



# THE ON GUARD

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NOVEMBER 1995

## Opal rocks Florida

*Several Guard states called in to deal with hurricane's aftermath*

By SFC Douglas K. Johnson  
Florida National Guard

Late in the afternoon on Oct. 4, Hurricane Opal, Florida's third hurricane of 1995, struck the panhandle's coastal areas causing an estimated \$1.8 billion in damages.

The Florida National Guard responded quickly, moving more than 3,700 citizen-soldiers and airmen from across the state into affected areas to provide humanitarian and law enforcement assistance.

Opal's wrath also reached Alabama and Georgia. Guardmembers in those states, to include their neighbors in Louisiana, North Carolina and Mississippi, were called in to help.

In Florida, Hurricane Opal caused significant damage and power loss in the panhandle counties of Bay, Escambia, Jackson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Franklin. However, the most severely damaged property was restricted to the Gulf Bay's coastal areas and the panhandle's barrier islands.

Many Floridians were involved in the massive relief effort following Hurricane Andrew in late 1992.

"Ever since Hurricane Andrew, we've been planning for another major disaster," said Lt. Col. Jerry Vaughn, Florida's plans, operations and military support

officer. "We have organized our units and have developed a specific catastrophic task force structure to respond to a category III (or greater) hurricane. During Operation Opal, we executed this plan."

Based on the lessons learned from Hurricane Andrew, Florida's Guard planned for a "worst-case" scenario, according to Vaughn.

"We know what the initial response will be for the Guard," he said. "Opal proved the correctness of our planning with the state emergency operations center's initial missions, calling for both humanitarian and security operations."



Photo by Sgt. Linda Sluder

**CHECKPOINT**—Florida's Sgt. Darryl Ward ensures residents stay away from the beach and Opal's debris.

A critical part of the humanitarian mission called for the Guard to establish a logistical base in Crestview. The base was used by state agencies to receive, temporarily store and distribute solicited items necessary to support each state agency's respective mission, such as food, water, generators and tents.

Sunshine State Guardmembers also set up 15 "comfort centers" in affected areas to provide emergency shelter, showers, food, ice, and "tail-gate" medicine for those left homeless.

The Florida Air Guard's 202nd Red Horse Squadron and the 125th Prime Beef team also set up a 500-bed life support center in Niceville. This center was designed to house and provide shower and dining facilities for relief workers.

Approximately 800 Florida Guardsmen

■ See HURRICANE, Page 4



Photo by Sgt. Lance Kamrugi

## BORDER BUILDERS

Hawaii Army Guard's Sgt. Jerome Bayron (above) lies rebar together for a culvert built in San Ysidro, Calif. The Aloha Staters pulled two weeks of training along the Mexico-U.S. border constructing roads.

# DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE



# COMMENTARY

## COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of Sept. 30, more than 9,063 counterdrug support missions were conducted throughout the country.

• As of Sept. 30, the total value of cash and drugs seized this fiscal year by police with National Guard assistance is more than \$62.4 billion.

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## LETTERS



Apache pilot 1st Lt. Kristen Ohliger

### APACHE MIX-UP

After reading the September 1995 issue about North Carolina's 1st Lt. Kristen Ohliger becoming the National Guard's first woman to become qualified in the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, I think you should pass out several lashes with a wet noodle among yourselves for failing to edit. Only once in this article is the AH-64 Apache mentioned, compared to three references to the AH-1 Cobra.

Ohliger had to work very hard to qualify in the Apache and should be recognized properly (aviators can be a touchy bunch).

For the record, Wisconsin's 1st Lt. Tammy L. Gross of 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation, was the first female attack pilot in the Army National Guard -- and only the second Army-wide -- piloting the AH-1 Cobra in August 1993.

CWO3 KIM W. RANDALL  
Wisconsin National Guard

Editor's Note: Clearly my head was in the clouds. My apologies to 1st Lt. Ohliger, her family and the aviation community for the mistake. Here's another look at Ohliger (left) for those readers who didn't read about her accomplishment.

### DESERVING RECOGNITION

Editor's Note: In the October issue of The On Guard, we featured stories on Airman of the Year SSgt. Claudine Jaramillo and the Army Guard's NCO of the Year SFC Michael Stafford. This has prompted several of our readers to wonder about the Soldier of the Year. What follows is some background on Spc. Allen Thompson.

Spc. Allen James Thompson of the Montana Army National Guard was selected the Army National Guard's Soldier of the Year recently.

Judged on military knowledge and bearing, leadership skills and appearance, Thompson was initially selected by a board of Montana National Guard soldiers last December. He then won the 6th U.S. Army Soldier of the Year contest, a competition with soldiers from 12 states, which qualified him for the National Guard Bureau competition.

"It was a very intense competition," Thompson recalled. "I feel privileged to have represented 6th U.S. Army for the final time, as it deactivated at the end of

June."

Thompson, a native of Fromberg, Mont., is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry, where he serves as a squad leader in the mortar platoon.

Thompson attends Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyo., where he is working on an associates degree in Criminal Justice. He plans to attend Chadron College in Chadron, Neb., to complete his education.

"Study a wide range of military and current events material," Thompson advised to future competitors. "You need to practice, practice, practice, speaking clearly and loudly enough to be heard," he said. "It is very important how you express yourself to your audience."

Thompson is considering applying for the State Officer Candidate School program in Montana. He recently graduated from the Primary Leadership Development Course at the Region Five NCO Academy at Camp Williams, Utah.

Prior to his joining the Montana Guard in December 1993, Thompson served in the regular Army as an infantryman in Korea and at Fort Hood, Texas.



Army Guard Soldier of the Year, Spc. Allen Thompson.

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

## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar



"You wouldn't believe how long I've been looking for the free vaccinations you National Guard folks are offering."





# IN THE NEWS

- Idaho record
- Moseley mourned
- Rangers needed

## Guard takes on Army aviation

By Ned Christianson  
OSACOM Public Affairs

The Operational Support Airlift Command was activated Oct. 2. It's the first total Army organization to be run by the National Guard.

Known as OSACOM, the command is charged with command and control of all the Army's fixed-wing utility aircraft based in the continental U.S.

The command was officially activated at its headquarters at Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Va. The activation culminated a three-year process to integrate the U.S. Army and Army National Guard operational support airlift mission and assets under a single organization.

The integration of National Guard assets being used to handle daily Army missions was championed by former Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan.

"This is simply another confirmation of the high confidence we place in our Army National Guard," Gen. Ronald H. Griffith said of the new command. "We simply cannot do our daily and wartime missions without the Army National Guard as a full participant."

The aircraft involved in the restructuring are 126 fixed wing passenger and cargo airplanes.

Most aircraft currently in the command are short-range twin-engine turboprops, including the five-passenger U-21 Queen Air, the eight-passenger C-12 King Air and the 18-passenger C-26 Metroliner. OSACOM also operates one C-21 Learjet for medium-range missions and three C-20 Gulfstream jets with intercontinental range.

Aircraft are based at 15 regional flight centers located around the nation, with from four to seven aircraft each, depending upon demand.

OSACOM is staffed by active duty National Guard officers and enlisted personnel. Most of the command's pilots are active duty warrant officers. Several administrative and pilot positions are occupied by Army civilians.

State detachments are typically staffed by four active duty Guard and four drill-status Guard people.

While OSACOM aircraft are based in CONUS, the command routinely flies to all corners of the earth in support of Army and DoD operations.

In the United States, active Army and National Guard OSA airplanes have supported hurricanes, floods, forest fires and other state emergencies. Three times in the past year the command has flown a heart transplant team on short notice to harvest donor hearts for immediate surgery.



Photo courtesy of the OSACOM

**IN FLIGHT - The eight-passenger C-12 King Air is part of OSACOM's inventory.**

## Idahoans fly historic sortie over Iraq

By SSgt. Paul Coupaud  
U.S. Air Force

The F-4G "Wild Weasel" aircraft of the Idaho Air National Guard helped mark an Operation Provide Comfort (OPC) milestone Sept. 26.

Taking to the skies over Northern Iraq in one of the oldest aircraft in the Air Force inventory, the 190th Fighter Squadron's Wild Weasels pushed the Combined Task Force (CTF) sortie count over the 50,000 mark — an accomplishment nearly five years in the making.

"This is not only a coalition accomplishment," said Army Col. Tom MacHammer, CTF chief of staff, "but a true teamwork effort between the four coalition partners."

"The presence and resolve of the coalition proves the dedicated professionalism of all the people who have passed through Incirlik (Turkey) in the four plus years of Provide Comfort," he added.

To the members of the 190th

Fighter Squadron, helping mark the achievement is just another feather in the cap of the F-4G, an aircraft to be removed from the Air Force inventory by the year's end.

The F-4 came to the Boise, Idaho, unit in 1975 as the RF-4, a reconnaissance aircraft. In 1979, the unit converted to the F-4G and the Wild Weasel mission — suppression of enemy air defenses.

When the 190th ends their deployment in December, the aircraft will be flown to Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., to enter either the drone program or the boneyard. The F-4G that destroyed an Iraqi radar site during Operation Desert Storm will remain at the unit on static display.

Lt. Col. Mike Bell says he's honored to lead the 190th in this part of their last hurrah for the G-model.

"This is an all-volunteer group we have deployed right now," Bell said. "Everyone here put their name on the list to deploy — no one was tasked. And 25 percent of this

group are traditional Guardsmen; they are away from their jobs back home to be here."

Maj. Michael Bates, the unit's maintenance officer, said the entire unit is sad to see the affectionately nicknamed "Rhino" aircraft leave.

"It's a maintenance intensive airframe," he said. "There's no other way to say it — she's a lot of work, but a great jet. Many of us have worked on this airframe for a long time and our unit has had a remarkable success rate with them."

