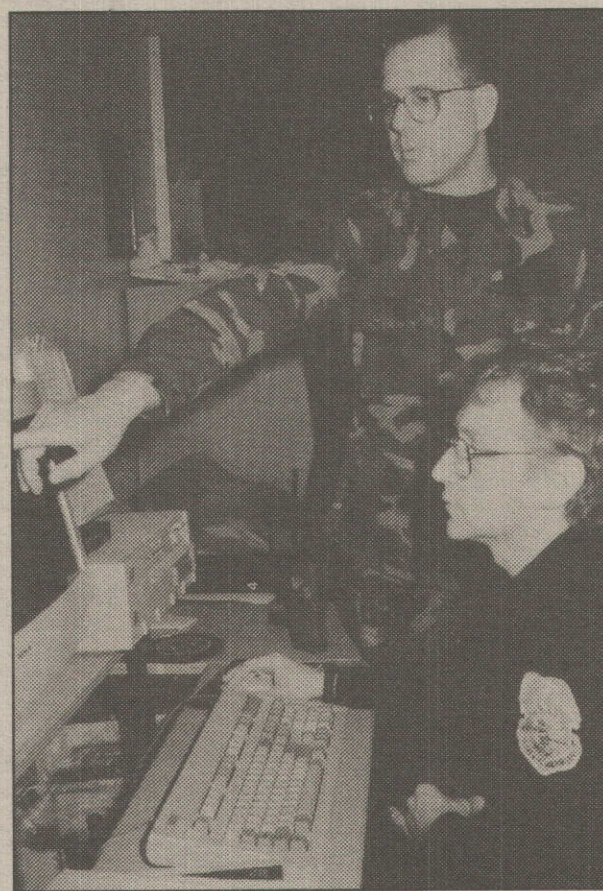


Photo by TSgt. Aura Ulm

**IDEA MAN - The Michigan Air Guard's SMSgt. Joseph Layton (standing) shows Tim Stevens how to use EIS software.**

wanted in. Several active component major commands and nearly every Reserve base have Layton's EIS software system.

In some cases, Layton has been asked to take his knowledge on the road. That was the case when he recently trained 18 members of the Pacific Air Force.

"PACAF has a training facility at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa. They arranged for me to fly there, saving thousands of dollars in travel expenses," he said.

Layton is recognized as a visionary on the local level as well as the national level. His commander, Maj. James Makowske, said Layton has shaped much of the Air National Guard emergency response program around EIS and developed an entire training program to teach others how to use it.

"His commitment to his career field and emergency response on a local, state and national level is contagious," Makowske said. "His energy and persistence pushes the system to milestones and higher levels of achievement."

Makowske said that Layton isn't necessarily driving the train, he's the guy behind the red car, with his toes in the railroad ties, pushing the train.

"Layton wants to improve the system at any level," he said. "His efforts will inevitably result in cases where lives are saved and damage to property is minimized because he has pursued a most noble cause."

Layton saw a tool, found ways to make it work better, and is teaching others what he knows. "Most people remember General MacArthur's speech to cadets at West Point where he said, 'Duty, Honor, Country.'"

"Senior Master Sergeant Layton," Makowske added, "and Guardmembers like him, add to these venerable words, 'community.'"

## Moving the FORCE

**Lt. Col. Bob Martinez is learning new tricks**

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**A**t 37, Lt. Col. Bob Martinez is young enough to believe that old dogs can be taught new tricks.

He is convinced, for example, there are easier ways to mobilize members of the Army Guard who have been called to active duty for operations such as this year's Bosnian peacekeeping mission, Joint Endeavor, than have been employed in the past.

"Let's start exploring ways to streamline or make more efficient this deliberate mobiliza-

tion process," is the challenge he has undertaken as the new chief of the Army Guard's Mobilization Branch in Arlington, Va.

Martinez is leading a team of nine people responsible for mobilizing all of the Army Guard's citizen-soldiers who are supporting the peacekeeping mission.

That team has mobilized 992 Guardmembers in 27 units from 19 states since December. Most are on board for nine months. Martinez' team will make sure that another 1,154 Guardmembers from 13 states are mobilized this summer.

Mobilization is the process of making sure that part-time soldiers have received all of their shots, are qualified with their rifles, know their military jobs,

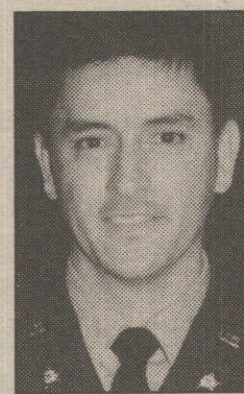
and have all of their paperwork in order as they make the transition to full-time soldiering.

It also involves making sure that each unit has all of the people it needs, even if that means finding qualified replacements from units that are staying home.

"The mobilization process is very deliberate, and for that I'm very thankful," said Martinez.

"It requires the Assistant Secretary of the Army or the Secretary of the Army to OK it," he added. "It's a painstaking process. It ensures we're not disrupting civilians' lives."

But after three years of helping to send many Army Guard troops to many places, including the Sinai Peninsula for the first half of 1995, this grandson of Mexican immigrants is ex-



**Lt. Col. Bob Martinez**

currently go through a mobilization station at Fort Dix, N.J., or Fort Benning, Ga.

Can some units be deployed directly from their home states?

Do Army Guardmembers need to spend a lot of time training for an active duty mission, or are many of them already good to go?

These are the issues that intrigue the new mobilization branch chief.

"We've pumped billions of dollars into the Guard over the

ploring ways to make the mobilization process easier.

All Army Guard and Reserve soldiers on Joint Endeavor duty

last few years to increase their training readiness," Martinez observed. "When is the country going to see a pay-back on that?"

Some of those issues, he believes, were addressed when some 500 Guardmembers formed the bulk of an active Army airborne battalion sent to the southern Sinai for six months to monitor the peace between Israel and Egypt.

"The train-up period was quite lengthy," he recalled. "The Army thought that if you bring Reservists together, you have to start from the first step. We had to overcome that."

Recently, 48 members of the Army Guard's 41st Personnel Services Company will deploy directly from Oregon to Europe on a trial basis to support Joint Endeavor without stopping at a mobilization station.

It's a sign that some old dogs are willing to try new tricks.





Photos by 1st Lt. Troy M. Gipps

Alabama, Indiana Guard become first troops to deploy to Romania since WWII

By 1st Lt. Troy M. Gipps  
and 1st Lt. Mark D. Brewster  
*Massachusetts National Guard*

For the first time since World War II American forces have deployed to Romania.

Elements of the Alabama and Indiana Air and Army National Guard arrived in Bucharest in late May.

The National Guard Engineers joined forces with the Romanian military to form Joint Task Force Leul. Guardmembers are participating in Cornerstone '96, a NATO-sponsored joint/combined engineering exercise with Romanian forces. More than 200 citizen-soldiers and airmen participated in the exercise. The last U.S. troops left Romania July 19.

The exercise is being conducted in the spirit of the Partnership for Peace program and is a part of the state partnership program between Alabama and Romania.

## RELATING in ROMANIA

"The partnership for peace will promote greater understanding between the United States and Romania," said Alabama Army Guard's Lt. Col. Roy C. Smith, JTF Leul commander. "It is an excellent opportunity for Air and Army Guardmembers to train and work alongside Romanian soldiers and sailors."

The purpose of Cornerstone '96 is to enhance the state partnership program between Romania and the state of Alabama and to complete three engineering missions. The aim is to improve Romania's self-help capabilities.

"You are ambassadors for America," Adm. Anghelescu, the Romanian Navy's Chief of Staff, told the Guardmembers when they arrived.

Joint Task Force Leul is assisting the Romanians in renovating Casa Speranta (an orphanage for HIV-positive children), a Holt International Children's Services and Day Care facility, and a military hospital. All three projects are in the port city of Constanta.

"At first it was difficult to know how to

approach the Romanian soldiers," said Spc. Richard Fant, a member of Alabama's Company B, 877th Engineer Battalion. "But after a few days at the work site we became friends and began to work quite well together."

"Finding common ground is a vital step toward developing friendships and trust," added SFC Lawrince Jinright with 'Bama's 1004th Engineer Detachment.

Casa Speranta is an orphanage for HIV-positive children. Their ages range from 2 to 10 years. Ten children at the orphanage have died of AIDS in the past five years. Currently 24 children live at Casa Speranta, in five "families," supervised by two "mothers."

Guardmembers and Romanian soldiers and sailors have cleared debris from the property, mowed the knee-high lawn and installed a fence around the property. They will renovate bathrooms, construct washer and dryer platforms, install new playground equipment, ceiling fans, electrical outlets, light fixtures, smoke detectors, flooring and window screening.

**BUILDING RELATIONS** - TSgt. Brett Roach (above with hammer) shows Romanians how to make a wooden screen frame from raw lumber.

The orphanage's cellar also was flooded with raw sewage. National Guard Engineers drained the cellar with a bilge pump and showed the Romanian troops how to repair the sewage system.

