



# THE ON GUARD

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June 1994

## Baca selected to run Guard Bureau

*New Mexico Adjutant General nominated by President Clinton*

By Lt. Col. David Super  
National Guard Bureau

Career National Guardsman Maj. Gen. Edward D. Baca has been nominated by President William Clinton to be the new Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Baca, 55, the Adjutant General of New Mexico, was nominated May 3. He succeeds Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, who retired last November. During the interim, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees has served as Acting Chief.

Baca has been the Adjutant General of his home state since 1983, where he directed a major modernization of air defense artillery units and conversion of the Air Guard from A-7s to F-16s. He spearheaded a rebuilding program of armories and dramatically increased the National Guard's involvement in community support, including development of an award-winning, community-based drug prevention campaign that has served as a pilot program for other states.

In 1991, New Mexico was honored as the overall Air Force winner of the first Department of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award. The award recognized the state's comprehensive campaign to identify armories as community centers and spread drug awareness programs throughout the civilian population in New Mexico.

As a military technician, Baca has served in a variety of military staff positions at the battalion, brigade and state

levels. He has wide experience in personnel, administration, supply, maintenance, logistics, comptroller and operations functions. Before being named Adjutant General in 1983, he served as chief of staff of the New Mexico Army National Guard.

The nominee joined the National Guard in 1956, and rose to the rank of staff sergeant while serving in various assignments. He was commissioned in the Ordnance Corps following graduation from the New Mexico Military Academy in 1961. As a lieutenant, Baca volunteered for active duty in 1964 and was assigned as a maintenance shop officer with the 85th Ordnance Company in Tan

Son Nhut AB and Long Binh, Vietnam. He was released from active duty in 1966, and returned to his military technician career.

In addition to his military duties, Baca is a member of the Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness. An avid runner, Baca has a

personal best marathon (26.2 miles) time of 3:10.

The General is also a member of the board of directors of the New Mexico Red Ribbon Campaign, the steering board of the Taos Partnership Against Drugs and Alcohol, the New Mexico National Guard Officers' Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars and honorary member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

A native of Santa Fe, Baca is the first Hispanic to be named Chief. He and his wife Rita have seven children and five grandchildren. Two daughters are in the Air Guard and one son in the Army Guard. Another son recently completed active duty with the 82nd Airborne Division.



Maj. Gen. Baca



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

## D-DAY INVASION

Fifty years ago this month, Army Guardmembers with the 29th Infantry Division -- units from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. -- stormed Omaha Beach in Normandy, France June 6, 1944. See related stories on Pages 14-15.

**DRUG USE  
IS  
LIFE ABUSE**



# COMMENTARY

## COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

• As of May 11, 2,812 Army National Guard and 783 Air National Guard personnel were on counterdrug support duty in all 54 states and territories.

• As of May 11, the total value of cash and drugs seized by police this fiscal year, with National Guard's assistance, is \$3,305 billion.

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## LETTERS

### SOUND ENVIRONMENT

"I was impressed with the breakdown of the environmental issues (March edition) that face the Air National Guard. With the Total Force policy being implemented, the Reserve components no longer take a back seat in the environmental, safety and health areas. With people leading the way like Lt. Col. Mike Washeleski (acting chief of the Air Guard's environmental program) we can't go wrong. Not only was he credible (in his interview), but he is also receptive to new ideas for the betterment of the next generation.

Great job in not only presenting the facts, but allowing the reader to think through the environmental complexities that surround today's working conditions.

With 13 years in environmentally related fields, it is great to see the teamwork approach still being personified with leadership from professionals like Lt. Col. Washeleski.

Thanks for a timely article on a very important subject."

TSgt. Jan M. Brown Jr.  
New York National Guard

### MADE AN ACCIDENT

"In the May 1994 issue commentary titled 'Accident prevention that works,' there were two errors. Firstly, I'm a member of the Washington D.C. National Guard (not Maryland, as reported). Secondly, the DSN number for Lt. Col. Richard Groben -- the Accident Prevention Paradigm Workshop creator -- has

been changed to 924-6947."

CMSgt. Michael M. Cavey  
Washington D.C. National Guard

### WRONGLY 'STATED'

"While reading the April 1994 issue, I noticed a small error on Page 4. The article titled 'New jet takes off at McEntire' contain a box titled 'Recent F-16 conversions.' Within that box it stated that the 178th Fighter Group is in Springfield, Ill. It is actually located in Springfield, Ohio.

However minor this error may be, I thought it would set the record straight.

Also, the 178th was the last unit in the U.S. Armed Forces to fly the A-7.

I really enjoy reading *The On Guard*; it's packed full of good information and is always full of 'good news.' Keep up the good work."

SSgt. Gregory T. Rush  
Ohio National Guard

### KENTUCKY 'MASH'

"I recently picked up the April *The On Guard* and saw the story titled 'Treating Guatemala.' I wanted to compliment the members of the Connecticut Army Guard's Public Affairs Detachment who came to Panama and focused on our medical team (475th MASH) for three days.

I also wanted to thank the editor of *The On Guard* for focusing on the humanitarian assistance effort in Guatemala.

Your coverage of our unit made our members proud to be a part of the National Guard.

*The On Guard* also offers National Guardmembers a way to stay in touch with others. A year ago, you ran a story and photo about a soldier I formerly served

with in the New Jersey National Guard. It was nice to reacquaint myself with him through the paper, and to see that he was credited with saving a life."

Capt. Thomas P. Ayers III  
Kentucky National Guard

### FREE TUITION

"Contrary to an article recently published concerning the enactment of a free tuition bill by the Alabama state legislature, Alabama and Louisiana are not the only states that offer free tuition.

Largely due to the effort of the National Guard Association of Illinois, spearheaded by Col. (retired) Marvin Allesee and the late CWO4 (retired) "Hap" Day, a free tuition program has been enjoyed by Illinois Guardmembers since July 1976. This, to my knowledge, was the first program of its kind in the nation.

According to the 1993 National Guard Almanac, similar free tuition programs are also offered to Guardmembers in Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts and West Virginia."

Capt. James E. Franke  
Illinois National Guard

*The On Guard* is always looking for Letters to the Editor. If you have read something in our paper, or would like to comment on a subject relating to the National Guard, this page is your format. All letters will be subject to editing for style and space considerations. FAX your letters to DSN 289-5795 or (703) 756-5795. If you want to mail it, write to: NGB-PAC, 2500 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20301-2500. Any questions can be directed to our editor, TSgt. John Malthaner, at DSN 289-5785.

## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar





# IN THE NEWS

- World Cup
- Rees heads home
- Female first

## Wisconsin explosion mystery solved

*Investigators reveal that no human error was involved*

By 2nd Lt. Scott Walters  
Wisconsin National Guard

The cause of the KC-135R accident was a faulty electric fuel pump located in the center wing fuel tank of the plane." With that announcement, Col. Gene Schmitz, Wisconsin Air Guard's 128th Air Refueling Group commander, brought to a close one of the most painful chapters in that unit's history.

Schmitz shared the long-awaited aircraft accident report's findings (the mishap took place Dec. 10, 1993) with the news media in April after the families of the six victims were briefed in person.

"Wiring within the fuel pump housing arced at or near the upper

most vent hole. This arcing caused the vent hole to enlarge," Schmitz reported. "As a result, molten copper from the arcing wire was transferred through the vent hole into the tank's fuel vapor area, causing the initial explosion and resulting fire."

Killed in the explosion were: MSgt. James R. Schlicht, MSgt. Roy A. Starszak, TSgt. Michael E. Heath, TSgt. James G. Russell, TSgt. Russell H. Shurr and SSgt. Patrick C. Foran.

According to the commander, short-term and long-term corrective actions have been ordered so this type of accident never happens again. The short-term fix is to ensure that all 10 of the fuel pumps located throughout the KC-135R remain submerged at all times. The long-term fix concerns certain procedures with the aircraft's technical orders.

"You need to be confident," Schmitz told reporters, "that we are starting a program to examine all the pumps on all our airplanes. That

process is occurring."

Investigating officers also concluded there was no human error leading to the explosion.

Schmitz emphasized that all maintenance procedures were followed to the letter prior to the mishap. His claim was backed by the accident report, which said, "these procedures were, and are consistent with those used by all tanker units in the Air National Guard, Air Mobility Command and the U.S. Air Force. There was no supervisory or employee error committed by anyone associated with this explosion. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first incident involving this particular type of electric fuel pump."

Although Schmitz said the six people killed in the explosion will never be forgotten, he added that it was time members of the unit put the accident behind them.

"Personally, I am glad this part of the healing process is over and I am glad that there was no human error on the part of any member of the 128th," he said. "Part of the pain of this tragedy was not knowing the circumstances in which the accident occurred. However, finally pinpointing the definite cause will now enable the unit to return to normal."

**EXPLOSION - Investigators say the 1993 mishap was caused by a faulty fuel pump.**



Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin National Guard

## Guard helps kick off World Cup

This summer the world is coming to America, and the National Guard is helping to make sure that we are gracious hosts.

The event is the 1994 World Cup soccer tournament, the most anticipated and watched sports spectacle on the planet. Beginning June 17 in Chicago, 24 national teams will play 52 games in nine cities to determine soccer's world champion for the next four years. Tournament organizers expect the championship match July 17 in Pasadena to draw a worldwide television audience of more than 2 billion people.

"Getting ready for World Cup is similar to organizing 52 separate Super Bowls," said John Griffin, World Cup USA's senior press officer. "It has taken a great team effort by many organizations all over the country. The National Guard has been there every step of the way, and we wouldn't be able to do many of the things we are doing without their help."

By the time four F-16 fighters from the Illinois Air National Guard's 182nd Fighter Group fly by Soldier

Field July 17, during the opening ceremonies, Guardmembers from several states will have logged thousands of hours helping organizers prepare.

