

## CURBING DRUGS

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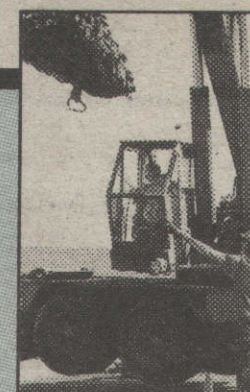
## BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

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# THE ON GUARD

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November 1996

## Louisiana Guard battalion gets 'active' commander

*Hennigan's appointment first since WW II*

By Maj. Maria L. LoVasco  
Louisiana National Guard

For the first time since World War II, an active component officer has assumed command of a National Guard unit.

Lt. Col. John R. Hennigan took command of the Louisiana Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery from Lt. Col. Thomas W. Acosta, Jr., in a ceremony at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans.

The historic move was a long time coming, said Maj. Gen. William Navas, Army Guard director.

"This decision has the potential of bringing our Army closer together at a time when we, as an Army, need to be tightly united to prevail," Navas explained. "This action could be the decisive

point of change to a cultural divide that has hobbled our Army's maximum potential for 200 years."

No stranger to Louisiana, Hennigan graduated from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. During his Army career he also served as a battery commander with the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, La. His wife, the former Sharon Haymon, is a native of Leesville, La. They have six children.

Hennigan takes over a unit that has 158 years of tradition. The Washington Artillery fought in the Mexican War, Civil War, World War I and II, and was activated for Operation Desert Shield/Desert

Storm. It is the oldest militia unit in the state of Louisiana, and the oldest field artillery battalion outside of the 13 original colonies.

During the Oct. 4 change of command ceremony, Pelican State enlisted troops shouted to their new commander: "Try us!"

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Louisiana's Adjutant General, fully supported Hennigan's selection.

"When I found out that there was talk of having an active duty officer take over a Guard unit, I said, 'Let it happen in Louisiana first,'" he said.

Prior to swearing in as a Louisiana National Guardmember, Hennigan worked as a senior operations officer at the Pentagon's National Military Command Center, Joint Staff.

The 41-year-old looks forward to the unique challenges the Guard has to offer.

"I think the main issue becomes how you approach training," Hennigan observed. "In some ways the challenges will be different, but in other ways, the same.

"In my case," he added, "there may be slightly less resources ... and the biggest resource is time."

Capt. Jonathan T. Ball, Battery A commander, was enthusiastic about the 141st's historic change of command.

"We look at it as another challenge in the history of the battalion," he said. "We're looking forward to making Lt. Col. Hennigan's tour a success and making this a success for the Louisiana National Guard."



Photo by Maj. Maria L. LoVasco

**MAKING IT OFFICIAL - Maj. Gen. Stroud swears Lt. Col. John Hennigan into the Louisiana Army Guard.**



Photo by SSgt. Bob Jordan

## FLOOD of SUPPORT

North Carolina Army Guard's Spc. Kevin Whitford, a member of the 694th Maintenance Battalion, wades through a flooded street in Kinston, N.C. Whitford joined nearly 3,000 Tarheel State Guardmembers called upon to fight the aftermath of Hurricane Fran in September.





# COMMENTARY

## COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of Oct. 18, the National Guard has assisted in 116,754 arrests and seized 13,850 weapons, 42,395 vehicles and nearly \$281.3 million in cash while conducting 8,848 counterdrug mission.

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## Thank you, Mr. National Guard

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

It's hard to imagine Congressman Sonny Montgomery with a knife between his teeth.

He seems too much the Southern gentleman to engage in a brawl, this soft-spoken Democrat from Mississippi who is retiring in December after 30 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Yet, because of the fight he won with persistence and persuasion on Capitol Hill a dozen years ago, 2.5 million military men and women who want an education can be thankful that Gillespie V. Montgomery knows how to handle himself in the arena called politics.

He put a legislative knife between his teeth in early 1981. He became the point man in a Congressional battle that took nearly four years to win.

The Montgomery GI Bill, named for Sonny Montgomery, enabled this Maine Army Guard sergeant to earn my bachelor's degree, 21 years after I had started.

He is called "Mr. National Guard" because he is a retired major general and because he has done so much for America's citizen-soldiers. But his legacy, the Veterans Educational Assistance Act, was intended to help everyone who served, he explained during an interview from his Rayburn Building office.

The veterans education program then in force was not working, he recalled, because most people who did sign up

were grabbing the money for things like cars, not college credits.

Meanwhile, the fledgling all-volunteer force was not attracting enough young people smart enough to operate all of the new high-tech equipment.

The best way to attract bright people, Montgomery reasoned, was to offer a sound educational program.

This is what they got.

• Active duty people who enlist for three years have \$1,200 deducted from their pay and then receive \$14,400 in education assistance -- a 12 to 1 return.

• Reservists, eligible for GI funds for the first time, can get half of the active duty benefits as long as they agree to serve for six years.

• The Montgomery GI Bill is a permanent program. Unlike previous GI bills, it is not affiliated with a particular conflict.

The appeal has obviously worked.

Over \$54.7 billion had been paid to 697,000 people in active duty benefits and to another 375,000 reservists.

From a personal perspective, Montgomery's GI Bill came along at just the right time. By 1986, I was an assistant city editor for a Maine daily newspaper, and I was tired of not having a degree.

However, returning to college after 15 years was a scary proposition -- an intellectual Mt. Everest for a man who favored Clancy over Chaucer.

There was a name for students like me -- non-traditional. It meant "old."

It meant you had at least one job and a mortgage and a spouse who worked and a couple of kids who still expected

you to watch their swimming meets.

It meant taking economics with some bright young people who understood abstract math, who could party and still study all night, and who wanted my job.

It meant zero free time during the 15-week semesters. The only times I did not have my nose in a textbook were when I was working, sleeping or showering.

It also could have meant paying right through the nose for this fun. Colleges are unusual institutions. They expect people to pay a lot of money for the privilege of doing a lot of work. And I didn't have much money to spare.

Congressman Montgomery did not take my economics prelims for me. He did not teach me that the best way to read a Supreme Court decision is to start at the end and read backwards. He did not write my term paper about the law of libel.

What he did do, thanks to his GI Bill, was make sure I received a government check every month so I could pay for the tuition and the textbooks and still keep my wife and two teenage sons fed reasonably well.

The gentleman from Mississippi made it possible for this man from Maine to earn a degree during my 39th year, and experience a wonderful sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

For that, I am eternally grateful.

## LETTERS POLICY:

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## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar







# IN THE NEWS

- Pay Raise
- Gulf War Hotline
- Via Satellite

## New Yorkers get tuition help

*State leaders see move as way to improve enlistment, retention*

By Maj. Paul Fanning  
New York National Guard

For the first time in the state's history, New York Guardmembers will receive state-sponsored education benefits.

Gov. George E. Pataki signed the National Guard Educational Benefits Law July 31 with lawmakers and Guard leaders present. The law passed unanimously in both the New York State Senate and Assembly in record time -- less than six months from introduction to passage. Normally the process takes nearly three years.

The law provides funds to be used at the state's public colleges and universities, or toward any of New York's private colleges.

"With this bill, New York has entered a new era of recognition and support to its National Guard, which has been in the past and will continue to be in the future, instrumental to the safety, security and freedom of all New Yorkers," said Gov. Pataki. "It is time now for the New York National Guard to stand up fully and resume its role as the best Guard in the nation."

Over the last decade, the Empire State's Army Guard has struggled to keep its membership, losing more than 10,000 positions from its authorized strength.

Soon after taking office the Pataki administration appointed Brig. Gen. William C. Martin, a career active-Army officer, as Deputy Adjutant General. His directive was to rebuild the New York Guard. He saw tuition assistance as a key to doing that.

"No state has lost more force structure than New York," said Martin. "We rank dead-last in the nation when it comes to recruiting and retention. This is a real issue to New York and one that has to change," he said.

Prior to coming to New York, Martin served as a speechwriter and strategic analyst for Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

One of his first moves as Deputy TAG was to establish an initiatives group, a combination think-tank and action

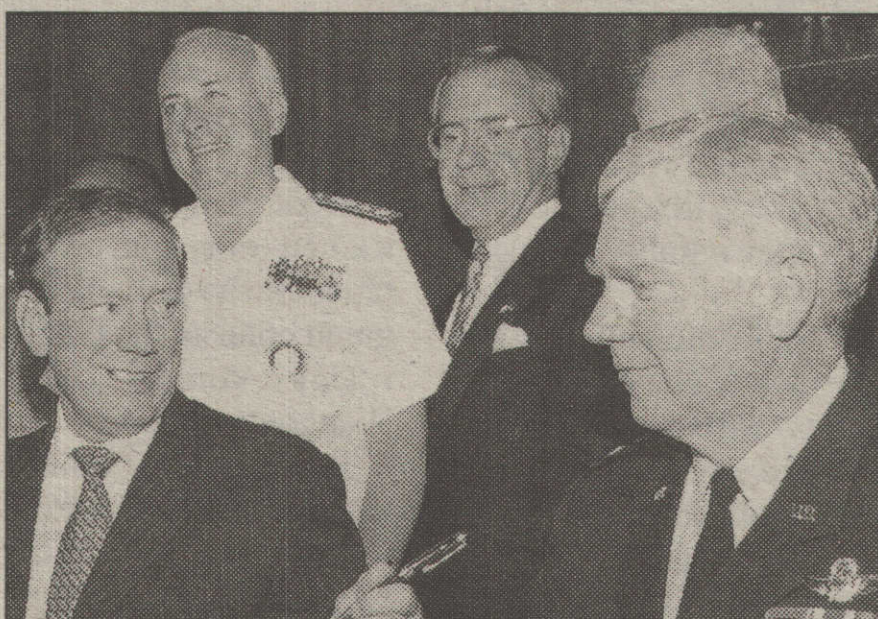


Photo courtesy New York National Guard

**SIGN HERE - New York Gov. Pataki (center) passes a pen to New York National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. John Fenimore at a recent Albany ceremony.**

office. He appointed Col. Michael Van Patten, a college professor, as its director.

"We determined that the best way to attract and retain members to the Guard would be to offer a state education benefit," said Van Patten. "Those states with the best strength figures all have state education benefits."

Once lawmakers were convinced that the state would profit (tax dollars, jobs, contracts, etc.) from a strong Guard, support grew. The N.Y. Guard was also bolstered by its performances during last August's Long Island wild fires, the Buffalo snow emergency and January's blizzard.

Soon the local media was involved. One Albany-based news station interviewed a Massachusetts Army Guard recruiter -- they have free tuition -- who admitted to recruiting in New York high schools.

Lawmakers saw the footage, then took action.

News of the introduction of the bills was well received by New York Guardmembers. For the first time in a decade, gains outnumbered losses.

Ultimately, New Yorkers will receive \$3,400 annual tuition at public colleges. The law takes effect this January.

## Guard gets pay raise

With the National Guard becoming a larger player in the Total Force because of the downsizing of the active forces, its missions will no doubt increase. So, too, will its income.

The pay raise, which takes effect Jan. 1, will be 3 percent, up from 2.4 percent raise Guardmembers received this year and the 2.6 percent they received in 1995.

"The increase, as well as other provisions in the defense authorization bill, help to make good our pledges about improving the quality

of life for members of the National Guard and Reserves," said Deborah Lee, Assistant Defense Secretary for Reserve Affairs.

"It's greater than the rate of inflation," she added, "and therefore will be welcomed by reservists and their families."

In 1997, a major with 14 years of service will get \$533 for a typical weekend of Guard duty, or \$15.52 more than this year. That same person, with dependents and including 15-days of annual training, would receive nearly \$9,000 annually.

An Army Guard staff sergeant or Air Guard technical sergeant (E-6) with 12 years of service will get \$251.64, an increase of \$7.32. Annually, including AT, that's almost \$4,400.

Payment for each drill is calculated as one-thirtieth of a month's basic pay for an active duty member, so a Guardmember gets four days' worth of basic pay for a two-day weekend of training.

Typically, Guardmembers train on active duty for 15 days; Reserve members train for 14 days.

When they go on active duty, which usually happens once a year, they get basic pay and allowances like any other service member.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### GULF WAR ILLNESS HOTLINE ESTABLISHED

The Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program, called CCEP, is available to all soldiers, to include Army and Air Guardmembers, who served in the Gulf War.

According to Capt. Lorena Darnell, a physician's assistant with the National Guard Bureau's Surgeon's Office, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center evaluations involve a comprehensive history and physical exam with appropriate tests and specialty consultations.

Darnell said the free service is only available through the VA, and is offered only to those people who were "in-country." The length of their tour does not matter, she added.

Thus far, says Darnell, the CCEP is not open to family members.