"The desire of the Romanian soldiers to try new engineering techniques impresses me most," said SFC Arthur Potter Jr., supervisor of the orphanage project. "They learn quickly and appreciate the opportunity to train alongside U.S. troops."

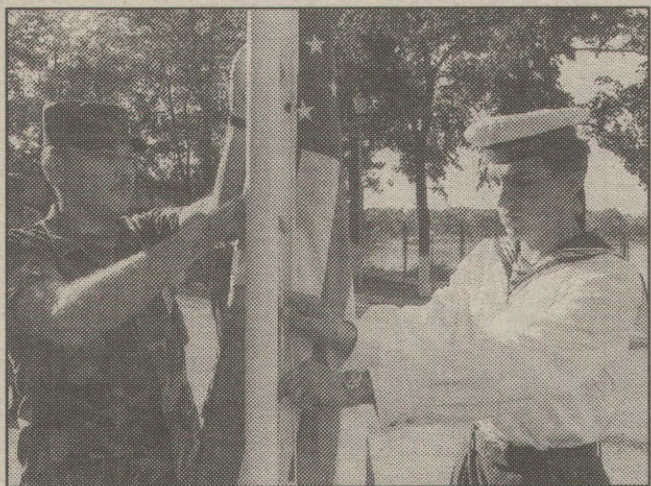
Alabama's SSgt. Jimmy D. Hildreth spoke for many working at the orphanage.

"Knowing that HIV-positive kids will have a few more days or years of enjoyment because of our efforts," he said, "makes me proud."

Engineering projects at the Holt/Day Care facility included landscaping, exterior painting, cement/stucco repair and building and installing window screens. The engineers also installed a fence around the property and remodeled the interior.

"Mowing the lawn may not sound like a big thing," said SMSgt. Billy R. Lam-





**FLAG RAISERS** - Indiana's Sgt. Mike Dunn and a Romanian sailor raise the American flag.

bert, a member of the Alabama Air Guard's 187th Civil Engineering Squadron. "But a basic \$100 lawn mower bought in the U.S. sells for \$1,700 U.S. dollars in Romania."

It was the first time many of the Romanian troops had ever seen power tools.

"The Romanian soldiers I worked with at the day care site had never seen a circular saw," said SSgt. Thomas S. Opferbeck, 187th CES. "We spent the day building 32 wooden window screen frames for the day care. It gives me a good feeling to know they will be able to continue improving buildings like this one when I'm back in the U.S."

"It was incredible to see the expressions on the Romanian soldiers' faces when we unloaded the generator and hooked up the circular saw," added TSgt. Perry Danner, 187th CES. "You don't realize the extent of cultural differences until you see it first hand. Except for the lack of technical expertise, which is beyond their control, on the job site we are equal and can learn from each other."

Members of the Indiana Air and Army National Guards and Romanian troops helped spruce up the Romanian Military Hospital.

Soldiers renovated latrine facilities, laid brick and tile in the operating room, installed deep sinks and air conditioning in the scrub room and provided general renovation assistance in patient rooms.

"Experiencing different cultures helps to round you out as an individual," said Capt. Richard D. Shatto. "At first glance, the Romanian engineering techniques appeared crude, however, given the available resources and the local climate, their methods are actually quite ingenious."

A helping hand isn't the only thing Guard engineers gave the Romanians, observed Spc. Scott Renaud.

"The toilets (at the military hospital) are basically holes in the floor that go to a septic system," he said. "We are installing toilets so they can have a seat."

Alabama's Sgt. Roger Wheeler said if the Romanian military continued to maintain the sites, their work will endure.

"We are making new friends, sharing our talents and building a bridge of understanding that will lead to a safer future," he said.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

South Dakota Army National Guard movement control team deploys for Operation Joint Endeavor

# MOVING EXPERIENCE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

**W**e can call this a moving experience. A movement control team from the Army National Guard has moved from the South Dakota prairie to central Germany's rolling farm country to help keep the Army on the move.

The eight members of the 57th Movement Control Team from Brookings, S.D., have settled into their Joint Endeavor peacekeeping duties in Bamberg, Germany.

That is one of the Army's gateways from central Europe into Bosnia.

"You're closer to Hungary and Bosnia here than you are in any other place," said Capt. Andy Gerlach, 29, the unit's commander. "Units are being deployed from this area, and the Army needed someone to handle the movement."

Gerlach's gang of eight has replaced about 20 active Army soldiers in the 30th MCT that has moved on to Hungary for the duration of this year's Bosnian peacekeeping mission.

Computers are a movement control team's tools of the trade for plotting the progress of the soldiers and their baggage and weapons and ammunition and food

**MOVERS AND SHAKERS** - South Dakota Army Guard's Sps. Fred Emmetsberger (above, left) and Sps. Steve Pressler enter information about troop movements into a computer in Bamberg, Germany.

and everything else needed to keep the Army on its feet during this peacekeeping offensive.

Others must load and carry the cargo to its destinations.

Computer literacy is a big help, acknowledged Gerlach, who has worked at a few terminals himself as a member of South Dakota's state budget staff. Most other members of the team are young men still in college who are also at home in cyberspace.

"We are in the sustaining mode," said Sgt. Alan Kludt of Brookings, an Army veteran and a history major at South Dakota State University.

It is a pretty time of year in the rural Bamberg region where fields of mustard are in full yellow bloom and where the haying season is in full swing.

"We got here after the main deployment, so now we keep the normal material moving," said Kludt as he tracked a load of duffel bags into the tactical area.

"We'll Carry You" is the 57th's motto.

It was a 15-member unit when it was sent to Saudi Arabia in 1990 for Operation Desert Storm, Gerlach explained. It has since been reorganized to half of that size.

Sgt. Glen Nordmeyer of Brookings, the training NCO, is the only remaining member of the team that deployed for Desert Storm.

Gerlach, however, has gained more recent experience moving a lot of military hardware.

He was the port movement control officer when the South Dakota Army Guard commanded the 1993 road-building exercise in Central and South America for the U.S. Southern Command.

Heavy engineer equipment such as bulldozers and trucks and other gear had to be hauled from South Dakota to California, then shipped to Costa Rica, and then carried south into Panama, Gerlach explained.

He was a lieutenant then and, yes, he remembered his part in that project as a moving experience.



EXERCISES

# Tactical AT&T

By Spc. Amy Szpara  
South Carolina National Guard

Imagine driving down the street in an urban area. Telephone wires and poles can be seen lining the roads. A telephone company employee stands in a bucket raised to a telephone post and works with intertwined wires.

Few realize the effort required to provide the link that allows them to communicate so freely.

"For them to install all the equipment in a town, starting at zero, would take them close to a year," said MSgt. Dan Arms, a cable platoon sergeant for the South Carolina Army Guard's 151st Signal Battalion, headquartered in Greenville. "When we hit the field, we install the same system, can communicate world-wide and install it within the same day."

Arms was the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of signal operations during the Blue Flag exercise at Hurlburt Field, Fla., for two weeks in June. The exercise was designed to train participants in planning and conducting joint fire support and mobile air/ground-related activities.

Eighteen 151st soldiers from Companies A of Laurens, B of Belton, C of Williamston and HHC of Greenville, were involved. They handled Defense Service Network lines and tactical telephones, ran cables and operated the mobile telephone switching vans.

"These guys are getting great training

because they are actually going out and installing the phones in the centers that people are working out of here," said CWO Tony McAlister. "There's a lot that goes on that people don't see."

SSgt. Tim Cleveland, a tactical auto switch operator and maintainer with Company C, agreed.

"We're a tactical version of AT&T," he said. "We can take these vans out in the middle of Egypt, in the middle of nowhere, and call anywhere in the world."

Cleveland, a "switch god" as other automated switch personnel call him, operates a fully automatic digital telecommunications network controller. The tactical telephones have call transfer capabilities, conference calling, compressed dial and E-mail capabilities. They also can connect computers into the Army's tactical computer network.

Sgt. Willie Williams, a wire and cable systems installer, "cable dog" to those in the know, said the humid Florida weather was a factor, but nothing that could dampen his spirits.

"We make the best of a hot AT," he said. "We laugh, joke and find things to amuse each other with. We look out for each other and make sure every one is taken care of and getting enough water."

Following initial setup, the remainder of the 151st's training involved supporting Blue Flag. They were tasked with maintaining their equipment, making needed repairs and taking "trouble calls."

"Our job is really behind the scenes,"

Arms said. "It's kind of like at home. When you pick up your telephone you just want to be able to pick it up and use it for its intended purpose. You don't think about the telephone installer, repair man or the switch office downtown until something is broken."

Being behind the scenes is just fine with South Carolina's switch gods and cable dogs.

"That's our intent. We'd like to be here and have it all work, and them never think about us," Arms confessed.

"If we can do that," he added, "and they remember to tell us 'Bye,' then we've had a successful mission."

**HOOKED UP** - South Carolina's SSgt. Tim Dabbs (foreground), 1st Sgt. Larry Arflin and Sgt. Mark Hogg, members of the 151st Signal Battalion, install an inter-switch trunk cable.



