



THE ON GUARD

VOLUME XXIV, NO. 9

Newspaper of the Army and Air National Guard

June 1995

Guard called only true militia

Private groups lack Constitutional connection

By Capt. John Goheen
National Guard Bureau

Despite the growth of self-proclaimed "militias," the National Guard remains the only true organized state militia in each of the 54 states and territories.

That's the assertion of National Guard Bureau legal and historical experts. And they cite the nation's founding document as their source.

"Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution," said Lt. Col. Leonid E. Kondratyuk, chief of NGB's Historical Services, "clearly reserves to state governments the role of organizing the militia. The National Guard is that organized militia. Congress recognized this fact in 1903 when it redesignated the organized militia as the National Guard."

Private militias have received widespread attention in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing. They operate under a variety of names in nearly 40 states. Members claim to be no different than the colonial patriots: ordinary citizens protecting their lives and liberties.

"We are just a bunch of country bumpkins who care about our country and are concerned about its future," said John Trochmann, co-founder of the Militia of Montana, a group that purports to spend more time educating than training. "We're like a giant neighborhood watch."

Trochmann says that the militia movement draws its legitimacy from the Constitution's Bill of Rights, a document he quotes with reverence.

Kondratyuk believes militia leaders are misreading the Constitution.

"These groups have no legitimate connection with the Constitution other than their ability to function as a group of citizens," he said. "They are independent organizations that merely use the term 'militia' in their names. By definition, a true militia is government organized. These groups answer to no one."

Private militias appear to like it that way.

"It's not that we distrust government; we believe we have the best system in the world," said Trochmann. "We just distrust certain elements of the government."

Although Trochmann says private militia members have "much respect for their fellow Americans" in the military, clearly the distrust they have for "certain elements of the government" extends to some National Guard activities.

In at least one state, armed private militia members followed a Guard convoy. In others, routine aviation training has been mistaken for something sinister.

"Militias believe government or United Nations' agents in black helicopters will swoop down and take away their rights," said Lt. Col. Ray Read, Montana National Guard public affairs officer. "Dark-green military helicopters can appear black from a distance. We've tried to explain this to them, but without much luck."

To reduce the chance of alarming militias, some states have increased advance public announcements of troop movements and training missions.

While private militias show concern over some Guard activities, Trochmann says no one need fear private militia training. He says many drill merely to be ready to help defend their states in the event of a foreign invasion.

Thanks but no thanks, says Kondratyuk.

"No state constitution allows for the mobilization of a private group," he said. "During an emergency, most governors do have the authority to call-up all able-bodied males between 18 and 45 who are not members of the Guard or the Naval militia. But states haven't drawn on that source of personnel since the Civil War."

More recently, this manpower pool — known as the "unorganized militia" in the 36 states with militia laws — has been used by the federal government as a personnel source during military drafts.

To augment the Guard during a crisis, 25 states have a State Defense Force. These state-funded and -controlled forces take over state missions during an extended Guard mobilization.



Photo by Katherine Frey, Montgomery Journal

BLENDING IN

A member of the the Maryland Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry applies camouflage while training at Fort Benning, Ga. (See related story and photos on Pages 6-7).

COMMENTARY

**DRUG USE
IS
LIFE ABUSE**

COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

* As of June 1, the total value of cash and drugs seized this fiscal year by police with National Guard assistance is \$6.166 billion.

STAFF



LETTERS

WILLING TO TAKE LEAP

OUT OF UNIFORM

CARING ASSOCIATION

MINE BOGGING

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

GUARD *TOONS*

By Lyle Farquhar



"No, sir, I'm not having a problem with my boss letting me go to Germany to train. The problem is he and his family want to go."



IN THE NEWS

- Poster contest
- New TAGs
- Lee's remedy

Tank maintainers get help

Relocatable humidity-controlled shelters expected to save millions

By TSgt. John Malthaner
National Guard Bureau

Electronics and moisture just don't mix." So says MSgt. Rick Lott, a Mississippi Guardmember who has spent the last 25 years turning a wrench on almost every tank in the Army's inventory. He, like others who call Camp Shelby, Miss., home, know the inherent maintenance nightmare that results when Mother Nature meets up with the advanced circuitry found in modern tanks.

"In this part of the country, humidity can cause corrosion on the electronic components inside the tank," Lott explained. "A lot of times, if one component fails, it will take out another."

Enter the Controlled Humidity Preservation program, an aggressive National Guard Bureau initiative that has placed six relocatable, humidity-controlled, metal shelters at Shelby.

Collectively, the shelters can house nearly 800 wheeled vehicles, trailers and generators. Additionally, Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles will be connected to Operation Preservation Systems, an outdoor system of hoses that connect to the tank's turret and



Photo by MSgt. John Thornton

MOISTURE FREE - Hoses pump dehumidified air into tank turrets in Mississippi.

forces dehumidified air into the vehicle.

The facilities, put in place at Shelby two months ago, cost \$2.4 million, said Col. Noel Pettit, the CHP Committee's team leader, based at the Guard Bureau.

But, keeping Mother Nature in check was only part of the problem, he said.

"Funding for full-time maintenance technicians has gone down the last few years," he noted. "Right now, we're at less than 55 percent of the people needed to perform maintenance. It has created a backlog."

■ See RUSTBUSTER, Page 4

Lee offers remedy for those called-up

By Rudy Williams
American Information Service

Expecting Guardmembers to respond quickly to worldwide flare-ups of disorder could cause problems for personnel, their families and employers. Deborah Lee, DoD's top reserve component advocate, has a remedy.

It's called advanced planning.

"The time is ripe for reserve components to do more to help active forces accomplish their worldwide missions," said Lee, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "It won't create problems if we do it right, which means having the very best advanced planning."

"We can't predict when we'll run another operation that starts as a secret, such as Haiti," she added. "But we can predict year after year much of our day-to-day necessities in Europe, the Southern Command and in the Pacific."

When National Guard personnel perform their annual two-week active duty training, "we can send them to work anywhere in the world to

help relieve some of the stress on active-duty forces," Lee said.

She emphasized this idea will work only with advanced planning by top officials and by individual reservists making arrangements with employers and preparing their families for their absence.

"Most employer problems are caused by people who didn't tell their bosses about a training period or deployment until the last minute," Lee said.

DoD is working on initiatives to help families and employers cope with a Guardmember's absence from home and job. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act recently passed by Congress makes it easier for employers to cope with their workers being away from their jobs.

"We need to publicize the employment and re-employment rights act because it tells employers what their responsibilities are," Lee said.

Another initiative is the recently published quality of life pamphlet that spells out options for Guard and Reserve members and their

families.

Lee has put together a tax-incentive package for employers of Guardmembers and reservists she hopes will be submitted to Congress this year. "It's targeted at easing the financial strain employers feel when people are involuntarily called up," Lee said.

Some reservists reported losing significant money when they served in the Persian Gulf war. Lee said that's a deterrent to retention. She's pushing an income protection program, called mobilization insurance. It's a voluntary, self-funded system that will pay a certain amount of money to reservists and Guardmembers who lose money while on active duty.

Re-emphasizing the importance of advanced planning to do it right, Lee said, "Our funding must be in synch because there are always costs in sending people overseas. Reserve components must also be flexible; they can't be locked into the notion of one weekend a month and two weeks a year. There may be opportunities for three-week periods."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

ANTI-DRUG POSTER, ESSAY CONTEST SET

A "Drug Use Is Life Abuse" Poster and Essay Contest will be conducted this year and is intended to encourage National Guard family members to participate in the Drug Demand Reduction Program through awareness and recognition. National winners will be selected from state/territory winners. State public affairs officers and/or counter-drug coordinators can provide details for state and national-level competitions.

CORTRIGHT TAKES OVER OKLAHOMA GUARD

Maj. Gen. Stephen Cortright has been appointed as the Adjutant General of the Oklahoma National Guard by Gov. Frank Keating. He succeeds Maj. Gen. Gary D. Maynard. Maj. Gen. Cortright is only the second Air National Guard General to hold the post in Oklahoma.

KANE NAMED IDAHO TAG

Brig. Gen. John F. Kane, former commander of the 116th Cavalry Brigade, Idaho's largest National Guard Unit, has been named by Gov. Phil Batt to serve as the new Adjutant General of the Idaho National Guard. Brig. Gen. Kane has been a member of the Idaho National Guard for 33 years.

MILITARY STAYS BUSY

As of April 1, 1995, U.S. service members are participating in these military operations around the world:

- Able Sentry - Macedonia.
- Deny Flight - NATO "No-fly zone" over Bosnia.
- Provide Comfort - "No-fly zone" over Northern Iraq, Kurdish relief.
- Provide Hope - Medical supplies and equipment to Russia.
- Provide Promise - U.S. and Allied airlift to Sarajevo and airdrops over Bosnia.
- Safe Haven - Cuban refugees in Panama.
- Sharp Guard - U.S. and Allied enforcement of sanctions against Serbia.
- Southern Watch - No-fly zone enforcement over southern Iraq.
- Haiti - Peacekeeping in Haiti.