To obtain information call the VA Hotline toll free at 1 (800) 796-9699. Individuals should have their DD Form 214 on hand to respond to the Registry agent's questions.

### ARMY GUARD DIRECTOR ENLISTS NEPHEW VIA SATELLITE

The uncle, Maj. Gen. William Navas, raised his right hand and faced a video camera in Arlington, Va.

The nephew, Carlos Roberto Rivera, raised his right hand and faced a camera in Cocoa Beach, Fla. -- 750 miles due south.

Two minutes later, the young man in a plain blue business suit had been sworn in to the Florida Army Guard by a distinguished man in his green uniform bearing the ribbons and trappings of his rank and position -- Director of the Army National Guard.

The unique video teleconference ceremony may be the first time a Guardmember has been sworn in that way, surmised officials at the Army Guard's Readiness Center where Navas administered the enlistment oath to Rivera, the only son of his wife's sister, "Mapy" Cordova.

Rivera will become an Apache attack helicopter mechanic with the 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation's Headquarters Company in Jacksonville, Fla.

Swearing in his nephew illustrated three things, Navas remarked.

"The Guard is family, and that is our strength ... Every Guardmember is a recruiter, and that includes the Director of the Army National Guard ... Strength is our priority, and we've been hustling to improve that."



Maj. Gen. Navas does the honors.



## Air Guard meets end strength goal

For the first time since 1992, the Air National Guard met its end-strength target for Fiscal Year '96. At the end of FY96, the Air Guard was authorized 110,283 people and had 110,484 assigned.

This is in sharp contrast to the end of FY '95, when the Air National Guard missed its end-strength target by more than 6,000 people. That prompted Air Guard leaders to institute programs and procedures to reverse what had been a three-year trend.

The "Target '96" initiatives, say officials, were designed to make it easier to get into the Air National Guard. It also urged local commanders to hold members to their enlistment contracts with the Air Guard.

Lt. Col. Joe Huden, the Air Guard's chief of recruiting and retention, says there were too many roadblocks in the way of potential Air Guardmembers.

The 509-member ANG recruiting and retention force was tasked to sign up 11,000 members during the fiscal year. The recruiters had placed 11,284 new people in the Guard's units by their Sept. 30 deadline.

Under the new initiatives, Huden noted, the Air Guard allows the enlistment of non-prior service recruits who are single parents if they meet certain mobilization-related requirements. This had been an obstacle to a large number of otherwise qualified prospects, he said.

The Air National Guard is testing a Split Training Option program for new enlistees. Under this program, non-prior service recruits who are high school graduates can choose to go to basic training one summer, then to technical training school the next summer. This allows them to return home in time to start college classes in the fall.

Huden said this year's focus will be on retention.

"It makes good sense to keep fully-qualified personnel in the blue suit," he said. "It takes a lot of time and money to replace trained people."

# Tennessee curbs drug trade

*Harvest reaps \$1.4 billion of marijuana*

By Lt. Col. Hooper Penuel  
Tennessee National Guard

When Tennessee farmers traditionally harvest crops, their toil produces corn, soybeans, tobacco and hay.

Lately, however, a not-so-common crop has been flourishing. It's marijuana, and many people say it's the number one cash crop in Tennessee.

During a recent eradication mission by members of the Tennessee National Guard and other agencies affiliated with the Governor's Task Force for the Eradication of Marijuana, more than 700 cultivated plants with a street value of over \$1 million were destroyed. Skilled observers in helicopters located and destroyed the illegal plants in the rugged terrain near Altamont.

It's a tough business, says Col. Chester Waggoner, the Tennessee Guard's Counterdrug Division director.

"Getting to the plants can be a risky job. We have both blue and green suiters working with us and they go in armed with machetes, M-16s and other protective gear," said Waggoner. "Sometimes we run into nail boards, animal traps and other defensive measures taken by the owners of the crops, so we have to be ready."

Waggoner says the efforts of Volunteer State Guardmembers has made a difference.

"We believe we're doing a good job, because the patches are getting smaller, and harder to locate," he said. "When we first started the program, we would find much larger patches. Sometimes it would be mixed in with the corn plants making

it more difficult to find."

The only way to locate the illegal plant is by air, said Waggoner.

"The plants were isolated by such thick underbrush on this particular find, you could have been within 20 yards of the plants and never have seen them," he explained.

From the air it takes a trained eye, but with practice, the distinctive green color of the plant really stands out, Waggoner added.

Traditionally, Altamont, located in Grundy County, is a high drug production area.

"This area has the right soil conditions, climate and terrain. From what I've heard, it produces fine marijuana plants," he said.

During this particular raid, the Colonel field tested a Light Armored Vehicle (LAV).

"The LAV really moves out on the open road, it operates well in rough terrain and it contains sophisticated technology," he said. "We knew it would work well in the urban areas. Now I'm convinced it will work excellently in the rural countryside."

This year, at the conclusion of last year's four-month growing season, members of the task force eradicated and prohibited the harvest of some 705,000 marijuana plants valued at about \$1.4 billion.



Photo by Lt. Col. Hooper Penuel

**A HAUL - A member of the Tennessee Air Guard carts away a load of cultivated marijuana plants.**

The annual removal average of marijuana is about one-half million plants.

"This year's harvest of the illegal weed has been a good one for us, but I would say the owners of the plants were not pleased with their losses," Waggoner reported.

Tennessee's marijuana task force began in 1983.

## 'PROPELLED' to NORWAY

Minnesota Army Guard's SSgt. John Geer (left) and Spc. Andrew Gengler, members of 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, load an M-109 self-propelled howitzer. The unit recently switched to the M-109 to ready itself for its part as a NATO Composite Force. Some in the battalion will train in Norway this winter.



Photo by SSgt. Ed Holt





# PEOPLE

Maine's Brig. Gen. Wil Hessert assumes key post in Europe

## HEADED for the ACTION

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

This Maine autumn held a different meaning for Brig. Gen. Wil Hessert. The spectacular fall foliage that signaled the end of another New England summer marked the start of a new season in his Air National Guard career.

Hessert, commander of the Maine Air Guard's highly-regarded 101st Air Refueling Wing in his native city of Bangor, was tapped to become the Air National Guard special assistant to the commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) beginning Nov. 1.

"That's where the action is," remarked the mild-mannered 54-year-old, who has played an integral part in the Maine Air Guard's action for three decades, including the last five years as commander of the "Maineiacs."

Hessert will spend three years as one of the Air Guard major generals who assist Air Force commanders around the world with the deployments of Air Guard units into their theaters. His boss will be Gen. Michael Ryan, USAFE commander.

He will be based at Ramstein AB in Germany part time and he will continue to live in Hermon, Maine, with his wife, Marion. He will have full-time responsibilities,

Hessert explained, because these downsizing times for the Air Force are busy times for the Air Guard and Reserve.

"As the Air Force downsizes and closes bases, the Air Guard and Reserve have increased in importance," said Hessert. "The Air Force cannot do its mission worldwide without the Air National Guard and Air Reserve."

Hessert is following another Maine Air Guard veteran into the national arena. Maj. Gen. John Pesch, a New York native who commanded the 101st Fighter Group in Bangor in the early 1950s, was director of the Air National Guard in Washington, D.C., from 1974-77.

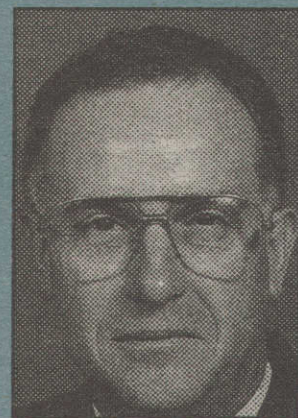
Hessert has also been part of the evolution of today's part-time force.

After serving three years in the Army, Hessert joined the Maine Air Guard in Bangor in 1963 and became a pilot in the 132nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, which had been among the country's first Air Guard jet fighter squadrons.

The Air Guard began to emerge as a force in Maine after the Air Force pulled its Strategic Air Command base out of Bangor in 1968.

Hessert was a maintenance officer and test pilot when the Air Guard fighter group became a KC-135 tanker air refueling wing in 1976.

He has influenced and nurtured a master development plan that has generated \$25.9 million in new facilities at



"The Air Force cannot do its mission without the Air Guard"

... Brig. Gen. Wil Hessert

the Bangor Air National Guard Base since 1980.

He has been the driving force behind the 10-plane wing's two-year-old mission as host of the Northeast Tanker Task Force. It channels virtually all of the Air Force and North Atlantic Treaty Organization flights to Europe and back through the northeast corridor.

That has made the Bangor base a deceptively busy place. Many people in Bangor do not realize their Air Guard wing is a key Air Force player in Europe and Southwest Asia.

"We've been on alert for everything you've read about in the last year," remarked Hessert, "including the Ron Brown plane crash last April in Croatia."

Hosting the tanker task force since September 1994 has increased the operational tempo for the wing's 963 members, including 318 full-timers, by more than 600 percent.

Wing officials originally agreed to support 168 sorties each year as part of the task force. By Oct. 1 it had supported more than 1,200 task force sorties for 1996.

"We haven't said 'no' to anyone," said Hessert.

Now, as the Air Guard assistant for the command that stretches from Iceland to North Africa, Hessert is well grounded in the role the National Guard is playing in the national defense.

"We are returning to our militia roots," said Hessert. "The last 50 years saw an aberration in the size of the standing force -- during the Cold War. We won that battle, so now it is right to downsize."

But this country still has a significant military involvement in Europe.

"The emerging democracies in Eastern Europe, the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, and the recurring problems in Southwest Asia, as well as the downsizing, make that a challenging part of the world," he said.

"The Air Force is especially good at getting all of the siblings to accomplish the mission," Hessert added. "That's why Air Guard and Air Reserve units are going in and out of Europe all the time."

That is why, as the woodlands were displaying their fall splendor in his native Maine, Wil Hessert was eager to get in on the action over there.

## Helping Hands

By Sgt. Timothy Fischer  
West Virginia National Guard

When it comes to children, Kentucky Army National Guard Capt. Linda Godfrey possesses a warm heart.

The "Bluegrass State" citizen-soldier and 34 members of the State Area Command's Army Medical Department recently made life a little easier for children and adults alike here in Ecuador.

Godfrey, who received her nursing degree from the University of Kentucky, worked alongside an area pediatrician, Dr. Marco Ruiz.

"It's hard for me to explain

the feeling I get when the little children look into my eyes and they know that we are here to help them," she said. "Marco and I see about 200 patients a day. The children are so innocent and seem to be so glad to see us here."

The local children seeking medical care suffered from a wide range of illnesses, ranging from upper-respiratory infections and skin rashes, to severe tooth decay. The screening of these patients fell jointly into the skilled hands of Godfrey and Ruiz, who were the first people to see the patients.

Unlike her civilian-nursing duties at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington,

Ky., Godfrey was afforded the opportunity to work with hundreds of children during the medical-training exercise.

"I have learned a lot of interesting information from Marco about the way the local doctors treat and evaluate the patients in the rural parts of the country," Godfrey added.

Ruiz said he and other local health-care professionals equally enjoyed the opportunity to work with Kentuckians.

"We really don't have the means to come out to these secluded areas. The Americans have helped us reach those residents in most need of medical treatment," Ruiz said.

Godfrey, who previously deployed to Guatemala, said train-



Photo by Sgt. Timothy Fischer

ing in Latin American countries provides a much-needed challenge.