Photo by Spc. Van Hope

# NTC

The Western Kentucky Training Site is already drawing comparisons

# EAST

By SSgt. David Altom  
Kentucky National Guard

At first glance the scene looks like something out of a movie, or more appropriately, the evening news.

A dirt airstrip nestled between wooded hills is attended by soldiers in camouflaged helmets and painted faces. In the distance a formation of dark silhouettes moves slowly across the overcast sky, ponderous helicopters with slingloads of vehicles and equipment swinging beneath them.

The C-130 transport kicks up a cloud of dust. As it taxis to the end of the strip and turns around in preparation for takeoff, the aircraft is surrounded by a team of soldiers emerging from a nearby treeline. A Humvee pulling a trailer is quickly off loaded. The C-130 stirs up another dust storm and disappears into the horizon.

The entire operation takes less than five minutes.

You've just arrived at the Western Kentucky Training Site.

Owned and managed by the Kentucky National Guard, the site is proving popular with both active and Reserve component soldiers and airmen.

Those who have trained in Kentucky say its open terrain is its greatest appeal. Occupying more than 7,000 acres of reclaimed strip mine property near the western tip of Kentucky, the facility consists of enough flat and rolling land to give commanders many training options.

While nearby Forts Campbell and Knox have live-fire ranges accommodating everything from M-1 Abrams main battle tanks to Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, the Guard-run site has shown itself to be ideal for movement to contact exercises and large-scale maneuvers, some-

thing that cannot be done at the other facilities.

Lt. Col. Norman Arflack, commander of the Kentucky Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor, says the Bluegrass site is a tanker's dream.

"As a maneuver unit we need to conduct force-on-force training, especially when we go to battalion-on-company tactics in keeping with Soviet doctrine," he said. "That's kind of hard to do unless you go to someplace like Fort Hood (Texas)."

Arflack cited last summer's Advanced Warfighter Experiment as an example of the site's value.

Code named "Focused Dispatch," the experiment employed the latest developments in satellite communications, global positioning systems and computer technology to link armored vehicles at the Kentucky site to virtual reality simulators located at Forts Knox, Rucker, (Ala.), and Bliss, (Texas). The result was a series of battles between actual tanks and virtual armor, attack helicopters and air defense units.

"That was a great experience for us all," said Arflack. "In addition to our movement to contact missions, we found that we were able to complete a tank crew proficiency course during our training period without having to leave the compound."

"I saw our battalion grow in experience," he added, "and we didn't have to travel a great distance or worry about overextending our budget."







Photos by SSgt. David Altom

**BLUEGRASS BATTLES - Soldiers (above) practice civil disturbance drills. M-1 tanks (left) take advantage of the Western Kentucky site's 7,000 acres.**



Col. Pat Ritter, director of the Knox battle lab that oversaw "Focused Dispatch," held a similar opinion.

"If this isn't NTC East," he declared, referring to the National Training Center in California, "I don't know what is."

The site recently added a new moving target system using a laser interface device, similar to the familiar MILES systems that most crews are already trained to use. Along with various stationary pop-up targets and a wash rack designed to accommodate the largest of military hardware, the facility possesses all the features of a fully-equipped battle training site.

There are even plans to permanently station a complete battalion of M-1s at the site. Visiting units will have access to this equipment, making it unnecessary to ship their own.

CWO Joe Wilkins, the site manager, is especially proud of a recent \$6.5 million project that will ultimately house 175 officers and soldiers. A 400-seat dining hall, a drill hall and classrooms for computer simulator training also will be in-

cluded. Future construction will include additional administration and supply storage buildings, a physical fitness center and a dispensary.

"It's our goal to create the best military training facility possible," Wilkins said, "not just for the Kentucky Guard, but for anyone who has a need for quality training."

The versatility of the Kentucky site is already paying off. Last fall's Operation Mega Gold, for example, brought together elements of the 101st Airborne Division and the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing. More than 5,000 soldiers and airmen took part in the two-week exercise.

Teamwork and high technology are also playing an important part in preserving the training site. Site managers have been working with local universities in creating a comprehensive database listing complete biological inventories of everything from endangered species to the different types of soils.

"We want our soldiers to train in a natural environment, not a wasteland," said Faith Fiene, state environmental manager for the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

"With better identification of training areas and areas of avoidance by our soldiers today," she added, "we intend to preserve this training area for future soldiers."



Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Guard

## GRECIAN FIREBOLT

By Maj. Chris Cleaver  
*Pennsylvania National Guard*

For members of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 271st Combat Communications Squadron, Grecian Firebolt was not a new formula to combat graying hair.

Instead, the mid-June joint-service exercise improved fibers of a different sort.

Working from a small compound tucked just off Delaware's Atlantic Ocean shoreline, Air Guardmembers connected themselves to a communications network that stretched from Kuwait to Korea. Nearly two dozen military sites and hundreds of military personnel participated in Firebolt. Delaware's 280th Signal Battalion also participated.

"This is not only a good training opportunity, but a test for interoperability for us," said Maj. Patty Diehl, 271st detachment commander. "We have similar equipment to the Army, but different capabilities. It's always interesting to work out the bugs as we establish new communications links."

Grecian Firebolt was an echelons-above-corps-level exercise that integrated several field training and command post sites. The three-phase exercise, June 5-22, involved planning, installing, operating and maintaining tactical communications to participating organizations.

Like a spoke on a wheel, the 271st fit into a communications network stretching thousands of miles. Its site is comprised of four antennas, two pointing east, two west, and several communications vans.

One of the systems bounced signals

**BEAM ME UP - SSgt. Kurt Myers (left) and SrA. William Weaver linked the world during Grecian Firebolt.**

off satellites and sent and received transmissions from Fort Gordon, Ga., Fort Polk, La., and Fort Huachuca, Ariz. The system is capable of talking with two satellites simultaneously, a must to those in the business.

Although satellite dishes are used, the signal is actually bounced off the ionosphere, about 250 miles above the earth, to another site. In this case, it was sent back to Pennsylvania's Fort Indiantown Gap. There, members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 28th Signal Battalion used this connection as a platform to communicate to the world as a simulated hurricane approached the East Coast.

At the same time the 271st provided DSN capability to all the exercise's deployed sites and provided a data network to Southwest Asia. It was obvious the 271st's communication package, neatly situated on less than one acre, packed plenty of punch.

"We could easily provide telephone service to a small city with this equipment," said SSgt. Kurt L. Myers, a super high frequency technician. Myers, a junior at Penn State University, has worked combat communications in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy and counterdrug missions in South America.

"Both exercises and real world missions are going best when you don't have a job to do," he said. "It's when things stop working and you have to start switching equipment around that you get busy."

Nearby, a fellow 271st member, SrA. William H. Weaver, a satellite wideband technician and student, talked about his Guard job and college.

"This work has really helped me with my engineering classes at Penn State," said Weaver. "Some of the work involves the same type of situations as in my classes."

The engineering classrooms of Penn State were a good distance from the sandy beaches of Delaware, but so goes the life of members of the 271st. Unit members deployed to the Middle East to support Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Uphold Democracy in Haiti and earlier this year they deployed to Hungary for Operation Joint Endeavor.





## SPORTS

# Minnesota hosts fitness challenge

*Troops from nine states take on U.S. Army course*

By 1st Lt. Tim Mozey  
Minnesota National Guard

The Army's Master Fitness Training Course was held at Camp Ripley in June, marking the first time the course has been held in Minnesota.

There are also plans to hold another fitness course at Ripley next June.

About 73 soldiers enrolled in the course and about 60 remained on the day before graduation. The group consisted of seven women and 53 men ranging in age from 21 to 51.

The bulk of participants came from the Minnesota National Guard, with five others coming from National Guard units in other states, six from the U.S. Army Reserve, eight from the active component, one Navy SEAL and one civilian that works with the Navy. The soldiers came

from nine states to learn about fitness.

"It was challenging, but really informative," said Sgt. Rod Ereps from Minnesota's Company A, 682nd Engineer Battalion, based in Litchfield. "It's something you can really take home and apply to your unit or to your family."

The course is designed to promote fitness throughout different commands, said Capt. Todd Peterson, an instructor for the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School. The school offers 10 to 11 courses per year throughout the country. The parent school is located at Fort Benning, Ga.

"We're not here to 'smoke' students," Peterson said. "We're here to teach students."

The course is two weeks long. Soldiers are required to pass a physical training test with a score of 240 or more with at least 70 points in each event. An average class of 60 students will normally lose about 10 to 15 students before graduation, Peterson said.

"We look forward to coming back next year," he added.