Once the F-4s depart, the unit will convert to A-10s and C-130s. The C-130s will have a firefighting mission and the 190th will be one of six A-10 Guard units in the states.

MacHammer said the F-4 will be missed at Provide Comfort.

"It's noteworthy to see an aircraft the Air Force has used for such a long time hit this milestone for us," he said. "But achieving this isn't a little event on its own. It's the result of many events coming together over the existence of OPC."

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### FORMER ASTRONAUT DIES

Col. Charles Lacy Veach, 51, an astronaut who had participated in two space flights, died of cancer Oct. 3. He helped operate telescopes during a military mission aboard Discovery in 1991 and flew again in 1992 on a science mission on Columbia.

Veach, a former Air Force fighter pilot, flew 275 combat missions in Vietnam. He later was a member of the Air Force air demonstration squadron, the Thunderbirds, before leaving active duty in 1981. Veach continued his service with the Texas Air National Guard.

Veach joined NASA in 1982 as an engineer and research pilot at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

### OREGON CHIEF OF STAFF KILLED

Col. (Dr.) Hugh Stephens Moseley, 53, died Oct. 8 in an air accident when the wing from his RV-3 aircraft fell off during flight. The Oregon Air National Guard chief of staff was a brigadier general selectee awaiting Senate confirmation at the time of the crash.

Moseley was on staff as a surgical oncologist at St. Vincent's, Good Samaritan, Emanuel and Tuahly Hospitals. The Little Rock, Ark., native was certified by the American Board of Surgery and had more than 40 scientific articles published in medical literature.

### ARMY GUARD SEEKS RANGERS

The Army National Guard has 180 training seats per year for the NGB Pre-Ranger Course conducted at Ft. Benning, Ga. The two-week prep course and the eight-week Ranger Course are funded by the National Guard Bureau on a reimbursement basis to states.

For more information, write to: Pre-Ranger Course, National Guard Bureau, ATTN: NGB-ARO-TL, 111 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204.

### NATIONAL GUARD PULLS OFF ENVIRONMENTAL COUP

The National Guard shone recently winning two of three awards given at the "Closing of the Circle" ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Guard was honored for its work in the "environmental innovation" category.

Washington Army Guard's Capt. Gordon Matthews received the award for his state's solvent reduction program. In the group category, Col. Philip Spence, Col. Marilyn Muzny, Joseph Cassanova and Janine Guadagno of the Army National Guard Environmental Center in Arlington, Va., were recognized for the Army Guard's pollution prevention program.



ASSISTANCE - A Florida soldier directs traffic.

## HURRICANE

From Page 1

and women were directly involved in security operations. They manned checkpoints, provided traffic control and roving patrols. The use of Special Forces' zodiac boats also helped the Florida Marine Patrol secure the barrier islands from looting.

"The looting problem was minimal during Operation Opal and can be credited to the excellent early response and the coordination between the Florida Guard and various law enforcement agencies," Vaughn noted. Florida also got help from its neighbors.

The Mississippi Guard flew in two Chinooks and 11 Huey helicopters, while Alabama aviators piloted two medical evacuation Hueys.

Maj. Gen. Ronald Harrison, Florida's Adjutant General, said the help received from fellow Guard states was made possible through "Inter-state Compact."

"Operation Opal validated the 'Inter-state Compact,' allowing us to rapidly organize tasks based on the affected area's needs, using support from other states," he said.

Harrison was also impressed by Florida's Rapid Impact Assessment Teams (RIAT).

The RIATs involve state, Guard and industry experts. They provided damage evaluations to the Florida Governor.

"The most important lesson learned from Andrew was the absolute critical need for accurate and rapid initial impact assessments," Vaughn said. "Without these assessments, the proper response to the emergency is dramatically slowed."

Harrison made no apologies for being "overprepared."

"My intent is to overpower a potential catastrophe, such as a projected category IV or V hurricane, and to stop the bleeding immediately," the general said. "Many times this would be viewed as overkill -- which is exactly my intent. It is easier to redeploy than to deploy."

# Virgin Islands Guard weathers storm

*Hurricanes Marilyn, Luis tests Guard on St. Croix, St. Thomas*

By Sgt. Dennis McCluster  
Virgin Islands National Guard

Citizen-soldiers with the Virgin Islands National Guard spent nearly the entire month of September on active duty after the territory was hit by two hurricanes within 10 days.

More than 600 members were activated after Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn bore down on the islands, located less than 100 miles east of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Sea.

Many troops found themselves working marathon hours without getting time off during the entire month.

"Many times I'd get home and everybody's asleep, so I'd just turn around and come back to the unit," said SSgt. Cynthia VanBeverhood-Harris, NCOIC of the 649th Medical Detachment.

Luis seemed like a preparatory drill. Troops were activated early Sept. 5, the morning of the hurricane. After weathering the storm, they spent the next two days cleaning up and bringing the islands back to normal.

Most troops were back at their civilian jobs by Sept. 8.

Hurricane Marilyn gave troops cause to give thanks for the preparations afforded by Hurricane Luis.

The harrowing Marilyn, which struck Sept. 15, a week after Guardmembers were released from duty for Luis, resurrected memories of Hurricane Hugo, the disaster many Virgin Islanders use as a benchmark for destructiveness.

Marilyn claimed 10 lives; only two people died in Hugo. Estimates have Marilyn causing \$3.5 billion of damage, nearly double that of Hugo.

Most troops weathered the storm at the armories on St. Thomas and St. Croix, or at several forward command posts (FCPs) set up throughout the islands.

Sp. Sberyl Parris, a medic with the 694th Medical Detachment, said her team was mauled by Marilyn at the Joseph Gomez School, an FCP set up at a Red Cross shelter.

"It was terrible," Parris said. "Half the building collapsed on us and 21 people were trapped in the bathroom."

Still, only minor injuries were recorded at the shelter, and the team huddled until the storm subsided.

At the Gramboko Building, the World War II-era structure that formerly housed the St. Thomas elements of the Guard, dozens of military police and field service troops hunkered down as the storm tore at the building.

"The wind blew the door wide open," said Pvt. Wayne Millett of 662nd Field Service Company. "It took three or four people to close it."

Millett said the building lost its roof, and troops crowded into the only dry corner of the flooded basement.

At the St. Croix armory, Marilyn's winds ripped through a portion of the roof, exposing to the elements part of the assembly hall -- which at the time was

"selflessness."

"It showed that they put the community first over self," Petersen said. "It takes a lot of guts to leave your family when you know a hurricane is on its way."

Brig. Gen. Rudolph Francis, the Virgin Islands National Guard's Adjutant General, said the numbers bear testimony to Guardmembers' dedication.

"All we have to do is look at the statistics in terms of mission accomplishment," Francis said.

Secretary of the Army Togo West also commended the troops' response.

"The way your folks turned out, even with all the damage to their homes, is an inspiration to us all," West said in a visit to the Virgin Islands to assess disaster efforts. "They are doubly affected, both as suppliers of assistance and as people whose homes and families have been affected."

A survey of St. Thomas Guardmembers revealed that among 213 surveyed, 76 lost their roofs, 77 suffered major roof damage, 17 experienced minor roof damage and 38 had minor damage to their homes. Only six

fewer than 3 percent -- had no damage to their homes while they were on duty.

As the hurricane subsided, engineers on all three islands ventured out to clear roads and search for those in need of help.

Medics also struck out, going "on the road patrolling for citizens in distress," said Pvt. Jose L. Garcia of the 649th Medical Detachment.

"The soldiers also helped in the cleanup of roads, repairing roofs and running generators," Garcia added. "In between the extra duties they performed, the soldiers also evacuated patients and rendered care for various minor injuries."

Now, the long job of recovery and restoration goes on.

About 80 percent of the buildings on St. Thomas were damaged, many destroyed. Power is not expected to be completely restored on all three islands until January, 1996.

Troops from the United States mainland and Puerto Rico joined relief efforts. The New York Air Guard's 105th Airlift Group alone delivered more than a half million pounds of food and equipment to the islands.

V.I. National Guardmembers, however, are poised to face any threat to their homes.

"The people of the Virgin Islands can rest assured that the National Guard will look out for them in time of trouble," Gen. Francis said.



Photos courtesy of the Virgin Islands National Guard



**NEEDED RELIEF** - Members of the Virgin Islands National Guard (top photo) unload boxes of Meals-Ready-to-Eat. Marilyn's 100 mph winds (above) hurled boats across a St. Thomas shoreline.

being used as a dining facility.

As sections of the galvanized steel roof were torn off by the wind, and as water rained down with chunks of insulation, troops picked up the food-laden tables and carried them outside. They then sat down and finished dinner.

Marilyn put the V.I. National Guard to the test, but members passed with flying colors. Although ordered to respond within hours on the night before the hurricane, nearly 100 percent reported.

"They knew we had a duty to perform," said Maj. Janice Grant, 786th Service and Supply Battalion commander. "They knew they had to be here and they came."

Maj. Marion Petersen, commander of St. Croix's 104th Troop Command, said the high turnout of troops demonstrated





# PEOPLE

**GOOD DEED**  
- TSgt. Cindy Crane (right) and Maj. Wenzell Carter (below) help Hondurans with bad teeth.



Photos by SSgt. David H. McKenney III



Two New Yorkers pull teeth in Honduras

## Taking the BITE out of a problem

By SSgt. David H. McKenney III  
Tennessee National Guard

Two New York Air National Guard members changed cultures and traveled thousands of miles to see their medical patients, but they said their jobs remained the same.

"Only my uniform changed, I'm still doing what I do best — dentistry," said Maj. Wenzell Carter, a dentist in civilian life with the State of New York's Correctional Department.