"The language difference is something that one does not really consider until faced with it," said Godfrey, who also works as a nursing instructor. "The opportunity to learn the medical system in a foreign country is a wonderful resource

**CARING HANDS** - Capt. Linda Godfrey checks the blood pressure of an Ecuadorian mother.

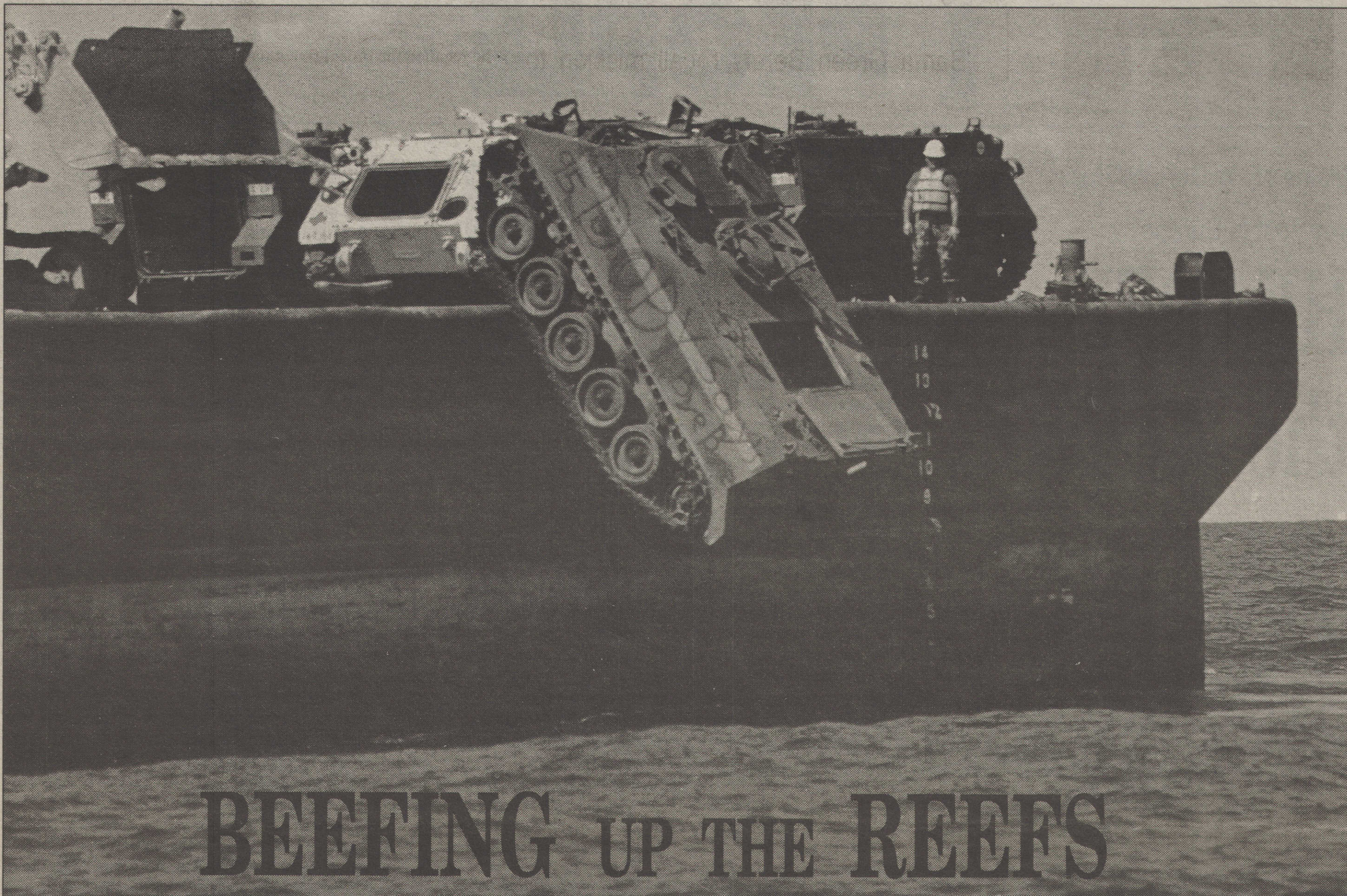
I can use when I'm teaching the new nurses," she added.

Meanwhile, Godfrey said the top priority for the medical exercise was to educate local residents about infection control and prevention. She added that upper respiratory and skin infections were the leading medical concerns in rural Ecuador.

Helping children combat such infections is what makes being a Guardmember so gratifying.

"I hold a special place in my heart for these children," she said. "They deserve a disease-free childhood. Hopefully, the Ecuadorian medical system will continue these medical exercises."





## BEEFING UP THE REEFS

By dropping old tanks overboard, New Jersey joins effort to reinforce fish industry

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Don Cramer is an amiable old salt who has seen just about every thing -- thousands of worn tires, stone slabs from the remodeled Benjamin Franklin Bridge, tugboats, and part of an oil refinery -- deep-sixed off the New Jersey shore to make saltwater havens for fish.

Now the charter boat skipper out of Stone Harbor, N.J., can add demilitarized Army tanks and armored personnel carriers (APCs) to the material used to build and sustain artificial reefs a few miles out in the rolling Atlantic Ocean.

Reef Exercise, REEFEX for short, is a program spearheaded by the New Jersey Army National Guard intended to reinforce the sport-fishing industry off the mid-Atlantic shore -- from Long Island to North Carolina -- and help people like Don Cramer earn a living.

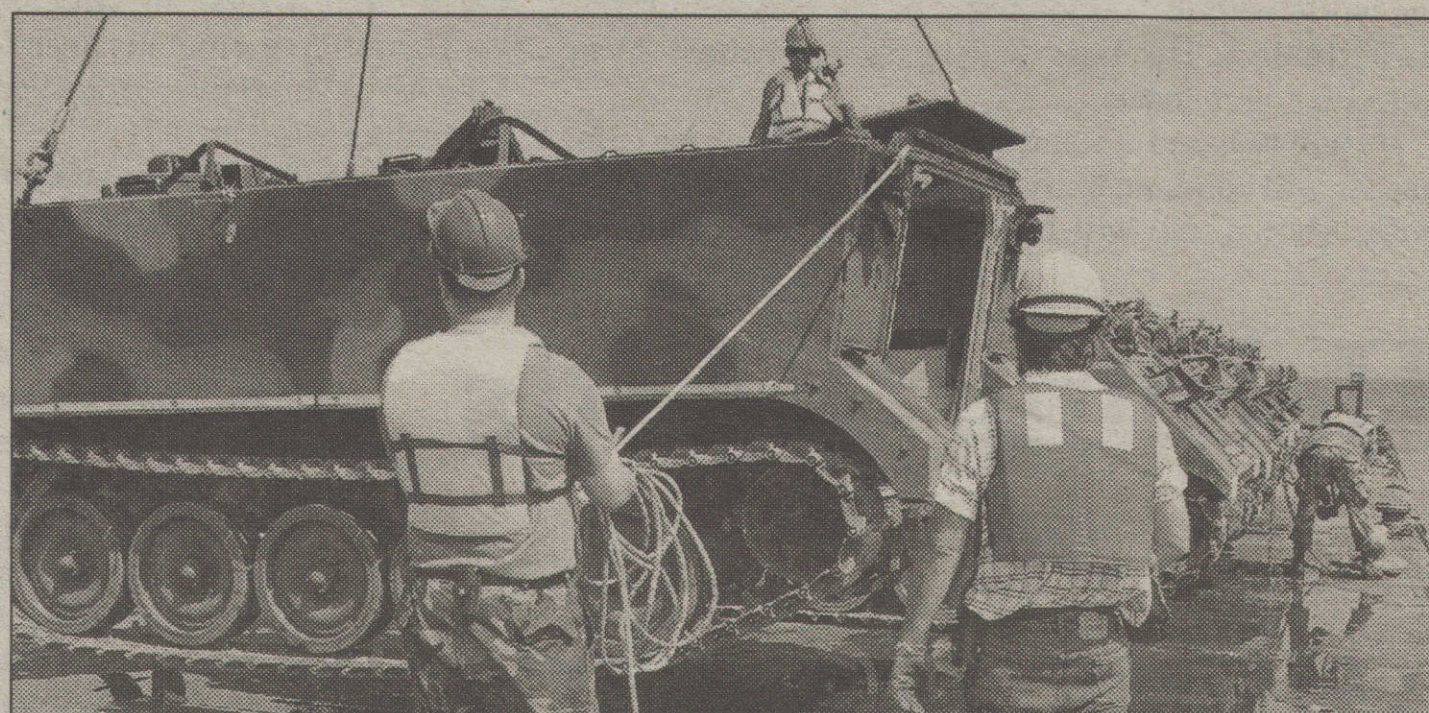
He is a third-generation charter-boat

captain who has been hauling fishing parties beyond the New Jersey horizon for 40 years in search of sea bass, blackfish, porgy and other species that thrive on the worms, snails and other organisms that grow on reefs.

Holsey Moorman is a brigadier general in the New Jersey Army National Guard who is convinced the armed forces have plenty of old equipment that is ideal for building these reefs and that the Guard and other government agencies have the muscle to drop it to the ocean floor.

"You either cut it up for scrap or use it for something like this," said Moorman, New Jersey's deputy adjutant general, who learned about the program during a tour at the Pentagon. "Considering scrap metal is going for about \$13 a ton, there is a lot more financial benefit from using it to help the sport-fishing industry."

Consequently, 181 M-60 and Sheridan tanks and APCs that new technology and the Army's downsizing have made obsolete were gutted for spare parts, drained of their polluting fluids and steamed squeaky clean at Fort Dix before being shoved from barges into 50 feet of ocean off the New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia coasts.



Photos courtesy New Jersey National Guard

Members of the New Jersey Army Guard, primarily from the 119th Support Battalion, have worked on the reef project since 1994, said Lt. Col. Charles Harvey, the battalion's commander.

"These guys worked their tails off," said Harvey, as 17 tanks were pushed from an ocean-going barge onto New Jersey's Wildwood Reef.

The New Jersey Guard heads up the program, said Moorman, because Fort Dix has the only federally-certified facility for stripping and cleaning old tracked equipment in that part of the country.

**JERSEY EFFORT - A demilitarized APC (top photo) takes a dip. New Jersey Guardmembers (above) tie down future reefs.**

About 30 Guardmembers worked on this year's \$1.3 million effort that was funded by the Defense Department, Moorman explained. Armored vehicles from Fort Stewart and Fort Benning in Georgia and from the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama were sanitized at Fort Dix and transported to barges at the Earle Naval Weapons Station on the northern





**"You either cut it up for scrap or use it for something like this."**

... Brig. Gen. Holsey Moorman

New Jersey shore before being dumped.

The tanks and APCs are expected to form good patch reefs along the mid-Atlantic coast where the water is green and rich in algae and plankton, but where natural reefs do not exist.

"Tanks have a relatively high profile. Triggerfish, bait fish and round herring will school up over high structures," explained Bill Figley, New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife reef coordinator.

The old military vehicles are the newest building blocks for artificial reefs that have been built off the Atlantic coast since the 1930s, Figley said. New Jersey alone has established 14 reef sites since 1983 with enough material to build a single lane of highway four feet deep and 172 miles long.

Hundreds of sanitized military vehicles have been placed on reef sites off the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico during the last three years with the help of Army Guard units from Louisiana and Georgia as well as from New Jersey.

It takes four or five years for a reef to develop the thick layer of vegetation and the small animals to feed a lot of fish, Figley said. Fish, however, start to colonize, and hide from predators, within days after the old boats and tanks hit bottom.

The heavy armored vehicles' anticipated durability of 50-100 years is critical, said Figley. "We try to put down materials that aren't going to break apart," he explained.

Once in place, the reefs can produce a lot of food. Those off New Jersey are sustaining up to 300 million pounds of mussels, he said. In some places there are 5,000 mussels per square foot.

Noble as this military machinery's final mission may be, armor officers get downright melancholy.

"I got down inside a turret to look around one last time back on land," lamented New Jersey Army Guard Maj. Ernest Huggard as six M-60s from his former tank company were sent to their final resting place.

"They call it obsolete today," added Huggard, "but five years ago it was the newest thing we had."

**'Bama Green Berets recall mission to recover victims of plane crash that claimed Commerce Secretary Ron Brown**

## Preserving the deads' dignity

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Dealing with death, it has been said, brings people nearer to God.

Paul Roberts, a Special Forces lieutenant colonel in the Alabama Army National Guard, experienced that spiritual sensation last Easter Sunday in the Croatian city of Dubrovnik after being caught up in one of this year's tragic events.

Roberts and two other Green Beret Guardmembers from Birmingham, Ala., helped identify and recover the bodies of the 35 people killed when Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown's Air Force jet slammed into a rocky ridge in southern Croatia on the stormy afternoon of Wednesday, April 3, four days before Easter.

Roberts, MSgt. Donald Dudchock and Sgt. Mark Carl were pressed into duty during that international operation because they were based at an air station across the Adriatic Sea in Brindisi, Italy, during a tour of duty with the Bosnian peacekeeping mission Joint Endeavor.

They were among 14 members of the 20th Special Forces Group from Alabama who were serving in Europe at the time. Roberts, who lives in Columbus, Ga., commanded that National Guard unit.

Special Forces troops are trained to deal with the unexpected. Nothing, however, could prepare those soldiers for the ugly images that assaulted their senses when they reached the scene of the crash on St. John the Baptist peak with Special Forces Brig. Gen. Michael Canavan in a driving rain the following dawn, April 4.

"I've been a Special Forces soldier for 16 years, 10 on active duty, and I had never seen anything like it," said the 40-year-old Roberts, his voice thick with emotion as

**REFLECTION - Lt. Col. Paul Roberts (above, left) poses with MSgt. Donald Dudchock.**

he recalled the ordeal five months later, in September, during a Joint Endeavor conference.