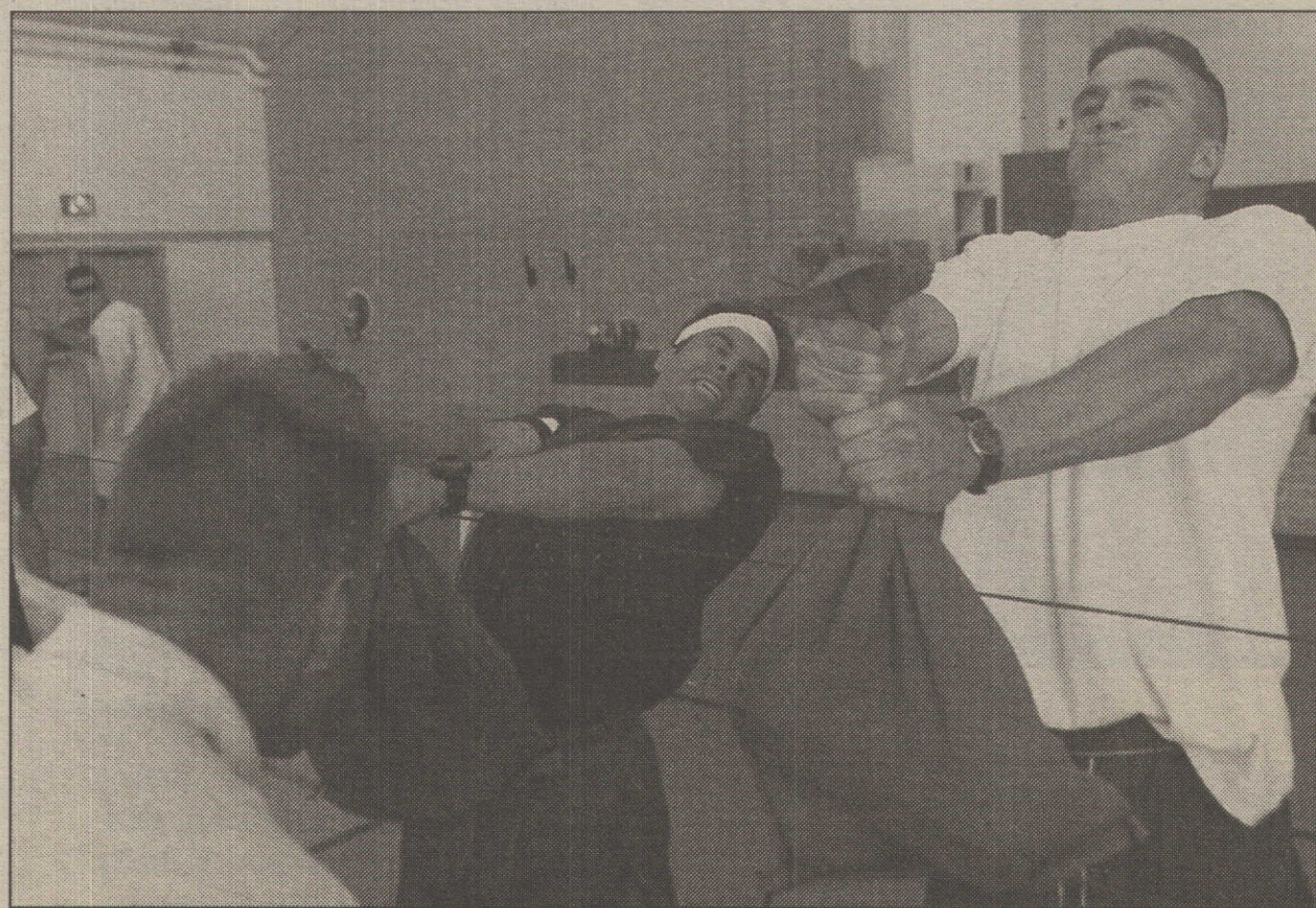


Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Guard

**DELTOID DESTROYER** - Kentucky's Sgt. Stephan Walters (above, right) holds on to win the deltoid destroyer competition during the Master Fitness Training Course held at Camp Ripley, Minn.

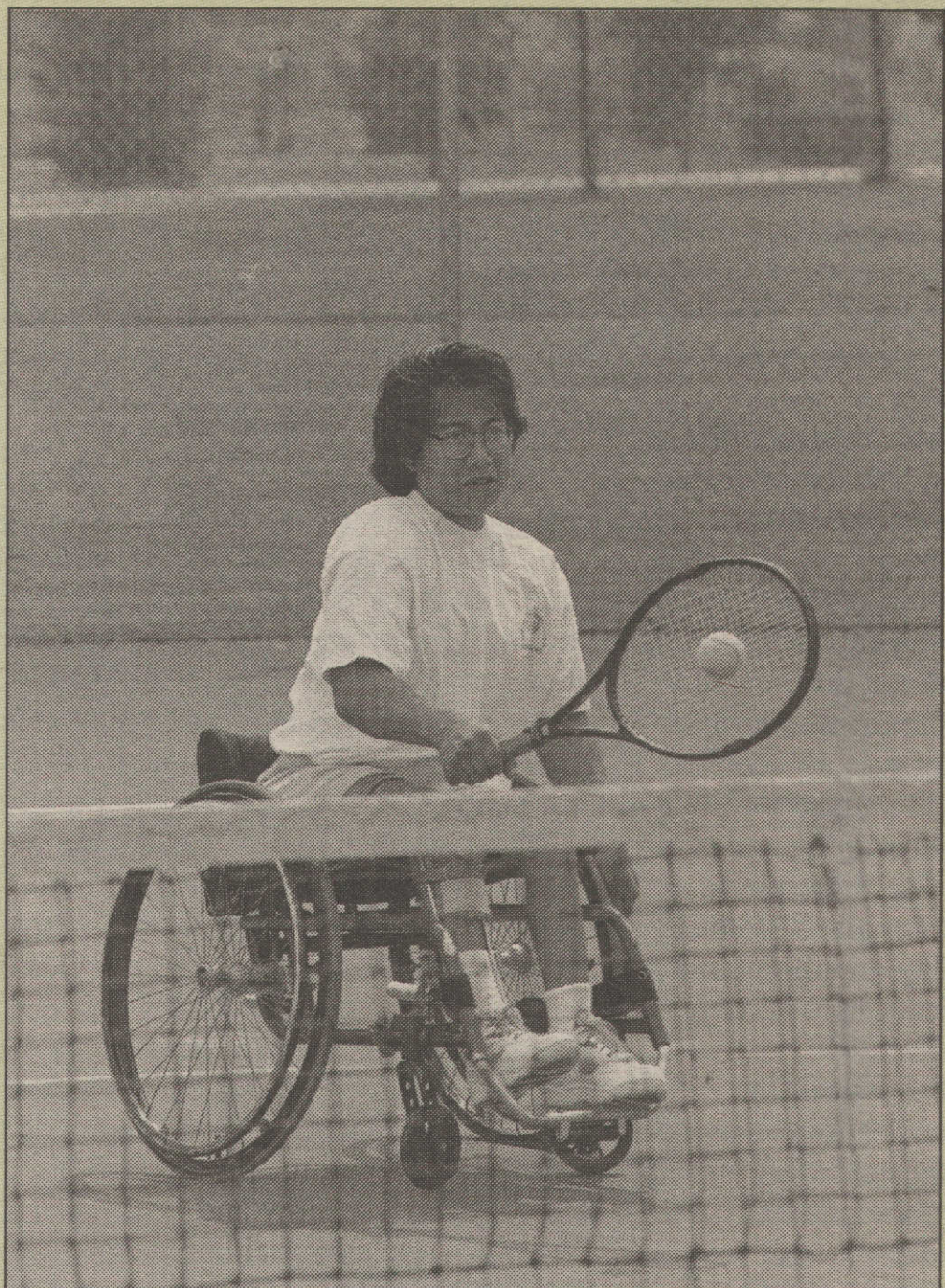


Photo by SrA. Mike Edwards

## Serving up success

By SrA. Mike Edwards  
U.S. Air Force

An Air Guard civilian employee has been swinging her way to the top of the field of tennis sitting down.

Mam Bacon, a secretary in the Air Guard's Environmental Division at Andrews AFB, Md., has spent the past three years honing her tennis skills from a wheelchair.

Within the past two months, Bacon has racked up four first and second place victories in singles and doubles matches. She has played in local and national tournaments.

"Playing tennis is like a

**AT THE NET** - Mam Bacon (left) returns a serve during practice.

dream come true," she said. "I have always wanted to play, and until a few years ago, I thought my dreams were out of reach."

Bacon was struck with the polio virus at the age of one. She has spent her life on crutches or in a wheelchair, unable to run or play tennis. But that changed when a friend told her about wheelchair tennis.

"I almost started to cry when I found out there was a way for me to play tennis," she said with a smile. "From that moment forward, I began to train."

She said her recent victories can be attributed to the hours she puts in training and her intense desire to succeed.

"At least three times a week I spend more than two hours training with my coach and practicing with other tennis

players," Bacon said. "Then on the days I'm not on the court, I take karate classes. Karate helps me build the speed and coordination needed for tennis."

Most of the time Bacon uses crutches to get around, but on the tennis court she uses a special "sports wheelchair" her coach loans her.

It has four wheels, as opposed to the three-wheel model preferred by wheelchair tennis players.

"As soon as I can save up enough money, I'll be able to own one," she said. "When I do, I'll be a lot faster and more maneuverable."