National Guard units participate in or support most of these operations.

RUSTBUSTERS

From Page 3

A backlog, he and others admit, would adversely impact the Army Guard's readiness.

The CHP program promises to free up tank maintainers for what Pettit calls "normally scheduled" maintenance. He calls the program the Guard's "third pillar of maintenance."

"We expect the CHP program to eliminate about 25 percent of our maintenance requirements. Traditional Guardmembers will do their share (the second pillar) and the full-time technician force (the first pillar) will do the rest," he explained.

Pettit and others are so optimistic because countries around the globe, faced with funding problems for tank mechanics, have used humidity-controlled facilities for years.

"We don't have to prove the program's effectiveness," Pettit said. "In Germany, they took a tank that had been stored for 11 years, drove it 160 kilometers, fired a few rounds downrange and it performed like the day they put it in."

Pettit says the Guard's "rustbuster" program mirrors one in Sweden.

Minnesota's Camp Ripley will also benefit from the CHP program, Pettit added. Their six shelters are expected to be operational next month.

Pending an independent economic assessment, the National Guard hopes to erect additional facilities across the country. Initial figures, Pettit said, indicate nearly \$10 million in "cost avoidance" over a 10-year period, nearly a 4-to-1 return on the investment.

Other states are interested.

"Since the dedication ceremony at Camp Shelby (April 17), word of mouth is getting out," he said. "We see this program expanding."

This is great news to mechanics like MSgt. Lott, a man "always skeptical" of new programs.

"From what I've seen already," he observed, "I see this saving us a lot of time and money, and possibly jobs... I like that."

Kentucky to receive M-1 Abrams tank

Bluegrass soldiers get taste of Idaho training

By Maj. Norm Steen
Idaho National Guard

The Kentucky Army National Guard's 149th Brigade, 35th Infantry Division, will soon receive the Army's M-1 Abrams main battle tank.

Soldiers of the Kentucky unit recently received training on the Abrams at Gowen Field, Idaho. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 123rd Armor, headquartered in Paducah and Bowling Green respectively, will receive 58 new tanks each in the near future. The new tank provides greater firepower, accuracy, speed and survivability than the older M-60A3 tank. Both tanks are operated by four crew members. The Abrams was used very successfully in Operation Desert Storm.

Tank crews trained two weeks in Idaho. "The training is intensive. They don't get much time off while they're here," said CSM Edward Ellis, the course's senior noncommissioned officer. "We actually start the orientation and training at the unit's home station during their weekend

training about two months prior to their arrival here. They arrived ready to go."

Instruction is in three main areas, explained Capt. J. Don Blunck, the operations officer for the Combat Vehicle Transition Training Team.

"We train the tank crews how to operate the Abrams, how to conduct maintenance on it, and we train senior personnel how to supervise that maintenance. We

"The biggest challenge the new tank crews face is understanding that the M-1 tank is a computerized tank," Blunck said. "Many functions that used to be done manually by the crew, are now done simply by entering information into the tank's computer. Younger soldiers who grew up with VCRs and video games seem to pick up on much of the training faster than their older supervisors."

Computers also play a major role in training the tank crews.

One training device is a computer-driven battlefield simulation for the tank commander and gunner, called the Unit Conduct of Fire Trainer. While sitting in a full-scale model of the M-1 tank turret, soldiers are presented a wide range of targets and battlefield conditions created visually by the computer. The crew must engage these tar-

gets with the simulator's weapon systems using the tank's controls. They are graded on the results. The scenarios increase in difficulty as the soldiers progress in training.

As the size of the Total Army continues to decline, the relative role of the Army National Guard continues to grow. Nearly one-half of the Army's total combat power is now in the Army National Guard. The 35th Infantry Division and the Kentucky Army National Guard are stepping up to the challenge.



Photo by Maj. Norm Steen

MOVING OUT - A Kentucky tank crew takes part in new equipment training at Gowen Field, Idaho recently.

conduct the course year round for National Guard units from across the country," he said.

The course is a combination of classroom work and individual study, training using simulators and operation of the tank itself. The course also includes a live-fire exercise.

REFUELING
the FLEET

TSgt. Kenneth Isrigg (right) may be the first person to fuel his "own" F-16 both on the ground and in the air. On March 5, Isrigg, a member of the New York Air Guard's 136th Air Refueling Group, refueled a Variable-Stability In-Flight Simulator Test Aircraft (VISTA/NF-16D), three times while on a mission to Edwards AFB, Colo. As a civilian crew chief and employee of Calspan Space Industries, Isrigg maintains the Air Force-owned VISTA. Upon landing, TSgt. Isrigg transitioned to Mr. Isrigg and drove to Edwards AFB to receive "his" F-16 aircraft.



Photo courtesy TSgt. Ken Isrigg



PEOPLE

Indiana's Lt. Col. Thomas Kapczynski finds a smile despite horrid conditions

Extracting SMILES

By 1st Lt. Stephen Vrooman
U.S. Army Reserve

The first thing the children noticed was the clown mask Lt. Col. Thomas Kapczynski was wearing. "Nasty teeth," he shouted in a deep raspy voice, "Time to take out some nasty teeth."

Kapczynski is a dentist. Called "Kap" by his fellow Indiana Army Guard citizen-soldiers, Kapczynski was attached to the 149th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital recently for two weeks of annual training in Panama. Some members of the 149th MASH, based at Camp Atterbury, Ind., deployed to Panama to participate in a combined Medical Readiness Training Exercise with medical professionals from the Panamanian Ministry of Health.

The joint medical exercise was organized into five separate stations to treat Panamanian families: Immunizations, health education, general medicine, dental examination, and a pharmacy for filling medication prescriptions.

Kapczynski performed much needed tooth extractions. The clown mask he wore was symbolic of his demeanor, as well as his effort to comfort the children. "They're not apprehensive, maybe timid; but they warmed up quickly to us," said Kapczynski.

Fellow dentist, Lt. Col. Terry McCooe jokingly referred to Kap as "the elder statesman of our group." They both deployed to the Marshall Islands in the western

Pacific Ocean five years ago to provide the same type of dental care.

"He's a lot of fun," said McCooe. "Actually, he is one of the reasons I came."

Fun was not the best description of what the dentists went through in Panama. Their "office" consisted of a rectangular concrete-block school with an open doorway and walls lined with shoulder-level windows, without glass panes, fashioned after a tic-tac-toe diagram. The examination area consisted of three chairs for tooth extractions and a table full of extraction forceps and assorted awl-like instruments.

Kapczynski and two Panamanian dentists saw between 60 to 80 patients per day for 12 days. The number was extraordinary in comparison to their private practice patient loads. By 9:30 a.m., all three chairs were full and only empty long enough for someone else to sit down seconds later.

In addition, temperatures approaching 100 degrees left everyone covered in sweat from head to toe. Kapczynski didn't come because of the tropical rain forests or to get a tan.

He said he came to Panama out of "an obligation to serve my country." He felt a similar sense of duty when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967.

In 1973 he entered the Indiana Army Guard as an infantry officer. Upon graduation from the Indiana University Dental School, he switched to a medical unit.

Kapczynski says he remains in the Guard because of the family of friends that surround him.

"It's not the money and it's not the retirement points," he insisted. "I enjoy doing it because of the relationships with other National Guard people."

Jenna, Kapczynski's wife of 27 years, had mixed emotions about him going to Panama.

"She felt stressed, but accepted it readily, which is a real tribute to military spouses," he said.

Kapczynski had another reason to be in Panama.

"I felt like I accomplished something worthwhile," he said. "Deep inside, I know I helped somebody today."



Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Vrooman

NO CLOWNING - Indiana's Lt. Col. Thomas Kapczynski, a dentist, keeps the mood light while pulling teeth in Panama.

If you need to find Illinois' CWO David Masterson, look up

BATMAN

By 1st Lt. Robert Inouye
U.S. Army Reserve



Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Inouye

Ill., is in charge of training pilots from various Illinois Army National Guard aviation units while stationed at Soto Cano.

Flying is all Masterson, known as "Batman," has wanted to do.

Bat's love of flying grew out of admiration for his father, Boyd, and the elder Masterson's role in aerospace history.

Boyd Masterson started building P-47's in World War II. He later went on to work as an ex-

CLASS IS IN SESSION - CWO David "Bat" Masterson instructs other pilots in Honduras.

perimental mechanic, helping build the prototype of the F-4 Phantom aircraft. He also had a hand in building the Mercury and Gemini space capsules.

As a boy, Bat Masterson moved to Cocoa Beach, Fla. There, he watched the space

program take shape.

"It was the beginning of the space age. The first seven astronauts were down there. It was an exciting time," he recalled.

While working on the AH-1 Cobra gunship, the younger Masterson became known by the nickname "Bat," after the old west gunslinger.

"I have done a little research to see if we are related, but I haven't found anything that proves we are. Besides, the real Bat Masterson didn't like the open country. I guess you could say he was a dandy. He wouldn't like the field conditions we have here," he said.

Honduras is made up of high volcanic mountain ranges and extreme temperatures. Risky business for pilots.