In states from Massachusetts to California and the District of Columbia, Guard officials have worked with local, state and federal authorities to develop security and crowd-control plans.

In Utah, hundreds of miles from the nearest tournament venue, 25 Air and Army Guard linguists evaluated more than 800 audition tapes in 15 languages from prospective World Cup volunteer interpreters.

Guard units have also provided supply personnel, drivers, armory space, portable lights and generators and crowd-control equipment.

During the tournament, scheduled Guard World Cup support includes six ceremonial fly-bys by Air Guard flying units and more than 250 hours of observation, transport and MEDEVAC support by Army aviators from six states. In addition, Army Guard bands from California and Massachusetts will perform at games.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### REES TAKES OREGON TAG JOB

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, acting chief National Guard Bureau, will return home to Oregon to fill the recently vacated Adjutant General's position.

Before coming to the Bureau, Rees had held the Oregon TAG post from 1987 to mid-1991. He will take over the 9,000-person Beaver State militia this summer.

### PARKER BECOMES GUARD'S FIRST FEMALE FIGHTER PILOT

Maj. Jackie Parker became the Air National Guard's first female combat pilot when she graduated from F-16C pilot training April 20 at McConnell AFB, Kan.



Maj. Parker

Parker, 33, was also the first woman test pilot in the active duty Air Force.

She serves with the 174th Fighter Group at Hancock Field in Syracuse, N.Y.

### SMOKING BANNED IN DOD

Effective April 8 all uniformed and civilian personnel working in Department of Defense-owned or rented offices are prohibited from smoking. The definition of workplace includes tanks, helicopters and airplanes. The ban also applies to visitors.

According to a worldwide survey, 37 percent of soldiers, 37 percent of sailors, 29 percent of Air Force personnel and 39 percent of Marines smoke.

### QUAKE HELPERS RECOGNIZED

Those individuals who participated directly in providing assistance for the 1994 Earthquake Relief Operation in California are now eligible for the Humanitarian Service Medal.

### CIVILIAN CLOTHES APPROVED ON AIR FORCE FLIGHTS

Guardmembers may now wear civilian clothing when travelling aboard an Air Force aircraft regardless of duty status or destination. Those choosing to wear civilian attire must ensure that it is neat, clean and warm enough.

Examples of inappropriate clothing include ripped, torn, frayed or patched clothing; tank tops, shorts, short skirts, undergarments worn as outer garments, bathing suits, sandals or any garment that reveals an obscene or lewd word or drawing.

# Great Scott

*Mississippi's SFC Richard Scott is the Army Guard's answer to keeping soldiers in uniform*

By TSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

Anyone who spends time with SFC Richard Scott may notice he has a size 9 ring finger. It seems that this year's newly fitted Army Guard Retention NCO of the Year has taken to illuminating others to his eminence by tapping his prized ring wherever a hard surface avails itself.

"I guess I've become a ring-knocker," confessed Scott sheepishly, before giving in to laughter.

The Army Guard's answer to keeping soldiers in uniform says he doesn't see himself as a retention NCO. "I see myself as a morale NCO," said Scott, a member of the Hattiesburg, Miss.-based 114th Area Support Group.

As such, Scott makes it his business to ensure that each soldier he meets is dealt with individually. He has done this by creating programs designed to instill a sense of belonging among the 20 units he represents.

A program Scott is particularly proud of is "Operation Best

of the Best." By enlisting the help of battalion commanders, Scott has battalions competing for points for activities that draw attention to individual soldiers, such as promotion ceremonies. The battalion is awarded extra points if that soldier's employer or family attends the ceremony. At the end of the year, the points are counted and Scott treats the winners to a steak and potato dinner. The losers are given hot dogs and beans.

"It's all in fun," Scott said. "It's worth any money it may cost, because it makes my job easier."

He has also developed a "Train to Retrain" program. It requires battalion-level retention NCOs to interview soldiers who have enlisted within the last two years and discuss their problems.

His "Gone, but not Forgotten" program involves mailing a questionnaire to soldiers who have left the Guard. The information gathered, has helped identify trouble areas.

Aside from making a point to know people's first names, Scott says his success lies in having a lot of helpers. "I just plant the seed and try to let other people think it's their idea," he said. "When people think it's their idea, they'll give you 110 percent. If it's force fed, you may get 50 percent effort."

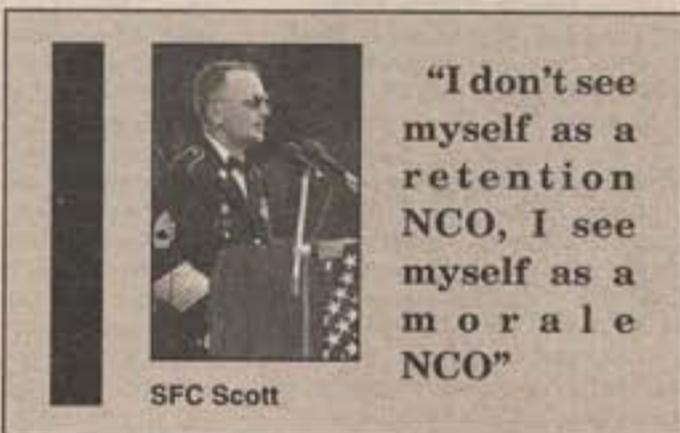
The Army Guard's top retainer is also civic minded. He's a district chairman for the Boy Scouts, a past president of the Mississippi National Guard NCO Association and a county chairman for the American Cancer Society.

Between his job and civic responsibilities, Scott spends a lot of time away from his wife Connie and two daughters. "As long as he's happy at work, we're happy at home," said Connie. "We miss him when

he's away, but he's very dedicated to his work.

"After all, it's what puts food on the table," she added.

And a ring on the mantle, once her husband gets over the novelty of tapping it.



SFC Scott



Photo by SFC Al Yardley

QUALITY CAMP - 5,000 youths visited Utah's Camp Williams last summer.

## Utah Guard judged top 'community'

If you're a Guardmember interested in enjoying a better quality of life, then the judges of this year's Army Communities of Excellence program suggest you buy a ticket to Utah.

Recently, the Beehive State was the top recipient in the annual competition that recognizes Army Guard states that promote customer service, facility improvement and environmental stewardship. With the honor, comes a check for \$200,000.

"Utah's Camp Williams is a model all other installation managers should follow," said Lt. Col. Robert Turbyfill, ACOE program coordinator. "It is the most efficiently run installation in the Guard."

Turbyfill said a team of nine judges spent two days in the state being evaluated. "We're not inspectors," he insisted. "We come to celebrate excellence."

This year's runner-up Louisiana (picked the Army Guard's top community in 1993) received \$125,000, while Maryland was awarded \$100,000. The funds, said Turbyfill, are to be used to further enhance the quality of life for citizen-soldiers and their families.

"There are no losers," he added. "Your soldiers are winning if you're in this game."

Utah Adjutant General, Maj. Gen John L. Matthews, is happy to have played. "Our selection as nationwide winner is a tribute to CWO3 Terry Haslam and our Army Guard persons who have worked so hard to make this program a success," he said.

# Ford selected Guard's top recruiter

*Oklahoma NCO uses music to bring them in*

By TSgt. John Malthaner  
National Guard Bureau

SFC Del Ford has made a name for himself in the National Guard and high schools of Oklahoma for writing and performing patriotic songs.

Now, others have taken to singing; mostly his praises, as the Oklahoma City-based NCO was selected the Army National Guard's Recruiter of the Year.

Ford says the secret to his success is attitude. "I'm a pretty cheerful guy," he revealed (cheerfully). "I turn everything I do into fun and I think it rubs off on people."

As does his talent as a musician. At the age of six, Ford would sing in his church while his mother played piano. By 14, he owned his first guitar. Before long, he was looking for a way to use his talent in recruiting Army Guardmembers.

"Recruiters should not be afraid to go to high schools and get in front of a group of people and sell themselves," Ford said. "That's really the enjoyable part, because

they are a hard group to sell."

Ford is responsible for 22 high schools in Oklahoma, none with a graduating class of more than 200. To compound his recruiting woes, Ford is located 130 miles away from the nearest Military Entrance Processing Station. Despite this, over the 54 months he has been a recruiter, Ford has averaged 5.5 recruits a month.

Ironically, the 43-year-old says he doesn't remember the name of the person who recruited him into the Oregon Army Guard as an infantryman in 1969. After six years, he left the service to become a police officer.

Because of a lack of money in the law enforcement field, Ford became a plumbing contractor. As fate would have it, he was looking for a spare part in a salvage yard when an acquaintance spoke to him about the Guard. "Next thing I know I'm taking the ASVAB (Armed

"I turn everything I do into fun and I think it rubs off"



SFC Del Ford

Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)," Ford said.

The 10 year break didn't stop him from making a difference with the 445th Military Police Company. After serving with them for a couple of years, Ford applied for a position with the state recruiting office. Oddly, Oklahoma's top recruiter over the last three years was turned down.

Fortunately, Ford was hired the next time he applied.

You know the rest.



# PEOPLE

## Confronting drug dealers

Alabama's Monroe Adams is helping his neighbors take back their streets

By SSgt. Mike Simpkins  
U.S. Army Reserve

Sgt. Monroe Adams tore himself away from his community's rebuilding projects in Bessemer, Ala., but only to help build developing nations in Latin America.

Adams, a citizen-soldier with Headquarters Company, 715th Maintenance Battalion based in Bessemer, came to Panama recently to train.

In Panama, the unit is supporting the Theater Equipment and Maintenance Site (TEAMS). By prepositioning medical supplies, repair parts, fuel and heavy equipment throughout Latin America, TEAMS ensures Reserve Component units will have these items available at work sites.