Becoming a professional tennis player is the next step.

"I'm confident I can do anything," she said. "Anyone who is willing to work hard, can succeed at tennis or anything else in life."



Gen. Baca displays a handmade flag made in a World War II POW camp

# Quintero's QUEST

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Despair was as common as hunger. Hopelessness was as much of a curse as dysentery among the thousands of American fighting men who knew the brutality of Japanese prison camps for most of World War II following the surrender of the Philippine Islands in May 1942.

Some, however, refused to be conquered in spirit during their long years in captivity. Some of the survivors of Bataan and Corregidor fought back in their own fashion to sustain their sanity and maintain their honor.

Joseph Quintero, a U.S. Army corporal from Texas, secretly created and then hid a flag -- a red, white and blue American flag -- under the very noses of the guards at a prisoner of war camp on the Japanese mainland.

Then, in an ultimate act of defiance, the brave Mexican-American soldier waved that flag from the roof of a barracks on a summer's day in 1945 to warn an American bomber that American prisoners were in that camp.

Nearly 51 years later, Joseph Olivas Quintero lives with his wife Gladys in a modest home in Albuquerque, N.M.

The two-foot by three-foot American flag that was Cpl. Quintero's inspiration is displayed in a hardwood case in the Pentagon office of Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Yes, other American flags are more famous. There is, for example, the massive banner hanging majestically in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., that flew over Fort McHenry during the British bombardment in September 1814 and that inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner."

But few American flags have been created as a tribute to American soldiers who had become casualties of war and who would never see their homeland again. That was Joseph Quintero's motive.

"Many of my friends were dying around me and I wanted to do something to honor them," reads part of Quintero's inscription in the case to the left of Gen. Baca's desk. "Also, I wanted to prove to myself and the Japanese that, no matter how badly we were treated, the American spirit

could not be broken."

He was 22, the second of nine children from a poor family in Fort Worth, Texas, when he tried to join the Navy as the storm clouds of World War II gathered over this country. He was looking for a job, he explained recently, and \$21 a month and all you could eat sounded like a pretty good deal.

But the Navy wasn't hiring just then, he recalled, so Joseph Quintero joined the Army with three of his buddies



Photos by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**FLAG BEARERS - Joseph Quintero (top photo) poses at a recent convention. Lt. Gen. Edward Baca (above), proud possessor of the flag.**

on Jan. 17, 1941. He began his journey to the island of Corregidor that led to his ordeal in the Japanese prison camp near the coastal city of Niigata.

The 60th Coast Artillery became his outfit when he arrived on Corregidor, "The Rock," in February 1941. He had missed much of his unit's training because he was grounded with the mumps when he arrived in the Philippines, and he became what he called a "roving soldier" for Battery H.

"I couldn't read or write," he explained, "but I made friends with a private (from Kansas) who helped me learn the Manual of Arms." Quintero's background as a hospital orderly also served him well in the battery of 125 men.

Each battery had four three-inch anti-aircraft guns, Quintero explained. The idea was to pump as many shells as possible into the airspace and knock down enemy planes. "We'd have rifle practice and machine gun practice during the day, and we'd shoot the three-inch guns at night," he recalled.

Quintero was promoted to corporal, he explained, "because I've always been a leader when I have been allowed to exercise it. I was sending money to my older sister for the family back in Texas."

The training turned to life-and-death tactics when the Japanese zeroed in on the Philippines soon after launching their Pacific conquest by bombing the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.

"When it started it was horrible," said

Quintero of the days and nights of non-stop bombing and shelling. "I still get scared when I hear a bang. My sergeant told me to help the wounded guys. Then my sergeant was killed."

Quintero was part of the determined defense that delayed the Japanese's Philippines offensive for months longer than they had anticipated. But Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, and the final forces defending Manila Bay on Corregidor were surrendered on May 6.

"I didn't understand what the word 'surrender' meant," he said. "They told us to destroy our guns, and I couldn't figure out how in hell we were going to defend ourselves."

He soon learned what surrender was all about. "The Japanese took us to Middleside (the middle of the island) and made us sit back-to-back for three days," Quintero said.

"I had to pick up dead Marines and dead Japs. I had to cut a man's leg off with scissors. He begged me to kill him. There was no morphine. I used a web belt as a tourniquet."

It was going to get worse. Cpl. Quintero was soon to discover

the difference between surrender and survival.

"In September 19 and 43, they run us into Formosa. They thought the Americans was after 'em. We had one boy with appendicitis. They didn't even have no operatin' things or nothin.' They took two teaspoons, bent the handles, and put it down in there to hold it open. An' they reached out and got that boy's appendix an' cut it off with a razor blade. They just had enough ether to put him to sleep. When he'd come out, they run out of ether. When they got ready to sew him up, they hadda hold him..."

Somehow, Joseph Quintero's name and story have escaped those who have chronicled World War II. But the passage from Studs Terkel's 1984 bestseller, "The Good War," describes Quintero's brush with death from appendicitis on a boat filled with prisoners of war and bound for Japan.

Destination: POW18, Niigata, Sub-camp 5.

A half-century after his release, Joseph Quintero still weeps when he talks of what happened there. It's why he believed it was important to make a flag.

"I don't cry for myself," he said. "I cry for the ones who didn't make it."

He could have been one of those. Niigata is a major seaport on the western shore of Honshu, the largest of the Japanese islands. It sits beside the Sea of Japan, 160 miles northwest of Tokyo. It was one of four cities targeted for the atomic bomb.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki suffered the

wrath of the United States' newfound nuclear might in August 1945 before Japan surrendered. Quintero knew nothing of the atomic bomb. He did know of the Japanese guards' savagery in Sub-camp 5.

"It was very cold there. It got down to 20 below. In September we would start getting snow. The Japanese would starve you. They would beat the hell out of you. They would throw you out in the cold.

"It is beyond my understanding how anyone could treat a human being like that," he cried.

There were no good Japanese POW camps. But Niigata was said to be among the worst.

"It was luck for (a downed airman) to be brought in at Niigata and only have his fingers broken, all ten, one after another," wrote Gavan Daws in his 1994 book, "Prisoners of the Japanese."

That is where Joseph Quintero decided to make a flag. "Nobody knew my intentions. Only God," he said.

But he needed help. He didn't know how an American flag was designed. He couldn't sew. He could, however, make deals. And he got help from two unlikely people -- an Irish physician and a French-Canadian tailor.

Quintero cleaned vegetables in the kitchen and took care of sick prisoners, he explained, because infection from his primitive appendectomy made it impossible for him to unload ships with the other prisoners. His duties gave him limited access to the camp that other prisoners did not have.

He worked for the Irish doctor, Col. Walter Stewart, who had been captured with other British troops in Hong Kong. Stewart knew about the U.S. flag -- the 48 stars on a blue background and the 13 red and white stripes, Quintero said.

The French-Canadian soldier was a double amputee, Quintero added, and he had a sewing machine in a small hut where he repaired the Japanese soldiers' uniforms.

"What can we do for these guys who are sick and who will never get to go home?" Quintero recalled asking the Canadian soldier. "Why don't we create a flag in their honor?"

"What if we get caught?" the Canadian asked.

What, indeed. According to Dorothy Cave's 1992 book, "Beyond Courage," Japanese punishment for such infractions as yawning in formation included making prisoners stand in water until it froze, forcing men whose feet were swollen with beriberi to run barefoot in the snow, and getting men up at midnight to do calisthenics and clubbing those who slowed down.

"If they had found us with an American flag, it would have been horrible," shuddered Quintero.

However, the promise of "a little extra food every now and then" won over the hungry tailor, said Quintero.

He needed material. He stole a white

■ See QUINTERO, Page 13



# NEWS

# MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

**Georgia Air National Guard's Maj. Dave Henry**, an Air Combat Systems training officer, has been recognized by the YMCA as one of the nation's top volunteers. Henry, a volunteer with the YMCA in Coastal Georgia, was honored for his efforts with the 30th Annual National YMCA Gymnastics Championships. He was the only person nationally to receive this award. "It was truly an embarrassing thrill," Henry said. "This award is really not just for me, but it is for everyone who volunteered to make the championships so successful."

**Twenty members of the Oregon Air Guard** received associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). To earn an associate of applied science degree through CCAF, Guardmembers must complete approximately 64 semester hours of study.

**The following individuals have been selected** this year's recipients of the 1996 Air National Guard Outstanding Recruiter of the Year awards:

- Outstanding recruiting office supervisor - MSgt Timothy Swinehart, 183rd Fighter Wing, Okla.
- Outstanding GSU/MSU recruiter - MSgt. Ernest T. Breault Jr., 265th Combat Communications Squadron, Maine.
- Outstanding production recruiter - TSgt. Beverly J. Lasley, 102nd Mission Support Flight, Mass.
- Outstanding rookie recruiter - TSgt. Shannon M. Tolley, 157th Air Refueling Wing, N.H.