That feeling was echoed by TSgt. Cindy Crane. She works as a dental technician for a dentist in private practice in her civilian occupation.

Both New Yorkers participated in a Medical Training Readiness Exercise in central Honduras. The outpatient phase of the exercise was conducted in three remote mountainous sites, requiring Guardmembers to drive for hours on treacherous, unimproved roads to reach their patients.

The exercise provided the 28-person team — largely made up of members of the New York Air National Guard 174th Fighter Wing's Medical Support Squadron — with real-world training opportunities in an austere environment. The overseas deployment also served as a humanitarian exercise.

"This exercise provides great training for us. We don't get this kind of training at home. And it is good for the Hondurans," Crane said.

Crane said that many Hondurans required teeth extractions, some patients needing several pulled.

"Today," she continued, "we had 160 dental patients and I assisted the dentists with 70 extractions."

Despite the workload, Crane said the training was hectic, but organized. Her duties included preparing patients for treatment, sterilizing dental instruments and assisting dentists during dental treatments. But these activities, she says, are not always the most important.

"Sometimes just holding the patient's hand is the best way to be effective as a dental technician," she said.

"It has been a win-win situation," Crane added. "We get the training, the people get the treatment they need. I'd do it again, without pay."

The same sentiment was echoed by Carter, a graduate of Morgan State University and the University of Maryland Dental School.

"This is the first opportunity Sgt. Crane and myself have had to work as a team doing extractions," he said. "At the home station, we do dental exams and X-rays and administrative paperwork associated with those procedures."

Carter said most patients needed their teeth pulled because of a lack of dental education, preventive care and proper nutrition.

"Most patients have had at least two, and some more, extractions," he said. "And these are not difficult extractions to do."

"Although we had many multiple extractions, we are still passing out toothbrushes and toothpaste," Carter added. "Dentistry has always had an emphasis on prevention. The key to avoiding situations like this is to take care of the teeth they have left."

Education must begin at an early age, Carter added. Honduras claims a large population of children. Many of them had to have primary teeth removed prematurely.

"Normally, these are the teeth that will fall out," Carter said. "You don't want to lose the teeth prematurely because they preserve the space in the jaw for the permanent teeth. If you lose them too soon, the jawbone doesn't grow to maturity."

Carter said the training was a great success for the citizen-aimen.

"We're both beat from this," he said, "but we helped someone."

## On Patrol in Panama

By Spc. Marcia M. Beene  
Tennessee National Guard

It is not her usual beat. Normally, Sgt. Donna Rowling, a member of the Illinois Army National Guard's 233rd Military Police Company, located in Springfield, Ill., patrols the streets of Chicago as a city police officer.

But during a deployment to Panama, Rowling conducted security checks at Fort Clayton's main gate directly across from

the southern entrance to the Panama Canal.

Rowling said her military job compliments her civilian job.

"The training I have received as an MP has really helped me with my civilian job as a police officer," she said.

In Chicago, Rowling is assigned to a rapid-response car, handling in-progress calls and backup to her fellow police officers.

Rowling, a resident of Chicago's Garfield Ridge, majored in English at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

But her future involvement with law enforcement was actually a family affair.

Her decision to become an MP and later a police officer was influenced by her father, who is a lieutenant with the

**ON THE JOB - Illinois' Sgt. Donna Rowling (right) works a different beat in Panama.**

Chicago Police Department.

During this recent deployment, members of the 233rd worked closely with active component MPs in conducting security checks, walking patrols, neighborhood watches and gate guard.

This time, the most difficult part of her deployment has been the separation from her family.

"The hardest thing for me coming to Panama was knowing that I was going to be away from my 7-month-old daughter for two weeks," she said.

"At home, I know that I am going to see my daughter after eight or nine hours on the job,



Photo by Spc. Marcia M. Beene

but here, the separation is much more difficult."

When Rowling returns home, she plans to continue her education by pursuing a law degree.

"I would like to take advantage of the tuition assistance program to complete my undergraduate work and eventually go on to law school," she said.

# UPHOLDING DEMOCRACY

West Virginia, Ohio and Rhode Island Guardmembers keep Haiti safe

By Capt. Jeffery A. Perry  
Kentucky National Guard

National Guard Special Forces soldiers from West Virginia, Rhode Island and Ohio returned home recently after participating in the United Nations Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti.

Several teams from the Army Guard's 19th Special Forces Group provided a safe and secure environment for free and fair Democratic elections in Haiti.

The Democratic process is a new experience for many Haitians. During election time, the Special Forces teams encountered problems with political groups who tried to physically intimidate voters at the election sites.

"The Special Forces troops have helped to monitor the elections and the imperfections of the election process. The Special Forces units that are here under UN forces have been absolutely essential to our success," said Brig. Gen. Phillip R. Anderson, deputy commander of U.S. Forces, Haiti.

The Guard Special Forces teams served in Haiti for six months. Most of the National Guardmembers had been in country since early June.

"Sacrifice is a big part of the military in any branch, but especially in the Special Forces," said 1st Lt. Richard M. Stewart, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. "Our guys have left their families and jobs behind, put their lives on hold to be here."

The National Guard Special Forces teams are worked alongside soldiers from the active Army's 3rd Special Forces Group from Ft. Bragg, N.C.

"There's really no distinction between the National Guard and active duty Special Forces. We all have the same standards," said Lt. Col. David M. Fridovich, 2-3rd Special Forces Group commander. "I've got National Guard teams out here that rival the best active duty teams."

In addition to providing security and stability during the election process, the Special Forces in Haiti also oversaw several civil affairs projects.

Some of the ongoing projects are repairing roads, building schools and restoring the local fresh water supply.

"Haiti needs a lot of help, and they can't do it on their own. We don't actually do the work; we are just the facilitators and



Photo by SFC Edward Pekovich



Photo by Capt. William Nutter



Photo by Capt. William Nutter

**HAITI DUTY - SFC Don Kenny (far left), an Ohio Special Forces medic, tends to a victim of a bus accident. Rhode Island's SSgt. Douglas O'Donnel (left) talks with a local carpenter. West Virginia's Capt. Frank Vetter (below) discusses voting with an election official.**



Photo by Capt. William Nutter

coordinators for the projects," said SFC Kristopher Andersen, a member of Company A, 2-19th Special Forces Group.

The civil affairs projects are chosen by a community council and given an order of precedence. Each project has a high impact on the community, is easily sustainable, and is completed using local labor.

"The community must choose something they think they need, not something we think they need. That way the Haitians involve themselves in the project. The word is self-reliance, having them work through the problem, develop solu-

tions, and put the right solutions into operation," said Fridovich.

"We've given them a way to better their lives. What they do with it is up to them," Stewart added.

As a whole, the National Guard Special Forces teams are much older than their active duty counterparts.

"What you have are a bunch of older guys, more patient and mature, coming in and assessing the situation, then applying the skills they have from their civilian jobs," Fridovich said.

"We all have civilian jobs at home that teach us the skills necessary to deal with

**ELECTION HELP - SSgt. Edward Gero (above, 2nd from right) and SSgt. Albert Smiley, members of the Ohio Guard's Special Forces detachment, discuss voting activities with a Haitian election official. SSgt. Yves Augustin (2nd from left) serves as an interpreter.**

people," Stewart confirmed.

This breadth of background has served the Special Force troops in many areas, says Andersen.

"We are simply trying to teach the





Photo by Capt. William Nutter

**PEACETALKS** - Rhode Island's Capt. Rick Deasy (above, right) coordinates security for Haiti elections.



Photo by Sgt. Will Blevins

**STOCKED** - West Virginia's SSgt. Dennis McCarthy (above) straightens supplies at his 'medic station.'

Haitian people they don't have to be afraid to come and vote," he said. "As a result, we've developed close relationships and they come to us with all their problems. We've been everything from marriage counselors to policemen for these people."

Fridovich said the National Guard has made a difference in Haiti.

"Voter turnout during the elections has been outstanding, primarily due to our presence," he said. "This is a direct result of National Guard Special Forces participation. We have great support, mission focus and the latitude to make things happen."

The National Guardmembers returned home Oct. 31.



**SHIP OF CARE** - The U.S.S. Sanctuary (left) rests in the Baltimore harbor, Maryland's 1st Lt. Dave Parrish (below) examines a blood sample aboard ship.



Photos by Spc. Cesar Soriano

Maryland Guard medics spend two weeks aboard an old ship to help Baltimore's medically-underserved

## A 'Sanctuary' of HOPE

By Spc. Cesar Soriano  
Maryland National Guard

Nearly 1,000 Maryland Army National Guardmembers helped transform a rusty hospital ship into a free clinic for more than 1,000 homeless and low-income residents in Baltimore.

For two weeks in September, the National Guardmembers provided free routine medical and dental treatment to the adults and children aboard the U.S.S. Sanctuary, which is moored in Baltimore harbor.

"This has been a dream of mine since I first saw the ship," said Brig. Gen. Philip H. Pushkin, commander of the state's Guardcare program and a retired dentist.

Pushkin spent 18 months organizing the project.

The 400-bed, 50-year-old hospital ship was decommissioned in the mid-70s. After treating thousands of wounded soldiers during the Vietnam War, it sat rusting in South Carolina before being purchased by Project Life, an organization that hopes to refurbish the ship and turn it into a self-contained drug rehabilitation center and community health clinic.

The National Guard's two-week experiment proved the feasibility of a permanent, floating clinic aboard the Sanctuary.

Soldiers from the 136th Combat Support Hospital and other units spent their two week annual training period aboard the ship supporting a project called Operation Life.

"This gives us the opportunity to help the community," said Maj. Kevin Schnupp, a pharmacist from Faldon, Md., and a member of the 135th Combat Support Hospital. "Most people only see us when we go to war. This project gives us a little more visibility."