Adams' military job as a supply specialist during his annual

training took him away from another project maybe closer to his heart and certainly closer to his hometown.

"Through our local community action program we are taking back our neighborhood," Adams said. "We're cleaning up old properties used by the drug dealers and confronting them."

"We haul away old cars and cut the grass because the dealers hide in it," he continued. "We stop them from loitering around by paying attention to them. These guys hate the attention."

Adams uses many of the same skills he employs in the Guard in his work in the neighborhood program. Sometimes finding himself a carpenter, other times an electrician, the Desert Storm veteran maintains a strong focus on getting a job done.

"We show love first, but our Turn In a Pusher (program) can be nastier and still allow people in the neighborhood to remain anonymous," Adams said.

According to Adams, his community action group gets great support from the Rev. D. L. Blackmon and the congregation at the Mount Hebron Baptist



Photo by SSgt. Mike Simpkins

Church in Bessemer.

"He allows us to meet there and (the church) serves as a rallying point," he said. Adams sings in the male chorus and serves as the treasurer of the community action group.

**BRINGING REPAIR** - Sgt. Monroe Adams, a member of the Alabama Army Guard, tightens a truck brake while training in Panama.

and enjoy their lives. My neighborhood is coming back together," he said.

Adams reaches beyond his street by talking to the students at nearby less Lanier High School, where he played football.

"I tell those kids that I don't believe in peer pressure ... that you've got to be yourself. I hope that it helps them get away from the influence of the dealers."

The neighborhood mix of young and old, skilled and unskilled, well-off and poor coming together for a common cause means good things for the future of his Bessemer neighborhood, according to Adams.

"Even the police are volunteering their personal time," Adams said. "This community is drawing closer together."

He believes these community efforts make for an improved neighborhood environment for his family and friends. Those efforts, however, carry on without him while he aids the U.S. military's efforts in providing an improved environment in South and Central America.

## Taking to the skies to stem the drug flow

By Sgt. Maurice Thompson  
U.S. Army Reserve

One Texas Air National Guard pilot will go fast and far in the fight against illicit drugs coming into the United States.

The Texan should know about what it's like to assert authority, since he pilots an F-16 "Fighting Falcon" patrolling the skies of Central America.

Maj. Rick D. Long of the 147th Fighter Interceptor Group, Texas Air National Guard, is spending two weeks in Panama helping to stem the drug flow.

Long is participating in "Operation Coronet Night-hawk," a fighter interceptor mission operating from Howard AB, Panama. The unit's mission is to scramble fighter aircraft and visually identify and monitor aircraft suspected of smuggling drugs.

**PRE-FLIGHT CHECK** - Before boarding an F-16, Maj. Richard Long (left), a member of the Texas Air Guard's 147th Fighter Interceptor Group, checks out the cockpit. He was in Panama flying drug interdiction missions.

Once alerted, the pilot must have his F-16 aircraft in the sky in 15 minutes.

Long believes the training in Panama is better than back at home. "Here the training is probably more realistic in a sense that we're dealing with a real enemy and that makes for better training."

He is also strong about his convictions concerning the drug interdiction effort. When asked about his mission, Long is quick to respond.

"It is unbelievable to me all the crime and murders drugs cause," he said. "We've got to do something to curb demand. Since that's not working we have to interdict."

However, he does see hope on the horizon. "The nation's drug policy has many facets from grade school educational programs to rehabilitation centers," he continued. "The efforts exerted by these diverse groups in fighting the drug menace will soon be felt."

Even among fighter pilots it is not easy to find an individual willing to speak his convictions on drug interdiction. Nonetheless, determination, courage and frankness are exactly what one sees in this married Houston resident with a 10-year-old daughter.



Photo by Sgt. Maurice Thompson

## GUARD IN PANAMA



**ON TOP OF THINGS** - Michigan Army Guard engineers align a roof beam on a schoolhouse.

## Setaganti saviors

Michigan Army Guard's 107th Engineer Battalion builds hope in Panamanian province of Darien

By Spc. Patrick Toner  
Vermont National Guard

A little boy scooted through a construction zone as hard-hat wearing men yelled and motioned to him to get out — it's not safe. They were worried about him, but they still got a chuckle out of it.

This child, however, didn't understand the men yelling. They were speaking English, while he spoke Spanish. The little boy lives in Setaganti, a tiny town in the Darien province of Panama. The workers were citizen-soldiers of the Michigan Army National Guard's 107th Engineer Battalion based in Ishpeming. They recently ventured to Panama for their two-week annual training period.

"We've been giving candy to the kids," said 1st Sgt. Gary Lafreniere, the unit's top enlisted person. "The troops love to fool around with them when they get some down time."

Down time at an Army engineer worksite is often scarce, but due to the searing heat and high humidity of the region, the soldiers were required to take off the hours between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

But when they were working, they were

**WELDING** - A member of the Michigan Army Guard's 107th Engineer Battalion (above) arc welds a roof beam for a Panama school. SSgt. Jim Baker (right) fine tunes a shaving station he built for troops.

working hard. The engineers were part of U.S. Southern Command's efforts to strengthen ties with the people of Central and South America.

Their mission in Panama was to rebuild a school. The roof had been leaking for years, and there were no doors or windows.

"We had a pre-planning conference in July," said 1st Lt. Robert Sexton, 107th's officer in charge. "We came here and took all of the measurements and determined what we would need. Then in December, we came down again for a final survey."

The recent trip was one of many that U.S. Reserve Component forces make to the Southern Command area each year. In 1994, 22,000 citizen-soldiers are slated to work in the homelands of our southern neighbors. Most of their projects are, like this one, for the benefit of local residents



who have no capability to complete such construction work on their own.

The Setaganti residents started work on their school before the U.S. engineers arrived. When the troops did show, they found things a little different than they were in December.

"The natives built up the gable ends (of the school)," said Sgt. Mark Rudness, the quality-control supervisor. "We had re-designed our truss to match the gable end. We had to do some welding and some adjusting as we went along to fit our truss

into their building."

The 107th is the fifth of six rotations that have deployed to Darien over the last five-months. Engineer units from Maryland and Florida have also pitched in.

Setaganti is located about 30 miles northwest of the Columbian border in the land of the Panama Canal. The villagers are mainly farmers who work sugar cane fields.

This year's mission in Darien, called "Cosecha Amistad," a Spanish phrase meaning "harvest friendship," is the first

Photos by Spc. Patrick Toner



**EARTH MOVER** - Michigan Army Guard's Sgt. Mark Rudness moves a rock in Seraganti. His 107th Engineer Battalion was in Panama as part of Operation Cosecha Amistad - Spanish for 'harvesting friendships.'

of its kind so deep into the Panamanian rain forests.

In addition to the school roof, the unit rebuilt a decaying basketball court in the center of town, and constructed a sanitary latrine for the school children.

The town's residents weren't the only ones who benefitted from these deployments. The chance to train in remote locations was a great opportunity for the Michigan troops, who often experience a hard time finding projects such as these back home.

"They're actually accomplishing something," remarked LaFreniere. "It gives us a chance to cross-train people in a real-world environment."

The engineers were completely isolated from other U.S. military units. They received supplies by helicopter and boat.

Their only way to communicate with the locals was through their interpreter, Spc. Ronald Reece, a Maryland Guardsman fluent in Spanish. He, along with a small group of Guardsmen and women from around the country, traveled to each of the five project locations to work with units.

Building schools and friendships are difficult tasks, but the next time Panamanian school kids go to school, they'll likely remember their Michigan friends.

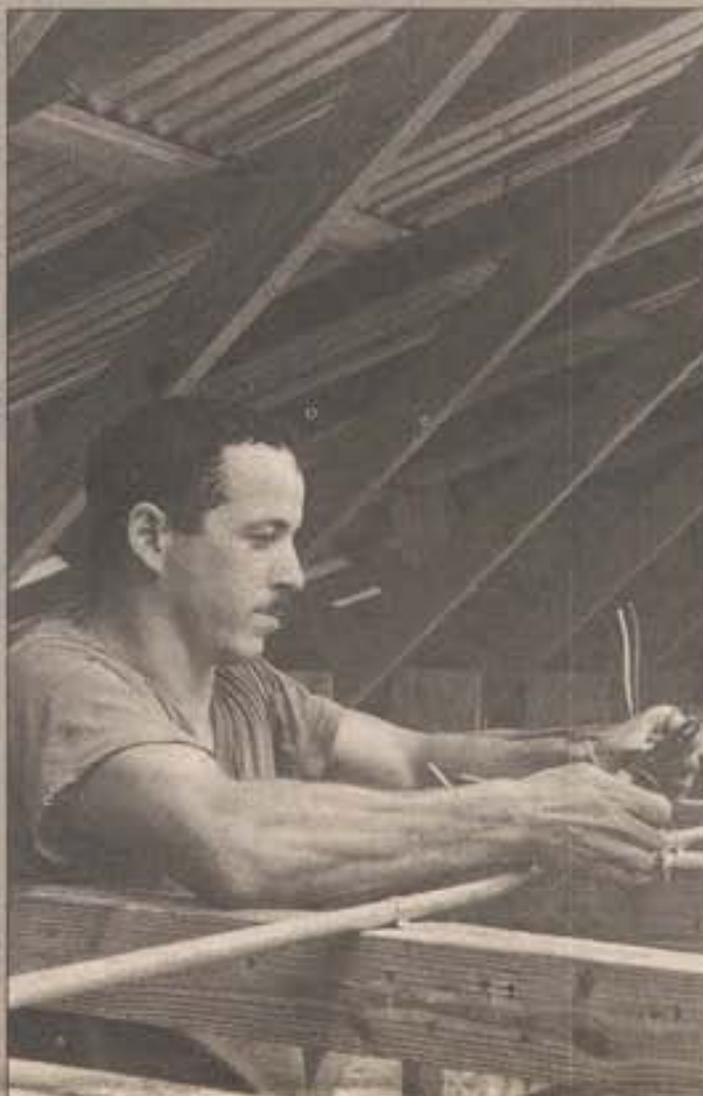


Photo by 2nd Lt. Shellie Jones



**BUILDER** - Sgt. Norman Urbat (left) helps build a school in Panama one block at a time.

Photo by Sgt. Michael Fletcher



Photo by Sgt. Michael Fletcher

**PANAMA HELPERS** - SSgt. Paul Alsept (left) breaks out wires for an electrical conduit. Members of the Washington Air Guard's 141st Civil Engineering Squadron (above) unload purlins in Panama.