"The pilots need to be able to read the weather and understand the winds, updrafts and downdrafts," he said.

Masterson served five years

on active duty, 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and has served in the Illinois Army National Guard since 1988.

He is certified to perform maintenance test flights in AH-1 Cobra, UH-1 Huey and OH-58 Kiowa Scout helicopters.

In addition to the many flight hours in the Guard and Reserve, Masterson has multiple qualifications in the civilian flying community.

"I have my airline transport ratings in airplanes and helicopters. I'm an instructor pilot in airplanes, helicopters and sea planes. I just finished my gyrocopter rating and am working on my glider rating. I want to see it all, do it all," he said.

It's this thirst for knowledge that keeps "the Bat" going.

"Flying has always been what I wanted to do," he said. "It still feels like I'm not quite there, because there are still things out there that I can't fly yet."

Maryland's 115th Infantry go to Georgia to hone skills

Free State FIGHTERS

By Patrick Flanagan
Montgomery Journal

The clock is ticking and Spc. Mario Ramirez squints through the sweat that's collected in his eyes.

He leans forward, fingers pushing, pulling, squeezing the knobs and levers on the machine before him.

Ramirez works "fast-breaking" apart the newest weapon assigned to his Maryland Army National Guard unit, based in White Oak.

By Army standards he has three minutes to break the tripod-mounted, automatic grenade launcher into about a dozen pieces. He then has four minutes to put it back together.

Ramirez, a civil engineering student at the University of Maryland, completes the task with seconds to spare.

"If you haven't done it before, it's kind of hard," Ramirez confesses, mopping sweat from his forehead with a dusty sleeve. "It's a good weapon. I like it."

Later he'll have a chance to fire the weapon at a burned-out tank carcass 600 meters away. But first, he has to learn the functions and components of the MK-19.

Ramirez of Silver Spring, Md., was one of 120 Free State Guardmembers who travelled to the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., recently to learn new skills and reinforce old ones. Soldiers call it the "school house," but it's really hundreds of acres of red clay, pine scrub and ant hills.

It's the home of the infantry's boot camp and the Airborne and Ranger schools.

Taking the unit to Fort Benning "puts us on a level playing field with the rest of the Army," said Maj. Robert Finn, commander of the 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry. "To learn what the Army is teaching, you can't read it in a book."

So, as Ramirez's anti-armor platoon sat on the ground beneath the Georgia sun, a sergeant from the Fort Benning cadre walked the soldiers through the MK-19's operating procedures.

"What's your problem?" he said to one soldier who didn't follow instructions exactly as told. "Every time I look at you, you're doing something wrong."

It is an old technique: Pick out a single soldier and ridicule him in front of his



A YAWNER - SSgt. Mike Mangan (left) yawns in formation. Maryland troops (below) board a C-130 enroute to Fort Benning. Spc. Nick Trombley (bottom photo) keeps a sharp eye while on patrol.



Photos by Katherine Frey, Montgomery Journal



peers.

It worked.

Soon all the soldiers were trying their hardest not to be singled out, doing exactly as they were told. Soon all the soldiers knew the functions and components of the new weapon as if it had been assigned to them for years.

The unit -- part of the 29th Infantry Division -- was spread across Fort Benning, with soldiers learning skills from the infantry school cadre.

Mortar units learned fire-direction methods, scouts practiced patrolling techniques and the support platoon joined the anti-armor squads on the MK-19 firing range.

"We don't usually do this," said Sgt. Guy Hays, a supply sergeant from Alexandria, Va., after he finished firing the grenade launcher. "We don't usually get

to come out here and play cowboy."

Learning is the name of the game, Finn said.

The biggest difference between the National Guard and the regular Army is time, he said. The regular Army has months at a time to train, while the Guardmembers must squeeze as much training as possible into the one weekend a month and two weeks of summer they must spend each year on duty.

And with the changing mission of the National Guard, training is more important than ever, Finn said.

The regular Army is downsizing, but the need for a defensive force doesn't go away, as recent events in Somalia and Haiti have shown.

As a result, the National Guard is picking up the slack in some of the less hazardous duties. The chance of being called

to action is greater than ever, Finn said.

So the soldiers in the 1-115th are working harder to stay ready, he said.

Senior officers and sergeants work weeknights to prepare training lessons. Their trip to Georgia was a three-day affair, which meant many soldiers had to make up for lost time at their regular jobs.

But just because the National Guard requires a high level of commitment doesn't mean the soldiers don't enjoy themselves.

Ask SFC Edward Hickey, a 33-year veteran of the Guard who served in Vietnam with the U.S. Marine Corps. Hickey, a lieutenant with the Montgomery County Police Department, rushed from his weekend drill to take over the night watch at the Germantown police station.

"It keeps me young," said Hickey, 51. "When I can't keep up with these 18-

BOTTOMS UP - Sgt. Robert Bravo (below) drinks from his canteen.



year-old kids, I won't do it anymore."

Hickey's enthusiasm might be contagious, or perhaps it's genetic. His son, David Hickey, joined the same unit five years ago.

"It's exciting and you get to work with really good people," said David Hickey, 25.

The National Guard also offers the challenge of adjusting from civilian to soldier once a month.

SSgt. Dave Carlson, a substitute teacher in Takoma Park, Md., admits there are days he doesn't want to report for drill.

"Sure, and there are days I don't want to go to the classroom," said Carlson, a medic. "But this gives me an outlet. This is a nice change. It's a chance to recharge my batteries."

Many soldiers said the chance to travel to Fort Benning and train with the regular Army was a welcome relief from the mundane routine some drill weekends offer.

"This is the reward," said Cpl. David Tomlinson, as he looked out on the MK-19 firing line, grenades exploding against the tanks down range.

"We get to fire these weapons, sleep in the woods. This is why I joined the National Guard," said Tomlinson, a warehouse worker from Baltimore County.

But, he said, there is always a price to pay, he added.

"Now we have to go back and clean these things."

Editor's Note: Flanagan is no stranger to the military. He recently completed four years on active-duty in the U.S. Army.



LIFESAVER - SSgt. Keith Wiley, a firefighter with the New Hampshire Air Guard's 157th Air Refueler Group, poses near the site of his heroic actions.

A good DEED

New Hampshire's SSgt. Keith Wiley saves man from drowning in freezing waters

By Maj. John Rice
New Hampshire National Guard

Firefighter SSgt. Keith Wiley likes to take time to do nice things for people. Recently, he got a chance to do the ultimate favor when he saved the life of Robert Tompkins.

Tompkins fell through the ice on the Lamprey River trying to retrieve his son's toy.

"The real heroes were this man's two children," Wiley later told the *Portsmouth Herald*. "They ran out screaming and hollering."

Wiley, an electric meter reader with Public Service Company of New Hampshire and a part-timer with the 157th Air Refueling Group, was in a boat house about 25 feet away. He rushed to the end of the dock to find Tompkins eight feet below him. Tompkins, his head barely above water, was holding on to a piling. Conscious and alert, Tompkins said he was unable to get to the sea wall about 10 feet away.

"Someone yelled, 'Get a rope.' But I knew that wouldn't help," Wiley said.

He remembered a ladder in the boat house and ran to get it. Returning, Wiley lowered the ladder down to the 275-pound Tompkins. The weakened man wrapped himself around it. Wiley then walked the ladder to the sea wall. By now, workers from the nearby Essex Corporation mill building arrived. Under Wiley's guidance, they

began lifting Tompkins out, rung by rung.

"Tompkins said his arms were numb and he couldn't pull himself up," Wiley remembers. "I told him if you don't pull yourself up, you're going to die. I was trying to get everyone to pull him over the wall on the count of three."

The group succeeded, but the momentum pushed Wiley himself into the icy waters. He quickly swam to the wall and climbed out on his own. Newmarket firefighters, responding to a nearby fire alarm activation, rushed Tompkins to Exeter Hospital. Wiley, who admits to being very sore the next day, declined treatment.

Tompkins spent about seven minutes in the water. Wiley estimates that Tompkins' body temperature had dropped five degrees in that time. Another five degrees could have proven fatal, he said.

"If you believe in fate, Tompkins was lucky in another way," Wiley said. "I was supposed to read that meter 40 minutes earlier, but the guy who was going to let me in to the boat house had the wrong keys."

Wiley deals with the dead and dying as a licensed Emergency Medical Technician and firefighter rescue squad member more than he would like. While thrilled to have the chance to save a life for once, he was surprised at the attention the rescue story received.

TSgt. Dale Sylvia, Wiley's Air Guard supervisor, was not.

"He's an outstanding person," Sylvia said. "He's one of the best guys in the Fire Department. He's always willing to put more time in."

The *Portsmouth Herald* and *Foster's Daily Democrat* ran stories. There were interviews with the Associated Press, *Concord Monitor* and *Manchester Union Leader*. Public Service President Bill Frain invited him to corporate headquarters for coffee. PSNH Eastern Division Vice President Lee Cummings arranged to have a piece about Wiley placed in everyone's electric bill.

It all puzzles Wiley.