Bodies, some badly charred, others terribly mangled, were strewn on the rocky ground around what was left of the TA3A jet, a military version of the Boeing 737, that was carrying Brown and 13 American business executives on a trip to explore postwar reconstruction projects in the former Yugoslavia.

The group had visited U.S. troops in Tuzla, Bosnia, before leaving for Dubrovnik in Croatia on April 3. The plane crashed into the 2,300-foot ridge, nearly two miles off course, 45 minutes later. The tail section, bearing an American flag and No. 31149, and two engines were the only parts of the plane still intact, Roberts added.

However, the determined Roberts and the two other Alabama Guardmembers steeled their emotions as much as possible and began helping Croatian soldiers and other American and French troops search for survivors, secure the area, account for the bodies and, if possible, identify the victims.

Carl, from Berea, Ky, is fluent in Croatian and served as Gen. Canavan's interpreter for most of the mission, Roberts explained.

Roberts said he was with Canavan when Brown's body was identified as it lay among a group of 10 bodies to the right of the burned fuselage.

"I couldn't help wondering about the condition of their souls," reflected Roberts, a scholarly soldier who teaches history to officer candidates and new infantry officers at Fort Benning, Ga. "A bond seemed to develop between the victims and those of us who worked to get them off

that mountain with a sense of dignity," he added.

Meanwhile, there was no letup in the wind and rain that was immediately blamed for the crash and that was said to be that area's worst storm in 10 years.

"We spent 24 straight hours in severe weather before we got much rest," Roberts remarked.

The mission, however, lasted three long days -- through Good Friday and into Holy Saturday when

the final eight bodies were airlifted off the peak.

"You couldn't have picked a worse site for a plane crash," recalled Dudchock, who supervises coal miners when he's not in uniform.

"It was all rock. You had to watch where you were walking all the time," Dudchock added. "We worked three solid days with little rest and little food. We bagged the bodies and they were lifted up to helicopters in Stokes baskets. That was the best way to get them off the mountain."

Finally, the ordeal was over, and the search and recovery team members could get some hot food, showers and some well-deserved rest. It

was also Easter -- a good day to take stock of one's life.

Army and Air Force chaplains held services in Dubrovnik. Said Roberts, "It felt real good to go to Mass on Easter Sunday."

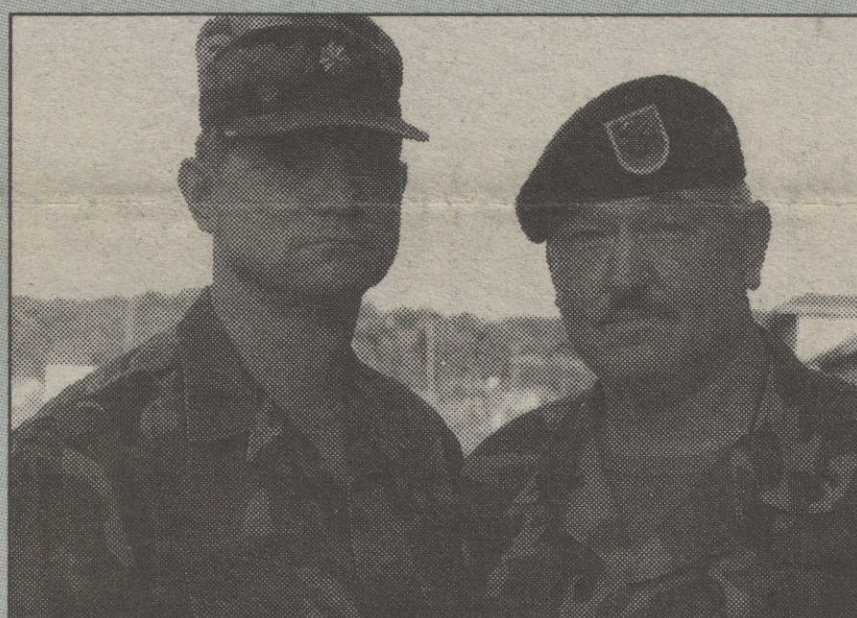


Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**"A bond seemed to develop between the victims and those of us who worked to get them off that mountain with a sense of dignity."**

... Lt. Col. Paul Roberts



SAFETY

# Nielsen's rating: ZERO

Air Guard Safety Director Col. Dennis Nielsen says any mishap is unacceptable

By MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

For decades, Air Force safety officers, after carefully wetting their index finger and checking the wind current, would step forward every Oct. 1 and boldly forecast what the following fiscal year's safety goal -- the acceptable amount of aircraft accidents and fatalities -- would be.

While such a proclamation may, on the surface seem grisly, many commanders -- with the historical evidence that supports the notion that people and equipment are prone to error -- allowed it. It's better to trot out a quota that leaves room for error, they thought, than to fail publicly.

That all changed when Col. Dennis Nielsen took over as the Air Guard's Safety Director.

These days the Air National Guard has one goal: zero mishaps. And those who think Nielsen is setting himself up for failure, being unrealistic or a poor student of history -- he's been accused of all this and worse -- need to listen up.

"Let's not talk about reducing mishaps, let's talk about eliminating them," he began. "It is possible to have zero mishaps. Today we did zero. Yesterday we did it, too. We do it every day."

"Half of the battle is believing we can," he added.

Since taking his zero mishap posture, the Air Guard has recorded historically low mishap rates for two straight years.

"We failed," Nielsen noted of last fiscal year's five mishaps and one fatality, "but look what failure accomplished."

Nielsen's quest for zero was perhaps formed on a tragic day in July 1989. As the world watched amateur video footage of United Airline's flight 232

cartwheeling violently down a runway in Sioux City, Iowa, Nielsen wasn't so lucky. He saw it all.

At the time a member Iowa's 185th Fighter Wing, Nielsen had overheard radio messages coming from the doomed aircraft.

"It was obvious that they were in some kind of peril," he recalled, "but I thought maybe they would blow out a tire. Nobody knew."

Positioning himself on the flight line along with emergency services personnel, Nielsen watched in horror as the plane

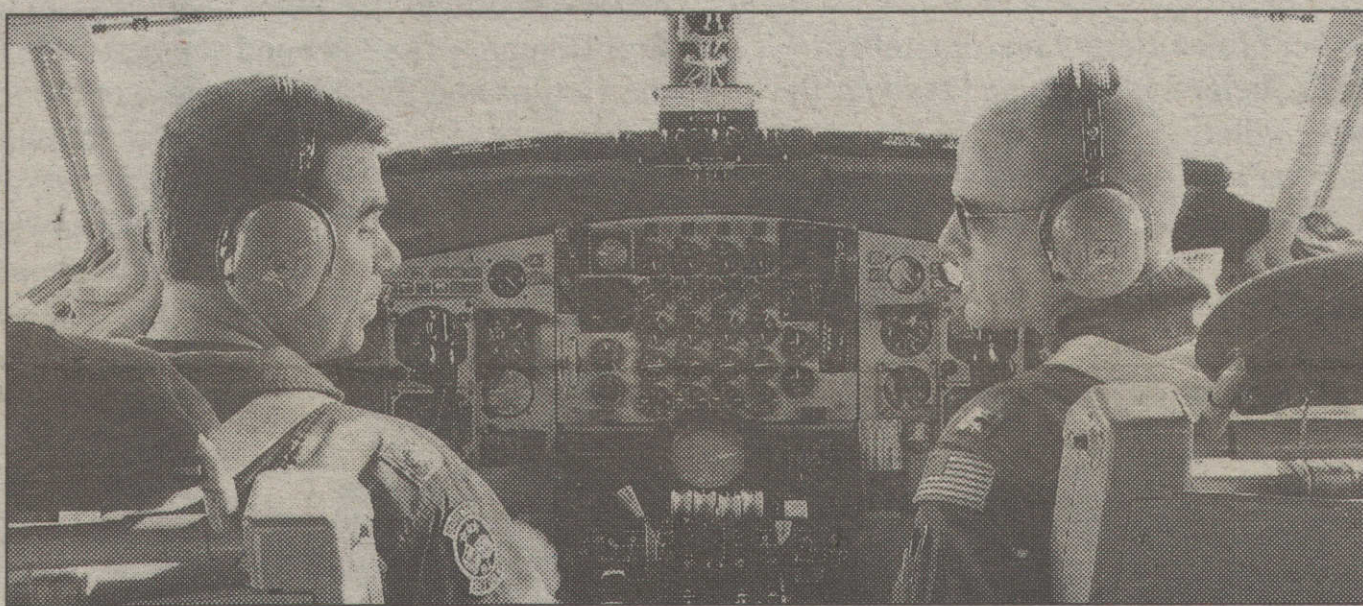


Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell



**SAFE ACTS - Col. Dennis Nielsen (left), the Air Guard's Safety Director, says professional behavior in the cockpit (above) and maintenance hangars is what will help the Air Guard to go accident-free for the first time since its existence.**

careened helplessly. Its 296 passengers, most likely, dead.

"I can remember calling our command post and telling them that there was no way anyone could live through that," Nielsen said.

Driving into a wind storm of debris, Nielsen and others rushed to the scene, steeling themselves for the carnage they were soon to witness.

"There were people in their seats who just unbuckled and stood up," he said. Tragically, such occurrences were too infrequent. Only 184 people survived.

One of them was then three-year-old

Spencer Bailey. It was Nielsen who carried the youngster's limp body from the wreckage to a waiting ambulance. A photojournalist who had sneaked into the crash site captured that moment on film. Nielsen was still at the base 24 hours later when his wife told him he was on the front page. As it turned out, that photo emblazoned hundreds of papers worldwide.

"You do what you think you should do," Nielsen said of his deeds. "There were many people doing things that day. I just got my picture taken." Recently, an artist, using Nielsen's heroic photo as inspiration, sculpted a 7-foot statue. A small park was also erected to honor the victims -- Spencer Bailey's mother was one of them -- and its heroes.

"God saved the child," Nielsen observed humbly. "I just carried him."

Understandably, the Colonel confesses to taking any mishap personally.

"I always ask myself, 'What could I have done.'"

It's a question Nielsen has gotten many in the Air Guard operations and maintenance communities to ask of themselves. The days of allowing, or ignoring, unsafe behaviors are as intolerable as drug use.

"One of the Guard's greatest strengths is the fact that our people tend to be in a unit a long time. It's also our greatest weakness," Nielsen said. "Sometimes you have individuals who are not using their technical orders (maintenance bibles on repairs, etc.), and there's a culture that allows these practices."

Through safety councils -- comprised of experts in the field -- and cultural assessment teams that provide commanders with "between-the-eyes" evaluations of their unit's safety behaviors, Nielsen's zero mishap message is getting out.

One of the pillars of that message is "peer accountability," or an organization that regulates itself.

"The commander cannot and should not be with his people all the time," Nielsen said. "So it is up to each individual to stop unprofessional acts."

Nielsen gets annoyed when discovering during an accident investigation that people were aware of a doomed pilot's unsafe flying practices.

"If they knew, then why did they let it happen?" he countered. "Could you go up to that guy's kids and tell them you knew their dad was going to kill himself?"

Thus far the Air Guard has achieved its goal of zero mishaps this fiscal year. Nielsen is also proud to note that some Air Force major commands have taken his lead by not publishing "acceptable" accident goals.

To do so, says the man who has seen tragedy first hand, would be giving people an unspoken license to kill.

Guard peacekeepers in Europe are...

## Endeavoring TO BE SAFE

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

To Swedish soldiers, they are ninja turtles.

The bulky flak vests and heavy Kevlar helmets that members of the Army National Guard wear just about everywhere in battered Bosnia this year do give them the camouflaged look of the combative cartoon heroes that their children may be watching back home.

But the 250 Guardmembers from Massachusetts to Hawaii serving in Bosnia have not been making some form of a fashion statement. The body armor is one of Operation Joint Endeavor's most enduring symbols of safety.

Over there, safety is a six-letter word for force protection. Keeping the soldiers safe -- from land mines, ambushes and the bubonic plague -- is among the most important considerations during this year's effort to keep the peace in that troubled land.

"There is an active and aggressive safety program in Bosnia," said Capt. John Goheen, who spent six months in Tuzla with the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Maryland. "Safety is critically important to every commander."

It is especially so, officers claim, for those serving with Task Force Eagle. It is especially evident, others say, in areas where the American troops are working beside soldiers from the other nations who are also keeping Bosnia's warring factions at bay.

"U.S. soldiers are under more restrictive policies than soldiers from other countries," observed Goheen.

"You wear all of your combat gear as if you are being shot at,"





Photo by SSgt. Joseph Garrison

said 1st Sgt. Philip Perez from a 30-member Kansas artillery detachment that left Sarajevo in September. "We never wore our soft caps during the seven months we were in Sarajevo."