## Building Panama for future generations

By Sgt. Michael Fletcher  
*Alaska National Guard*

Young Panamanian boys ran around the construction site on the outskirts of Panama City, Panama, carrying mortar on makeshift palettes. Several Washington state Air National Guard members building a concrete block communal kitchen kept the kids running for more.

TSgt. Norman Urbat, a carpenter and building construction supervisor from Omak, Wash., watched 8-year-old Manuel lug another block toward him.

"Most of the kids are shy or have other activities, but there are three or four kids that feel they have to be part of this project," Urbat said.

Fifty members of the 141st Civil Engineering Squadron based at Fairchild AFB, were completing their second week of an annual training in Panama. The unit, normally trained to quickly erect an entire airfield and base out of a jungle or desert, put their skills into building a schoolhouse and support buildings for a rural community. Another detachment of the unit worked on dormitories in a former leper colony on the Pacific Ocean coast of Panama.

The 141st is the third civil engineering unit to work on the Barrada el Cristal school. The project will give a permanent school to about 200 children who have been attending classes in temporary thatched huts.

The engineering squadron worked on the plans with village leaders. An important consideration was the struc-

ture had to be built and maintained with local resources.

Hot weather conditions in Panama dictated building with uninsulated concrete block, corrugated tin roofs and decorative tile, instead of window glass.

As an extra touch, the engineers constructed a garden plot behind the school.

"If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day; if you teach a man to fish, he will eat for a lifetime," said Lt. Col. Joseph Vernon, detachment commander. "The projects here will aid the villagers in gaining self-sufficiency."

Several residents worked side-by-side with the engineers, gaining construction experience.

Engineer projects, such as the one at Barrada el Cristal, are part of U.S. Southern Command-sponsored, nation-assistance activities in Central and South America. The command oversees U.S. military operations from Guatemala to the southern tip of Chile, a distance of 6,000 miles. The region encompasses one-tenth of the world's land mass.

"There are several projects ongoing in Panama and certain other countries in Central America," said Maj. Steven Argyle, Idaho Air National Guard liaison officer. "In many of these projects we are providing the expertise and management through people with structural job skills for local labor crews."

Urbat is making considerably less money while on annual training. But, he and his fellow 141st engineers are not in it for money. "The pay isn't much, but I've never worked on anything as much appreciated as this project," he said.

COUNTERDRUGS

# 'Bama's eyes in the sky

Marijuana growers get no help from above

By Lt. Col. William E. Crawford and TSgt. Ralph Bitter  
Alabama National Guard



Photo courtesy of the Alabama Guard

The Huey dipped low, chasing its shadow across the south Alabama forest. Inside, as the helicopter flew its search pattern, eyes diligently examined the forest below.

The men and women who conduct these missions don't want to be named, but they are members from Alabama Army and Air National Guard units across the state. Their mission is to help state and federal law enforcement personnel eradicate marijuana. Their specialty is spotting the fields from the air.

On this day, only a small field was sighted. No more than 50 marijuana plants were attacked by machetes. The plants were brought back to a four-wheel drive vehicle and hauled off for burning.

The mission was like many others since the program began. Some fields are larger than others, some smaller. But the major drive is the same, to rid Alabama of marijuana.

The marijuana eradication program first began in 1987 and is controlled from a joint operations center in Montgomery. Aside from National Guardmembers, the center is staffed with representatives from the Alabama Department of Public Safety, ABC Board, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Alabama Bureau of Investigations and Customs Representatives.

"When we first started, (finding) 12,000

plant fields weren't that uncommon," said Capt. Doug Nelson, operations officer. "What makes the job difficult is that most of the fields are deep in Alabama forests in some very inaccessible places. Sometimes personnel have to rappel in from the helicopters."

Nelson said search missions are flown over every county in the state. "It takes 11 weeks to fly the state one time," he noted. "Without the Guard, we couldn't do the job."

The marijuana eradication program is not the only way the Guard assists in fighting the growing problem of illegal drugs. Another program, Operation Stop Flight, is supported by both the Army and Air National Guard. The original concept of the program was to try to spot the type of aircraft used for air smuggling.

Airports across the state are visited and aircraft are inspected for indicators that they may have been used in drug smuggling operations. This helps law enforcement cut down on paper chases.

Despite the cuts, Bray insisted that every effort is being made to fund state planned activities.

"We, at the national level, are cutting our operating budget by reducing some internal management programs so as to diminish the impact of the reductions at the state level," he explained.

Despite the recent budget cuts, counterdrug work continues.

Over the years, drug eradication and interdiction support has been a mainstay. According to Bray, the Air National Guard's interdiction efforts are primarily outside the continental U.S., while the Army National Guard con-

Frank Bray's Counterdrug Task Force has realigned. He says the move will help the Guard better deal with the drug problem

# Taking aim at DRUGS

By Capt. Phil Blahut  
National Guard Bureau

After serving combat tours in Korea and Vietnam, Frank Bray is once again in the trenches. This time the National Guard Bureau's Director of the Counterdrug Task Force is taking aim at those who deal drugs. A battle, he says, that may become easier now that the Task Force has been restructured.

On Feb. 14, National Guard Bureau realigned all of its drug personnel into one force. The Drug Demand Reduction program, formerly a public affairs responsibility, and the Internal Prevention and Education Program, once a National Guard Bureau Human Resource Directorate asset, are now combined with the Counterdrug Task Force.

"These two existing organizations, DDR and Internal Prevention will basically stay the same," Bray said. "However, there are plans to streamline these and existing drug interdiction programs for planning and budget each year," he said.

As with most reorganizations, change is expected. This fiscal year, the counterdrug budget was decreased twice for a total reduction of more than \$32 million from the Counterdrug Support Program.

Despite the cuts, Bray insisted that every effort is being made to fund state planned activities.

"We, at the national level, are cutting our operating budget by reducing some internal management programs so as to diminish the impact of the reductions at the state level," he explained.

Despite the recent budget cuts, counterdrug work continues.



Photo by Sgt. Milton Hernandez

CRACK DOWN - A member of the Puerto Rico National Guard (left) watches as police inventory confiscated crack and cocaine. The Connecticut Air Guard's 103rd Air Control Squadron (below) were in Columbia running surveillance on drug smugglers.



Photo by Sgt. F. Seda

SPREADING THE WORD - Puerto Rico's SFC Norma Miranda hands out material to children and parents regarding drug use.

# Bulldozing the problem

Mississippi Guard helps return neighborhood to kids

By Lt. Col. James P. Hills  
Mississippi National Guard

Seven-year-old Reggie, leaning over his neon yellow bicycle, peered through the mist of concrete dust at Mississippi National Guardmembers systematically razing a row of vacant houses on Hill Avenue in Jackson, Miss.

"Now maybe I can go outside my house at night," he sighed. "At dark we don't go outside. If I forget and leave something in the car, I can't go get it unless a grownup goes with me. Now maybe I can do it myself."

The row of houses across the street from Reggie's home have long been the suspected hangout of drug dealers, prostitutes and thieves. Nine of the concrete and cinder block houses face north on Hill Avenue. Across the street sit modest, but well-kept houses and duplexes, many being the homes of long-time residents.

Immediately to the east, is the "Dairy Bar Corner," known throughout the area as the "drive-thru drug market." The L-shaped parking lot around the aqua build-

children between the ages of 6 to 11 spend much of their lives. This is their haven: a refuge bounded on the front of the school by a vast cemetery, and on the back, less than 20 feet away, by the row of suspected "crack houses." Superstitions are put aside for the cemetery is far less intimidating than the vacant houses.

In the houses the danger is real, not imagined, and the kids know that people die in those 10 concrete "tombs." They may die slowly from drug abuse and related diseases, or they may die quickly in a turf battle or drug deal gone bad; but die they do. The danger is so real, teachers escort their students past the houses on their way to and from school. The kids see it, and live it every day.

Word of the plight of the Isable school eventually reached the office of Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice. He organized "Operation Crack Down" to destroy the 10 "crack houses" on Hill Avenue and any others that threatened students.

In Jackson's intercity neighborhoods, more than 400 target houses have been identified; 50 adjacent to the campus of Jackson State University.

As concern spread, Maj. Gen. James H. Garner, Mississippi's Adjutant General, was asked for help from his counterdrug forces. The destruction of alleged "crack houses" is one of the 16 Department of Defense-approved counterdrug missions; and, once a law enforcement agency formalized the request, the Guard went into action.

On an overcast morning, 25 Guardmembers from the Drug Enforcement Support program and the 890th Engineer Battalion began the clean-up.

A steel cable was wrapped around one house, and a bulldozer pulled the taut cable through the walls, like a cheese cutter through cheddar. The houses were down in half-a-day. It took more than three days to take away the remaining debris.

The Jackson Public School District now plans to build a neighborhood park in its place.

By destroying the breeding grounds for crime, and the lairs for the purveyors and users of illegal drugs, they will, according to the Governor, "have no place to run, and no place to hide."

One of the teens watching the first house go down was 14 year old. His two brothers had died violently; one by drive-by shooting, the other by stabbing. Although it was too late for his brothers, he knew now that someone cared.