The unusual annual training "actually was a practical use of our talents as opposed to just pitching tents," says 1st Lt. Dave Parrish, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, who ran the immunology lab during Operation Life.

"The folks coming to us are getting first-class treatment from some of the top doctors and technicians in the state for free. It's quite amazing."

At the pier, a steep metal plank leads up to the rusting hull, which is less weathered on the outside than it appears from the dock. Only a small section of the ship has been refurbished to date, but the 522-foot long vessel contains dental, eye, ear, nose and throat clinics, blood and x-ray labs and several kitchens.

A sign in the main recreation area -- now being used as a waiting room -- reads "take my will and my life. Guide me in my recovery. Show me how to live."

National Guard soldiers were assisted by members of the Maryland Defense Force and dental students from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry -- the first time many of them were able to practice what they had learned only in a classroom.

More than 400 men, women and children took advantage of the free medical services in the first six days. The most common request was for dental services. Other services included child immunizations, physical exams, mammograms and health education. Two local hospitals agreed to take in patients who were referred from the Sanctuary.

Word about the free clinic spread quickly through inner city Baltimore. Soldiers hit the streets in HUMVEEs, visiting shelters and disadvantaged neighborhoods, to inform residents of the project. Transportation was even provided to the ship's pier.

Patients filled out questionnaires before departing the ship. Ninety-nine percent rated the service they received as "good" or "excellent."

Pushkin's goal is to make the Sanctuary a routine training ground for medical soldiers, rotating units so the ship is staffed at least one weekend a month by Guardmembers in the medical field.

"I've been able to take my background in public service (30 years) and married it to my military background to make this dream a reality," he said.

"This is the most successful undertaking in the history of the Guardcare program."

## GUARD ABROAD

# Zeroing in on the DRUG PROBLEM

Operation Coronet Nighthawk gives Texas Air Guard pilots chance to help thwart drug traffic in Panama

By Spc. Rick Roth  
Maryland National Guard

**A**n alarm sounds and the two Texas Air National Guard airmen spring into action. Racing across the tarmac the pilots separate and head toward their F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet fighters. Ground crews, anxiously standing by, assist the pilots into their jets. Within moments, the jet fighters are rocketing into the sometimes not-so-friendly skies.

The action during Operation Coronet Nighthawk is serious because the enemy is real. Increasingly, drug traffickers are using air space over the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean to transport their cargo into the United States. Air Guard fighter pilots, on temporary assignment to Panama, aim to stem the flow.

"We rotate units through Panama every six weeks," said an Air National Guard representative at Andrews AFB, Md. "Coronet Nighthawk has been exclusively an Air Guard mission since August 1990."

The interception mission is only one part of a much larger operation.

U.S. Air Force ground-based radar sites located throughout Central and South America monitor the skies for unusual air traffic. When a suspicious aircraft is detected, its location and flight path are forwarded to the command center in Panama. Pilots from an Air Guard interceptor unit on alert are scrambled to identify the aircraft.

Recently, pilots with the Texas Air National Guard's 147th Fighter Group intercepted several suspected airborne drug runners. However, National Guard policy prohibits disclosure of specific numbers.

Information gathered during an intercept mission was forwarded to customs officials in the United States for future tracking and apprehension by law enforcement agencies.

"You get to see a lot of the results that come back," explained an F-16 pilot with the 147th. "It's satisfying to see the



Photo by Spc. Rick Roth

**ALERTED - A Texas Guard pilot (above) climbs into an F-16 cockpit before flying a mission.**

amount of drugs that you were able to prevent getting into the United States."

The unit also ran several practice missions. For training purposes, they used a civilian-contracted Lear jet and crew to simulate a drug-trafficking aircraft. Back in the United States, the Texas Air National Guard unit trains regularly with the same crew.

One Lear pilot, a former member of the 147th, gave the unit high marks.

"We see how the Air Force and Air National Guard are performing on a daily basis," he said. "The 147th performs better against us than any other unit we fly against."

Upon reaching proper altitude, the civilian crew decreased their flight speed to one comparable with a smuggler. Using the F-16's high speeds and excellent maneuverability, the interceptors close in from behind the suspect aircraft and make visual identification without being spotted. Information about aircraft, and distinguishable markings, are radioed back to an operations center.

Air National Guard pilots involved with Coronet Nighthawk were responsible for more than 100 intercepts that resulted in the seizure of an excess of 10 metric tons of illegal drugs, mostly cocaine.

"You have to keep ready (for war) at all times," said one pilot. "If you can provide another role, you're getting double your money's worth."

New Yorkers bring medical care to Central America

## HELPING HONDURAS

By Capt. Lee Elder  
Tennessee National Guard

**A**s the convoy inched its way up the mountain's winding dirt roads, riders knew they were close to their destination after a two-hour trip through often treacherous mountain terrain.

Hondurans, many dressed in their bright colorful Sunday attire, lined the roadway which led to Guajiquiro, located 6,000 feet above sea level. Local officials said many had walked for hours while carrying small children to stand in long lines for a chance to see a physician or a dentist.

They started their trek when they got word that a 28-person team made up of New York Air National Guard airmen and women, Honduran health officials and U.S. Army medical personnel would be travelling to their village.

Visits to Guajiquiro and two other remote Honduran communities were part of a Medical Readiness Training Exercise conducted by Honduran and U.S. personnel under the auspices of the Honduran Ministry of Health.

The citizen-airmen were from the 174th Fighter Wing, based in Syracuse.

During the three-day exercise, team members treated 519 medical patients, 215 dental patients, 19 immunization patients. They also immunized 236 animals.

More than 40 percent of Hondurans live in remote villages like Guajiquiro, according to Dr. Eduardo H. Refes, senior medical liaison officer.

Within 20 minutes of their arrival, medics were ready to go.

Triage, sorting patients out according to the seriousness of their need, was first on the agenda. Pregnant women and sick children were given priority.

With help from villagers, tables and chairs were quickly set up. Back rooms were transformed into instant treatment facilities and a makeshift pharmacy. Two folding chairs turned a porch running along the building's



Photo by Sgt. Ter...

north side into a dental facility. A poncho stretched over a tailgate was used as an animal clinic.

The team treated an array of ailments ranging from colds to headaches to dengue, (a fever carried by sand fleas which afflicts many Hondurans). More serious conditions like eye and heart diseases and cleft palate are referred to follow-up specialty teams for later treatment.

"A girl suffering from cleft palate often has no hope of marriage," explained Capt. Lisa Forsyth, mission officer-in-charge. "Once that is corrected, you're giving her a completely new life."

Citizen-airmen, who made up the bulk of the team, carried out their mission with enthusiasm.

"This is the kind of thing we train for," said TSgt. Barbara Reese, a process administrator in Syracuse at Bristol Meyers-Squibb who served as acting first sergeant for this mission. "We have an incredible amount of professionalism in this unit and we're glad to be getting a training opportunity like this."

The New Yorkers said they were grateful for the chance to put their skills to use in a real-world environment for a worthy cause.

"In my 22 years of service, this is the height of my career," said Capt. Edwin Vera, a nurse practitioner at Syracuse's University Hospital. "This is the most fulfilling duty I've ever done."





**NEEDED CARE** - New York's SSgt. Lawrence E. Brown Jr. (far left photo) prepares a syringe for a vaccination. 1st Lt. Pam Combs (left) gives dental care to a patient. Sgt. Stephanie White (below) gives a horse a shot.

Photo by Sgt. Terry Mann



Photo by Capt. Lee Elder

"People received us so well," he added. "We put a band aid on a big cut, but that was a big service."

According to Retes, U.S. medical assets were "a key player" in helping Honduras reach a long-standing goal of becoming polio-free last year.

"(The Honduran government) really likes this kind of mission," Retes said. "Joint Task Force Bravo has a great reputation in this area."

Its reputation was further enhanced by the recent exercise.

"Everyone was so grateful," said 1st Lt. Vince Calcare, the unit's patient administrator. "One lady went around and blessed us all."

As a civilian, Calcare is a social worker with the New York office of Mental Hygiene at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Utica.

Villagers were also grateful for the treatment given to their animals. Led by U.S. Army Sgt. Stephanie White, a veterinary technician based at Fort Eastis, Va., the veterinary section gave rabies vaccinations to a multitude of horses, mules, cattle and dogs.

"The animals here are in such close contact with the people, if something happened to them it would be a health risk for both animals and people," she said.

White was assisted by citizen-armies, many of whom had never done veterinary work before.

"They said, 'Be flexible,' so here we are," laughed TSgt. Carlene M.

Lund, who normally works as an optometry technician. "I love animals, but I'm a little nervous about giving them shots."

One of the greatest challenges of the operation was vaccinating mules, White said. Owners tied the mules to a tree or telephone pole to restrain the animals, while one of the team members putted the animal on the neck before skillfully inserting the syringe.

White said mules are particularly dangerous because they are very limber and can kick in a variety of directions.

The villagers who were not being treated gathered to watch the team at work. They were particularly attracted to the veterinary section, where they would cheer or jeer an owner like at a rodeo as he tried to subdue his animal for its vaccination.

"This is like a holiday for them," SSgt. L.E. Brown said as he watched White ease a syringe into a puppy dog. "They are here in their Sunday best."

"Some have walked 12 hours to be here," White added. "It's amazing."

When their work was done, the New Yorkers drove back to their home base.

Many of the same Hondurans who saw the team arrive had already started their long walk home. Despite a cold, pouring afternoon rain, many smiled and waved as the trucks rolled past.

## Mississippi medics seek out Belizean people to help

# CARING HANDS

By Sgt. Terry Mann  
U.S. Army Reserve Command

To the passengers riding on an old-yellow school bus that bumped along a red-clay road winding through Belizean swamps featuring gnarled and twisted trees rising above jungle vegetation, the tropical landscape looked more like the entrance to Jurassic Park rather than a gateway to a jewel of Central America.