Whereas French and Italian troops could wear their berets and T-shirts, the men from Kansas baked in their body armor while filling sand bags during 95-degree summer days, explained Capt. John Campbell, the detachment commander from the 161st Field Artillery.

For a while the Kansas Guardmembers even had to wear their vests and helmets while playing pickup basketball games, it was explained.

Force protection is evident in many other ways.

- Four-vehicle convoys, equipped with a radio and a crew-served weapon and carrying two soldiers per vehicle, is the minimum required for traveling around Tuzla in the American sector, said Maryland Capt. Drew Sullins.

- Alcoholic beverages are forbidden and troops are constantly reminded to drink plenty of water -- so long as it is bottled.

- Rifles and pistols are cleared every time anybody enters a building.

- Living areas are kept clean and free of rats and other vermin to reduce the risk of disease.

- Kerosene heaters in the tents near Tuzla are refueled and lighted with care.

- Traveling after dark is discouraged except for emergencies.

- And staying on the roads and out of the fields keeps the troops away from the cursed mines.

"I told my guys, 'if it isn't paved, you don't need to be on it,'" said Perez.

There were plenty of reminders about the importance of remaining prudent.

The most publicized incident occurred on a snowy patch north of Tuzla last February, early into the

mission, when Army SFC Donald Dugan was killed while trying to disarm an antipersonnel mine.

Mines in front of their position and small-arms fire every night kept the Kansan artillerymen on their toes. They manned radar units designed to plot the course and the source of incoming mortar rounds.

"Mines went off all around us the first day we got there, and they cooked off as the weather changed," said Perez. "You could see them in the field about 30 feet in front of our position at the airport."

Tracers streaking into the sky were a nightly occurrence around the city where the Serbs and Croats and Muslims still jockeyed for control.

"There wasn't a single night that we didn't pick up something on the radars," Perez added. "What goes up must come down."

Yes, some of the Task Force Eagle troops complained about the restrictive safety policies, especially when

**DRESSED FOR SAFETY -** Guardmembers, like Maryland's Spc. Cesar Soriano (left), supporting Operation Joint Endeavor in Europe, went nowhere without a Kevlar helmet and flak vest.

they saw other Americans and allied soldiers on duty who were not armored like ninja turtles.

"They weren't always happy about it," said Perez. "But the troops sucked it up and went with it."

"People were very safety oriented because they wanted to come home alive," remarked SFC Robert Knight, the top sergeant for a military police detachment from Moundsville, W.V.

Those 15 people from the 152nd MP Company wrote and monitored the force protection doctrine for the 31 U.S. bases in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary, Knight said. That meant practicing what they preached while convoying over snow-covered roads and staying attuned to civilian traffic, land mines and snipers.

Everyone had plenty of encouragement to follow the safety guidelines mandated by General Order No. 1.

Maj. Gen. William Nash, the task force commander, received safety reports every day, said Goheen. And officers have acknowledged that nothing will kill a commander's career any quicker than a fatality because of a safety violation.

Complacency can become the biggest problem, cautioned Col. William Squires, the Army Guard's Safety and Occupational Health Division chief.

"Constant vigilance is the key.

Don't let down your guard during the final 10 percent of the time," he said, noting that most annual training accidents occur during the final two days.

"The only thing worse than a short-timer is a short-timer unit," Nash told the *Army Times*.

In other words, just because soldiers are almost home does not mean they are home-free.

Getting his men back to Kansas "with all of their fingers and toes" justified all of the safety precautions in Bosnia, insisted Campbell.

One injured wrist, from playing basketball, was that unit's most serious medical problem, he said.

Overall, the peacekeeping injuries in Bosnia have been remarkably light, even though five American soldiers have died since last December. Upwards of 125 Army Guard soldiers have returned from first-rotation tours without a serious injury.

"I think the success of the mission today can be directly attributed to how much they stress safety and force protection," said Goheen. "If you look at the arithmetic, it works."





# SPORTS

- Gold Rush
- Distinguished Badge
- Olympic Dream

## SPORTS SHORTS

### GUARD RUNNERS TAKE GOLD RUSH

Members of the All-National Guard Marathon Team returned to Juneau, Alaska, in search of gold as they participated in the Frank Maier Marathon.

And found gold they did.

Paced by Oregon's Sgt. Tim Vandervlugt, the Guard Team took top honors in the Men's and Women's marathon as well as the Men's half marathon race.

Vandervlugt shattered the 26.2-mile course with a time of 2:42:57.

"This was tough, probably the toughest course I've run on," Vandervlugt said.

Winning the women's marathon was Florida's Sgt. Kelly Wild. Wild, a 31-year-old legal specialist with the 417th Signal Battalion, also set a new course record by running the marathon in 3:24:15.

In the men's half-marathon race, Puerto Rico's Sgt. Ramon Colon-Malaue was the top runner, winning with a time of 1:10:52.

### GLEN SMITH GUNS DOWN BADGE

When Florida's MSgt. Glen Smith, a member of the 125th Logistics Squadron, was awarded the "Distinguished Badge," he had no idea who George Wingate was.

Now, he knows.

Wingate, a captain who served for the Union Army during the Civil War, dedicated his life to the skill of marksmanship. He is considered the "Father of Marksmanship."

Only an estimated 2 percent of those shooters who try ever become distinguished shooters. The classification was first authorized by the U.S. Army in 1884.

Nebraska Army Guard's  
Maj. Tom Brewer recalls  
Olympic experience

## Coach targets dream

By Spc. Rick Breitenfeldt  
Nebraska National Guard

While the rest of America was glued to their televisions during the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, one Nebraska Army Guardmember had a front-row seat.

"The opportunity to do what I did might not come along again," said Maj. Tom Brewer, who traveled to Atlanta to serve as a coach for the 1996 United States Olympic Shooting Team. "I was going to go and learn as much as I could."

Brewer, a Murdock-area resident who is the full-time state marksmanship coordinator for the Nebraska Army National Guard, worked closely with several of the 32 U.S. marksmen who competed against athletes from more than 100 countries. In addition to his coaching duties, Brewer also served as a liaison between the military and the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

Brewer credits his opportunity to perform such an important and coveted job to Nebraska's strong and active marksmanship program.

"I think that when they were looking for folks to go and do this, they wanted a representative from a positive program that had a lot of things going for it," said Brewer. "Nebraska's program is one of the finest in the nation."

Brewer, who has competed at all different levels of competition since his own competitive debut in 1988, called his Olympic experience humbling.

"You're seeing people shoot at bullseyes that are the size of a pencil eraser while the target is moving. It almost takes your breath away to think about the concentration that it takes to be able to do this," he said.

The competition, which was held at the

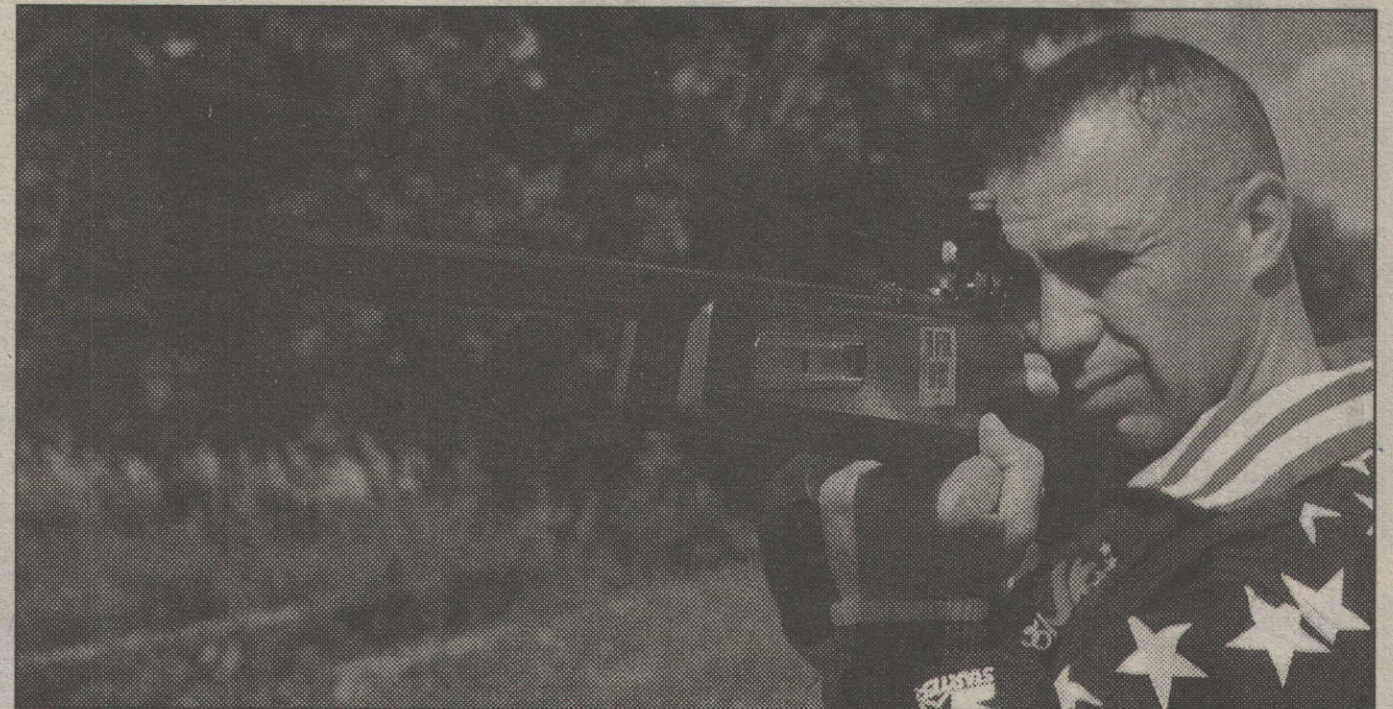


Photo by Sgt. Kevin Hynes

newly constructed Wolf Creek Shooting Complex just south of Atlanta, took place over a period of eight days and consisted of 16 different shooting disciplines.

Brewer agrees with the many experts who contend that success in competitive shooting is 90 percent mental and 10 percent ability.

"Shooting is different from gymnastics or track and field because age is not such a factor," said Brewer. "The average age of a competitive shooter varies greatly."

"Shooters have a window from about age 15 through 45 where they are the most effective," said Brewer. "Your eyes are the things that limit you more than anything else."

This year's most experienced athlete, Brewer said, was a 62-year-old trap shooter from the United Kingdom.

According to Brewer, the Olympic experience was an education. He added that the competition was slightly different from a typical military shooting contest.

"We tend to be focused on just what we do here in the military and the combat style of shooting," said Brewer. "In Atlanta, there was a whole world of different disciplines and weapons."

Shooting styles and weapons weren't the only differences in this year's contests, however. The Olympics was also an education in international issues.

"In the U.S., we don't really give much thought to putting a shooter from Nebraska next to a shooter from Arkansas," said Brewer. "However, we had to be real careful not to put a shooter from Taiwan next to a shooter from China."

Yet, Brewer insisted, people from different parts of the world aren't really as different as one might expect.

"You get there and realize that some of these guys may be no different than your cousin," Brewer said. "It is a lot smaller world than we tend to give it credit for sometimes."

During the competition, Brewer kept an Olympic travel schedule that most

**IN SIGHT - Nebraska Army Guard's Maj. Tom Brewer (above) recently served as one of the U.S. Shooting Team coaches.**

would have considered an event in itself. It consisted of a 3:30 a.m. wake-up, a two-hour commute from Fort Benning, Ga., to the shooting complex, and a 12-hour work day.

"Needless to say, I was pretty wrung out when the week was over," he said.

Overall, the U.S. shooters fared well in Atlanta, earning a total of three different medals in several shooting events. One disadvantage that weakened his ability as a coach, Brewer said, was not being able to go to Colorado Springs, site of the U.S. Olympic Training Center, during the weeks prior to the Games.

"Things were moving so fast that you never really ever felt comfortable with where you were or what you were doing," said Brewer. "You weren't able to do justice to your shooters like you could have because you didn't have enough preparation."

Brewer said he believes his Olympic experiences will help him shape and train his Nebraska marksmen.

"So much of the way they (Olympic athletes) prepared was mental," said Brewer. "They never actually fired that many rounds in preparation for the matches."

"We always feel that if we can't get on the range, we can't train," he added. "In Nebraska, we have the ability to do a lot of rehearsal training that we never really do before we go to matches."

Now that the Games are over and the hoopla of the events has died down, Brewer said the one Olympic memory that sticks out in his mind is the individual medal ceremony.