**CMSgt. Gary M. Young** has been selected as the Air National Guard's senior enlisted advisor for security police. Young directs the full-time security force at the Lambert Field Air National Guard base in St. Louis, Mo. He was recently named senior enlisted advisor for the Missouri Air Guard.

**A Maine Army National Guard helicopter** pilot recently set two national age-group marksmanship records with a precision air rifle during the Interservice Running Target Championships at Fort Benning, Ga. CWO Edward Stanhope, 50, set the records in the Masters II division for shooters 50-60 years old. The running target event is a target shooting sport with air rifles at 10 meters. Stanhope, a pilot in Company C, 192nd Aviation, in Bangor, Maine, set an Olympic match record by scoring 553 of a possible 600 points during the match in May. He also set the mixed match record with 357 of a possible 400 points.

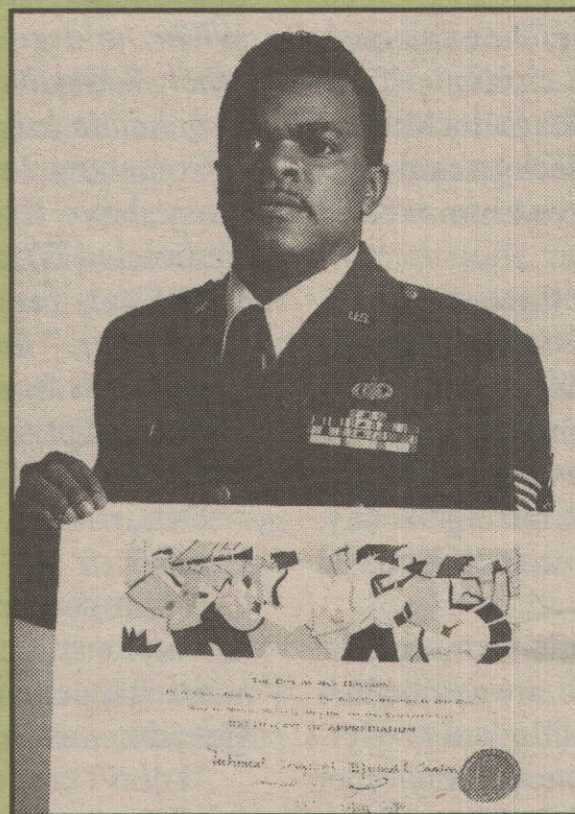
**Lt Col. Ron Fowler**, member of the Oklahoma Air Guard's 185th Airlift Squadron, recently became one of a select few Air Force pilots ever to amass 10,000 flying hours in the C-130. "I feel old," Fowler joked when asked how it felt to have flown the same type aircraft for more than 25 years. The lieutenant colonel began flying the C-130 in 1971 and joined the Oklahoma City unit in August 1977.



Lt. Col. Carole Briscoe, a Maryland first.



New Hampshire's counterdrug task force links up with state youth.



TSgt. Michael Sanders is honored by his community.

**Lt. Col. Carole A. Briscoe** recently graduated from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Penn. She is the first officer from the Maryland Army National Guard to attend the resident program, and the first female officer from Maryland to graduate from the U.S. Army War College. The 1995-96 graduating class of 320 included 18 women. Briscoe is the human resource officer at the State Area Command Headquarters in Baltimore.

**CMSgt. James H. Honeycutt**, a member of the Tennessee Air Guard's 134th Logistics Group in Knoxville, has been chosen by the Air Force Association to be the recipient of the 1995 Chief Dick Red Award. The award recognizes the one enlisted member who has made a significant contribution to aerospace maintenance during the past year. Honeycutt has worked on the Pacer Crag avionics modernization program on the KC-135, and is currently the 134th Logistics Group production control supervisor. The year-long effort resulted in the award of a \$750 million contract to provide a predictive windshear radar system, a flight management system, a compass replacement system and a multi-function display system for the entire KC-135 fleet to include all active duty and Guard/Reserve aircraft.

**Members of the New Hampshire National Guard's Joint Counterdrug Task Force** are building a solid bridge of trust and cooperation to organizations that share a desire to provide direction to New Hampshire's youth. One such organization is the New Hampshire Teen Institute (NHTI). They hosted a 24-hour relay challenge with the assistance of the Guard. According to NHTI Executive Director, Jo Anne Armstrong, "This dynamic event will bring together people of different ages and abilities in an outdoor, healthy environment to work toward the common goal of alcohol, tobacco and drug use prevention."

**Louisiana's TSgt. Michael C. Sanders** was presented the Military/Citizens Award for Reserve Military Personnel by the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce and the City of New Orleans for his outstanding community service. Sanders, a full-time employee with the 159th Fighter Wing, has been active in his community since 1992 when he became a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer with the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Services. As a volunteer he spent several hours a week helping children with homework. He also took several children to the library and zoo.

**Wyoming Air Guard's 2nd Lt. Vivian Penak** was recently honored as the top graduate from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. The four-week long, joint service, Reserve component course was conducted at Patrick AFB, Fla. Penak was also honored by being the first recipient of the trophy that now accompanies the Commandant's Award. The course included lectures on racism in the military, discrimination and communications skills.



## Texas Guard deals with drug problem in their backyard

By 2nd Lt. Joye Haun  
Texas National Guard

Just as in neighborhoods across America, when the school bell rings in the late afternoon the children from one east side San Antonio neighborhood are out like a shot. On their way home, however, these children have had to walk past ugly, boarded up shacks with "Do not enter" signs posted on the front doors.

The children also have had to pass adults sitting in the front yards of their unkempt homes, seemingly doing nothing.

"Those are businessmen," said San Antonio Community Policing Officer Gerald Tyler. "The men may look out of work, but they're actually doing a fair trade selling drugs."

The Texas National Guard's counterdrug program is helping San Antonio police put these people out of business.

Its "Operation Crackdown" targets neighborhood "crack houses" for demolition. The Guard provides the equipment, personnel and expertise to rid neighborhoods of a number of these dangerous and crime-ridden structures.

According to the officer in charge of Operation Crackdown, the Guard can remove anywhere from 16 to 24 structures in a two-week period. The operation



Photo by SMSgt. Nick Rubio

**CRACKED -**  
Members of  
Texas'  
149th Fighter Wing (left)  
in San Antonio demolish a crack house.

built in four days by an all-volunteer work force.

Tyler noted that gangs from a nearby housing project had already scrawled

# CRACKING DOWN

involves both Army and Air Guardmembers to coordinate the planning and operation of the bulldozers.

A recent Operation Crackdown mission began with the goal of bulldozing 17 houses in the area. Five members of the Texas Air Guard's 149th Fighter Wing, based at Kelly AFB, operated the heavy equipment.

Aside from ridding the neighborhood of undesirable structures, the mission provided a recruiting opportunity by giving

local kids a chance to see the Guard in action.

"One reason I like this is because we can practice operating our equipment in confined spaces," said one 149th FW member. "We usually get this type of training only when we go on deployments."

Operation Crackdown resulted from community groups who began informing police of suspected "crack houses." The demolition program requires close coordination between lo-

cal agencies. Targeted sites are in neighborhoods plagued by drugs and crime, putting local children at risk. Because the structures are unfit for habitation, they become magnets for unlawful activity. Prostitution is as common as drug use. Local gangs often use these sites as a meeting place or a haven to hide from police.

"We had so many drive-by shootings on this street we actually had to block it off to make it a non-thoroughfare," Tyler said. Pointing to one-inch bullet holes through brick, he asked, "See the holes in those walls?"

A few streets away is another neighborhood that Operation Crackdown cleared out five years ago. New homes line the streets, most boasting new landscaping and flower gardens in front. Area builders recently showed off their work by sponsoring an open house day, drawing visitors from all areas of town. The centerpiece of the neighborhood is a playground

ed graffiti on the park benches. However, he said, city agencies and community groups are continuing to work together with residents to remove criminal activity from the area and to prevent them from returning.

The Texas National Guard and a local waste management firm paid for the demolition and debris removal without charge to the city.

The Guardmembers enjoyed doing something for the community.

"I like to do this for the kids, really," said a 149th FW heavy equipment operator. "The last time we did this I tore down a crack house right in front of an elementary school. The kids actually thanked us. I was glad to come back."

The officer in charge of Operation Crackdown said working with people from the community made a real difference.

"Each time we do this, we put another dent in the armor of the drug folks," he said.

## QUINTERO

From Page 11

sheet from the Japanese. He got a red blanket from a New Mexico National Guardsman in the 200th Coast Artillery with another promise of extra food. He made a deal to get a blue pair of dungarees from a Filipino prisoner.

He got the material to the tailor in 1943, Quintero said. Sometime in 1944, about a year later, the flag was finished.

"I have no idea how or when the Canadian chap worked on the flag," said Quintero. "The guards were very strict. We couldn't talk very much. One day I went to him and he said, 'Here's the package.' The flag was wrapped in canvas. I buried it in a trench under the wooden slab where I slept."

The flag is a thing of homemade beauty displayed in Baca's office. The lines are a bit uneven, but the fine stitching that holds the stars in place and the stripes

together speak of a painstaking effort.