The road wound south from Belize City toward the Caribbean coastal town of Hopkins like the Mississippi River flows through middle North American swamps and plains toward the delta. To the east of the Belizean road beyond the tree line, barrier reefs and cays dot the turquoise-blue Caribbean Sea.

The isolated beauty of the nearby jungles and unspoiled nature preserves draw travelers and scuba divers from around the world to Belize — home to the second largest barrier reef in the world.

The passengers on this bus, members of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 134th Combat Support Hospital from Jackson, Miss., could only dream of the wonders awaiting in Belize until their next visit. This trip promised to be two weeks of 16-hour workdays in remote areas of Belize's Stann Creek coastal district.

The 35-member team traveled to Belize to conduct a Medical Readiness Training Exercise, or MEDRETE, with Belize public health officials and a medical team from the Belize Defense Forces.

"During these medical excursions, we focus on preventive medicine and primary care. Follow-up treatment and chronic or long-term care is provided by the Belizean Public Ministry," said Capt. Phillip B. Monaghan, 134th Combat Support Hospital.

"To me, the children here benefit the most from these exercises," added Spc. Lisa Kitchens, a medic with the 134th Combat Support Hospital.

Kitchens, who works at a bank in Jackson and is on a waiting-list for nursing school, spent her annual training working with a four-person detachment from the

972nd Dental Detachment, also located in Jackson. The dental clinic treated nearly 1,000 patients during their visit to Belize.

MEDRETEs not only provide the National Guard with unique training environments, they also help newly democratizing countries implement national health plans and improve their infrastructures.

In addition to the planning stage, the medical teams must setup temporary clinics in available schoolhouses or other buildings. If structures are not available, the hospital staff members run the clinics under tent canopies, and in some cases, erect Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals, complete with air-conditioning and outfitted with x-ray equipment and surgical rooms at field locations.

"Deploying and redeploying is what a combat support hospital is all about," said Capt. May Hall, a nurse with the 134th's Headquarters Company, located in Jackson. "I prepared for the worse ... thinking about the heat, the bugs living in an open-air schoolhouse and moving the clinics every three days."

"After being here and completing this mission," she added, "I'm not afraid to go anywhere the Army needs us."

The team visited four villages in the southeast coastal plain of Belize. During their two-week stay, the Mississippi citizen-soldiers treated nearly 2,000 pa-



Photo by Sgt. Terry Mann

**EAR EXAM** - A Belizean youth receives an exam from Col. Horton Taylor.

tients.

At each village, most of the patients were children and their mothers. Their fathers, and other adult males, were unable to visit the medical sites because of work.

However, that did not deter the Mississippi National Guard citizen-soldiers. They sent their school bus to nearby citrus farms and factories during the workers lunch hour and brought them to the medical site. Still not satisfied, the medical teams ensured maximum attendance by keeping the clinics open well past closing for workers who wanted to stop in on their way home.

"I'm a country doctor with a small family practice and I understand the need for everybody to receive medical care, especially primary care," said Col. Horton Taylor.

Taylor, a Ripley resident, volunteers his time at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson as an associate professor. For the past 18 years he has taught family care at his small practice.

"I enjoy practicing medicine back home," he said, "and I feel fortunate to be able to travel to another country and help others ... the world's a better place when you do it."



## SPORTS

- Club Maker
- Black Belt
- Bike Builder

## SPORTS SHORTS

## SERGEANT CLUBS HIS WAY INTO BUSINESS

Florida's MSgt. Dan McGrath, a member of the 125th Fighter Group, built his first set of golf clubs four years ago as a favor to his civilian boss at United Parcel Service. Since then, McGrath has made more than 40 sets of clubs and continues to build and repair golf clubs for friends and associates at his civilian job and in his Guard unit.

"One of the most challenging things I've done is to repair a three-wood that had been run over by an airplane," he said.

## JUDO TRAINER EARNS 6TH DEGREE BELT

California's SSgt. Terrence J. Kelly was recently promoted to 6th Degree Black Belt by the U.S. Judo Association.

Kelly's daughter, Amy Kate Kelly, was also promoted to 3rd degree black belt. She is a former national champion.

The sergeant is the founder of the Sonoma Coast Judo Club and is also the Judo coach for Santa Rosa Junior College. He has trained many national champions and is also an instructor for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department.

Kelly works in food service with the Army Guard's 579th Engineer Battalion in Santa Rosa.

## MARTIN RACES FOR DISABLED

Delaware Army National Guard's Col. Ed Martin and two civilian co-workers have designed and built a recumbent quadracycle and rode it in the Multiple Sclerosis Bike-to-Bay race recently.

The quadracycle uses a combination of bicycle and go-cart gearing which allows all three riders to pedal independently.

To date, the three have raised more than \$35,000 for MS.

## McKenna completes 196-mile run

*Oregonian becomes first woman to finish solo*

By Capt. Mike Allegre  
Oregon National Guard

When world class ultra-marathoner MSgt. Cindie McKenna runs, she is usually alone.

Recently, when the Oregon Air Guardwoman attempted to become the first woman to complete the 196-mile Hood-to-Coast relay race running solo, she drew a throng of media and well wishers.

They, and an iron will, saw her through to the finish line and into the history books.

McKenna left Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood at midnight on Aug. 25, fairly certain she could complete the race. Buoyed by escorts, the 45-year-old was the last person to cross the finish line in Seaside at 4:22 a.m., Aug. 27.

Even at that late hour, many gathered to watch McKenna — a member of the 142nd Maintenance Squadron — record a personal victory in 52 hours, 22 minutes. Her accomplishment nearly overshadowed the annual corporate competition between elite runners from Nike, Adidas and other shoe companies.

"I was tired and my feet were real sore, but I did it," she said.

A volunteer support crew took turns driving and running with McKenna as the senior NCO raced into the cool night air.

As the sun rose and she approached Portland, television crews became aware of her quest. She paused briefly for interviews, and then took off running.

"As the race progressed I found out others had heard of me, too," McKenna said. "People driving by would ask if I was the woman running by herself. I'd nod yes, and they would encourage me to continue on."

"An older lady stopped and got out of her car to thank me for showing that a woman could do this," she added grinning. "That really propels you onward."

Race founder and director Bob Foote told listeners following the race's progress on Portland's KEX radio, "If anyone else would have asked to run this race solo I would have said no, but I know Cindie. If anyone can do it, she can."



Photos by CMSgt. Bryon Frenya

**HISTORY MAKER** - Oregon Air Guard's MSgt. Cindie McKenna (top photo) runs through Portland and completes her 196-mile journey (above) in 52 hours.

McKenna found the going difficult at about 10 hours into the race. CMSgt. Bryon Frenya, a two-time National Guard marathoner and a new Oregon Air Guardmember, ensured she consumed plenty of fluids and food.

She didn't sleep during the 52-hour race.

The journey also caused McKenna to develop stomach problems and to become ill a few times.

That's where the support team came in. She credited TSgt. Mike Burke, a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, for running about 50 miles with her.

"He'd tell me jokes when I was sick and he kept my spirits up," she recalled. "I'd been up for more than 16 hours before I began the race, but I slept a lot afterwards."

Other team members included TSgt. Gunther Nemeth and AIC Dawn Linn.

McKenna is rated as one of the top five ultra-marathon runners in her age group (45-49) in the United States. In 1994, she completed a record seven 100-mile races throughout America in one year. It's an American women's record.

One of those runs included a race from an altitude of 9,000 feet to more than 12,500 feet in less than six miles. In March, she ran the treacherous Alaskan Iditarod sled dog trail in temperatures ranging from 25-above to 25-below zero. Traditionally, ultra-marathoners run on trails and in the wilderness.

"Even though I trained on pavement the constant pounding hurt my feet. I went through four pairs of shoes, mainly to keep the shoe's padding fresh to protect my feet," she said.

On the final leg of the race, McKenna found solace in supporters she did not know. One older man identified her as that "lady runner" and said "she had more damn nerve than most men."

The man, Oregonian Merle Klindt, a Clatsop County search and rescue team member, followed McKenna for several miles. Later, his wife met them on the course with soup and sandwiches.

"We sat on a tailgate and ate -- what nice people," McKenna said. "He followed me 25 miles to the finish line. I was not alone out there."

McKenna's accomplishment caught the eye of Brig. Gen. Bill Doctor, Oregon's Air Guard commander.

"She's a model of perseverance," Doctor beamed. "We all watched the news to see how Cindie was doing throughout the race."

"Nike secured the best runners they could buy," he added, "yet here is a fellow Guardmember who captured everyone's heart with fearless determination."

McKenna is currently planning to run the annual "Race Across America" next June through early-August. The course runs from California to New York.



## The AIR GUARD's LONG RANGE PLAN

### STATE versus FEDERAL

*This is part six of seven articles on the long range plan for the Air National Guard, as shared by Maj. Gen. Donald W. Shepperd, ANG Director.*

**T**he Air National Guard has two distinct, constitutionally-derived missions: State and Federal.

The state mission is to provide trained and equipped units to protect life and property and to preserve peace, order and public safety as directed by the Governor. Air Guard medics, firefighters, and security policemen provide civil authorities a disciplined, trained force.

The federal mission is to man, equip and train flying and support units that augment the Air Force to:

- Support wartime requirements.
- Perform peacetime missions compatible with training requirements and maintenance of mobilization readiness.
- Conduct training in support of Total Force capabilities.

We are a critical part of what has become known as the "Total Force." This policy supports early use of the ANG to supplement active forces in time of war or emergency.