He also knew the opening shots had been fired in "Operation Crack Down," and the Guard was in the battle.



Photo by Lt. Col. James P. Hills

BULLEDOVER - Mississippi Army Guard's 890th Engineer Battalion troops wrap a steel cable around a crack house.

ing has entrances onto both Hill and Valley Avenues. Customers often drive through the assemblage of dealers to exchange cash and crack. Underage look-outs, posted a block away, are quick to yell, "Five-O," whenever cops are sighted.

Like roaches in a suddenly-illuminated room, the dealers scurry to safety, often in the row of cinder block houses on Hill Avenue. This area of town, known as the Washington Addition, is considered by some as one of most dangerous in the U.S. With a population of just 15,000, there were 25 murders there last year—five of them on the "Dairy Bar Corner."

Down Hill Street, about 200 yards to the west of the infamous corner, stands the two story brick Emmalee Isable Elementary School. Inside, the school is spic-and-span and orderly. It is here that

centrates within. ANG units supply radar tracking systems, F-15 and F-16 aircraft and personnel, in an effort to help support the international law community track and apprehend drug traffickers trying to get into the United States.

On U.S. soil, Bray explained that Army National Guardmembers, alongside Air National Guard personnel, support law enforcement in locating and eradicating marijuana, inspecting cargo at air, sea and land points of entry, providing in-station military skills such as intelligence analysis and linguistic assistance, and

### BRAY PROFILE

- Born in Vulcan, Mich.
- Enlisted in the Army in 1949.
- Received battlefield commission during Korean War.
- Served in Vietnam.
- Retired as a Colonel after 22 years of service.
- Has 22 years of civil service.
- Nominated for the Distinguished Service Medal.
- Manages a \$200 million program.

Frank Bray

numerous other Secretary of Defense-approved support measures.

Since federally-funded counterdrug support missions began in 1989, the National Guard has assisted in the seizure of cash and illicit drugs totaling in the billions.

Even though the "billion dollar" impact may be impressive, the Counterdrug director says the real measure of effectiveness comes when local and national law enforcement agencies express satisfaction with the Guard's support.

Perhaps the saving grace for the counterdrug program is that on any

given day, Bray has thousands of National Guardmember volunteers working at ridding America of one of its largest social and economic problems. While some are paid for their service, an overwhelming majority are volunteers. Many work daily in their communities with school children educating them to the hazards of drug use.

Armed with capable volunteers, the Task Force has found another effective way to fight the drug problem.

Drug eradication and interdiction efforts will continue, however, the new national strategy is to expand the DDR program," Bray noted.

He predicted that DDR will take on a new emphasis.

"We cannot build fences high enough and hire adequate numbers of police to control illicit drugs as long as the demand prevails," he said.

The battle against drugs is different from the ones Bray has fought in before. This time he insists, "Drugs are here by invitation; not by invasion."

## BLINDFOLDED

Texas Army Guard's Sgt. Charles Wheeler participates in an exercise designed to build trust at a Drug Abuse Resistance Education retreat. Thirty high school students spent a night at Camp Mabry learning about the hazards of drug use.



Photo by Sgt. Brinda Berner



# SPORTS

- Great Aloha Run
- Top athletes funded
- Island triathlon

## SPORTS SHORTS

### WORLD CLASS ATHLETES FUNDED

The Army National Guard has been given the green light to fund athletes with world-class potential.

Called the World Class Athlete Program, the program's aim is to provide soldier-athletes with the opportunity to participate in training for national and international sports competitions.

"The soldier will be brought on duty full time, and their sole job will be to prepare themselves for the Olympics," said five-time Olympian, Maj. Willie Davenport, National Guard Bureau community relations officer and the coach of the All-Army Track Team.

Those interested need to fill out a DA Form 4187. For more information, please reference AR 215-2. The reg details eligibility requirements.

If you have questions call Davenport at DSN 289-5772 or (703) 756-5772.

### GREAT ALOHA RUN STARTS WITH BANG

Members of the Hawaii Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery got the 10th Annual Great Aloha Run off with a bang by perfectly synchronizing the boom of their M-102 howitzer cannon with the crack of Hawaii Gov. John Waihee's starter pistol.

Properly inspired, a group of 35 fellow 487th cannon cockers ran in formation the entire 8.2 mile route.

### 148th TAKES TITLE

Hockey players from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Group won the Minnesota Air National Guard Hockey Championship besting the 133rd Airlift Wing from Minneapolis, 21-14. The score consisted of a two game total.



Photo by Capt. Edward Richards

## Virgin Islands hosts triathlon

*Wisconsin's Mike Ziegler turns in top military performance*

By Capt. Edward Richards  
Virgin Islands National Guard

As an air horn sounded, more than 70 swimmers, clad in green or red swimming caps, dashed into the turquoise-blue Caribbean Sea marking the start of the 4th Annual Tri-Force Caribbean Challenge Triathlon.

The event, held on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, was sponsored by the Virgin Islands National Guard and sanctioned by the U.S. Military Sports Association.

According to Maj. Matthew Allaire, Tri-Force president and founder, the event saw a record turnout. "We had 53 individual triathletes and 18 three-member-

relay teams, representing all of the military forces," he said. "We had military athletes from as far away as Germany and South Africa."

The triathlon was an Olympic distance event. It included a 1.5 kilometer swim, a 40 kilometer (24.8 miles) bike ride and a 10 kilometer (6.2 miles) run.

Jose Rodriguez, a distance runner from Puerto Rico, won with a time of 2:25:52. The first military participant to cross the finish line was Mike Ziegler, a Wisconsin Guardmember. He finished a minute off the pace in 2:26:57.

A relay team from the Virgin Islands was the first combined squad to cross the finish line with a blistering time of 2:09:41.

"The triathlon was one of the best I have ever participated in," said Marion Williams, anchor runner for the winning relay team. "Matt (Maj. Allaire), along with the other Guardmembers, really out-

did themselves."

SPENT - Wisconsin National Guardmember Mike Ziegler (above) shows the effect of the Tri-Force Caribbean Challenge Triathlon.

Unlike other triathlons, the Caribbean Challenging Triathlon offers no cash prizes to its participants. Athletes are awarded only trophies.

The following day featured a Junior Triathlon. Fifty-five children from ages 5 to 13 participated. After the Junior Triathlon, the public was invited to the military aircraft exhibition as part of the Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program. At the exhibition, the public got a tour of a C-130 from the Rhode Island Air National Guard.

"If there ever was a program that adds value to America; this has to be it," Allaire proclaimed. "The Guard was able to reach out and touch our Islands' youth."

# Buckeye TUTORS

Medina, Ohio-based artillery unit spends Wednesdays teaching reading, writing and arithmetic to junior high school students

By PFC Marley C. Starkey  
*Ohio National Guard*

Every Wednesday afternoon several Ohio National Guard soldiers visit Buckeye Junior High School with one mission in mind: education. They are not educating about the military, rather they are teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, occasionally with some biology or history thrown in.

Citizen-soldiers from Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery, based in Medina, were called to service when Debbie Marshall, prevention program coordinator for Buckeye Schools, turned to the National Guard for help.

While attending the PRIDE (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education) Conference in Cincinnati, Marshall noticed several mentions in the program about the Ohio National Guard's Adopt-A-School initiative. Shortly thereafter, she contacted Sgt. Andy Allinson, a Drug Demand Reduction coordinator.

Based on the locale of Marshall's school system, Allinson called SFC Jayce Ashwill, Service Battery's readiness NCO. Together they instituted a partnership between the unit and the school.

At first, some of the Buckeye Junior High School

students didn't know what to think of their uniformed tutors.

When Mike Sinclair, 13, first saw the Guardmembers in their camouflage uniforms, he conjured up images of drill sergeants he had seen on television. "Oh my God," he thought to himself, "what did we do wrong?"

Since the Guardmembers have helped him with his studies, Mike is no longer intimidated by the uniforms he sees. "I now know that the Guardsmen are here to help me," he said. "I like the after school program because it gives me a set time to study." Mike says it's now easier to study at home.

The students are placed in the program, usually at the request of parents, to develop better study habits. With a Guardmember present, students have someone they can turn to for help, as well as a role model to talk to, other than a teacher.

Matt Grillis, another student at Buckeye Junior High School, said the Ohio Guard's presence makes learning more interesting.

"They quiz me for tests, or help me figure out tough problems," he said.

Jan DeNardi, a guidance counselor at the school, wasn't sure what to expect when she found out that the Ohio National Guard was going to help with her students. She knew of the Ohio National Guard, but only in a military sense.

"I now know that the Guardsmen are here to help me"

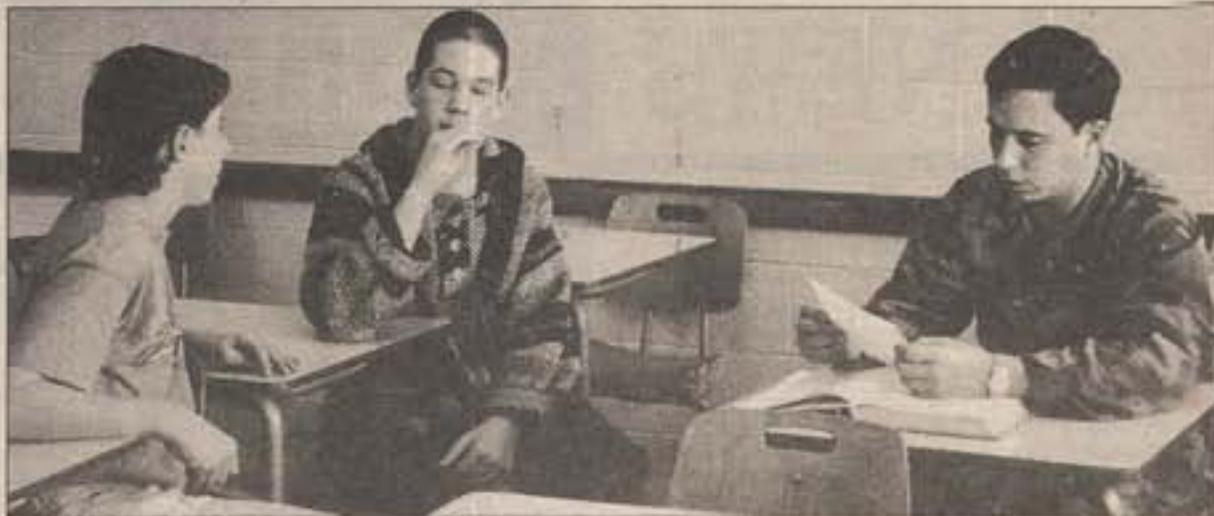


Photo by PFC Marley C. Starkey

**TUTORING** - Sgt. Chester Sudina (above, right), a member of the Ohio Army Guard's Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery, checks the homework of two Buckeye Junior High School students.