"The music played, the flags raised ... it was all done in perfect unison," he recalled. "You can't help but sit there and imagine getting a medal hung on you and thinking what a neat experience that would be."



# The Guard's CORE

Experts discuss  
ways to better  
support families

By MSgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Linda Newbegin discovered just how badly the National Guard needed a family support program about 15 years ago -- when she helped the frantic wife of a Maine Army Guardmember because the woman had no one else to whom she could turn.

The woman's husband, Newbegin recalled recently, had been badly injured and hospitalized in the northern Maine city of Caribou after being mobilized with his southern Maine engineer unit to combat extensive flooding.

The wife relied on Newbegin to get as much information as she could about the Guardsman's condition and then drive her north for six hours -- from Portland to Caribou -- to see her hospitalized husband.

"If there had been a family support program, it would have been a lot easier to get that woman the information and to get her to see her husband in Caribou," said the forthright Newbegin who got involved because her husband, Wayne, was the injured man's platoon sergeant.

It was no surprise, then, that Linda Newbegin was one of the key players in the Family Program Volunteer Training Workshop conducted by the Maine National Guard in Bangor on the last weekend in September.

The message: Families form the core of the National Guard.

The object: Make sure Maine's Guard families know how to carry on -- how they will be paid and how to get medical aid and other help -- should their citizen-soldiers be mobilized on short notice for a mission half-way around the world, just as 250 Maine Army Guardmembers were called up for Desert Storm six years earlier.

More than 100 Army and Air National Guardmembers and volunteers concerned about the well-being of those

families attended the two-day workshop that marked the 10th anniversary of Maine's family program and that attracted the attention of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, the Bureau's no-nonsense director of Family Programs, made her first visit to Maine -- as the woodlands were changing into their coat of splendid fall colors -- to lend the workshop her considerable support.

She discovered in the Pine Tree State a program that, Ogilvy-Lee indicated, mirrors many other family support programs across the country. It is established but it needs to be reinforced.

"We have come into our own," explained the psychiatric social worker who set out to create the National Guard's family program in 1984 and whose efforts were validated during Desert Storm. "Now we are trying to reenergize the program as a partnership between the mili-



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

**THE CORE - NGB's Family Program Director, Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee (above, right) discusses issues with Maine's Linda Newbegin (left) and MSgt. Margaret Williams.**

tary and the families."

Army Guard MSgt. Margaret Williams, coordinator of Maine's family program, is one of her newest allies.

"There are threads of the program in the Maine Air and Army Guard units," she explained. "The Air Guard has a network because it has so many deployments. The Army Guard program has not been as active since Desert Storm."

"We don't want to have to jump through a lot of hoops to get it going again," said Williams, a 19-year Maine Guard veteran.

The workshop was designed to build on those threads and, Williams added, "to start family support groups in units that don't have them."

"The volunteers and Guardmembers from throughout the state who came to the workshop will go a long way

to revitalize the program," she predicted.

Williams has plenty of support from the top.

Pointing out that the National Guard fields 52 percent of this country's combat power, Maj. Gen. Earl Adams, Maine's Adjutant General, emphasized to the group that "the militia is more important than ever and the Family Program must be there to support them."

Improving that support prompted the participants to consider such issues as what the military people expect their families to do for them and what the families can expect from the military.

Communication was the common denominator.

"Don't assume that we don't need to know," said one family advocate. "Keep us fully informed, and you will keep us involved."

Commanders, young and old, have gotten that message.

"Family Support has to be there. It is no longer something that is merely nice to have," said Col. James Tracey, the Maine Army Guard's Director of Personnel and Administration whose engineer unit command time has encompassed two decades.

"The active Army has lost 50 percent of its engineer force since the Berlin Wall came down," he said. "The Guard has to take over."

And units are helping themselves.

Army Guard Capt. Kimberly Campbell said four volunteers have begun to work with her 160 members' families since August 1995 when she became the first woman to take command of a Maine engineer company.

That kind of attention is crucial for sustaining the force, said Ogilvy-Lee after explaining that 60 percent of the soldiers who served in the Persian Gulf were married with children compared to 16 percent who served in Vietnam.

"One-third of our losses are due to family pressures," she said. "We recruit service members. We retain families."

Many of those families will need the help of an established family program should their Guard soldiers be mobilized.

"This is not something you can throw together on the way out the door. It's like the military. You have to train for it," Ogilvy-Lee cautioned.

"You may go through your entire life without using it," she added. "But if you ever need it, it will be the most important thing in the world."

## From bridge builders to bridge demolishers

By SSgt. Joseph Garrison  
Maryland National Guard

They practice combat maneuvers, are seen driving armored personnel carriers through the woods and setting up tactical operations centers in remote areas of mock battlefields, but they are not infantrymen.

Soldiers of the Maryland Army National Guard's 121st Engineer Battalion have switched gears lately, from a construction and building unit to infantry support.

"Our combat mechanized engineers put up obstacles to stop the enemy and



Photo by SSgt. Joseph Garrison

destroy obstacles that the enemy has put up," said SFC Dan Granofsky. "But we can still build roads and bridges, and also blow them up."

While setting up a command operation center, Granofsky, of Charlie Company, reflected on his unit's

new role.

"It's a whole new world for our unit," he said. "We have done this new type of training for a year now and our progress has increased by leaps and bounds."

Another change for the company is

## ON THE MOVE - Members of Maryland's 121st Engineers (left) patrol Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

the addition of Spc. Lesa D. Fogarty, a technical engineering specialist and armored personnel carrier driver. She is the unit's first woman. (See related story, Page 12).

"To me, this means the National Guard is proving female soldiers can do jobs in units that were traditionally all-male," she said.

Transitioning the bulldozer-driving soldiers to armored vehicle crewmembers was just the first step, according to 1st Lt. Brent Meredith, Charlie Company commander.

"It has been a challenging transition," Meredith confirmed. "I think the soldiers in my unit have really risen to the occasion. They grabbed the bull by the horns, so to speak."

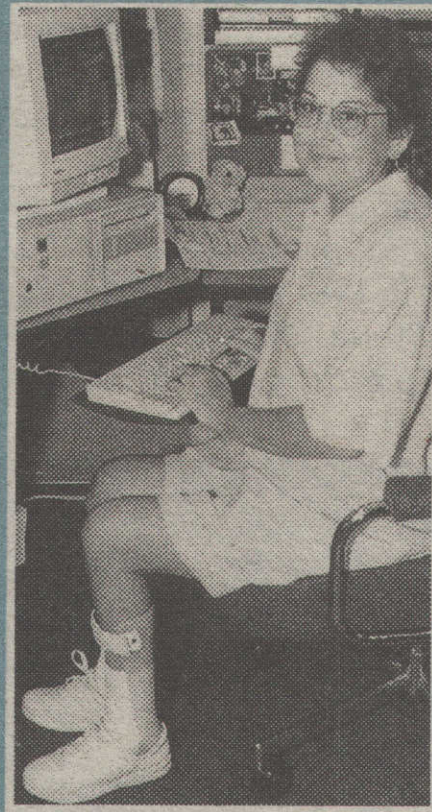


# NEWS

# MAKERS

Compiled by MSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

**Michelle Bartkowiak, a Michigan National Guard employee, received the 1996 Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with Disabilities Award for the National Guard.** Currently the Michigan National Guard Education Officer, Bartkowiak, an insulin diabetic, has suffered from severe diabetic neuropathy. The diabetes caused debilitating weakness in her lower extremities and significant weakness in her hands. She has lost the use of her legs and has reduced use of her hands. She wears leg braces and is confined to a wheelchair. Throughout, she has had diabetic complications and kidney degradation that resulted in numerous illnesses and injuries. Because her resistance to disease was extremely low, she often caught cold and flu-viruses from her co-workers, yet rarely missed a day of work. In 1992, Bartkowiak received a kidney donated from her mother. During her recovery, she insisted the office send her work, so Michigan Guardmembers wouldn't have to wait for education assistance. In the three years following surgery, she became prone to broken bones due to the large doses of medication she was required to take. In that time, she broke her right leg three times and left foot twice, yet missed few work days. In 1995, Bartkowiak's doctor recommended a pancreas transplant to save her life. Once a donor was found, she was in surgery within hours. The day after her surgery, Michelle was on the phone from her hospital bed, following up on work. In 1996, her pancreas failed three separate times. Each time she was rushed to the University of Minnesota hospital for chemical treatments to stop the rejection. Again, each time she took a considerable amount of work with her. Much of the work she was able to perform resulted in the approval of more than \$100,000 in military tuition assistance for eligible Michigan Guardmembers. "Whenever I think about the heroes I've known, Michelle tops the list," said Lt. Col. Bill Deetz, her supervisor. "She has always shown compassion and dedication for others, even when faced with life-threatening adversity."



Michelle Bartkowiak, the Guard's Outstanding Employee with Disabilities Award winner.



Col. Frederick Forster recognized by NCO Graduate Association.



Spc. Lesa Fogarty, a Maryland first.



Oregon's F-15s are flown by capable pilots.

**The following people are recipients of the 1996 Outstanding Supply and Fuels Personnel Awards:**

- Supply Superintendent - SMSgt. Francis Murray Jr., 116th Bomb Wing, Ga.
- Senior Supply Technician - TSgt. Suzanna Hollaway, 116th Bomb Wing, Ga.
- Junior Supply Technician - SrA. Jerry Coleman, 186th Air Refueling Wing, Miss.
- Fuels Superintendent - MSgt. Claude Poole, Jr., 116th Bomb Wing, Ga.
- Fuels Senior Technician - TSgt. Richard Thomas, 116th Bomb Wing, Ga.
- Fuels Junior Technician - SrA. David Horner, 175th Fighter Wing, Md.

**Members with the Oregon Air Guard's 123rd Fighter Squadron distinguished themselves recently when it was determined that 96 percent, 29 out of 30, of their pilots exceed the minimum requirements to fly the F-15.** No other F-15 unit in the Air Force, active or Reserve component, had a higher percentage. Squadron pilots flew more than 2,700 sorties in the training year that ended June 30. Each year pilots train according to standards set by the Graduated Combat Capability tasking. The tasking requires all pilots to fly a minimum 60 sorties each year. In addition to meeting the minimum number of sorties, pilots must fly a specified number of special missions. These include night flying, intercept missions and flights with night vision goggles. "Each and every person on this base made this happen," said Lt. Col. Larry Kemp, Operations Group commander.

**Lt. Col. Robert J. Spermo, new commander of the Texas Air Guard's 149th Fighter Wing in San Antonio, made an emergency landing of his F-16 aircraft after it developed engine trouble.** In the process of returning to San Antonio International Airport for the landing, he jettisoned his fuel tanks and dummy bombs and missiles over a north Bexar County subdivision, damaging two homes. No one was injured in the accident. Spermo was also credited with saving the airframe and limiting damage on the ground.

**The 129th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) of the Maryland Army National Guard recently won first place at the 1996 Leapfest -- an international parachuting competition.** The annual event was hosted by the Rhode Island Army National Guard. The 60-team field included jumpers from Egypt, Tunisia, Great Britain, Canada, Brazil, Germany and Croatia. This year's win marks the second time in six years that the Airborne detachment from Cumberland, Md., has won the competition. The winning team consisted of Spc. Cormac Meiners, Sgt. Bryan Guderjohn, Sgt. Brian Kunis, Sgt. Alex Feezer, SSgt. Randy Weber and Capt. Chris Cole. Competitors exit a UH-1 helicopter from an altitude of 1,500 feet. The paratroopers maneuver their parachutes to land as close as possible to an orange "X" placed on the ground. All paratroopers are timed from the moment their feet hit the ground to the time they touch a metallic dish placed in the center of the "X."

**Tennessee's Col. Frederick H. Forster, commander of the 134th Air Refueling Wing, was named the recipient of the I. G. Brown Command Excellence Award by the Air National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer's Graduate Association.** TSgt. Betty Brewer, president of NCOAGA Chapter 25, said, "without the tremendous support Colonel Forster has given us, our chapter would not have been able to attain our goals. His dedication to the enlisted corps is unsurpassed."

**Maryland Army Guard's Spc. Lesa D. Fogarty, a technical engineering specialist, has broken new ground by being the first woman to join the 121st Engineer Battalion.** Combat mechanized engineers assist infantry units with specific skills dealing with terrain and obstacles. "I did not know I was the first woman in the unit until the day I arrived for duty," she said. Fogarty is also a qualified armored personnel carrier driver and track commander.



# Tanker HIGH

By Capt. William Nutter  
Kentucky National Guard

To the untrained observer, the sounds from a tank firing line give an illusion of complete chaos and madness.

Soldiers screaming. The air thick with the smell of gunpowder. The roaring of heavy-tracked vehicles moving into position. All set the adrenal glands pumping into overdrive, alerting even the most complacent soul.