The ANG's success, as a full partner in the Total Force, is derived from the militia system — still in use — that draws people from the heart of our communities to provide volunteers committed to the preservation of American values.

The ANG has some very unique capabilities. First, our 89 flying units and 150 installations are located in communities where their members live, work and govern. We often fly out of civilian airports, and have Guard membership that carries on for generations.

Second, our members work for extended periods in the same organizations. This results in people developing significant skills and job knowledge.

Third, we are very cost-effective. Our part-time nature allows certain tasks to be performed, and military readiness to be maintained, at lower cost than that of a full-time force.

Several Air Guard units test reconnaissance skills with Australian counterparts

## OPERATION DOWNUNDER

By Maj. Ronald W. Glensor  
Nevada National Guard

**U**S. Air Guard and Australian military units joined forces recently to fly reconnaissance missions over Southeast Queensland.

Nearly 200 Air National Guard personnel from Nevada, Colorado, Tennessee and Illinois made their first visit to Australia to participate in a two-week exercise called Operation Downunder '95.

The purpose of the exercise was to test each service's reconnaissance capability, Brig. Gen. Mason Whitney said.

"Downunder '95 provided the Guard with an opportunity to deploy to a locality where, in the event of a future conflict, combat tasking may be required," he added.

The 152nd Tactical Reconnaissance Group, based in Reno, has been almost a sister squadron to Australia's 6 Squadron since experiencing the 152nd's hospitality during an exercise 10 years ago.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity for this professional exchange of ideas and techniques on tactical reconnaissance," said Commodore Ray Perry, welcoming Air Guard units.

During the exercise, 6 Squadron's RF-4s and RF-111s flew tactical reconnaissance missions.



Photos by Teresa Stengrin

**ON FILM** - Nevada's 2nd Lt. Jay Hallenbeck (above, right) reviews film with an Australian comrade. A Nevada RF-4C (right) gets refueled by an Illinois Air National Guard KC-135 over Australia.

Off the Queensland coast, Air Guard pilots matched their skills against Australian pilots flying combat air patrol in F-16s. The Aussies flew F-18 Hornets. The F-16s came from Colorado's 140th Fighter Wing.

KC-135 aircraft from units in Tennessee and Illinois provided air refueling for the RF-4Cs and F-16s.

The RF-4C has been the front-line tactical reconnaissance aircraft in the U.S. inventory for the past 30 years, having served with distinction in both Vietnam and the Gulf War.

"We hope what the people of the Gold Coast hear is the sound of freedom," said Lt. Col. David Casey, a Nevada RF-4C detachment commander.



### 'A GOOD RUSH'

South Carolina Gov. David Beasley got a good look at his forces recently when he flew in the front seat of an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter. The Governor called the flight, "A good rush."



Photo by MSgt. Phillip H. Jones

## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by SrA. Beth Brady  
National Guard Bureau

*Cal Ripken may be the Iron Man of today's baseball, but another Marylander could be called the Iron Wing. Lt. Col. Ron Henry, Chief of Safety for the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Fighter Group based in Baltimore, has logged 4,000 hours in the A-10 Thunderbolt II. This makes Henry the first A-10 pilot in the Air Force -- active, Guard or Reserve -- to reach this milestone. The Lutherville resident flew his first sortie in the A-10 in October 1977. Henry is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and has served in the Air Force 25 years, 16 of which were active duty.*

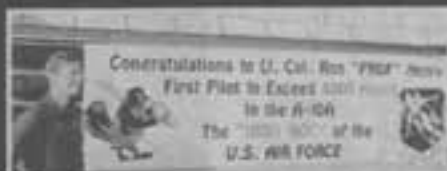
*New York Army Guardsman Sgt. Noel Robledo, a member of the 342nd Forward Support Battalion, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his role in rescuing 15 automobile accident victims last July. Robledo was enroute to Fort Drum, N.Y., for annual training when he witnessed the accident on state highway 104. He credited his 18 years of military experience with helping him to aid victims.*

*Lt. Col. Bennie C. Oulds, Oklahoma Army National Guard, became the first black commander in the history of the Oklahoma National Guard. Oulds assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry, headquartered in Tulsa, Okla. He enlisted in the Oklahoma Guard in 1968 and received his commission from the Guard's Officer Candidate School in 1972.*

*Fifty-eight Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program corpsmembers graduated from the program recently at the Leeward Community College. Though Class 95-2 was the second class to graduate, it's the first class to graduate from the program at Barbers Point Naval Air Station.*

*In August 1955, Phillip Allen Pedersen entered the Illinois National Guard's 131st Infantry, 33rd Division, and also, unknowingly, began a family tradition. In 1984, his son, Phillip Allen Pedersen II, enlisted in the 126th Air Refueling Wing in the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Eleven years later, his younger brother, Michael Eric Pedersen, also enlisted in the 126th ARW, but decided to go into the supply division. And, just last August, the youngest of the three boys, 18-year-old Patrick Andrew Pedersen, departed for basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, to enter the computer specialist field.*

*Members of the Hmong Community in East St. Paul, Minn., will soon be planting a winter crop in a new community garden provided by the Minnesota National Guard and a variety of businesses and community organizations. The District 2 Community Council will lease the land from the National Guard for \$1 a year, said SFC Dennis Saxton, support services specialist at the center. More than 30 families have applied for a garden site so far on the newly obtained land, said Tim Dornfield, a District 2 representative. Gardeners from the Hmong community will plant a winter crop to hold soil, help compaction and add nitrogen when it is tilled in the spring, said Dorothy Johnson, Minnesota State Horticultural Society.*



Frequent flier, Lt. Col. Ron Henry.



Lifesaver, Sgt. Noel Robledo.



TSgt. Mark Wilson (above, left) and SSgt. Andy Burnett visit George Seidel in hospital.



Sgt. Owen Farmer (far left) and SPC. Carlton Kellam, top Stinger shots.

*When George Seidel, a civil service employee at the 125th Fighter Group (Florida Air National Guard), collapsed at work, TSgt. Mark Wilson and SSgt. Andy Burnett immediately began putting their Air Force CPR training to good use with the help of SSgt. Phil McLaughlin. The two certified sergeants continued cardiopulmonary resuscitation treatment until emergency medical technicians could arrive. Both EMTs cited the training and quick action by Wilson, Burnett and McLaughlin with saving Seidel's life.*

*Sgt. Owen Farmer, team chief, and SPC. Carlton Kellam, gunner, both members of the Pennsylvania Army Guard's Battery D, 1st Battalion, 213th Air Defense Artillery, recently graduated at the top of their Stinger Manpads 16S MOS course at the Pennsylvania Military Academy. During the course, the team achieved the best battle drill and crew drill times, 100 percent visual aircraft recognition and 100 percent on the final course exam. The two were presented with a 28th Infantry Division plaque and a division coin. Also, the team was allowed to fire a live stinger missile at Fort Drum, N.Y., where they scored a direct kill.*

*Early on a September morning, Alaska Army National Guard recruiters gave wake-up calls to 40 new members who are preparing to leave for basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. The group, called the "buddy platoon," will go through military training together, which includes basic soldiering. They then will move to the infantry school where they will learn the skills that will qualify them to become Alaskan Guard scouts. Upon their return in December, the soldiers will be working together in their scout units.*

*SSgt. Maurice L. Agard, Sgt. Harry H. Poon, SPC. Andre S. Toomer and PFC Thomas L. Ferramosca became a Distinguished M-1 tank crew. They're members of New York's Company A, 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry, 42nd Division, commanded by Capt. Michael T. Mallin and 1st Sgt. Richard T. Abbate. They fired a total score of 918 on Table VIII at Fort Drum, N.Y. This was the second highest score fired by an active or National Guard tank crew. The crew was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the state Adjutant General's coin.*

*SGM Janet S. Salotti is the first woman in the Virginia Army National Guard and the 29th Infantry Division to reach E-9. She is the personnel sergeant major for the 29th Infantry Division's G-1, headquartered at Ft. Belvoir, Va.*

*The 185th Fighter Group in Sioux City, Iowa, has joined the war against drugs. The unit has a miniature, scaled-down version of the unit's previous jet, an A-7D Corsair II, painted with the slogan, "Fly High Without Drugs." Volunteers in the unit give rides to students in the small plane. The 185th has worked closely with the Sioux City Police and Sheriff's office in their drug awareness programs. The airplane program has reached about 12 schools in a 50-mile radius.*



Florida, Georgia Guard join forces to track and shoot down enemy

# BREEZING PALMETTOS

By 1st Lt. John Daigle Jr.  
Florida National Guard

The skies over Northeast Florida became the stage of a major air base recently when members of the Florida and Georgia National Guard, and the active duty Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, took part in an unprecedented multi-service Air Defense Artillery (ADA) exercise called Breezing Palmettos '95.

The training included mock air attacks, as Georgia and Florida Guardmembers directed Chaparral and Hawk missile batteries at Camp Blanding National Guard Training Site. Their mission was to defend the Florida peninsula against planes and helicopters from active duty units simulating an invasion from the north.

A Georgia Air National Guard airspace control squadron and Air Defense Artillery units of the Florida National Guard on annual active duty training were pitted against U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers, U.S. Marine Corps FA-18 fighter jets, U.S. Navy S-3 Viking jets, Navy Seahawk helicopters and Florida Air National Guard OH-58 Kiowa and AH-64 Apache attack helicopters.

This first-of-its-kind exercise was designed to test the abilities of the Army and Air National Guard units to work together in managing an air war.

"All these units have trained to do this mission," said Maj. Tim Sullivan, Florida's 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade assistant operations officer. "But this is the first time we've had the chance to bring them all together and see how well they do against live air attacks."