"I guess stories about people taking time to do nice things for people doesn't happen every day," Wiley muses. "I was in the Dover Burger King the other night. It was bitter cold and windy. A young dad was bundling a baby in both arms and trying to come through the door. This teenage boy just blows right by the guy. Never thinks of holding the door for him."

"I couldn't sleep that night just thinking about it."

EMPLOYER SUPPORT

Knowing your RIGHTS

In an effort to clear up misunderstandings about laws regarding the Employment and Reemployment Rights for National Guardmembers, we have provided some information on commonly asked questions. Further questions can be directed to the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at 1 (800) 336-4590.

Q Is there a law governing reemployment rights after military training or service?

A: Yes. Since 1940, there has been such a law, known as the Veterans' Reemployment Rights (VRR) law. On October 13, 1994, President Clinton signed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, a comprehensive revision of the VRR law. USERRA became fully effective December 12, 1994, and is contained in Title 38 United States Code in chapter 43.

Q Am I eligible for reemployment rights under USERRA if I perform military service?

A: Yes, provided you meet five conditions, or "eligibility criteria."

- You must hold a civilian job. Note: Jobs that are held for a brief, nonrecurrent period with no reasonable expectation that the employment will continue indefinitely or for a significant period do not qualify for protection.
- You must give notice to your civilian employer that you will be leaving the job for military training or service.
- You must not exceed the 5-year cumulative limit on periods of service.
- You must be released from service under "honorable conditions."
- You must report back to your civilian job in a timely manner or submit a timely application for reemployment.

Q Do I have reemployment rights following voluntary military service? State call-ups?

A: USERRA applies to voluntary as well as involuntary military service, in peacetime as well as wartime. However, like the VRR law, USERRA does not apply to state call-ups of the National Guard for disaster relief, riots, etc. Any protection for such duty must be provided by the laws of the state involved.

Q When is prior notice to my civilian employer required? How is such notice to be given?

A: It is necessary that the person who is performing the service (or an official

representative of the uniformed service) give advance written or verbal notice to the employer. The notice requirement applies to all categories of training or service. Notice is not required if precluded by military necessity or, if the giving of such notice is otherwise impossible or unreasonable.

A determination of military necessity shall be made pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Department of Defense. It is reasonable to expect that situations where notice is not required will be rare. The law does not specify how much advance notice is required, but you should give your employer as much advance notice as possible.

Q I'm a Federal employee, and I receive 15 days of paid military leave each year. My agency's personnel office has informed me that I have no right to time off from work for military training or service beyond this 15 days. Is that right?

A: No. As a Federal employee, you have the right to 15 days of paid military leave each fiscal year, under Title 5 U.S. Code. When you have exhausted your right to paid leave under Title 5, you still have the right to use your accrued civilian leave or unpaid leave under USERRA, because USERRA applies to the Federal Government as well as all other civilian employers. If you wish to continue your civilian pay uninterrupted, and you have annual leave on the books, you can use that annual leave for your military training or service. USERRA gives you the explicit right to do this.

If your employer is a state or local government that grants paid military leave, the result would be the same. Most states and many local governments do grant employees paid military leave. When you have exhausted your paid leave, USERRA gives you the right to use accrued vacation or unpaid leave of absence.

Q Can I be required to use my earned vacation while performing military service?

A: No. As under the VRR law, you may not be forced to use earned vacation. You are entitled to earned vacation or leave in addition to time off to perform military service. A rare exception would be a case where there is a standard plant shutdown at a certain time of year and all employees must take their vacations during that period and your period of military service happens to coincide with that period.

Q Now that USERRA has been enacted, can I serve an additional five years and still have reemployment rights?

A: Not necessarily. USERRA provides that military service performed prior to December 12, 1994, will count toward the USERRA five-year limit if it counted against the limits in the old law.

Q After military service, how long do I have to report back to work?

A: For periods of service of up to 30 consecutive days, you must report back to work for the first full regularly scheduled work period on the day following the completion of the period of service and safe transportation home, plus an eight-hour period for rest. If reporting back within this deadline is "impossible or unreasonable" through no fault of your own, you must report back as soon as possible after eight hours.

After a period of service of 31-180 days, you must submit an application for reemployment, either written or verbal, with the employer not later than 14 days after the completion of the period of service. If submitting the application within 14 days is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of your own, you must submit the application as soon as possible thereafter.

USERRA gives you and your previously covered dependents the right to immediate reinstatement of your civilian health insurance coverage upon return to your civilian job. There must be no waiting period and no exclusion of preexisting conditions (other than for those conditions determined to be service-connected). This right is not contingent on your having elected to continue that coverage during your period of service. To the extent that your employer offers other non-seniority benefits (holiday pay or life insurance coverage, etc.) to employees on furlough or leave of absence, the employer is required to provide those same benefits to you, during your period of service in the uniformed services. If the employer's treatment of persons on leaves of absence varies according to the kind of leave (jury duty, educational, etc.), the comparison should be made with the employer's most generous form of leave. Of course, you must compare periods of comparable length.

Q When I return from military duty will I get my old job back?

A: USERRA provides that, if your period of service was less than 91 days, you are entitled to the job you would have attained if you hadn't left, provided that you are still, or can become, qualified for that job.

For those who served for more than 91 days, the employer may reemploy you as above, or in a position of "like seniority, status and pay" the duties of which you are qualified to perform.

The most-deployed unit in the Air Guard, Pennsylvania's 193rd SOG, thanks its civilian bosses

BOSS DAY

By MSgt. David Hawkins
Pennsylvania National Guard

Where're going where, to do what?

That was the typical reaction of the 55 bosses who attended the 10th Annual Boss Day sponsored by Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Group, based at the Harrisburg International Airport.

The highlight of this year's celebration was a simulated deployment.

As the only special operations unit in the Air National Guard, deployments are second nature to the 1,100 member unit. As the most frequently deployed unit in the Air Guard, civilian employers of 193rd members share the deployment "burden" when members are tasked for their electronic warfare missions.

"The support we receive from civilian employers is phenomenal," said Col. W. Reed Ernst, 193rd commander. "Boss Day was created as a means to thank bosses for their support throughout the year. They help us, so we help them to get the feel of what it's like to spend a day in the Air Guard."

Realism plays a part in the day. "There's no VIP treatment on Boss Day," noted MSgt. Robert Jackson. "Guests wait in the cafeteria line, just like our members. When the bosses take their one-hour flight, they do so on troop seats, not the cushioned ones."

Webbed seats were not the only surprise awaiting the Keystone



Photos by TSgt. William Blozinski

BOSS FLIGHT - Pennsylvania civilian bosses line up (left) to board a 193rd Special Operations Group C-130. In flight, some bosses (below) look to see where they're flying.



State's bosses

Just as the guests were finishing their noon meal in the unit cafeteria, Capt. Gary Miller from the intelligence section, sprang the "surprise" on the unsuspecting audience. He announced that the bosses were just tasked to perform duty in Southwest Asia. The stage was set for them to experience the same mobilization process their 193rd employees go through when called up.

An actual mobility line was set-up and staffed for the supervisors. As it turned out, the bosses were not the only customers that day, as an element of the 193rd was actually deployed on a real-world exercise the

same afternoon.

"The line was just one of the many features of Boss Day," said Jackson.

A standard Boss Day activity is an hour-long orientation flight where the Guardmember accompanies his or her boss.

"Several years ago, an orientation flight featured an air-to-air refueling with the 171st Air Refueling Wing, our sister Pennsylvania Air Guard unit in Pittsburgh," recalled TSgt. Robert Straub. "Each year we put a little surprise in Boss Day to keep it fresh and exciting."

"We have some real big plans for next year," he added.

Several guests were honored with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve awards. A state "Chairman's Award," four "Seven Seals Awards" and several "Patriot Awards" were presented by members of the South-Central Committee, ESGR.

"We're very pleased with the support we receive from employers," Ernst said. "And we're very proud of our employer support program, especially Boss Day."

The day has a lasting effect, adds Jackson.

"On the Monday after Boss Day, supervisors usually look at their drilling Guardmembers just a little differently," he noted.

Support programs working for you

Most members of the National Guard have some understanding that there are laws that protect their civilian job while they are on duty. But how much do they really know about their rights and responsibilities?

In an effort to provide as much information possible about the laws and policies, the National and State Committees for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve provide a wide range of information and assistance, including:

OMBUDSMAN: Local and national ombudsmen are available to help unit members resolve employer-related problems. For the name and telephone number of state and national ombudsmen, call, toll-free, 1 (800) 336-4590. Many states also operate in-state toll-free numbers connected to a state's ombudsman program.

The ombudsman service is informal and no discussions are entered into any personnel records. The objective is to smooth out misunderstandings, disagreements and difficulties to the satisfaction of the Guardmember and the employer.

MISSION ONE: Roots program assigns one member of a state's Employer Support Committee to each National Guard and Reserve unit. Civilian Mission One volunteers are committed to visiting each unit at least yearly to tell the Employer Support story directly to members. They have a wide range of literature which explains various Employer Support programs.