But these soldiers aren't fighting on a battlefield in some faraway land. Instead, these are Kentucky Army Guardmembers with Company C, 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor, putting their equipment -- and themselves -- to the test at Ft. Knox, home of the Army's Armor Training Center.

"I like being on tanks, it's like a power rush. It's a tanker's high," said Spc. Christopher Franklin, a tank loader and driver for Co. C, 1-123rd. "I don't take or need drugs. I've got tanks."

Kentucky Guard armor units such as Charlie Company are required bi-annually to qualify their M-1 Abrams tank crews on a series of eight exercises designed to enhance team-fighting skills. These exercises -- known as tank tables --



Photo by Capt. William Nutter

- are ranked from Table 1, which involves simulated-firing, up to Table 8, the live-fire exercise that provides a crew with the experience they'll need for actual combat.

"The pride and the competitiveness of everybody shows when they're on the firing line," said CSM William Stokes, who explained that the ultimate goal for this year's training was to have all of his crews qualify.

"It's like anybody going to the range to qualify with a pistol or with a rifle. This is our pistol and our rifle. We go down and shoot the big gun," noted Sgt. Greg Holbert, a tank commander.

The M-1 tank contains a weapons system consisting of a 105mm main gun, a .50 caliber machine gun and two 7.62 mm machine guns. The 61-ton vehicle is manned by a tank commander, gunner, loader and driver.

"As far as an integrated small unit weapons system, nothing compares to it," Holbert said. "It's just four guys living, shooting and breathing on a tank."

Holbert explained that it may seem to be mass confusion to an outsider, but in reality, it is an organized team effort.

"When everyone comes together and we perform our specific duties to standards or above standards, targets will fall. It's a good day for everybody," Holbert added.

According to 1st Lt. Matthew Grant, Company C's executive officer, meeting standards is important. With an active duty tour behind him, Grant sees similarities between Guard and active component soldiers.

"I've been surprised," he said. "You actually find the troops are the same. The big difference is the active Army spends a lot of time keeping up facilities, doing

**CALLING IN** - Kentucky's Sgt. Matt Clevidence (left), a member of 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor, checks in with range control.

maintenance, mowing the grass and work details. In the National Guard, we come out here (to Ft. Knox) and train. That's all we do."

Lt. Col. Norman Arflak, 1-123rd commander, views the training as something the civilian sector can't offer.

"You go out and play with \$2 million worth of equipment you don't have to buy yourself," he said. "It's a stark contrast with what anybody would do in civilian life, and you get to operate and fire an M-1 tank."

Arflak said there are other jobs in his unit that also are career-enhancing in the civilian job market.

"The military regimen and the requirements we have teach us to be better citizens on the outside," he said. "We offer the employers in the community a healthy soldier, a physically fit soldier and a drug-free soldier."

Arflak added that the leadership skills learned in the Guard are attributes that his battalion can offer to the civilian world.

Younger soldiers, like Franklin, appreciate the opportunities the Guard has to offer. According to Franklin, the educational benefits and the extra money are nice, but the real motivation for being in Charlie Company is the training.

"It's hot and sticky," he related. "You can be miserable in the most enjoyable thing in your life. As soon as you pop that first round, the adrenaline is flowing."

It's a tanker's high.

## A BOSS BLAST

Surrounded by sand bags, Sara Whitehead (left), a news-writer for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, gets a lesson in handling an M-16 with an M-203 grenade launcher during the Rhode Island National Guard's 4th Annual Boss Appreciation Day. "I don't know if I hit anything," said Whitehead, "but you get a feeling of power." About 200 bosses and guests participated.



Photo by SrA. Kristine Rodrigues





# STATES

- Renovation
- Historic Site
- New Course

## CONNECTICUT

*The Hartford armory has emerged from a \$10 million renovation smelling of polished wood and festooned with stage lights for the opening of a musical tribute to Mark Twain.*

The armory, constructed in 1908, now houses the Army National Guard's state headquarters and the state office of emergency management.

President William H. Taft spoke at the original opening, a fact that did not daunt Gov. John G. Rowland at the rededication ceremony. He said the armory "shaped history and shaped the character of our state."

"The armory has endured, and today we're telling the people of this state it will continue to endure," Rowland said.

The National Guard has applied to have the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## VIRGINIA

*The only multi-role, tactical reconnaissance unit in the U.S. Air Force successfully completed its first real-world contingency deployment, less than four months after becoming reconnaissance mission-capable.*

The 192nd Fighter Wing, based in Richmond, assisted in the development and testing of a portable, digital imaging recce pod that could be hung from an F-16.

## NEW NAME, EXPANDED MISSION

**Students (right) attending the newly named Massachusetts Army National Guard Regional Training Institute, formerly the Massachusetts Military Academy, ram a cleaning rod into a gun tube. Aside from developing future officers and NCOs, the RTI has expanded its mission to training soldiers from several states in field artillery.**



Photo by SSgt. Joseph Pacheco

## TEXAS

*The Camp Mabry Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on Aug. 30.*

Recognized for its architectural and historical significance, the Camp Mabry Historic District becomes the only military facility in Travis County with National Register status.

The 220-acre district, centered around the 1892 parade ground, primarily consists of one- and two-story buildings built between 1892 and 1943. The district includes administrative buildings, barracks, an arsenal, mess hall (now the Texas Military Forces museum), workshops and warehouses, and several rustic stone walls, arched bridges and other structures.

## PENNSYLVANIA

*More than a 1,000 Philadelphians took advantage of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's health fair in that city's Fairmount Park recently.*

The 108th Combat Support Hospital set up a complete field hospital, in cooperation with the city's Health Department, offering screening for various health problems, immunizations, shots for tetanus, vision and hearing tests.

The three-day event was a success, said Lt. Col. Janice Paige.

"We have done what we came to do," she said, "to provide health care to the people of Philadelphia."

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**By 1st Lt. Karen Huff**  
*South Carolina National Guard*

*At the former site of the Old Golden Strip Speedway in Fountain Inn, the sound of high performance engines can once again be heard. The new track is a one-kilometer dirt and gravel road, and the vehicles that drive around it are Bradley Fighting vehicles.*

Once the home of a now deactivated HAWK battery, the 38-acre site has been the domain of Company D, 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry since October 1995.

Since then, unit members, with the help of full-time staffers from other units in the battalion, have worked, borrowed and creatively scrounged to set up a Bradley Crew Proficiency Course right on the armory grounds. All four companies used the course for the first time recently. Thirteen Bradley Fighting

Vehicles remain on the site for training of all the battalion's crews.

"Having the site here," said SFC Gene Duckett, "helps us maximize our training time without having to use a lot of fuel."

All this on-site Bradley training also gives maintenance personnel more realistic training.

Meanwhile, at the lower end of the site, four Bradleys waited in line to proceed through the course. On the course is a small shack, formerly an oil storage shed, sitting atop a metal tower. The tower was a gift from the city of Columbia. It had been used as a guard tower at an old correctional facility.

It takes about 30 minutes to negotiate the course.

"It's fun," said Spc. James Harmon, a former infantryman. "It's better to ride than walk, but as far as combat goes, I'd rather be on the ground."



Photo by 1st Lt. Karen Huff

**Sgt. Jeffrey Crosby works on a target lifter at the Fountain Inn Training Course while a Bradley moves to another position.**





# HISTORY



Celebrating the Air Force's  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

During the Korean Conflict, the Air Guard changed its course

## The turning POINT

The Korean War was a turning point for the Air National Guard. Some 45,000 Air Guardsmen, 80 percent of the force, were mobilized. That callup exposed the weaknesses of all U.S. military Reserve programs including the ANG.

Unprepared for a limited war in Asia and fearing a global conflict with the Soviet Union, the Air Force had to improvise its responses to the crisis.

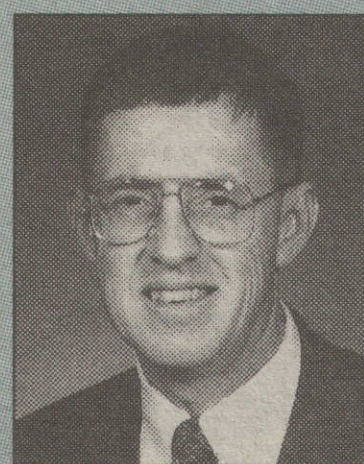
First, it asked for Reservist volunteers to serve as individual fillers in active duty units. In July, it began mobilizing individual reservists. The following month it started to mobilize Air Force Reserve flying units. Once Congress and the President authorized a permanent expansion of the service in September, the Air Force called upon the Air Guard. On Oct. 10, 1950, five ANG wings plus their 15 fighter squadrons and support units were mobilized. The Air Force saw that move as only temporary expedient; however, massive Chinese Communist intervention in the war destroyed that assumption. Korea was the Air Guard's largest war. Eventually, 66 of its 92 flying squadrons, along with numerous support units, were called into federal service.

Before the Korean War, the Air Force and the ANG spent a great deal of time arguing about who was in charge of the latter's units. Some Air Guardsmen considered their units to be little more than glorified state-sponsored flying clubs. They lacked specific wartime missions. Their equipment, especially aircraft, was obsolete. Their training was usually deplorable. Once mobilized, they proved to be almost totally unprepared for combat. Guard units were assigned almost at random to various major air commands regardless of their previous training and equipment. Many key Air Guardsmen were stripped away from their units and used as fillers elsewhere in the Air Force. It took three to six months for some ANG units to become combat ready. Some never did. Eventually, the mess was sorted out, but not before the mobilization had created a great political uproar.

Despite their poor initial readiness, Guard units and individuals contributed substantially to the air war in Korea. Air Guardsmen flew 39,530 combat sorties and destroyed 39 enemy aircraft. But, the ANG paid a high price in Korea as 101 of its members were either killed or declared missing-in-action during the conflict. The Guard's 136th and the 116th Fighter Bomber Wings compiled excellent combat records. The 136th -- com-

posed of the 111th (Texas), 154th (Arkansas) and the 182nd (Texas) Fighter-Bomber Squadrons -- flew its first combat mission in the Far East on May 24, 1951 in F-84E "Thunderjets." The 116th arrived in Japan in late July 1951. Its fighter-bomber squadrons included the 158th (Georgia), 159th (Florida) and the 196th (California).

The experience of Florida's 159th Fighter Squadron was typical of ANG units that saw combat during the Korean "police action." The unit was mobilized in October 1950 and received brand new F-84s to replace its F-80s. Originally the squadron was slated to deploy to France to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the threat of Soviet aggression.



GUARD HISTORY

By Dr. Joe Gross

AIR GUARD HISTORIAN

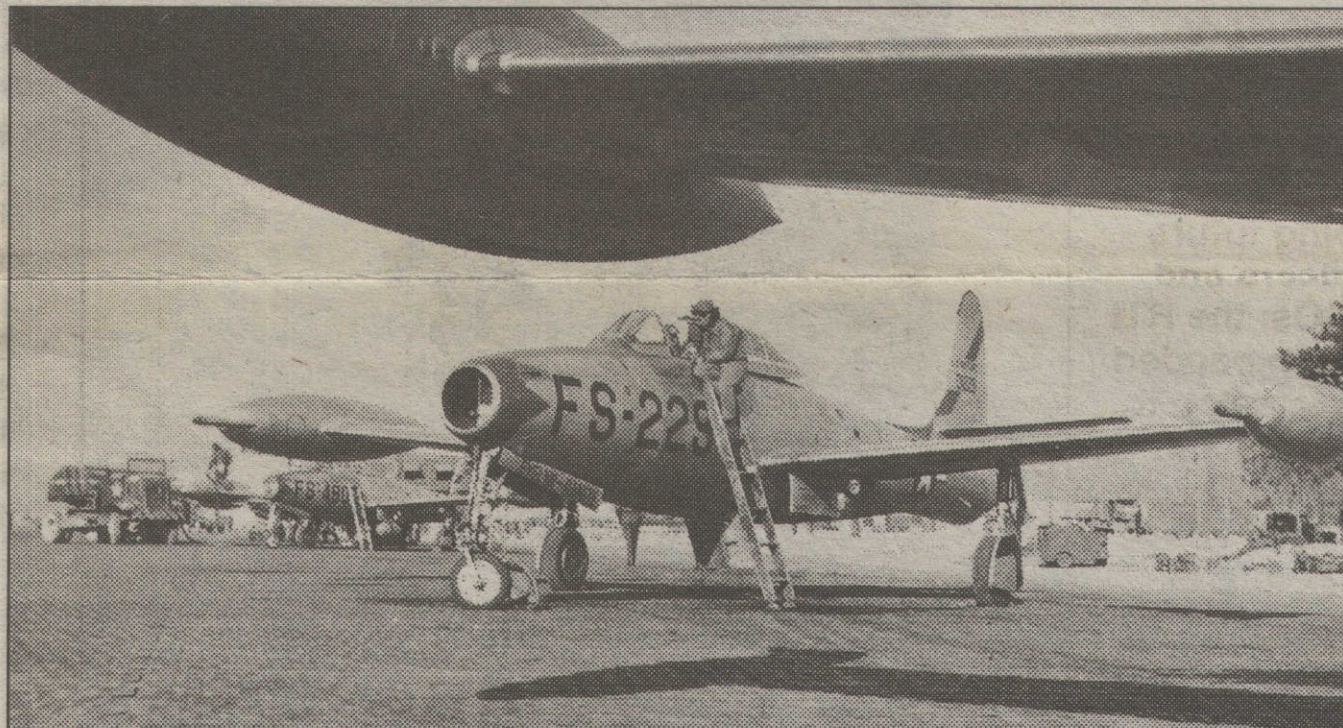


Photo by A1C Story J. Sloane

### LONE STAR SUPPORT - A Texas Air Guard F-84 in Korea with wing tanks modified for an air refueling experiment in 1952.