The tassels are made from parachute cord and the staff is a wooden prod the Japanese used on the prisoners.

The flag remained under Quintero's bed, he said, for many months until one morning in the summer of 1945 when he heard the unmistakable hum of a large airplane approaching the camp.

"I knew the plane had to be one of ours because there hadn't been any Japanese planes in that area for a long time," Quintero explained. "I brought out the flag and waved it to show (the plane crew) we were at the camp."

"I never saw such a big plane. It was the first plane we saw in many years," he added.

The pilot apparently saw the flag. The wings dipped from right to left as the plane flew away.

Was the bomber going to bomb the camp? "We didn't know what they were going to do," said Quintero.

Why didn't the guards shoot him? "Only God knows," he said. "I heard later that

Japan was trying to negotiate a peace with the United States and Great Britain. Maybe that's why. I just know I wasn't worried about getting killed."

At 78, Joseph Quintero seems to be at peace with the world. He has retired as a surgical technician from the Veterans Medical Center in Albuquerque where he has lived since 1946. He and Gladys, a retired nurse, have been married 43 years. They have raised two sons and two daughters, and they have six grandchildren.

He carries a compact 132 pounds, 45 more than he weighed after his three years of captivity, on his 5-foot-7 frame. His ordeal as a POW has seared his memory, but it has not scarred his heart.

"I have nothing against (the Japanese)," he said. "They, like me, were following orders. They were honoring their country like I was honoring mine."

He has discovered a good friend, Lt. Gen. Edward Baca of New Mexico, who has been telling his story and the stories of other New Mexico National Guardsmen who also survived Japanese prisoner

of war camps for about 20 years.

The story of Cpl. Quintero's flag is among Baca's favorites.

In May 1992, when Baca was New Mexico's Adjutant General, he honored Quintero by telling the story of the flag at a national Hispanic convention in Albuquerque and then presenting the former soldier with the Silver Star, Purple Heart and U.S. Presidential Unit Citation with three oak-leaf clusters, according to *Patriots 1992*, a heritage magazine.

Quintero then surprised Baca, after the dinner crowd had departed, by giving the general the priceless flag. Baca brought it to Washington when President Clinton appointed him Chief of the National Guard Bureau in October 1994.

Gen. Baca said he hopes the flag will eventually be displayed in a museum or some other setting where the public can learn of Joseph Quintero's brave deed.

"I finally met a general who walks on water," was Quintero's reason for presenting the flag to Baca. "I just created the flag. It doesn't belong to me."





## STATES

- Drug Bust
- ChalleNGe
- Sherpa planes

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Police have uprooted 128 marijuana plants growing in rural Berkeley County and officials say the early harvest was worth about \$256,000.

More than 20 police officers from six agencies, along with the Palmetto State's National Guard, recently pulled marijuana plants from remote areas of the the county.

One patch alone yielded 73 plants, each worth about \$2,000 on the street.

"This is a well-tended spot. We got them early, but they would've grown up to be big, nice plants," an undercover Berkeley County deputy said.

## OKLAHOMA

The Thunderbird Youth Academy in Pryor was recognized as the military's most highly respected dropout prevention program.

The academy, with 100 students in the current five-month residential training cycle, is part of the National Guard's ChalleNGe program. It is one of 15 started by the Guard to combat gangs and help public schools with at-risk students.

Students aged 16 to 18 are referred to the academy, which is a type of boot camp without the harassment.

Of the 364 Thunderbird Academy graduates who started three years ago, 170 have jobs, 72 are in the military, 40 are in college, 27 are training for their General Educational Development test and 26 are in a vocational-technical program.

DOWN  
in the  
MOUTH

Maj. Robert Hof, a dentist with the Kansas Air Guard's 184th Bomber Wing in Wichita, examines the teeth of a Honduran girl during a recent medical training readiness exercise. Kansans tested their medical mettle in austere field conditions over a two-week period.



Photo by Spc. Bill Geddes

## NORTH DAKOTA

Thirty-four members of a North Dakota Air Guard medical unit are in the tiny Caribbean island of Dominica, along with about \$500,000 in medical supplies.

The 119th Medical Squadron recently spent two weeks providing medical and technical aid to people on the island.

CMSgt. Gary Ransom said an amazing amount of equipment was donated.

"This thing grew a lot faster than we expected it to," he said. "We never thought it would be this well received. It was a surprise, a big surprise to the Department of Defense, too, when we notified them how much we had to ship over."

## INDIANA

The Indiana Army National Guard will house two new transport planes in the Indianapolis area after dropping plans to build a small air base at Evansville Regional Airport.

The Guard decided to assign the C-23B Sherpa transport planes near the capitol instead, along with 12 workers to maintain and fly them.

The C-23B, a twin-engine turboprop, is a military version of the Shorts 3-30, a commuter plane built in Ireland that once was flown in Evansville by regional airlines.

Since 1988, Congress has appropriated \$102 million to buy 16 Sherpas to replace the aging C-7 Caribou operated by Guard units nationwide.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Winston Cup Race Car driver Ricky Cravens sported a new decal on his dark green #41 race car for the Coca Cola 600 race recently. In addition to the familiar sponsors' decals for shocks, oil and engines, Cravens' car displayed two National Guard decals, one on either side, just behind the passenger window.

The National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office scheduled a photoshoot with Cravens, to be included in an awareness advertisement in *USA Today* newspaper.

The photographer for the ad was North Carolina Army Guard's SSgt. Ed Eudy. During the session in Statesville, race team owner Larry Hedrick offered to place the National Guard logo on the car. Bob Kice, press agent for the race team, approved the concept and asked the Guard to return race week in Charlotte to take the picture.

The pictures will be reproduced in bulk and distributed among school-age children throughout the next

year. Guard officials hope that the alliance with NASCAR will help them in their continuing fight to send a strong message to youths about choosing to remain drug-free.

The decals are part of a two-year drug awareness promotion between the North Carolina National Guard and NASCAR.

Last year the Guard photographed several Winston Cup cars and their pit crews with Guard helicopter and crews. The resulting photographs were distributed to school-age children during anti-drug promotions.

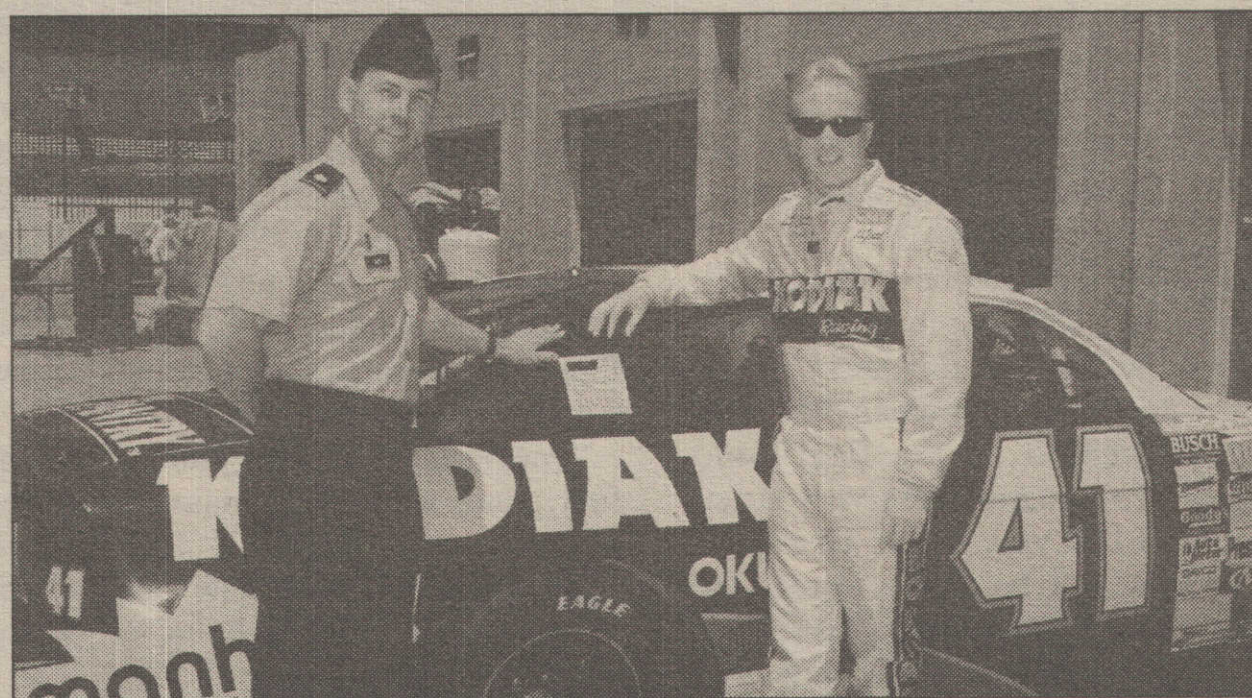


Photo by SSgt. Ed Eudy

**FAST TRACK - Lt. Col. Phil Juby poses with driver, Ricky Cravens, and the Guard logo.**





# HISTORY

## The National Guard's highly visible armories reveal a look into the past

By Renee Hylton  
Army Guard Historian

The National Guard armory is a uniquely American building form. Other countries have citizen-soldiers, but only in the United States did a specific type of building develop for those soldiers.