Like many citizens, DeNardi didn't realize that National Guard units throughout the state and country are becoming involved with many different community activities. However, she did feel that the Guardsmen would provide a "big brother type of role model" to the students.

SSgt. Brian Butcher, Service Battery's training NCO, is pleased to be involved. "It creates a positive image for the National Guard, and helps teach the students the benefits of good study habits and the importance of good grades," he said.

Sgt. Chester Sudina feels that in addition to helping the students, the program gives the Ohio National Guard an opportunity to show the community that it's more than a military organization. "We are here for the good of the community," he said.

Although neither Butcher nor Sudina expected to be tutoring students when they enlisted in the Guard, both recognize that the face of the military is changing; that helping students merely reinforces the oath they took.

"The Ohio National Guard has not only a federal and state mission, but an increasing mission to the community," said 1st Lt. Timothy V. Owen, Battery commander. "It's important to show that we care about the community and that we are a vital part of it."

All involved with the program have been encouraged by its initial success. Debbie Marshall of the Buckeye Schools hopes to expand the program to include Buckeye High School.



Photo by MSgt. Richard Eubill

## LAST RESPECTS

The 105th Airlift Group, based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y., hosted a ceremony honoring former President Richard M. Nixon April 26. The presidential motorcade stopped at the base briefly to transport Nixon's remains, via a Boeing 707, to a Marine Corps air station in California. While at Stewart, the former president was honored with a 21-gun salute. It was the only formal ceremony honoring Nixon on the East Coast.

## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by Lt. Col. David Super  
National Guard Bureau

"We looked over and saw a fire, so we just took off." That was the reaction from Ohio Army Guardsman Sgt. Shawn Norvet and civilian Carl Sharp. The men were involved in the pre-game warm-up of a semi-pro football game when they saw a fire start in a nearby apartment complex. Scaling a 10-foot fence to reach the building, Norvet ran inside, carrying a crying baby out to safety. He then returned to rescue several other children and warn remaining occupants. A member of Detachment 1, 213th Maintenance Company, Norvet's Columbus Knights team lost the game 6-0 to the Cincinnati Falcons, but they were winners in the hearts of many of the apartment residents.

Four Connecticut Army National Guardsmen recently received the Army's highest peacetime medal for heroism, the Soldier's Medal, for rescue actions they performed during the December '92 Nor'easter that struck the Fairfield coast. The men spent nearly four hours in three to five feet of cold saltwater to rescue 34 civilians trapped in a truck that had stalled in flood waters. The men, who also received the state's highest military honor, included: Capt. Ronald Welch, SFC Raymond Spry, SFC Douglas Bell and now-retired SFC Roger Barr.

Clarence and Stephanie Baker met and fell in love when they were on active duty in the Air Force. Now commissioned, the couple are the first African-American officers in the Utah Air National Guard. Clarence is the officer in charge of the 151st Logistics and Maintenance Squadron and Stephanie is the social actions officer.

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association has honored Michael Adams, natural resources manager of the Florida Army National Guard, for his contributions to sound land stewardship on Florida National Guard installations. Adams was honored for his efforts on behalf of threatened and endangered species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker.

The Air Force has selected Lt. Col. Robert Gruber of New York's 105th Airlift Group as the Reserve Component Attorney of the Year for 1993. Gruber is the author of the Air National Guard Commander's Legal Deskbook, a user-friendly guide on military legal issues.

California's 216th Engineering Installation Squadron has promoted its first female to the rank of chief master sergeant. The new top-ranking NCO for the Hayward-based unit is CMSgt. Janine Clochon, a former active duty Navy veteran who has been a member of the unit since 1978.

The Civil Engineering Association of the Air National Guard recently announced its Airmen and Officer of the Year awards. Recipients included SrA. Nina Hasan, top airman; and CMSgt. Ennis Hagin, top senior NCO, both of Georgia's 165th Civil Engineering Squadron. Also TSgt. Scott Nolf, top mid-grade NCO; Capt. Elmer Novell, top company grade officer; and Maj. Jeff Shelley, top field grade officer, all of Alabama's 187th Fighter Group.



Maryland's Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Johnson gets pinned.



Lt. Col. Robert I. Gruber, the Reserve Component's top lawyer.



California's newest female chief master sergeant Janine Clochon.

2nd Lt. Thomas Barber shows the belt and towels used to save a life.



The Pathfinder badge that Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Johnson wears on his uniform took on special meaning as he became the first African-American to be promoted to general in the Maryland National Guard. Johnson, a Baltimore native, has served in the Army Guard for more than 20 years, and now is the assistant commander of the 29th Infantry Division (Light) and director of the state's Operation Challenge. Johnson joined the active army in 1967, attended Officer Candidate School, Ranger and airborne training, and later served in Vietnam.

SMSgt. Raymond Preffer of Pennsylvania's 171st Air Refueling Wing has been selected as the 1993 Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year. Preffer has been in the National Guard for 26 years and was named first sergeant of the 171st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in 1988. He is a veteran of the Gulf War.

The Ohio Army National Guard has selected Maj. Christine M. Cook as the first female to command a battalion in the 206 year history of the organization. Cook served on active duty as an enlisted linguist/translator before joining the Maryland Army National Guard where she was commissioned in 1980. She now commands Toledo's 137th Supply and Service Battalion and works full time for the Ohio National Guard.

Two Connecticut college students have received honors from their state as NCO and Soldier of the year. Winners of the 1994 honors are Sgt. John G. Andersen, a section leader with the 250th Engineer Company, and Spc. Garrick Yanosky, an ammunition bearer with Company C, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry. Yanosky attends Naugatuck Valley Community College and Andersen the University of Connecticut.

While enroute from Tulsa, Okla., to its home base in South Carolina, a C-130 aircrew from the 169th Fighter Group received a message to fly a "Russian baseball team from Washington, D.C., to Charleston." Perplexed by the radio message, crew members thought it might be a joke since it was April 1. But they verified the request and learned they were being asked to provide airlift for 30 Russian athletes who would have been stranded in Washington without the Air Guard's help. The 169th's biggest challenge turned out to be TSgt. Thomas Witchek's presentation of the safety briefing to the non-English speaking players who were enroute to meet two Carolina college teams.

"Like they teach us in the National Guard, my plan was to stop the bleeding, treat the wound and treat for shock." 2nd Lt. Thomas Barber Sr., a member of Florida's Company B, 53rd Support Battalion, used those words to describe his reaction to a recent emergency. He was studying for his CPA exam when he heard calls for help from a neighbor. He entered their house and discovered a man who had been seriously injured in a fight. Barber was on the scene for more than 20 minutes until police and medical personnel arrived, calming the combatants and providing first aid. The victim's life-threatening injury required 120 stitches.



# STATES

- Vietnam remains
- New York tankers
- Kentucky promotion

## FLORIDA

Six members of Company B, 53rd Support Battalion, recently helped Girl Scouts from Tampa with "creature comfort" arrangements for their first campout. Troops set up a general purpose medium tent and cots, and then joined the Scouts and their leaders for a cookout.

## UTAH

MSgt. Ed Sperry, a Special Forces medic with the 19th Special Forces Group, has returned from Vietnam where he participated in Operation Full Accounting, a U.S. effort to conclude the cases of more than 2,200 missing servicemen. Sperry's team recovered the remains of one American from a helicopter crash site. Winter rains made search conditions difficult. "It was steaming hot one minute and freezing cold the next. I tried to imagine the hell...of fighting a war there," he concluded.

## NEW YORK

The 107th Air Refueling Group has taken delivery of its first KC-135R tanker. The 107th is in the process of conversion from the F-16 to the four-engine tankers that will provide the unit with a worldwide mission. The first aircraft will be used primarily for hands-on maintenance training by members of the 107th's Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The refueler was delivered to Niagara from Minot AFB, N.D.

## IN THE MUCK

Members of the South Dakota Army Guard use a power auger to drill holes in the marshy land on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation. The holes were filled with explosives. Once blown, they filled with water, creating a duck pond. The Guard was asked by the local tribal wildlife office to blow holes in order to increase waterfowl populations.



Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

## PENNSYLVANIA

Students from the Lebanon Valley College Physics Society received four-star treatment from the 28th Division Artillery when they visited Fort Indiantown Gap. Maj. Martin Walker directed a series of briefings for the students who received practical lessons in the "study of matter and energy in motion." "I tried to mentally prepare myself for what would happen, but I still did not expect that loud of a noise," commented professor Mike Day.

## WEST VIRGINIA

Several Mountain State units responded to clean-up requests following February flooding, the worst in nine years. Members from the 1092nd Combat Engineer Battalion and 119th Engineers focused their attention on the needs of the communities of Philippi, Belington and Rowlesburg.