AWARDS: Guardmembers are strongly encouraged to nominate their civilian employers for formal recognition of their support for the Guard and Reserve. Each employer nominated receives a national certificate of appreciation and may qualify for other prestigious state and national honors.

BOSSLIFTS: States may conduct Bosslifts, usually during annual training, as a way to take civilian employers directly to field exercises where they have an opportunity to meet with their soldiers or airmen-employees and learn more about their military duties.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT: This program encourages employers who have Guardmembers working for them to sign and prominently display a Statement of Support certificate at their worksite. By signing the statement, employers pledge that they will not deny employment nor limit or reduce job opportunities because of service in the Reserve Components, and that they will grant leaves of absence for military training and that they will publicize these policies to their employees. The certificate is signed by the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the National Committee.



SPORTS

- Top shooters
- Distance runner
- All-American

SPORTS SHORTS

LAYMON GOES THE DISTANCE

2nd Lt Paul Laymon, a member of South Carolina's 169th Maintenance Squadron, completed the 1995 Carolina Marathon in 2:32:59.

The time earned him a fourth place finish overall and first in the 30-34 age category.

MERAGER FINISHES ON HIGH NOTE

Spec. Kelly Merager, a member of South Dakota's 842nd Engineer Company, completed an illustrious career recently as Quarterback on the Black Hills State University football team by receiving NAIA honors for his accomplishments on the field. He was named a second team NAIA All-American.

The Yellow Jacket quarterback set 14 school records and three NAIA records during his career. He was twice named South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference Player of the Year and earned NAIA Honorable Mention All-American recognition.

GRUNT SURVIVES IDITASPORT

Endurance runner MSgt. Cindie Grunt, a member of Oregon's 142nd Maintenance Squadron, recently completed the 78-mile Alaskan Iditasport, capturing third place.

There were no sled dogs, just snowshoers, cross-country skiers, mountain bikers and runners along the snow covered mountainous terrain where temperatures dipped below zero.

Her biggest hurdle was not the distance; she is used running 100 mile races and is rated one of the top 20 U.S. female ultra marathoners.

Twenty-two miles from the finish, Grunt's feet went numb. She had to return to an aid station and take a five-hour break.

"If I hadn't stopped and rested and waited for the sun to come up, I may not have finished at all," she said.

BURNIN' RUBBER

By SSgt. Janet Fitzgerald
Kansas National Guard

Supporting a red, white and blue Kansas National Guard license plate, Jim Sumners speeds down a quarter-mile track nearing 100 miles per hour in his Pontiac Trans Am.

Weekdays, Jim is known as Capt. Jim Sumners, management analyst for the Kansas Air Guard's 190th Air Refueling Group.

He admits his racer -- nicknamed "The Bandit" for its shiny black finish, similar to the one Burt Reynolds drove in "Smoky and the Bandit" movies -- serves as a recruiting vehicle. But, he also sees his racing as a long-term business investment.

He sees his experience, first, as providing a challenge, because the concentration required is good therapy. There are also opportunities to talk-up the Kansas Air National Guard.

"When you win frequently the kids come around to ask questions," Sumners said.

This past season, Sumners made it to the quarter finals twice, and moved up 16 places on the last race, finishing 14th out of 120 entries.

In drag racing, drivers are racing against themselves first, Sumners says. When the yellow light is up, the driver is challenging his own reaction time. With the green light, the driver speeds down the

Kansas' Capt. Jim Sumners races for experience, profit and the National Guard



Photos by SSgt. Janet Fitzgerald

FAST LANE - Kansas Air Guard's Capt. Jim Sumners in action (above) and checking his times (right).

quarter-mile track, driving as skillfully as possible. Even if one driver has a faster time, Sumners says, the other driver in the parallel lane may have beat the other racer at the starting line because of his reaction time.

Kevin Sturgeon, a member of the Army Reserves, is his crew chief. Other 190th Air Guardmembers also volunteer time working as members of the security crew, tower workers, or down at the lights on the starting line.

Sumners sees this coming season as a new opportunity to improve his skills, his winnings and the Guard's visibility.



Pennsylvania, Alabama claim rifle, pistol titles

By Capt. Sherri Daniels
Arkansas National Guard

A rifle team from the Pennsylvania Air Guard and a squad of Alabama pistol shooters won titles at the National Guard Bureau's Smallbore Rifle and Pistol National Championships in Manchester, Conn., in April.

MSgt. Joseph McDemus led the Keystone State's rifle team from the 201st Redhorse Combat Engineer Flight to victory. He was joined by SSgts. Patrick and Ronald Miller (no relation) and A1C Monica Quigley, a first-time competitor.

"I liked shooting at basic training," said Quigley, a 21-year-old college student. "I thought this sounded interesting, so I tried out."

As for lending a hand in winning the title, Quigley was pleased. "It has been a great experience," she said, beaming with pride as the first place ribbon was placed around her neck.

Delaware's 166th Maintenance Squadron, placed second, while Minnesota's Battery D, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery took third.

In individual rifle competition, Ohio Air Guardmember TSgt. Kenneth Strohm took first place with a score of 756 points.

Delaware's MSgt. Bruce Wood placed second, with McDemus taking third.

The Alabama Air Guard team, led by individual pistol champ SSgt. Stanley George, took overall team honors.

At the end of the first relay, George was leading by 50 points. When asked if he thought he had it sewn up, he modestly answered, "No. Most of the good shooters are on the second relay. I'm sure they'll beat my score."

At the end of the second relay, George still had a clear 20 point buffer over the competition.

George was joined by the 117th Air Refueling Wing's MSgts. Kenneth Osborn and Jerry Russell and TSgt. Warren Wright.

Virginia's TSgt. Philip Thomas Sr., from the 192nd Maintenance Squadron, took second place in the pistol competition. His team also placed second.

SFC Steve W. Swisher, a member of Nebraska's Company A, 1st Battalion, 195th Armor, placed third in the individual pistol competition. His team was also third.

The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center conducts six tournaments annually: Smallbore rifle and pistol, air rifle and pistol, and combat rifle and pistol.

The AIR GUARD'S
LONG RANGE PLAN'No time to
rest on laurels'

And miles to go, before I sleep."

That line, from a well-known poem by Robert Frost titled "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," probably best sums up the current situation in the Air National Guard.

It seems like the only thing we can plan on, is constant change. We certainly cannot rest on our laurels, because we have, like Robert Frost, too many "miles to go before we sleep."

As the active-duty downsizes, more missions are being assigned to the Air Guard. The ANG, like other reserve components, are no longer "forces in reserve," but instead, are an integral part of the Defense establishment.

The deployment of Michigan's 110th Fighter Group to Aviano, Italy, to fly in support of Deny Flight, is the most recent example of the Guard's changing role.

With all this constant change how do we determine what is in our best long-term interest?

Maj. Gen. Donald W. Shepperd, Air National Guard Director, has the answer. He wants to insure that we are "on the right road." He has refined a long-range planning process, involving hundreds of ANG personnel, to help plan for the future. In upcoming issues of *The On Guard*, Gen. Shepperd will share his plan for the Air Guard.

If you can't wait, or are interested in seeing the two documents that have been generated, see your Base commander. He has several copies available; they are titled, "Air National Guard Long Range Plan."

Consider the following quote by Joel Arthur Barker: "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world."

Editor Note: The preceeding is the first of a six part series.

California's Team Wolf helps forest service clean up after marijuana growers

WEED
removers

By Maj. Kevin Sandri
California National Guard

While many across the nation spent Earth Month planting trees, a team of California National Guardmembers helped remove debris left behind by busted marijuana growers.

The counterdrug team, called Team Wolf, was asked by the U.S. Forest Service to take part in a clean-up operation at the Six Rivers National Forest in Northern California. Debris had been left in marijuana garden sites after law enforcement raids. The garbage left behind by the marijuana growers was determined hazardous to the environment.

On April 13, a California Army National Guard Huey helicopter, based at Sacramento Army Aviation Support Facility, descended on an abandoned airstrip near the site in the National Forest to link up with Team Wolf soldiers.

U.S. Forest Service Agent Ed Bodenlos briefed the group on the environmental problems created by the marijuana growers. In addition to leaving plastic, glass, chicken wire and fertilizers, the growers cleared small trees to create pockets of sunlight for their crop.

The garden was laid across an opening in the trees which covered an area about the size of a football field. On one side, there was a large pile of garbage consisting of black irrigation-drip pipe and a five-foot tall plastic tank used as a water storage tank. The pile was the size of a large ball, measuring eight feet across.

Plastic bags, which had contained marijuana seedlings, littered the hillside. The growers had placed marijuana seedlings in starter bags with fertilizer and soil and then planted them approximately every two square yards.

Two soldiers from Team Wolf continued gathering starter bags, plant fertilizer, deer repellent and other types of garbage, while waiting for the helicopter to rendezvous with a cargo net.

Approximately a half-mile east and up about 800 feet of elevation was the primary site. Sitting just below a giant pine tree was an opening about the size of a basketball court with trees that towered hundreds of feet above.