While the Guard itself dates back to the earliest colonial settlements of the 1600s, it was 250 years before armories as we know them made their appearance. Prior to that, the militia trained and drilled outdoors.

In the decades before the Civil War, some states constructed arsenals for the storage of militia weapons and ammunition, but these buildings were not armories because they had no space to practice marching and close-order drill.

Some urban units rented the top floors of commercial buildings to store their weapons and equipment and to march, but these buildings were not armories.

It was the Civil War draft riots in New York City that hastened the movement to create a specific type of building for the militia.

In 1863, as thousands of Irish immigrants protested being drafted into the Union Army, the men of the 7th Regiment, New York National Guard, found themselves in the middle of the bloodiest urban rioting this country has ever seen. They vowed that if riots broke out again, they would have a defensible space from which to conduct operations.

So this group of wealthy New Yorkers commissioned an urban fortress for their unit. Buildings copied from the medieval "Gothic" style were fashionable, and what could be more medieval - or more military - than a castle? A castle is what the architects designed, complete with turrets, towers, and impregnable stone walls. Inside, in addition to offices, storage areas and firing ranges, the building contained elaborately-decorated ceremonial spaces. There were ceilings of Tiffany glass, beautiful woodwork and fireplaces large enough to roast an ox. There was an enormous drill shed with balconies for spectators, its polished wood floor large enough for an entire regiment to parade, or for hundreds of couples to waltz the night away.

The 7th Regiment Armory, so large it covered an entire city block, created a sensation when it was completed in 1879. Then, as now, there was keen competition among Guard units and among the states, and every unit and every town wanted its own armory in the new "castellated Gothic" style. By 1910 the northern and midwestern states were dotted with brick and stone castles of varying sizes and styles.

In the pre-skyscraper age, the local armory was usually one of the largest buildings in town. It was simultaneously a home for a National Guard unit, a clubhouse for its members and a civic center for the community.

Nevertheless, it was first and foremost a military building, and from its fortress-like doors the Guard

**'THEY DON'T  
BUILD 'EM  
LIKE THAT  
ANYMORE'**



Photo by David Lamb

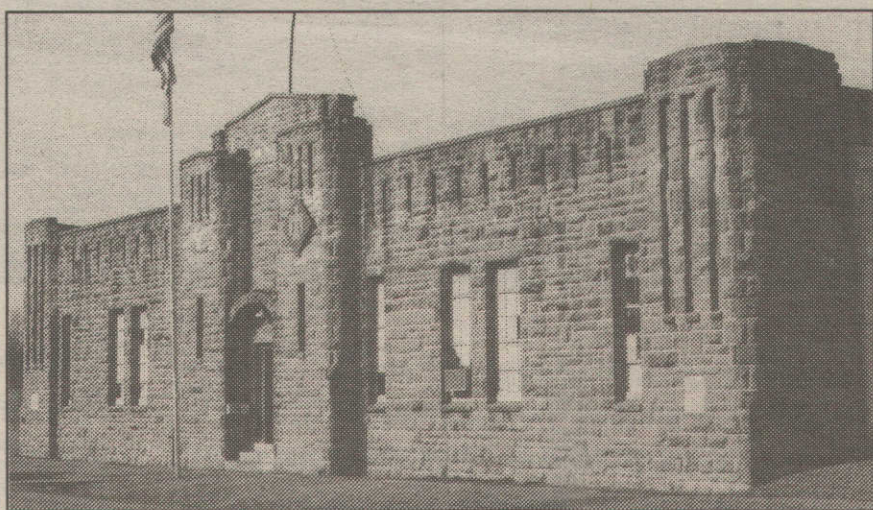


Photo courtesy of Mary Jane Warde

**CASTLES - The Armory (above) in Rochester, N.Y., is an example of 'National Guard Gothic.' Although built 30 years later, the Pawhuska, Okla., Armory (left) still retains Gothic features.**

marched off to the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border, and in 1917 to World War I.

In the 1930s, the nation's first federal anti-poverty program led to the second wave of armory construction.

The first years of the Roosevelt administration's Works Progress Administration concentrated on building armories for the Guard. The majority, built in the modern "Art Deco" style but maintaining some Gothic design elements, were constructed in the South and West, regions of the country then too poor or too sparsely populated to have built many armories without federal help.

After World War II, the federal and state governments

began to split the cost of new armory construction at a ratio of 75 to 25 percent, touching off another boom in armory construction. But with federal funding came standardization, and the "red brick box" armories of the 1950s were not built in the traditional armory style.

Many of the older armories were difficult to adapt for use in post-World War II America. Suburban Guardmembers drove their cars to drill, but most older armories are located on small city lots with no space for parking. And the traditional American preference for the new, coupled with the fact that there was federal money for new armory construction but no federal money for upkeep of historic buildings, did not provide much incentive to try to preserve and adapt historic armories.

In the 1960s and 70s, as their units moved into new buildings, many armories found new lives as office buildings, arts centers or even condominiums. States and communities concerned with preserving their historic buildings saved armories from demolition, but many were lost -- sometimes demolished to make room for a parking lot.

Fortunately for lovers of history and fine architecture, hundreds of pre-World War II armories are still in use across the country ... buildings that are highly visible symbols of the Guard's place in American history.





# TRAINING

133rd Maintenance Co.  
supports Joint Endeavor

## DEPLOYED with CARE

By 1st Lt. Linda Thorburn  
New York National Guard

**M**aj. Gen. Robert Rose knows how to give a send-off. "When they have to call for those 'other than war' missions they call for the best. They call for the 133rd," he told a gathering of soldiers and spouses. "If someone over there asks if you're with the 133rd Maintenance Company, tell them, 'No, I am the 133rd Maintenance Company.'"

A rousing ovation followed the New York Army Guard commanding general's remarks. It was a high point of a formal dinner held the day before 189 members of the 133rd deployed to Europe to support Operation Joint Endeavor.

The unit's overall readiness profile is among the highest being considered, according to the state National Guard leaders.

"The 133rd was much further along than the other units we were looking at," confirmed Col. Dennis Kavanagh, the Empire State's Army Operations and Training director.

Facing its first federal activation, the unit received considerable help from its chain of command, state headquarters and state and local government leaders. The New York Army Guard launched a statewide search, seeking volunteers from units with maintenance backgrounds to round out the 133rd for deployment. 140 volunteers stepped up to fill the 50 positions needed.

"You've got as professional an organization that exists anywhere in the Army," said Brig. Gen. John Fenimore V, New York's Adjutant General. "In my view, the people you have in this type unit are not motivated by their own selfishness. Their primary motivation is their devotion to their communities, their state and their nation."

After updating finance records, wills, powers of attorney and conducting medical/dental screenings, members of 133rd reported to Camp Smith, a fully functioning training post near West Point com-



Photo by Maj. Paul Fanning

**SAYING GOODBYE** - Angelo Crispin Jr. (left), is held by his dad, Angelo Sr., during a morning formation. SSgt. William Solmo (below, left) and 1st Lt. Raymond Mahabir greet well-wishing 6th graders.



Photo by Maj. Paul Fanning



Photo by 1st Lt. Linda Thorburn

plete with training areas, weapons ranges, barracks and dining facilities. The company received refresher training in such areas as first aid, weapons qualifications, gas mask care/testing and field sanitation. Additionally there was driver certification, toolbox inventory, preventative maintenance checks and vehicle servicing and loading.

"I know we'll do a good job," said SSgt. William Solmo, a 133rd member. "We know our jobs and are able to work together."

Drawing praise from civilian, state and federal circles, the unit's morale remained high. One memorable show of support came from a group of students in Watervliet, north of Albany, who had

written to Gov. George Pataki. They requested, and the Governor agreed, to light an electric candle in remembrance of all U.S. troops in Bosnia. The candle will remain lit in the Capitol until all U.S. troops return home safely.

Additionally, the unit's family support group held a formal dinner for the soldiers and their significant others. Attended by the Governor, Congresswoman Sue Kelly and Peekskill Mayor Francis Gibbs, the unit had time to say their goodbyes.

"We are here because of your devotion to the state of New York and your nation. You are going to be in our thoughts and prayers everyday," said Gov. Pataki. "We are proud of our Guard."

"We appreciate, in this free country,

**TRAIN UP** - New York's Sgt. Michael Kryzinski (above, right) shows Spc. Suzette Henry how to jump start a humvee. Both are members of the 133rd Maintenance Company.

your volunteering," added Mayor Gibbs. "We look forward to your coming back."

The many good wishes left the soldiers and their families feeling cared about and confident in their abilities. However, no words of inspiration could relieve the sadness of leaving loved ones for nine months.

Lisa Squires, wife of SSgt. Tom Squires, summed it up best.

"I'll just have to get on without him," she said. "It's going to be hard."