The Florida and Georgia National Guard units worked together to track target aircraft on radar. As the planes and helicopters closed in on targets at Camp Blanding, Guard air battle managers co-

ordinated with ground missile batteries to track and simulate shooting down the attacking aircraft.

The exercise was a tremendous example of coordination and interoperability between services, said Brig. Gen. John Bridges, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander.

"The crucial aspect of this battle-focused training was the teamwork between the Florida Army National Guard units and the Georgia Air National Guard unit," Bridges said. "It's important because we structured this exercise to exactly replicate the type of interface that would be required in a modern-day combat scenario."

"This was exactly what we're supposed to be able to do, and we did it well," the general added, "but the success of the exercise is not as important as the training experience."

Georgia's 117th Airspace Control Squadron played a crucial role in the exercise. The unit employed newly-fielded, state-of-the-art TPS-75 radar aircraft tracking equipment to identify and track live aircraft within a 200-mile radius of Camp Blanding. They then relayed that information to Florida Guard Air Defense Artillery units with missile batteries in the field.

"This is kind of a shake-down cruise for us on this new equipment," said Lt. Col. Vernon Martin, 117th ACS commander. "It's a great opportunity for us to see how this will work in a combat situation when we have to communicate with various active and reserve forces units."

Chaparral and Hawk units in the field at the 70,000-acre Camp Blanding were able to

pick up the aircraft from the 117th via the 164th ADA Brigade's tactical operations center.

"The live tracks made it incredibly realistic," said SSgt. Ray Hewitt, a 164th crew chief. "They used unpredictable avenues of approach and forced us to get things done on much tighter time schedules."

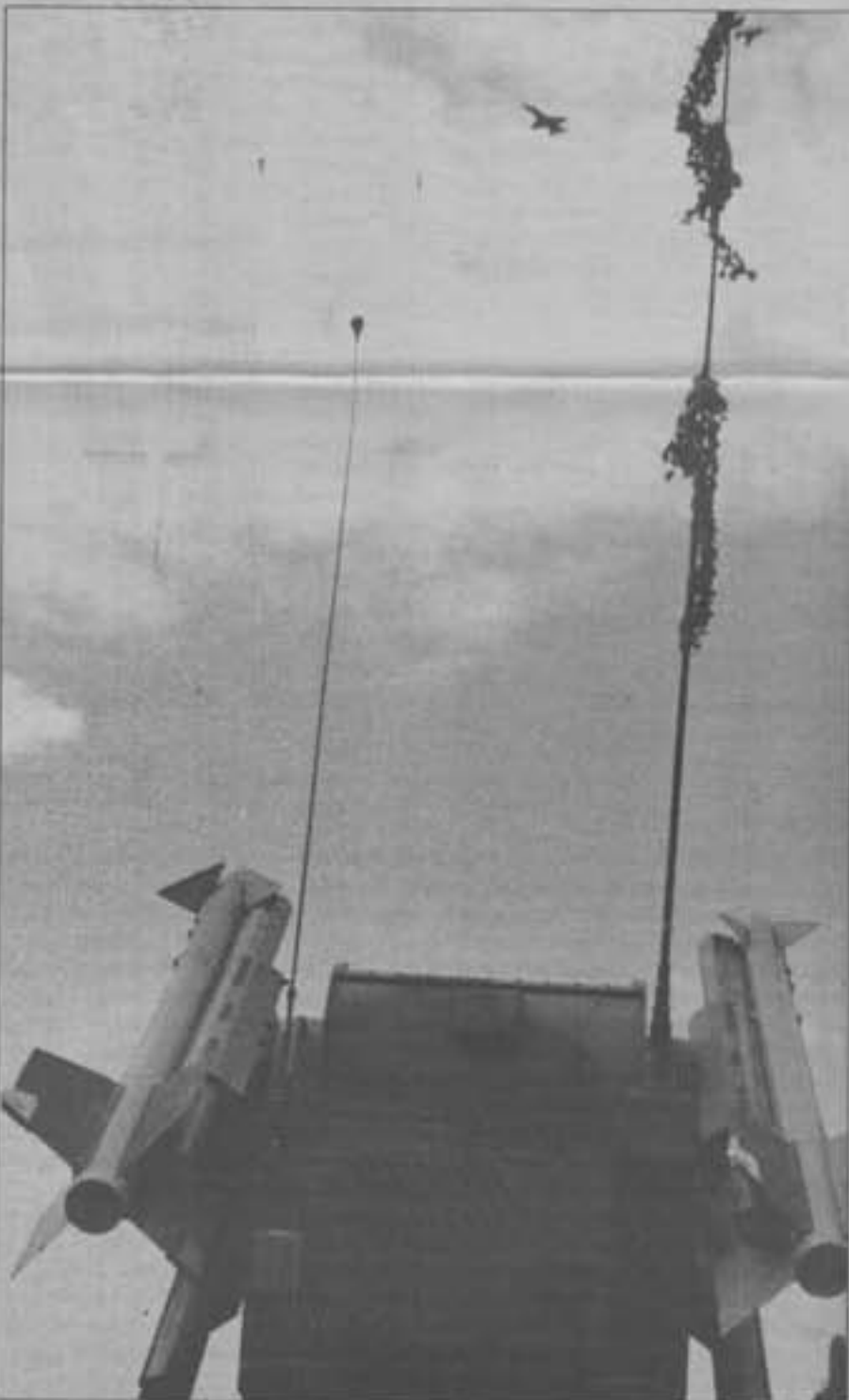
The exercise allowed many units to break new ground in combat readiness and, with help from the Florida National Guard's 53rd Signal Brigade, test new communication technologies.

"This has been an extremely valuable exercise for the crew," Hewitt added. "We have gotten to work directly with the ACS -- something we had not done before. We also laid fiber optical communication links with the ACS for the first time."

More than 1,000 Guardsmen and women from units around Florida and Georgia participated in the exercise.



**PALMETTO PUNCH** - Members of Florida's 3rd Battalion, 265th ADA (above) roll into position. A Missile prepares to launch (below) as an enemy aircraft comes into view.



Photos by 1st Lt. John Daigle Jr.

**TRACKING** - Florida's SSgt. Ray Hewitt (above, left) instructs Spc. Lloyd Cook as he tracks an enemy aircraft.



# STATES

- Dual Mission
- Final Flight
- Hispanic Day

## IDAHO

Idaho's 124th Fighter Group will trade in its high-flying supersonic F-4G wild weasel fighter jets for a squadron of A-10 Thunderbolt II attack jets and four C-130 Hercules transports.

Under-Secretary of the Air Force Rudy DeLeon announced the change in aircraft and dual missions at a press conference last month at Gowen Field, home of the 124th.

## MINNESOTA

The Army National Guard's 34th Infantry Division Artillery conducted one of the largest single fieldings ever of the Army's Initial Fire Support Automation System at Camp Ripley.

IFSAS is a local area network of computers that uses a secure, digital FM radio signal to communicate and coordinate targeting information and orders to each of a field artillery unit's various elements.

## GEORGIA

Thirty-three Georgia pilots completed their flying careers in F-15s in August as the 116th Fighter Wing drew down its allotted flying time. Collectively, the fighter pilots represented more than 48,000 flying hours in the Eagle.

The final flights of the Georgia Eagle pilots also brought to a close a 22-year fighter era for the 116th which will be converting to the B-1 Bomber in early 1996.

## WISCONSIN MEMORIAL

The National Native American Vietnam Veterans Memorial sculpture was dedicated recently in Neillsville, Wis. The 6-foot-6-inch bronze statue was designed by World War II veteran Harry Whitehorse. It depicts a Native-American in jungle fatigues, carrying a rifle in one hand and an eagle's feather staff in the other.



Photo by Larry Sommers

## MASSACHUSETTS

Members of the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight flew to Kangerdluarssuk, Greenland, recently to help dispose of about 150 jet-assisted-take-off rockets. The JATOS destroyed were old and unsafe. EOD also detonated various other explosive ordnance that could no longer be used.

The deployment was supported by the New York Air Guard's 109th Airlift Group from Scotia, which flies ski-equipped C-130s. The skis allow the aircraft to take-off and land on ice and snow.

Lt. Col. Paul Brogna, commander of the 102nd CES, said EOD has been very busy since coming under his command in January 1994, and they have been doing an excellent job.

## TEXAS

Military and civilian employees of the Texas Army and Air National Guard recently celebrated Hispanic heritage and culture during National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Maj. Gen. Sam C. Turk, The Adjutant General of Texas, addressed a crowd of about 300 people. He emphasized that Hispanics have greatly contributed to our freedom and the Texas Guard is a much better and stronger agency because of their work.

"We should be proud of the Hispanic influence in our day-to-day lives," the general said.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Fifty-eight students received their high school equivalency degrees following a grueling 22 weeks of studies conducted in a military structure at the Tarheel Challenge Academy.

The program, run by North Carolina Guardmembers, is unique in that it consists entirely of high school drop outs who must meet rigid moral, mental and physical requirements to be accepted.

In 1989, Congress commissioned the Center for Strategic and International Studies to research the feasibility of military oriented youth camps for high school drop outs. The Center concluded that the National Guard, with its traditional military training and service to the community, was best suited to carry out "Operation Youth Challenge." North Carolina was selected for the test program, and thus the Tarheel Challenge Youth Program was born.

The program has two phases; a 22 week in-resident phase and a post-resident phase of 12 months.

During the in-residence phase, the cadets are on-site 24-hours-per-day, seven-days-a-week. During this time, they learn discipline and teamwork through military structure. They learn life-coping skills, including leadership, team building, work ethics, physical fitness, respect and fiscal responsibility.

In addition, a major part of the curriculum provides students the opportunity to receive General Equivalency Diploma training and testing. The goal of all students is to receive their GED, and if possible, adult education training. Upon graduation, cadets can receive up to \$2,200 for additional education or job training.