At the last minute its orders were changed and it was sent to the Far East to strengthen Japan's air defenses. The 159th was stationed at Misawa AB and made responsible (with the rest of the 116th Fighter Bomber Wing) for the air defense of northern Japan.

Beginning in November 1951, the 116th FBW maintained one F-84 squadron on combat rotation at Taegu AB in Korea. The 159th initially deployed there Nov. 28 and began flying that same day against rail lines near Wonsan in North Korea. The squadron's pilots were very aggressive, flying as low as possible in poor weather to attack hard-to-find targets. In addition to railroads, the 159th also began attacking enemy infantry and artillery positions in December. The squadron resumed its air defense alert duties when it returned to Japan the following month.

On May 28-29, 1952, the 159th and the other fighter squadrons assigned to the 116th FBW participated in an historic experiment. As part of Operation "High Tide," they performed some of the first combat air refuelings. Between June 7 and July 4, the squadron flew additional

air refueled missions against North Korean targets. In July 1952, the 159th was inactivated. By that time, many of its original members had either returned home or were on the way there.

During the Korean War, as in previous conflicts, Air Guardsmen made their most dramatic contributions as individuals rather than members of Guard units. They demonstrated their combat skills with four Air Guardsmen achieving the coveted status of ace after transferring to active duty units equipped with F-86 "Sabrejets." They were Captains Robert J. Love (California), Clifford D. Jolley (Utah), and Robinson Risner (Oklahoma), plus Maj. James P. Hagerstrom (Texas).

Air Guardsmen contributed to the global U.S. military buildup for the expected military confrontation with the Soviet Union while the fighting raged on the Korean peninsula. The Air Force dispatched three of its fighter wings to Europe to shore up NATO. One ANG fighter wing was devoted to training fighter pilots in the continental United States (CONUS). The other 16 mobilized ANG wings augmented the Tactical Air Command (TAC), Strategic Air Command (SAC), and the Air Defense Command (ADC). Those major air commands were not impressed with the Air Guard units assigned to them, at least not at first.

Air Guard units assigned to SAC had an especially difficult time. Fighter units comprised four of the six ANG wings gained by the command in 1951. After briefly experimenting with them as bomber escorts, they were reassigned to TAC. The 106th and 111th Light Bomb Wings remained with SAC until they were returned to state control. Neither organization was prepared to switch from flying B-26s to either the B-29s or B-36s that they eventually obtained. The training and general experience level of their people were poorly matched with SAC's strategic bombing and reconnaissance missions. Training in those units was very slow. Shortages of aircraft, spare parts and supplies, as well as excessive personnel, turnover worsened their problems.

Neither wing was rated fully combat-ready prior to returning to state control.

The Korean conflict was a crucial turning point in the history of the modern Air Guard. It reversed the downward slide of the Guard's relationship with the Air Force and marked the beginning of the former's evolution into an effective Reserve Component of the latter. That transformation was driven initially by political expediency, not military requirements. The inequities and military shortcomings highlighted during the mobilizations of 1950-1951, had generated an avalanche of public and congressional hostility. Senior Air Force civilian and military officials were convinced that, unless they developed effective reserve component programs, the active force would lose the political support that it needed. Senior ANG leaders recognized that realistic training for legitimate military missions -- closely supervised by the active duty Air Force -- was absolutely essential to guarantee the Air Guard's future. The Air Force tacitly agreed to ignore the Air Guard's unique dual state-federal status.

Guardsmen also achieved an effective voice in the formulation of plans, programs, budgets and policies of the active force. In effect, they permitted increased Air Force control of the ANG and greater involvement in the active force's operational responsibilities in exchange for increased federal support.





# TRAINING

For two months the New York National Guard has helped figure out Flight 800

By Maj. Paul Fanning  
New York National Guard

**T**wisted shards of wreckage, mixed with recognizable pieces of a jet liner, covered the 81,000-square-foot hangar floor. In the middle, where at one time Grumman Aerospace built F-14 Fighters, a scaffold held torn sections of what was once a Boeing 747 airliner.

Piece by tattered piece, investigators are rebuilding the plane from the estimated millions of fragments recovered by U.S. Navy and law enforcement dive teams. The divers plumb the 120-foot deep ocean bottom off the Long Island shore aided by sophisticated sonar equipment. Navy landing craft bring their finds to shore; members of the New York Army National Guard transport it to the hangar in Calverton.

According to National Transportation Safety Board officials, the investigation and recovery effort is the largest of its kind in U.S. history, rivaled only by the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, and larger than the recent ValuJet crash in the Florida Everglades. More than 40 different agencies -- local, state and federal, as well as civilian -- have been involved.

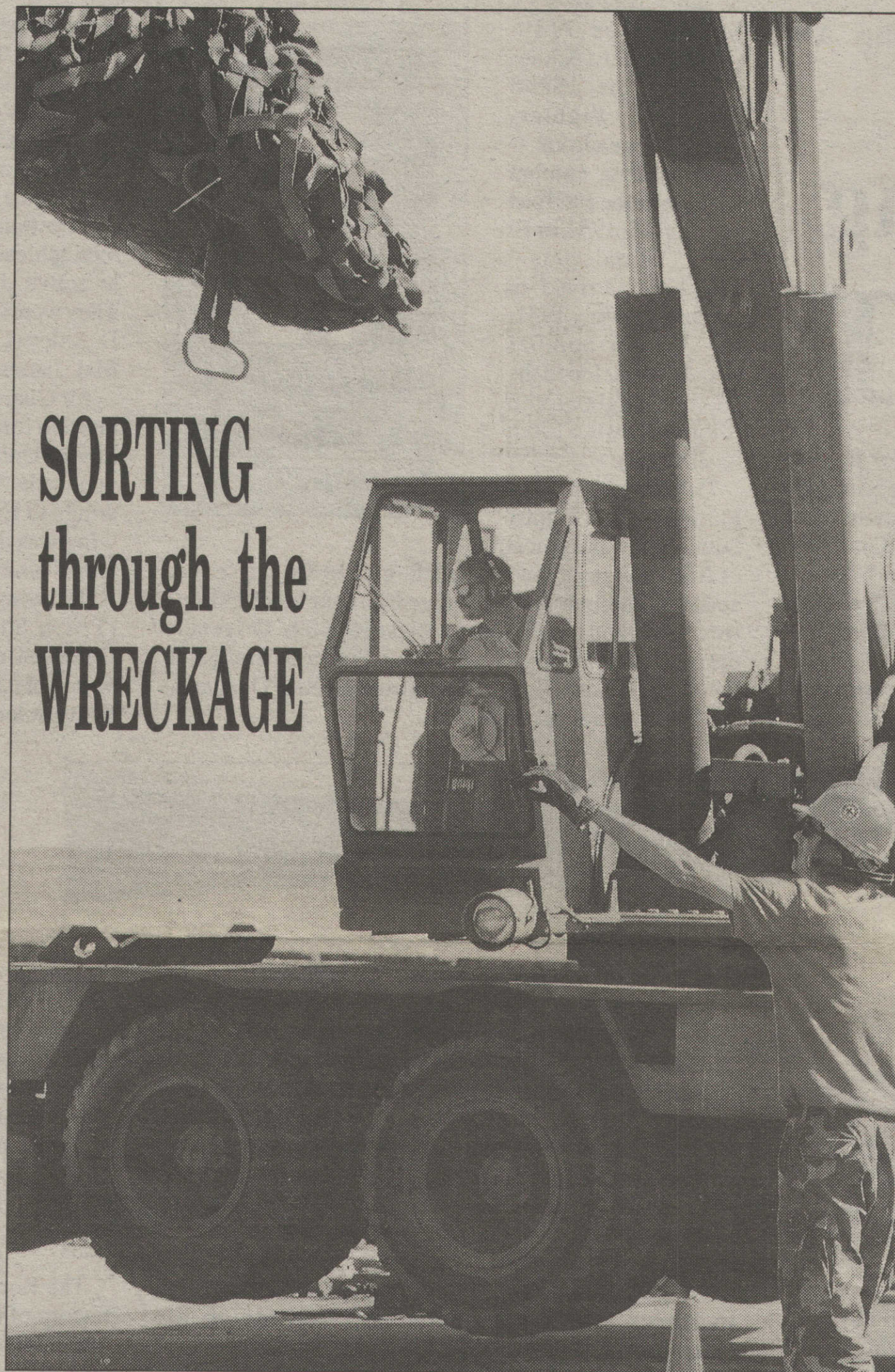
On July 17, TWA Flight 800, a Boeing 747 with 230 people on board, blew up minutes after its take off from JFK International Airport in Queens, N.Y. There were no survivors. By early October, 217 bodies had been recovered, and an estimated 90 percent of the aircraft was now resting on a hangar floor for investigators to scour for clues as to how and why the explosion occurred.

Among the agencies most praised was the Empire State's National Guard.

"This has been tremendous," said an FBI agent, who asked not to be identified. "There is something about a military person. They know they have a job to do and they do it," he said.

Every day, citizen-soldiers and airmen reported for duty at the hangar to help unload and place debris.

"We simply couldn't have accomplished this mission without the Guard," said Henry Hughes, senior accident investigator from Washington, D.C. He feels more confident about the outcome of his investigation because of the evidence re-



**SORTING  
through the  
WRECKAGE**

Photos by Maj. Paul Fanning



**PIECE BY PIECE - New Yorkers (above) sling-load evidence onto shore. Soldiers (left) patrol a Long Island beach for clues that could help solve the Flight 800 explosion.**

assuming the N.Y. Army Guard's safety officer post.

"At the beginning, Governor Pataki promised that the resources of the State of New York would be available for as long as necessary," said Intini. "I was sent forward make sure our part in that promise would be fulfilled.

"What we have been experiencing here is an unprecedented level of cooperation between all the various local, state, federal and civilian agencies participating," he added. "There were no turf issues here; no jockeying for position ... just



**SAFE LANDING - A New York Army Guard ground crewman (above) guides a helicopter home.**

cooperation and support."

Hughes related how Intini helped him, crawling on hands and knees, tape off sections of the auxiliary hangar, where Hughes' team was assembling the aircraft's interior. Intini purchased the tape at a local store and worked with Hughes to develop a layout plan so that an orderly investigation could begin. The Guard flew a forensic photography team from the Suffolk County Police Department in an Army Blackhawk helicopter down to JFK Airport to photograph another Boeing 747 of the exact type as TWA Flight 800. Hughes' specialty is in learning how people survive or perish in such incidents. By using the photos to guide the reassembling of the interior, and comparing data with the autopsy reports investigators, he expects to determine the cause of the explosion.

To date, Task Force Recovery has transported more than 100 trailer loads of wreckage from more than 50 landing craft loads from the dock to the hangar.

The Guard also helped unload more than 30 helicopter sling loads flown by Navy CH-46 helicopters from the decks of ships off the coast directly to the hangar, patrolled nearly 70 miles of beaches over a 16-day period in search of evidence that washed ashore, flew divers and investigators to and from sites, provided military chaplains to serve military and civilian recovery personnel on land and at sea and worked with the press.

Over a two-month period, nearly 400 members of New York State's militia force have been called to duty. The nearly 100 pieces of equipment used included 12 tractors, 10 trailers and 23 humvees.

"What this operation has proved is that different agencies can work together," said the Coast Guard's Cdr. Ken Burgess, based at Long Island's South Shore command in East Moriches. "When the question came up on how the debris was going to be off-loaded, the Army National Guard stepped forward."