Nestled among young saplings was the



Photos by Maj. Kevin G. Sandri

WEED WHACKERS - California Guardmembers (above) bundle up debris, and remove irrigation piping (right) with U.S. Forest Service agents.

raided marijuana garden. The area was well cultivated for the crop. When the site was raided, law enforcement personnel "wacked and stacked" the six-to-eight-foot plants leaving only three-inch stalks sticking out.

The growers had created an elaborate irrigation system, using more than a mile of pipe. They had blocked off a spring and buried irrigation pipe along a ridge to a camouflaged storage tank buried in the ground.

The growers had topped young trees to allow sunlight into the garden. According to forest service agents, the forest will take years to recover from the damage caused by the growers.

The pilots maneuvered the helicopter above the small opening in the trees and kicked out a cargo net.

However, high winds made it impos-



sible for the chopper to hover and get the cable in position to remove the debris.

Two days later, after the winds died down, a cargo net and debris were removed.

Team Wolf continues to search California's National Forests hoping to deter marijuana growers and restore the environment to its natural beauty.

NEWS

MAKERS

Compiled by Lt. Col. Fred S. Lydick
National Guard Bureau

SSgt. Douglas J. Stevenson, a member of North Carolina's HHB, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, won the George Washington Essay Honor Medal. The Freedom Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart sponsor the annual essay competition. Since 1949, the Freedom Foundation has recognized more than 50,000 Americans for "helping to bring about a better understanding and appreciation of our nation and its principles of human dignity and freedom." The military essay category is judged by an independent panel.

Members of the 111th Fighter Squadron and members of its parent unit, the 147th Fighter Group, recently participated in inaugural ceremonies for the new Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Texas National Guard, George W. Bush, Jr., the former president's eldest son. In the early 1970's, Gov. Bush was a pilot with the 147th Fighter Interceptor Group, now the 147th Fighter Group, flying the F-102 Delta Dagger. Members of the 147th matched in the parade while the 111th conducted the F-16 flyover for the ceremonies.

Capt. Bruce Mosely, commander of the South Carolina Army Guard's Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, is helping military members affected by the drawdown find jobs. He is the Job Placement Coordinator for the "Troops To Teachers" program. The program assists military members interested in starting a second career as a teacher. Those who qualify receive \$5,000 to assist in their certification. The program, individuals and schools receive highly motivated individuals with knowledge and experience in the classroom.

Wisconsin's 128th Refueling Group was once again recognized as "the best in the business" when it received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for a fourth time. A unit must be in the top 10 percent of units with the same mission and aircraft to be eligible for this award. Col. Gene Schmitz, 128th commander, said the unit qualified for this award by its continued superior performance while maintaining an outstanding mission effectiveness rating. The unit also provided extensive air refueling and airlift support to every major air command, including the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force Reserve and NATO.

Two Air National Guard women achieved firsts in their respective states recently when they became the first female Guardmembers to achieve the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Sandra V. Oliveto, New York Air National Guard, and a member of the 106th Communications Flight, and Darlene Mullins, Montana Air National Guard, achieved the unique milestone recently.

2nd Lt. Mary F. Bellm, a member of West Virginia's 167th Airlift Group, earned the distinction of being the 167th Airlift Group's first female pilot, after completing pilot training last year at Vance AFB, Okla. Bellm will train for the C-130E aircraft at Little Rock, Ark., and eventually cross train to the H-model.



Col. David Beasley takes command.



Wisconsin's first CWO5 David Farrel.



Hawaii heroes: Lt. Col. Kimo Kelly (left) and Maj. Wayne Wakeman.



George Bush Sr. pins gold bars on Texas Air Guard pilot, George Bush Jr., in 1970.

Col. David A. Beasley, commander of the Maryland Air Guard's 135th Airlift Group, has been appointed Air Commander of the Warfield Air National Guard Base at Martin State Airport in Middle River. A native of Baltimore, Beasley is a graduate of the University of Maryland, the Air Force Command and Staff College and the Air War College. Beasley joined the Maryland Air National Guard in 1970. He was appointed Commander of the 135th Airlift Group in March 1993.

It's "all in the family" for Maj. Vernetta Mitchell, a member of New Jersey's 108th Air Refueling Wing, as she welcomed her son Joel into the unit. Airman Mitchell is assigned to the 108th Security Police Squadron and is also a student at Morgan State College in Baltimore, Md. Maj. Mitchell encouraged Joel to join the Air National Guard to seek a skill that will reinforce his academic and career pursuits.

The American Helicopter Society announced April 3 that the New York Air Guard's 106th Rescue Group, has won the Captain William J. Kossler (U.S. Coast Guard) Award for a courageous helicopter rescue in the North Atlantic Ocean. The award is given annually for the greatest achievement in practical application of operation of a rotary wing aircraft. Two 106th helicopters responded on Dec. 10, 1994 to a call for the rescue of survivors of the Salvador Allende, a sunken Ukrainian freighter lost 750 miles at sea off the coast of Nova Scotia (See page 3, January 1995 *The On Guard*).

In what may be the first documented third generation female enlistment in the National Guard, Carolyn Pagel has become a member of Wisconsin's 128th Air Refueling Group. Carolyn's Grandmother, MSgt. (ret.) Peggy Amsler, retired from the 128th in 1990. Carolyn's mother, MSgt. Sandy Peele became a member of the 128th in 1969 and last served in the unit in 1984. Carolyn Pagel enlisted in the 128th almost 25 years to the day after her mother enlisted. Pagel will be attending college in Wisconsin in the fall.

Hawaii Air National Guard pilots Lt. Col. Kimo Kelly and Maj. Wayne Wakeman, members of the 199th Fighter Squadron, were instrumental in the rescue of three people, whose plane had ditched in the ocean 120 miles north of Maui. The rescue was a team effort involving the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Hawaii ANG and a civilian cargo ship. A Navy P-3 Orion picked up a distress call from the three and relayed it to the Coast Guard, which in turn sought the Air Guard's help. The alert team launched and located the distressed fliers. They helped guide a Coast Guard C-130 Hercules to the area. The C-130 laid down a line of flares to help the plane ditch in the ocean where a cargo ship picked them up.

David A. Farrel, of Waunakee, Wis., became the first Chief Warrant Officer 5 in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Farrel, who commands Detachment 52, Operational Support Airlift Command, is an experienced aviator with 22 years in the Guard and 26 years of federal service.

Louisiana pilots see firsthand the ravages of war

Helping the KURDS

By SSgt. Suzanne Chaillet
Louisiana National Guard

Imagine being deprived of the basic necessities for survival, such as shelter and food.

These very things are essential for the thousands of Kurdish refugees who escaped repression from Saddam Hussein by fleeing to the mountains of Northern Iraq.

The Louisiana Air Guard's 159th Fighter Group, along with the 154th Composite Group from Hawaii, became the first Air National Guard F-15 units to deploy to Incirlik AB to enforce the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq recently.

The mission, "Operation Provide Comfort," began in April 1991 at the direction of then President George Bush.

During these humanitarian efforts, camps were built, million of pounds of relief supplies were dropped and the creation of a security zone in Northern Iraq was established.

The security zone, measuring about 160 miles wide by 50 miles deep, bars



Photos by Maj. Tim Heck

entry to Iraqi military and security forces.

"The purpose was to provide security air cover to keep the Iraqis from doing anything nasty while our troops were down there doing village checks on the Kurds," said Capt. Bryant "Mick" McGuire, pilot for the 159th Fighter Group. "A typical mission involved moving aircraft up and into position to suppress any Iraqi air cover during troop vulnerability time."

Several members of the 159th made one of these scheduled visits to the small village of Mergasor.

The village consisted of a handcrafted rock house, one military tent and a sod shelter. The land surrounding the village was rocky and treeless, due to the ravages of Hussein's troops who destroyed the crops and livestock, along with cutting down the trees to deprive them of wood

for fire.

According to Lt. Col. Vance Newman, deputy commander of operations, the village once consisted of more than 600 people. Now, only three to seven families remain there.

"Being able to meet the people and actually see how they live, brought the whole mission into focus for us," said Newman. "You don't see anyone on the ground when you are flying, so



INTERPRETING - Louisiana's Lt. Col. Vance Newman (third from left) listens to a Kurdish woman. A nine-year-old Kurdish girl (below) holds a goat.

when you can actually see the people you are protecting, it really hits home."

Protecting the refugees involved accessing their security, health and nutrition needs by a Coalition Task Force during these village visits. The task force consisted of teams of military representatives from the U.S., Great Britain, France and Turkey. They would then prepare and distribute reports to non-governmental organizations, such as CARE and UNICEF to provide direct care.

During the deployment of the 159th Fighter Group to Incirlik AB, Col. Dean L. Winslow, a physician with the Louisiana group, was tasked by the Coalition Task Force to directly support two medical missions.

"I was greatly impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the multinational coalition forces military personnel," said Winslow. "There is little doubt that Operation Provide Comfort has provided the security and stability to permit the survival of the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq over the last five years."

The resiliency of the Kurdish people was evident to the members of the 159th who visited their villages.

"The villagers were so happy to have us there protecting them that they were willing to butcher one of the four lambs they had in order to feed us, despite the fact they had not eaten meat in five months," said Newman.