The first class of the academy graduated 48 young North Carolinians. Presently, 45 of these class members are either working or continuing their education or both. Also, while no effort is made to recruit the cadets into the North Carolina Air or Army National Guards, six of the first class have joined.



Photo courtesy of the North Carolina National Guard

**GRADUATES** - Students (above) of the graduating Tarheel Challenge assemble in caps and gowns.





# HISTORY

Texas regiments trade in spurs and horses for rifles and infantry mission

## Doing BATTLE on HORSEBACK

By Lt. Col. Leonid Kondratiuk  
National Guard Bureau Historian

During the summer of 1942 it seemed to the men of the 56th Cavalry Brigade that they would never get into World War II. The 56th was a Texas National Guard horse cavalry unit made up of the 112th and 124th Cavalry Regiments. They had been patrolling the border of Mexico since the fall of 1940. The troopers of the 56th thought they were destined to sit out the war on the border, just as the Texas Cavalry Brigade did in WWI.

While the rest of the cavalry was being mechanized, the troopers of the 112th and 124th continued to ride their horses along the Mexican border. However, in July 1942 the 112th Cavalry, originally from Dallas, Mineral Wells, Tyler, Texarkana and Abilene, received orders to deploy to the Pacific Theater. The 112th left its horses at Fort Clark, Texas, with the understanding that it would draw remounts at its destination.

The 112th arrived on the French island of New Caledonia where it was the only combat unit assigned to the island's defense. The regiment was issued Australian horses which had to be broken before they could be ridden. For nine months, the 112th Cavalry trained hard as mounted infantrymen. Their mission was to perform reconnaissance on horseback, dismount and then fight as infantry. However, as the threat of Japanese invasion lessened in 1943, the 112th was dismounted and, along with Idaho's 148th Field Artillery Battalion, was assigned to the 112th Cavalry Regimental Combat Team. Before shipping out to Australia, the Texans turned in their breeches, boots, spurs, campaign hats and horses.

The 112th officially remained a cavalry regiment, although assigned an infantry mission. However, its authorized strength was 1,550, half of what an infantry regiment was authorized. The cavalry organization created problems for the 112th; the regiment was often assigned missions typical for a 3,000-man infantry regi-

ment. Often at low strength due to sickness and casualties, the 112th was always undermanned.

Jesse D. Stallings, who joined the regiment in 1929 and served as a captain, stated that the morale and unit cohesion was high. "We were proud to be in the 112th," he said. Most Guardsmen had served in the 112th an average of five to six years.

The 112th Cavalry was assigned its first combat operation in July 1943 when it occupied Woodlark Island. Six months later, the 112th saw its first heavy combat on New Britain. The 112th was in combat, nearly every day, from December 1943 until August 1945.

"We were always in contact, it was constant fighting and, in the jungles, it was hand-to-hand," Stallings remembered.

It was in the summer of 1944 that the 112th saw some of its most difficult fighting.

The U.S. fight to take the island of New Guinea from the Japanese was one of the most difficult campaigns in U.S. military history. The 32d Infantry Division of the Michigan and Wisconsin National Guard began the campaign in the fall of 1942. The 112th Cavalry fought alongside the 32d during the next phase of the campaign which was the invasion of Northern New Guinea.



Photo courtesy NGB Historical Services

From late June to early August 1944, the 112th Cavalry participated in a covering forces operation along the Drinimor River. For six weeks, the 112th outfought a larger Japanese force that attempted to outflank them. The fighting was virtually non-stop as the 112th held off determined Japanese attacks. The dense jungle resulted in small unit actions that were sharp, intense and close-up. Despite an enemy breakthrough, the 112th counter-attacked and broke the Japanese attack.

But the victory did not come easy, over 25 percent of the regiment became casualties. Two 112th soldiers, Lieutenants George Boyce and Dale Christensen, were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroism.

After the New Guinea campaign, the 112th shipped out to the Philippines and took part in the Leyte and Luzon campaigns. The 112th was often attached to another famous cavalry unit, the 1st Cavalry Division, which also fought as infantry.

Because the 112th was considered a crack outfit, it was assigned to take part in the invasion of Japan. Troop G was assigned to guard Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters. The war ended for the 112th on Sept. 2, 1945, when it landed in Japan.

The 124th Cavalry finally received its overseas orders in July 1944. By then it was the last horse cavalry regiment in the U.S. Army. Leaving its horses at Fort Riley, Kan., the 124th arrived in India in August 1944, where it held its last review as a dismounted cavalry regiment. Like its sister regiment, 124th troopers turned in their boots and spurs and began training to fight in the jungles of Burma.

For years, Allied armies from Great Britain, India, China and the U.S. had attempted to retake Burma. By the fall of 1944 victory was in sight. The 124th was assigned to the Mars Task Force along with the U.S. 475th Infantry Regiment (today designated as the 75th Ranger Regiment) and China's 1st Infantry Regiment. Their mission was to conduct a long-range penetration into Burma in an effort to hit the enemy rear and cut off its supply route. But first, the 124th Cavalry had to make a killing 300 mile march over mountainous jungles.

The 124th had left their horses in Kansas, but were issued mules. The march was difficult. Aside from the terrain, the 124th fought both mosquitoes and the Japanese.

Linking up with the 475th Infantry in December 1944, the 124th Cavalry attacked the Japanese and remained in combat until February 1945. The fighting was bitter. 1st Lt. Jack Knight, commander of Troop F, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the only one awarded in the China-Burma Theater. But the mission of the Mars Task Force was achieved with a strategic victory when the Japanese were forced to withdraw and the Allies began using the Burma Road. While the 124th Cavalry's combat operations were brief when compared to the 112th, it was no less difficult.

The saga of the Texas Cavalry in World War II is not well known, yet the record of the 112th and 124th Cavalry Regiments is a proud one. Their service began as a horse cavalry and ended as infantry. It is an irony that a National Guard unit was the last horse cavalry regiment. The history of the U.S. Cavalry began in the 1630s when the Massachusetts militia organized its first mounted unit. The 112th and 124th continue their service as armor units in the Texas Army Guard. The 112th Armored Regiment, the largest armored regiment in the world with six battalions, is assigned to the 49th "Lone Star" Armored Division as is the 1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry.

**ON THE ROAD** - Members of Texas National Guard's (above) 1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry carry rations to the front line.



# TRAINING

300 Big Island Hawaii infantrymen train in Oregon

## Unfamiliar TURF

By Spc. Jonathan Shiroma  
Hawaii National Guard

The cool atmosphere of the Pacific Northwest provided the backdrop for annual training for more than 300 Big Island Hawaii Army National Guard soldiers.

These soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, 29th Infantry Brigade deployed to Camp Rilea, Ore., for 15 days recently.

"This year I wanted to emphasize platoon-level training," said Maj. Melvin S. Tamaye, 2-299th commander. "Our mission was to maximize this time to learn our roles in a tactical scenario as an enhanced readiness brigade."

Hawaii's 29th Infantry was chosen last year as one of the 15 elite enhanced readiness brigades within the National Guard. This distinction means that island citizen-soldiers must be able to deploy anywhere in the world within 90 days should they be activated into federal duty.

To help in platoon-level training, this year's annual training focused on lanes training.

"The soldiers are given a collective task, meaning they're assigned one task and continue doing this for an assigned period of time," said Capt. Darryl K. Lindsey, a signal officer.

According to Lindsey, a meat inspector for the state in civilian life, the tasks involved in the training lanes included performing a hasty ambush, executing an assault and knocking out a bunker.

"What lanes training provides is repetition," he said. "This helps our soldiers learn from their mistakes and improve as they continue in their training."

Soldiers agreed.

"I think this type of training helps boost our level of confidence in what we are doing as infantry soldiers," said SSgt. Joseph K. Delaries.

"This type of training is a new experience for me," added Spc. Josue Agustin. "Since I've never trained like this before, I find this set-up very refreshing."

Another factor these soldiers were con-



Photos by SSgt. Stephen Lum

**IN THE WOODS** - PFC David Guyer (below) takes aim at a target. Spc. Jesus Delmar (far left photo) discusses a medical emergency with Maj. Martha St. Louis. Spc. Terry Murray (left) and PFC Roberto Segobia keep a watchful eye from a foxhole.



tending with in this year's training was the change of venue. Most ATs are conducted at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island or on Oahu's Schofield Barracks' East Range.

"Most of our soldiers know the Hawaii training sites like the back of their hands," said Lindsey. "In order for them to be ready for a deployment, these soldiers need to know how to perform tactically in an unknown area, and that's why an AT away from Hawaii, such as Camp Rilea, is so important."

Located near the Washington-Oregon border, Camp Rilea is just a few miles away from the maritime town of Astoria.

Astoria's claim to fame includes housing the largest U.S. Coast Guard base between Seattle and San Francisco. The Arnold Schwarzenegger movie, *Kindergarten Cop*, was also filmed there.

While the temperatures in the region are similar to that on Hawaii, the terrain is much different. Absent are the various landmarks, island shrubbery, lava rocks and feral pigs. Instead, Camp Rilea is made up of pine tree forests, soft sand and mossy ground with deer grazing in surrounding timberline.

"I think just by being here helps motivate our soldiers since it's something different," said Capt. Victor K. Regidor,

Company C commander.

In looking over his troops, Tamaye echoes Regidor's comments.

"Our soldiers have responded well to the training," he said. "They're focused, communicating well and have formed a cohesiveness that I'm pleased with."

Tamaye is also quick to point out that a lot of work lies ahead as the battalion continues to evolve into an enhanced brigade.

"As of October 1st, this designation will require us to be prepared at a much higher level," Tamaye said. "But based on what I'm seeing, I'm confident we will be able to accomplish this."