## KENTUCKY

The promotion of former Kentucky Adjutant General Brigadier General Michael W. Davidson to the rank of Major General has been approved by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Maj. Gen. Davidson is now assigned to the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB, Fla., where he serves as Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs. He was Kentucky's Adjutant General from 1987 to 1991.

## OHIO

When E Company of the 148th Infantry took on a new mission last fall, it was the only unit of its kind in the Buckeye State. Equipped with Improved Tow Vehicles, members of the Urbana outfit were eager to begin training for their tank-killing mission.

But there was a hitch. "Echo Company" had a clear mission, but no equipment until earlier this year when five Improved Tow Vehicles were delivered from the Ravenna Arsenal. All hands were at the armory to greet the tractor trailer drivers who delivered the equipment.

"These guys will finally be able to train the way they need to train," commented Capt. David Reeves,



Photo by Spc. Tim Hardgrove

commander of the infantry unit.

During the first drill with the new gear, members received an in-depth safety briefing about the vehicles and learned about the importance of preventative maintenance from SSgt. David Wilson, the unit's motor sergeant. He stressed that the hazards of working with the new equipment threatens not only the safety of the men, but also the future of the mission. "If we don't take care of these tracks, we'll lose them," he cautioned.

**NEW ITV** - The Ohio Army Guard received new Improved Tow Vehicles.

NORMANDY INVASION

50 years ago this month, National Guardsmen laid their lives on the line

# D-DAY

**O**maha Beach is crescent shaped and located on the Normandy coastline between the French towns of Grandcamp and Port-en Bessin. Approximately 7,000 yards in length, the beach is flanked on

each end by towering cliffs. Winding its way through the bluffs are a series of draws through which a series of unimproved roads connect with the main coastal highway at Vierville and St. Laurent.

If there was an area of the Normandy coastline that conformed to German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's defensive formula, Omaha Beach was it. The Germans had prepared a formidable barrier of obstacles three echelons deep that ran the length of the beach.

The first band of obstacles was a series of steel structures known as "Element C Obstacles." As landing craft approached the beach, these irregularly placed obstacles were designed to rip their hulls apart.

Occupants of the landing craft fortunate enough to reach the shoreline, were greeted by a barrier of wire entanglements, barbed-wire and thousands of anti-personnel mines. The Germans had also placed a vast array of concrete pillboxes and bunkers on the bluffs overlooking the beach armed with MG 42 machineguns, mortars and 75mm and 85mm guns.

The 1st and 29th (the 29th, a National Guard Division consisting of units from Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C.) Infantry Divisions were assigned the momentous task of taking Omaha Beach.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff had deemed it a good plan. However, Brig. Gen. Norman Cota, the 29th's assistant division commander, was not so sure. Cota felt that a night attack would provide the element of surprise, and he suspected that the enemy's coastal defenses would be little affected by the pre-invasion air and naval bombardment.

After a day's postponement due to bad weather in the English Channel, the greatest invasion force in history

left England for France on June 5, 1944.

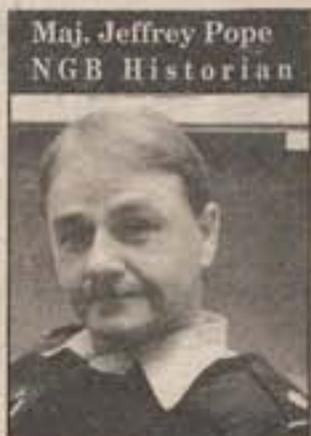
The assault was preceded by a constant pounding of the shoreline and German defensive positions by artillery, air and naval gunfire. As Gen. Cota feared, the preparatory fire was off target and did little damage.

The 29th had been told they would be assaulting a lightly-defended beach. But, as German shells began to fall, they quickly learned otherwise. Many of the craft were sunk. The troops inside the surviving boats were horrified as machine gun bullets began to ping against steel hulls.

As the landing craft ramps lowered, the soldiers were met by a hail of gunfire from the bluffs above. Absorbing the brunt of this rain of steel was Company A, 116th Infantry -- comprised mostly of Guardsmen from the Blue Ridge Mountain town of Bedford, Va. Most of the young soldiers from Virginia died within minutes. To escape sure death, other infantrymen jumped over the sides of the landing craft, while others tried to hide under water.

Companies G and F were more fortunate than the "Boys from Bedford." Due to grassfires obscuring their movements from the German positions, many of the men were able to make it across the beach under the concealment of smoke.

The 116th huddled in pockets of 10 to 100. Many



Maj. Jeffrey Pope  
NGB Historian

officers and NCOs lay dead. Weapons and equipment lay on the beach or had been discarded in the water by men who didn't want to drown in the surf. Many 116th soldiers cleaned their sandy M-1s on the beach while mortar and artillery fire exploded around them.

Advance elements of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion were on the beach near les Moulins by 8:30 a.m. Its mission was to meet the main body and employ 12 howitzers on the beach. However, by 9 a.m., 11 of the howitzers were laying on the bottom of the channel.

Meanwhile, Capt. Lawrence Madill, Company E commander, directed his decimated company's movement off the beach. With his left arm blown off, Madill rallied his men off the beach and to the safety of the bluffs before being killed by a machinegun burst.

At 7:30 a.m., Gen. Cota and Col. D. W. Canham, the 116th commander, realized that if something wasn't done immediately, 116th soldiers would be slaughtered. Taking charge, Cota and Canham rallied their forces.

Arriving at the seawall, Gen. Cota directed machinegun fire on the German positions, neutralized barbed-wire obstacles, and led his men off the beach.

Canham did the same further east. Bespectacled and rail-thin, Canham looked prissy and professorial. However, when he discovered a group of officers taking cover in a bunker, Canham screamed: "Get your asses out of your foxholes and go kill some Krauts!"

Cota's little army had taken the Vierville draw from the rear, not the front as planned. When Charlie Company soldiers entered the town they were met by Gen. Cota walking down a narrow main street twirling his pistol like an old western gunslinger. Cota greeted his men by asking, "Where the hell you been boys?"

At 10 a.m. Col. Eugene Slappey and his 115th Infantry Regiment, hit the beach in the second assault wave. The plan called for the 115th to land in front of the les Moulins draw, but the regiment was actually beached a mile east of the original landing site. The three battalions of the 115th fought their way up the beach and past the bluffs throughout the day.

When darkness settled over Omaha Beach, the carnage was evident. Dead bodies lay everywhere and the burned out landing craft hulls were still smoldering in the sea. More than four hundred 29th Division soldiers had died, 341 in the 116th alone.

**COMRADES - Soldiers help the wounded to safety on Normandy Beach.**



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

## Soldiers recall drama before and after historic battle

Normandy Invasion

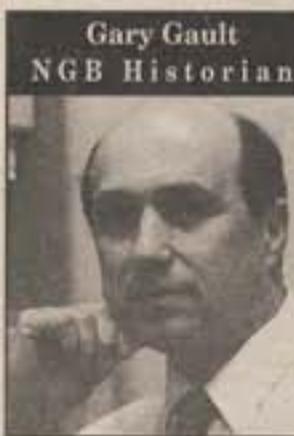
**T**he troop transport heaved and rolled under Sgt. Gilbert Murdoch's feet. It had left England in the early morning on June 5, 1944 and was now poised near the Normandy coast, near a beach named "Omaha" on the Army's battle plans.

Murdoch joined the Virginia Army Guard's Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment several years before. He had no idea he would be participating in the largest military invasion in history.

All of the troops were read messages over the ship's intercom from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Field Mar-

shal Bernard L. Montgomery. At about 2 a.m. everyone shook hands with their buddies; each realizing this may be the last time they would see each other. Back in the staging area the First Sergeant jokingly told the troops that as soon as they had taken the beach they would all receive Bronze Star medals. There was much mirth over his remarks.

At about 3 a.m. the troops of the



Gary Gault  
NGB Historian

116th Regimental Combat Team climbed into the 30-man landing craft. The landing craft splashed down into the English Channel at 4:30 a.m. and started a sweeping circular course near the big transport, waiting for the other boats to be launched.

Murdoch spotted his friend George Reach, a flamethrower, and wondered how he would manage to carry the extra 60 pound can of fuel up the beach. A few

hours later on the beach, Reach helped Murdoch to safety after he had taken a bullet in the ankle.

The first wave started to the beach 25 minutes ahead of schedule to allow for the rough sea. The cold, wet ride to the beach sapped the men's strength as the boats took on water. Men tried to bail the boats out with their steel helmets, yet despite their efforts, one of the Company A boats swamped and sank. Even though other Navy boats came to their rescue, one man drowned.

As the boats approached the looming bluffs of Omaha Beach, which were visible through the thick morning mist,

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Normandy Invasion

# INVASION from above

**N**ormandy. The names of Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword conjure an indelible image of taking these beaches, scaling the cliffs and liberating Europe from the Nazis.

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower knew that Operation Overlord was being launched with ground forces that were not overwhelmingly powerful. On June 4, 1944, he told his staff that it was only feasible because of allied air superiority.

During the operation, three National Guard aviation units mobilized in 1940-41 were part of that air armada. They made direct contributions to the success of the invading Allied forces. The units - by June of 1944 a mixture of home state Guardsmen and volunteers - played key reconnaissance and liaison roles.

From Selfridge, Mich., the 107th Reconnaissance Squadron and the 109th Reconnaissance Squadron of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., photographed potential invasion beaches, V-1 sites and enemy transportation systems in France. The 153rd Liaison Squadron of Meridian, Miss., was a unit with a large number of enlisted pilots and flew VIPs such as Gen. Omar Bradley to the continent.

The Guardsmembers of these outfits shared the risks of combat. The recon-aviators flew the F-6A, the camera-equipped version of the P-51 Mustang, a high-performance fighter that weighed nearly four tons empty and could go more than 430 mph. 153rd pilots worked the other end of the spectrum in their L-5 Piper Cubs that weighed less than 1,000 lbs., and flew less than 100 mph.