The group, touched by the generosity, politely declined their offer.

Ohio aircrew's quick thinking, expertise saves four lives, aircraft

Escaping certain death

By Lt. Col. Ron Albers
Ohio National Guard

It was a KC-135R crew's worst nightmare: A jet fuel leak discovered while airborne.

On a routine mission to refuel aircraft in support of Operation Deny Flight, a four-man crew with the Ohio Air Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, took off from Le Tule AB, France. The crew consisted of Capt. Douglas Moore, aircraft commander; 2nd Lt. Kenneth Copely, co-pilot; Capt. Charles Aliberto, navigator; and Sgt. Michael Bursk, boom operator.

Shortly after takeoff, Bursk went to the boom pod to check the system used to refuel NATO and Navy aircraft in flight. There, he found a hose malfunction, which made completing the mission impossible.

Since the maximum gross weight for landing a KC-135 is 200,000 pounds, the crew was forced to fly to an assigned fuel dump area and drop approximately 80,000 pounds of fuel.

Dumping completed, Aliberto gave the pilot a heading direct to Le Tule for an en route descent. When Moore



Photo courtesy of Ohio National Guard

called for the descent checklist, Bursk returned to the boom pod for a final check of the air refueling system prior to landing. To his horror, he found the area between the boom sighting door and the boom pod full of fuel.

"It was like looking through the glass window of a washing machine in action," Bursk said. Fuel was pouring outside the windows and flowing into the slipstream.

Copely immediately declared an in-flight emergency to air traffic control and requested a priority landing at Le Tule. Although French controllers were cooperative, the language barrier made it difficult to express the seriousness of the situation.

At this point, the crew knew they had a severe fuel leak, but they did not know where it had occurred or the specific nature of the problem. Clustered in the cockpit, the crew shut down all unnecessary electrical equipment.

They also decided not to touch any of the switches in

SPOT CHECK - Sgt. Michael Bursk (left) discovered the fuel leak between the sighting door and the boom pod.

the boom pod. Copely also told French controllers not to ask questions in order to minimize radio transmissions.

Upon reaching the air base, Moore made a low pass down the runway to allow ground personnel a chance to visually inspect the aircraft. They were warned that fuel was pouring out of the aft-center portion of the airplane. The gushing fuel could be seen from 10 miles out.

Because of the possible fire hazard, the crew decided not to use aircraft brakes unless absolutely necessary. Instead, they would roll to the end of the runway.

After they touched down, Copely cut the inboard engines to slow the aircraft and reduce total landing distance. As soon as the aircraft stopped, all four Guardmembers exited off the nose.

Despite the harrowing experience, the crew recovered quickly.

"After evacuating the aircraft, we refilled a flight plan, gathered our gear, preflighted a spare KC-135 and were airborne within an hour of landing the damaged aircraft," Moore recalled.

A later inspection revealed severe fuel leaks filled the entire bottom of the airplane with explosive jet fuel, while leaking 45,000 pounds (7,000 gallons) through the aircraft's skin.

Though the cause of failure has yet to be determined, the Air Force knows of no similar problems in the history of the KC-135.



STATES

- 210th rescue
- Haiti helpers
- Allied training

ALASKA

The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron achieved its 210th recorded "save" in May when pararescuemen extracted an unconscious climber from the 3,500-foot level of Mount Gordon, near Eagle River.

The 210th Rescue Squadron has not only rescued fellow Alaskans, but they have seen duty in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Korea, Russia, Canada, throughout the Pacific and supported the Space Shuttle program. Of the 205 "saves," only five were military.

The unit serves an around-the-clock watch from their locations at Kulis Air National Guard Base and Eielson AFB.

WYOMING

Five Air National Guard members recently returned from Operation Sea Signal, a humanitarian relief effort in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to provide medical assistance to Cuban and Haitian refugees.

Three members of the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and two members of the 153rd Medical Squadron deployed on the three month mission.

The five were assigned to the 6th Air Transportable Hospital JTF 160 and worked with personnel from all four military branches, the World Health Organization, Catholic Church Sisters of Charity, the Immigration Naturalization Service and the Justice Department.

ALLIED EFFORT

Members of the British Royal Air Force were in Rhode Island recently to participate in flying exercises with the 143rd Airlift Group. For five days, the two allies flew numerous training sorties together while sharing and learning about each others' cockpit procedures. Training involved airlift and airdrop operations, parachute operations and tactical sorties with A-10 fighter escorts.



Photo by Dan McLaren

HAWAII

Japan's worst disaster in recent history, the Jan. 16 earthquake in Kobe, has brought out the best in the people of Hawaii, including the Hawaii National Guard.

The Governor's office instituted "Mission Aloha" to provide assistance through the public and private sectors. Soldiers and airmen of the Hawaii National Guard provided transportation assets for relief supplies, warehouse operations and collection operations. The Hawaii Guard took a leading role in all assistance efforts.

OKLAHOMA

It didn't offer quite the graphics of popular electronic games, but 162 members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard discovered why computer games are so popular with kids while preparing for a "battlefield" training exercise at Fort Hood, Texas.

The members of the 45th Infantry Brigade spent 24 days with the 1st Cavalry Division to prepare for a computer simulated battlefield exercise dubbed "Warfighter."

The exercise is designed to train commanders and staffs how to fight — minus the physical realities — short of going to war. The computer-simulated battles test decision making, unit capabilities, timing and synchronization, interoperability, logistics support and just about every other aspect of combat. The 45th has been designated as one of the Army's 15 enhanced brigades.

WEST VIRGINIA

A contingent of 40 West Virginia Air Guard civil engineers from the 167th Airlift Group discovered that working in a tropical climate requires a special "can-do" attitude.

Despite high temperature and humidity, unfamiliar surroundings, language complications and unique logistical challenges, the Air Guard members were able to accomplish their 15-day mission in tropical Panama with flying colors.

The Martinsburg-based Guardsmen and women were the third of four contingents performing work for the 24th Composite Wing of the Southern Air Command.

The 167th was tasked to build a Panamanian customs checkpoint, demolish a loading dock at Howard AFB, install insect proof window screens for a dormitory for local Indians, anchor a bus stop structure to its foundation, bulldoze a firebreak at

Tocumen Airport and grade and install a gravel parking lot.

At Albrook Air Force Station, the civil engineers completely renovated two restrooms at the All Ranks Club, installed a new tile floor and drop ceiling in the entrance alcove to the base post office and put in new duct work for the expanded air-conditioning system at the 24th Civil Engineering Joint Operations Office.

"We appreciate everything that these Air Guard 'Prime Beef' teams are doing for us," said SMSgt. Hugo Cole, the Joint Operations manager. "Due to the support the 24th CES had to give toward Safe Haven and Safe Passage, quite a number of work orders backlogged. These Air Guard units helped us catch up on the majority of them."

The success of this operation," he continued, "is also proof that the Total Force policy does work."



Photo courtesy West Virginia Guard

DEMOLITION CREW - A team of West Virginia engineers demolish a dock in Panama.



The National Guard in World War II



Beating down the RESISTANCE

June 1945 found the war in the Pacific nearing the end. The last major pockets of Japanese resistance were located on Okinawa and in the Cagayan Valley of Northern Luzon.

On Luzon, after numerous drubbings by American divisions, the Japanese fled into the Cagayan Valley. The valley was 260 miles long, 30 miles wide and followed the winding course of the Cagayan River. The Cagayan Valley was the last stand in the Philippines for the Japanese. It was defended by the 101st and 103rd Divisions and an unorganized mixture of troops.

Assigned the mission of taking the valley was the 37th Infantry "Buckeye" Division. This National Guard division from Ohio was mobilized in 1940 and had seen action at Munda, Bougainville and Manila. The 37th consisted of the 129th Infantry Regiment from Illinois and the 145th and 148th Infantry Regiments of Ohio.

The 37th Infantry Division was commanded by Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler. He was the only National Guard division commander to retain his command from induction into federal service through the war's end.

The operation to take the Cagayan Valley kicked off on May 31 with the 129th Infantry Regiment, the 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and the attached 775th Tank Battalion advancing down Highway 5 to seize and secure Aritao. The 129th met strong resistance from the Japanese defenders, but superior firepower propelled the Americans northward entering and securing Aritao on

June 5. Thirty days had been allocated for the 12-mile move to seize and secure Aritao, but the "Buckeyes" accomplished the mission in only five.

While the 129th Infantry spearheaded the attack northward along Highway 5, the 145th and 148th Infantry Regiments followed closely behind securing the lines of communication and patrolling, while staying ready to take the lead or exploit enemy weaknesses. By now, the Japanese -- in total chaos -- were reduced to conducting delaying actions in the valley. Bambang fell on June 6. Four days later, Bagabag was occupied by the 148th Infantry while the 145th Infantry continued down Highway 5.

After crossing the Magat River and proceeding north along Highways 4 and 5, the 37th encountered heavy resistance from the Japanese near Orioung Pass. After heavy fighting, the 145th Infantry and the 775th Tank Battalion punched through the Japanese defensive positions and continued northward.

