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# THE ON GUARD

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September 1994

## Guard joins Rwandan relief effort



*'The World's worst humanitarian crisis in a generation,' says Clinton*

By Capt. John Goheen  
National Guard Bureau

Dusty landscapes and squalid refugee camps littered with corpses. Emaciated people, many barefoot and in tattered rags, pleading for food and water. Hysterical children crying out for missing parents. Everywhere, destruction, despair and death.

The news accounts and images of life and death for the thousands displaced by the Rwandan Civil War have been startling and macabre. They have moved many to tears.

They moved Kentucky Air Guard Capt. Tom Sandberg to action.

"You see scenes from those (refugee) camps," said Sandberg, from a relief staging area in Mombassa, Kenya, "and you can't help wanting to help, if you can."

Sandberg could. He pilots a C-130 cargo plane capable of carrying food and supplies to remote areas. When his unit, the 123rd Airlift Wing, needed volunteers for the Rwanda relief mission, "Operation Provide Hope," Sandberg stepped forward.

The 33-year-old Louisville resident is one of about 160 Air Guardmembers who spent most of August in East Africa hauling relief aid and workers into Rwanda and bordering Zaire.

Other units involved in Provide Hope are New York's 105th Airlift Group, Tennessee's 118th Airlift Wing, Missouri's 139th Airlift Group, Texas' 136th Air Wing, Delaware's 166th Airlift Group and Michigan's 191st Airlift Group.

Humanitarian aid missions are nothing new for Sandberg. In recent years, he and the 123rd have delivered relief supplies

to south Florida after Hurricane Andrew and into war-torn Sarajevo.

"Relief missions can be more satisfying than day-to-day missions back home," Sandberg added. "There is a real sense of urgency when you know that if the food you're hauling doesn't make it, somebody may die."

The food, water and medicine flown by the Air Guard are desperately needed. The International Red Cross estimates nearly 2 million Rwandan Hutu refugees have flooded into neighboring Zaire. They fled fearing retribution from rival Tutsis after a civil war where hundreds of thousands were slaughtered.

UNCIF reported Aug. 1 that about 50,000 people had died in refugee camps during the last two weeks of July. Two of the biggest killers were cholera and dysentery, which are spread by polluted, disease-ridden drinking water.

President Bill Clinton has called the situation "the world's worst humanitarian crisis in a generation."

Adding to the difficulty of relief efforts are the camp's remote locations and primitive conditions. Defense Secretary William J. Perry said the Rwanda effort is the most logistically complex humanitarian operation in U.S. military history.

Relief organizers are trying to reduce the overcrowding by establishing conditions back in Rwanda that will encourage refugees to return. The Guard's role has been to fly supplies into cities vacated by fleeing Hutus. There, air crews have encountered the other major consequence of the mass exodus: empty cities.

A 105th C-5A crew was shocked by what they found in Kigali, Rwanda.

"It was a ghost town," said aircraft commander Maj. Jim Adamcik of the once thriving city. "We were told that normally the population is about a half million, but now there are only between five and ten thousand people living there."

As of Aug. 12, seven air crews from the 105th alone had flown more than a million pounds of equipment and supplies into East Africa.

**RELIEF - A Texas Air Guard C-130 off-loads relief goods in Rwanda.**

Photo by Joint Combat Camera



# DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE



# COMMENTARY

## COUNTERDRUG UPDATE

\* As of Aug. 12, 3,188 Army National Guard and 1,124 Air National Guard personnel were on counter-drug support duty in all 54 states and territories.

\* As of Aug. 3, the total value of cash and drugs seized by police this fiscal year, with National Guard's assistance, is \$4.888 billion.

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**Mailing address:**  
NGB-PAC  
2500 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-2500  
**NEW Telephone numbers:**  
(703) 681-0716 - DSN 761-0716  
FAX (703) 681-0732

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## STAFF

Acting Chief, National Guard Bureau  
Maj. Gen. John D'Araujo

Chief, Public Affairs  
Daniel Donohue

Chief, Command Information  
Lt. Col. David Super

Deputy Chief, CI  
Capt. Phillip C. Blahut

Editor  
TSgt. John F. Malthaner



## Staying in touch with your 'family'

*District of Columbia  
reunion association can  
find former comrades*

By Norma Taylor  
D.C. Reunion Association

**T**he longer one serves in a National Guard unit, the more likely the question: How can we continue these long-time associations, get to know these good friends better (perhaps in a social setting) and keep up with them after their military careers end.