In the quiet before the invasion, troops like the 109th's Sgt. Walter Kimotek and Lt. Carlos Ortega had time to chat at a squadron social function with young English women who were serving as gun spotters. Kimotek asked one of the women "Who test-hopped the first Spitfire?" She quickly answered, incorrectly, from her movie theater frame of reference, "David Niven." Kimotek and his buddies laughed - in the film "First of the Few," Niven portrayed famous English test pilot Jeffrey Quill.

Starting June 6, everything changed. 2nd Lt. Robert Curtis of the 109th was killed on a visual reconnaissance mission along the French coast. His wingman, Lt. Richard Cassidy wrote, "The weather was such that we had to ... fly the mission on the deck. Five minutes inland, Curtis called that his oil pressure was zero with his temperature rising fast. I suggested he pull up and bail out, which he did. I think he was caught by something on the plane for he didn't appear above it for some time. The chute was stringing out before reaching the ground... I circled the burning plane twice and he lay about 30 yards away with the half-opened chute."

Also lost that day was Lt. Charles Stone of the 109th. "Stoney" was well liked, and enjoyed singing at unit functions. His plane's

**REPAIRS - Somewhere in France, an Air Guard crew works on a Mustang aircraft.**

Lt. Col. James Lightfoot  
NGB Historian



non-regulation nose art included the name "We Three" in honor of his family - "Stoney", a wife back in Texas and an infant son he would never see. His death hit close to home, and brought the reality of war directly to his unit.

On June 7, Lt. Troy Ray of the 107th was hit by flak while flying

at 500 feet under a 10/10 overcast. A direct hit nearly severed the elevator cable. He limped the 1,450 horsepower machine home, striking a barn 200 feet short of the runway. Ray walked away from his totalled aircraft. He told the flight surgeon, "Quit? Man, leave me be. All I need is a chew of tobacco." Ninety minutes later he was flying another F-6A over Cherbourg, France.

Back at the 109th, 2nd Lt. K.R. Weld drew his first additional duty - personal property officer. To him fell the dubious

responsibility of packing and sending home the personal effects of those lost in the war, a sobering experience for a new pilot.

The weather cleared some by June 9, but with unexpected negative results. Lt. Keller (109th), Lt. Rowell (109th), Lt. Ray (107th) and Lt. Currie (107th) all were shot down over the English Channel by friendly fire. The clear sky made them visible to Navy gunners, who mistakenly thought they were German Me-109s, an aircraft with nearly an identical silhouette.

On June 12, Lt. Clarence Loudon and Lt. Richard Dotterer of the 109th photographed the big enemy guns at St. Lo, France. Photo interpreters passed the information to headquarters and Allied bombers quickly silenced the guns.

By June 20, all three Guard units were operating from bases in France. Busy engineers set up metal planking for runways, and the planes continued to support ground action. Victory was nearly a year away.

In addition to the 107th, 109th and 153rd, 19 wartime Army Air Force fighter units that earned Normandy Campaign credits today are part of the Air National Guard.



Photo courtesy of NGB Historical Services

## D-DAY

From Page 14

the thunder of naval gunfire pounded the beach relentlessly. The men hoped that all beach resistance had been reduced by the Navy and Air Force bombardment.

Hope of an easy victory was shattered as the Germans began firing their mortars and artillery when the allied boats were about 400 yards from shore. Initially the fire lacked accuracy, but as the boats drew closer, accuracy improved. Company A was heading toward its landing point at Vierville when one of the boats received an air burst. Two men died instantly and the rest were thrown into the sea.

The four remaining boats of Company A dropped their ramps on the beach at "H-hour" plus 6 minutes.

As though it were a signal, the enemy on the bluffs above opened fire with automatic weapons. As the front row of troops dropped from a spray of bullets, the other troops bailed out over the side in a melee of confusion.

Some of the men were hit in the water and drowned. Others managed to drag themselves to the beach, exposing themselves to direct fire. Some men stayed on the beach, burrowing holes into the sand until the rising tide engulfed them into water again. Others ran back into water up to their necks for concealment. Ten minutes after the boat ramps dropped, Company A was without officers. After one half-hour on the beach, Company A was reduced to one-third its original force.

Company A was not the only unit facing a merciless attack. Soldiers from Company B dropped their ramp 75 yards from the beach. Enemy fire proceeded to beat a tattoo over the boat front.

Capt. Ettore Zappacosta, the company commander, jumped from the boat and got 10 yards through the water before being hit in the leg and shoulder. He went down and was never seen again. 2nd Lt. Tom Dallas jumped out of the boat and was killed at the water's edge. PFC Robert Sales tripped on the edge of the ramp and fell into the water; a slip that would save his life. Man by man, those who left the ramp behind him, were either killed or wounded. Sales was the only one to reach the beach, and that took him two hours. PFC Mack Smith, shot through the face three times, joined him. The dead washed up to the beach around them and then washed back into the sea again. When the day ended, not one man from Sales' boat had struck a blow.

A foothold was gained on the mainland that day when Company C fought its way up the Vierville draw and off the beach at about 8 a.m. on the morning of June 6, 1944.



# TRAINING

**LEGACIES -** Maryland Army Guard's Sgt. Mark Drake (far right photo) lifts concrete forms while Panamanian children look on. 121st Engineers (right) work on a basketball court. SFC Sylvannus Jones (below) paints a wall inside a schoolhouse.



Photos by Spc. Rick Roth

## Engineering ambassadors

Maryland's 121st Engineer Battalion leaves its mark on Puerto Pina, Panama

By Spc. Rick Roth  
Maryland National Guard

The sounds of Pacific Ocean surf crashing against a tropical beach blended in contrast with those of grinding power saws and churning cement mixers as members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 121st Engineer Battalion battled the sweltering heat of Panama.

The Maryland citizen-soldiers left behind the comforts of their home state recently for their two-week annual training, repairing a school in a remote part of the isthmian republic near the Colombian border.

"This is something that you hear about, but when you see it you don't know what to think," said SFC Sylvannus Jones.

Despite the radical climate change, Maryland citizen-soldiers like Jones said they welcomed the opportunity to hone their military skills in an austere, real-world environment.

Upon arriving, citizen-soldiers almost immediately deployed to eastern Panama

to refurbish schools in the remote, jungle-surrounded Darien province villages of Puerto Pina, Mogucenega, Boca de Sabalo and Setaganti.

Known for its virgin jungle and many rivers, Darien province is located about 30 miles northwest of Columbia on the Pacific Ocean coastline of Panama.

As beautiful as it is almost inaccessible, citizen-soldiers saw their supplies arrive about every three or four days. Because Puerto Pina is so remote, provisions and equipment could only be delivered by boat or helicopter.

At the Puerto Pina schoolhouse, engineers repaired a structure originally built around 1980. It was in dire need of repair due to the harsh tropical climate. A leaky roof, lack of interior lighting, the absence of doors and a broken up basketball court were the challenges the engineers faced while working and living in the town.

The project was actually part of a larger, ongoing humanitarian and civic assistance mission organized between the U.S. and Panamanian governments.

Called operation "Cosecha Amistad," Spanish for "harvest friendship," it also included other school and hospital projects. Later this year, people living in western Panama's Los Santos Province will see Army National Guard engineers repairing three schools there.

By 7 a.m. on a normal day, 121st engi-

neers broke up into small cells to do painting, concrete, masonry and a door installation work.

Puerto Pina temperatures climbed well into the 90s with humidity approaching 90 percent. The sweltering weather made for uncompromising working conditions.

"It's definitely different from combat training," said Jones. "It's hard work, but not very strenuous. When you get done you can say this is what we did to help someone."

The entire schoolhouse, both inside and out, was in the process of being repainted. A masonry team also rebuilt outer walls with cinder block and steel doors.

Off to the side of the Puerto Pina schoolhouse, a cracked and crumbling basketball court saw resurfacing. A concrete team sweated through a mid-day sun pouring yard-upon-yard of concrete by hand. In the remote Darien, concrete mixer-trucks are far and few between.

Numerous town residents looked on curiously. Children, being the most inquisitive, were found playing with the soldiers during their rest breaks.

"The first couple of days when the project was originally started, the residents weren't really sure what to expect," said Spc. Ron Reece, a member of Maryland's 629th Military Intelligence Battalion. He volunteered his Spanish skills as an interpreter and deployed to the Darien for two months.

"They love us. Absolutely everywhere I go they're extremely happy and willing to help us in any way possible," he added.

Since leaving Maryland, many citizen-soldiers were unsure what to expect of their new-found, Central American training environment.

"For most National Guardsmen, this is a once-in-a-career thing," said 2nd Lt. Daniel Wood, officer in charge. "It's a high point in those Guardsmen's careers."

For Spc. Patrick Marsiglia, a Persian Gulf War veteran who had already seen much of the world, traveling to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, the Latin America exposure proved to be a culturally eye-opening. "At first, it (coming to Panama) didn't seem like it would be a big deal," he observed. "But these people obviously depend on education."

During 1994, about 22,000 Reserve Component citizen-soldiers and airmen are slated to train in Central and South America. U.S. Southern Command oversees U.S. military operations in the theater from Belize to the southern tip of Chile, a distance of 6,000 miles.

Missions are wide-ranging and include engineer units like the Marylanders, along with transportation, maintenance, medical, dental, postal, military intelligence, aviation, artillery, linguistics, special operations, musical bands and civil affairs units.

Maryland engineers like Marsiglia said their trip to Panama was more than just honing engineering skills, it was a chance to leave something behind.

"Teams come in here and each put in their part of building," he said. "We can put our name on it and say we came over and contributed to part of their culture."