From Orioung Pass the armored column moved rapidly north through Ipil and Santiago, taking Cagayan in a two pronged drive on June 16. During fighting on June 14, the 145th Infantry killed 437 Japanese, captured 16 airplanes and a large mixture of field guns and automatic weapons. The 145th lost only two men.

The next site for a piecemeal defense by the Japanese was at Ilagan, which was quickly taken by the "Buckeyes." On June 19, the 148th Infantry repulsed a Japanese counterattack near San Antonio. Although well

Maj. JEFF POPE
NGB Historian



FINAL PUSH - U.S. soldiers (above) file over a bridge in the Philippines.

planned, the Japanese thrust was detected early. As a result, the 148th Infantry, along with Company F, 775th Tank Battalion, turned back the attack, destroying eight tanks and killing 182 Japanese.

The 37th continued its northward drive through the valley meeting little opposition. While the 37th Infantry Division was pushing through the valley, a reinforced 1st Battalion, 511th Parachute Infantry, 11th Airborne Division was air dropped south of Aparri on June 23 to cut off the Japanese escape route. The Japanese were now sandwiched between the "Buckeyes" advancing northward and the paratroopers moving south.

On June 23, the 129th Infantry conducted a passage of lines through the 148th Infantry and continued down Highway 5. The division met token enemy resistance crossing the Cagayan River and capturing Tuguegarao Airfield the afternoon of June 25. The 129th Infantry made contact with Task Force Gypsy near Alcala on June 26. After the link-up, the 37th Division assumed operational control of the task force.

The 129th Infantry Regiment seized and secured Aparri on June 27, completing the Cagayan Valley operation. The Luzon campaign officially ended on June 30, but the 37th "Buckeye" Division continued mopping up scattered pockets of enemy resistance in the area until the war ended in August. The 37th was awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Streamer embroidered Oct. 17, 1944 to July 4, 1945, signifying their actions in the Cagayan Valley.

The 37th Infantry Division has undergone several reorganizations and redesignations since World War II. It is currently organized as the 37th Brigade, 38th Infantry Division, with headquarters at Canton, Ohio. The 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry is still a part of the brigade with headquarters located at Lima, Ohio.



TRAINING

Massachusetts pilot helps
put drug dealer behind bars

A Billion in DRUGS

By Frank J. Adinolfi Jr.
Massachusetts National Guard

A Massachusetts Air Guard pilot intercepts an unknown aircraft heading for Canada ... A drug-carrying plane crash lands ... U.S. Customs agents arrest a drug runner on a Canadian flight line ... Testimony by the Air Guard pilot ties together five flights in a drug conspiracy totaling over one billion dollars of cocaine ... A drug runner's attorney is assassinated in mid-trial. Canadian courts convict five defendants in the cocaine conspiracy.

The complexities of this case have prevented its disclosure.

Until now.

Night, January 24, 1989. Active air scramble.

Supersonic at Mach 1.4 over land at 1:15 a.m.

The F-15's radar found the target repeatedly. The fighter pilot saw only stars in the moonless sky.

"Until you identify the airplane, you don't know what it is. It could have been a Russian. When I got close, it could have shot me out of the sky," said the pilot who once intercepted a Russian Bear bomber.

Low to the target's left on the fifth attempt at visual contact, "The stars blacked out and came in again. When I saw that there was no doubt in my mind there was something out there," he said.

What was out there was worth more than one billion dollars.

National Guard policy prohibits the use of the names of individuals who participate in anti-drug activities. For this story, the pilot will be called Maj. Philip Whitmore — not his real name.

Whitmore began this incident while sound asleep in a North American Aerospace Defense Command alert site at Loring AFB, Maine. He was sitting on alert from his home unit, the 102nd Fighter Wing, Otis Air National Guard Base, in

Cape Cod, Mass.

Diego Jose Genuza under the command of drug lord Pablo Escobar, took off from Medellin, Columbia that day on his fourth flight loaded with 500 kilograms of cocaine. Genuza was a Cuban national.

"The Crown considered this conspiracy the largest in Canadian history," said Judge Maximilien Polak when he gave his judgement on Genuza's sentencing in a Montreal court in November 1991.

"The organization was also involved in the distribution of the cocaine upon arrival, the thru-transportation to the U.S. and the collection of cash money," Polak further stated.

"I had a good, solid radar return," said Whitmore that January 1989 night, but he could not see the unknown. He spun his F-15 away again and again in a racetrack maneuver, re-acquiring the target on radar each time. Then through the dark, he saw a piece of the tail of a high-winged airplane appear in the red wash of his

"Think of all the variables," Whitmore continued. "You've got a small airplane. Three o'clock in the morning. He's blacked out. He's not talking to anybody. He's got a doctored registration. He's a bad guy."

Despite the F-15's close presence, Genuza's aircraft continued on, descending to 10,000 feet. Whitmore could see the lights of Montreal on the horizon.

His Canada East controllers instructed Whitmore to try to identify the small plane's pilot. "All I could see were red illumination lights in the cockpit. I tried to position myself so I could see through the aircraft, but I couldn't," said Whitmore.

His F-15 Eagle was running low on fuel. The Canada East controllers ordered Whitmore to break off.

"I'd never try to get through the air defense like that guy, knowing what I know," said Whitmore. Genuza had kept a steady course while an armed F-15 flew in formation with his small aircraft.

1989, U.S. Customs agents landed in Canada and arrested Genuza. U.S. Customs agents acted again in April 1989 against drug runners in Canada, following a cocaine-carrying aircraft that eventually crashed on a New Brunswick airstrip. That aircraft was connected to Genuza's co-conspirators.

Crown Prosecutor Richard Starck said, "Without the Americans and the American capacity (to track and intercept unknown aircraft), we may not be able to intercept at all. When you have huge borders like we do, we must work together. If you guys are not there, they (drug runners) will come into both our borders."

The capability of the Air National Guard to assist in the war against illegal drugs is a spin-off of its wartime mission.

"We are able to do the drug running mission because we train for our federal role and our wartime role to defend the nation or to provide air sovereignty," said Maj. Gen. Donald W. Sheppard, director of the ANG.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman agrees.

"The counterdrug mission is an outstanding example of Air National Guard wartime readiness skills being used in a real world situation," he said. "Flying intercept missions against a wartime adversary or a suspected drug smuggler requires basically the same training. Our ANG aircrews are doing double duty with no increase in training costs."

From literally thousands of aircraft in the late 1950s, currently there are only a total of 28-32 fighters on alert each day,

according to Maj. Robin Alford, NORAD public affairs. The Air National Guard is responsible for all air-sovereignty alert aircraft.

Whitmore was asked by the Crown Prosecutor during his testimony to use his navigation expertise to analyze the routes of the five drug flights involved in the conspiracy. After a 48-day trial, Genuza was found guilty on October 24, 1991, of conspiracy to import cocaine into Canada.

At the sentencing judgment, Polak detailed the value of the drugs.

"In 1989, the wholesale value of one kilo of cocaine having a purity of 90 to 95 percent was \$30,000 and the street value, after cutting four times to lower the purity level to a level of personal use was \$400,000. Therefore, the wholesale value of the 2628 kg. carried in the five known flights resulting from this conspiracy was \$78,840,000, and the street value \$1,051,200,000," he concluded.

The court sentenced Genuza to 25 years in a federal penitentiary and a fine of \$500,000 on November 29, 1991.



Photo by Debbie Ramsay

INTERCEPTOR - 102nd pilot Maj. Philip Whitmore flies his F-15.

fighter's pulsating left anti-collision beacon. The next flash revealed the tail once more. Whitmore maneuvered closer until he could see the aircraft without the aid of the beacon. He tucked the Eagle under the bogey's left wing. The nearly 64-foot-long fighter was flying with bright formation lighting and the blinking red beacons. "Obviously, he could see me. I was lit up like a Christmas tree," he said.

Yet, there was no response from the target aircraft only two-thirds the F-15's length. The twin-engined propeller-driven airplane did not rock its wings in the internationally accepted signal of an aircraft in trouble. Whitmore positioned his Mach two-capable fighter — now flying at only 210 knots — to read the target aircraft's identification. He saw a large circular C, but the rest of the letters were in small block form, followed by a maple leaf. The leaf was askew. "It looked like a stick-on," said Whitmore.

"I'd say it took some guts to do that," said Whitmore.

The aircraft's description was a critical piece of information in the chain of evidence against Genuza. "I know now that the testimony I gave, along with the wire-tap info, cemented the guy in the airplane that night," said Whitmore of his sworn statements in a December 1990 Montreal court room.

The pilot's appearance in a Canadian court was a first for a U.S. Air Guard member.

"I'd never been offered that opportunity before," said Whitmore. The call for his testimony came nearly 20 months after the early morning scramble. Prior to that time, he had no knowledge of the results of his intercept.

"I went voluntarily," Whitmore recalled. "My biggest fear was that there would be repercussions after I testified."

Whitmore did not know that two months after his intercept, Vermont Air National Guard F-16 jets followed an aircraft flown by the same pilot. On that flight in March