Many of us probably have asked the question, but haven't taken the steps to find an answer. If you or your group is in that category, perhaps the members of the District of Columbia Air National Guard, past and present, can help.

Back in 1981, one of our crusty old chief warrant officers -- does anyone remember when the Air Force had chief warrant officers? -- and a few other newly retired and about-to-be retired Air Guardmembers were chewing the fat, when the subject of a Guardmember reunion association or "alumni group" came up.

Their concern was that the bonds of friendship they had formed with other Air Guardmembers would be lost when they ended their association with the Air Guard. Following through on the idea, they found others were interested.

The result was a small meeting with a

group of ANG members and their families, from which evolved our present District of Columbia Air National Guard Reunion Association, with a mailing list of about 450 members.

The purpose of the Association is simple: to provide a forum through which former and present-day Air National Guardmembers can stay in touch with each other by meeting socially at various times during the year. These meetings allow Association members to be informed of and support current Air Guard goals, missions and accomplishments. It also continues the friendships and camaraderie built over many years of membership.

We have one annual, four-day reunion in a resort area that is attended by members from all over the country. We have several smaller get-togethers closer to home, such as our annual Saint Patrick's Day, Christmas and summer picnic events.

We maintain a large mailing list and publish a quarterly newsletter, to keep our far-flung members current on people moving, retirements, promotions, illnesses, deaths and other items of interest. The newsletters also contains a schedule of upcoming social events.

If anyone is interested in keeping up with each other as we are doing, or in organizing a reunion association similar to ours, we would be glad to furnish a copy of our constitution and by-laws.

You may address your inquiries to: Norma Taylor, corresponding secretary, DCANG Reunion Association, 2505 Kayhill Lane, Bowie, MD 20715-2706.

## LETTERS

### BOSS FEEDBACK

"I just completed reading the July issue of *The On Guard*. I was very pleased to learn that an article that I submitted was published. The article dealt with the Employer Support issue and how important it is for employers to recognize and support the citizen-soldiers and airmen who work for them.

Since the article's release, I have received numerous congratulations and 'atta boys' from my commander, the public affairs officer at Otis ANGB and the Massachusetts Assistant Adjutant General for the Air Guard, Brig. Gen. John J. McDermott.

As a result, SrA. Damon Thomas, the Guardmember who nominated his employers for the DOD Certificate of Appreciation, received a raise and promotion at his civilian job.

Keep up the good work. I hope we continue to see stories about employer support in future issues of *The On Guard*. Hopefully, articles like these will help employers recognize the importance of their citizen-soldiers and airmen."

SrA. Michael J. Poirier,  
Massachusetts National Guard

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 761-0732 or (703) 681-0732, or mail to: NGB-PAC, 2500 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20310-2500.

## GUARD TOONS

By Lyle Farquhar







# IN THE NEWS

- Clothing Catalog
- Hawaii's Blackhawks
- 1,000th RCAS

## Guard helps battle forest fires

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Information Service

Citizen-soldiers from several western states exchanged their camouflage battle dress uniforms for bright-colored flame-retardant gear. Instead of shouldering M-16 rifles, they marched into blazing wildfire areas armed with shovels, rakes and other fire-fighting equipment.

Thousands of Army and Air National Guard members have been on the fire lines since July. Fueled by high temperatures, gusty winds and parched land, lightning-sparked fires have fanned across Washington, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming.

Nearly 52,400 wildfires have charred more than 2 million acres since the beginning of the year, according to the Agriculture Department's Forest Fire Service Fire and Aviation Office. Agriculture officials reported 174 new wildfires across the country during a 24-hour period ending Aug. 10.

Since call-ups began on July 27, the Washington Army and Air National Guard responded to more than 160 requests for assistance, according to Lt. Col. Donna L. Hubbert, Washington public affairs officer.

"Guardsmen are assisting with everything from fighting fires to hauling food and clothing donations from western Washington to eastern Washington," Hubbert said. "They have been installing and operating communications systems at base camps, transporting fire fighters and Marines and their equipment to and from fires."



Photo by Barbara Atwell

**FIRE FIGHTERS** - A 250-gallon water bucket used to douse fires is placed on the ground by a Colorado Army Guard helicopter.

■ See FIRES, Page 13

## One thousandth RCAS computer shipped

*Two billion dollar system will enhance mobilization efforts*

By Lt. Col. David Super

National Guard Bureau

Army Reserve and Army National Guard units in Helena, Mont., established a milestone last month when they received the 1,000th and 1,001st shipments of new Reserve Component Automation System computers.

While the gear is the same as more than 8,000 sets that will be delivered to Guard and Reserve units nationwide by the fall of 1998, the Montana units will have a memento from their shipment in the form of a banner signed by Boeing company employees, who tested and packaged the equipment before it was sent. The signature sendoff contin-

ues a Boeing tradition of employees autographing their work, whether it is a milestone airplane or a milestone set of computer equipment.

The Army Reserve's 396th Medical Hospital and the Guard's Company A, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation took delivery as part of the overall \$2 billion program that will enable military commanders to mobilize Army Guard and Reserve units more easily. The RCAS systems are based around a 486 computer, laser printer and other hardware and software that link all Army Guard and Reserve units with their headquarters, the Guard Bureau, Army Reserve, Continental Armies and other headquarters elements such as FORSCOM and TRADOC.

Although faster mobilization is the primary goal for RCAS, units will use the equipment daily for routine word processing and other administrative tasks. Future software will provide fully integrated processing for complex administrative tasks in

areas such as personnel, supply and property management. The applications are being designed to replace existing stovepipe systems fully and to exchange data with other Army and Department of Defense systems.

RCAS installations are progressing across the U.S. from west to east. Most units in California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Washington have started to use the system. Installation activities are underway in units as far east as Minnesota. Officials expect to complete the installation during fiscal year 1998.

According to Boeing depot officials in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., more than 69,700 unique line items have been shipped. Along with equipment, technicians have installed more than 2 million feet of cable so far to link approximately 1,000 units. Three telecommunication hubs and two training centers also are part of the RCAS network.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### REES SWORN IN

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, former acting Chief of the National Guard Bureau, was sworn in recently as the Adjutant General of Oregon for the second time.

Rees returned to his home following a three-year tour at the Pentagon where he served as director of the Army National Guard, NGB Vice Chief and Chief of the NGB.

"It's great to be back home," Rees told more than 300 guests at his swearing-in ceremony. "It reminds me of the movie *Field of Dreams* where the baseball player Shoeless Joe Jackson asks actor Kevin Costner, 'Is this heaven?' Costner says, 'No it's Iowa.' If I was asked, I'd say 'No, this is Oregon.'"

### CLOTHING CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

The newly revised Army and Air Force Exchange Service Military Clothing Catalogs are now available. These free, mail-order catalogs offer dress, service and battle dress uniforms, as well as boots, shoes, shirts, insignia and other accessories.

The catalogs provide a service for Guard members stationed far from an exchange.

To request a catalog, citizen-soldiers can call 1 (800) 618-1508, or write Fort Sam Houston MCSS Catalog Center, Bldg. 4188, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234. Citizen-airmen may call 1 (800) 522-6451, or write Lackland MCSS Catalog Center, 1520 Kirkland Street, Lackland AFB, TX 78236.



Blackhawks arrive in Hawaii.

### HAWAII GETS BLACKHAWKS

Four Hawaii Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters arrived at Hickam AFB recently. The Blackhawks were shipped by members of the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Group, the only Guard unit that flies the C-5A.

The helicopters will be stationed at General Lyman Field in Hilo, Hawaii.

During wartime, the Blackhawks will be used for immediate evacuation of casualties from combat zones. During peacetime, the helicopters will provide support for units at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island and other exercises within the state.





Photo by Sgt. David Moore

**New Jersey's Sgt. James McLarty monitors communication outside Giants Stadium.**

## New Jersey supports World Cup

By Sgt. David Moore  
New Jersey National Guard

**T**his summer, the world came to the state of New Jersey.

New Jersey National Guard members teamed up with the New Jersey State Police for World Cup USA '94 Soccer at the Meadowlands Giants Stadium.

In all, National Guard in 15 states supported World Cup activities across the country. Guard bands, linguists and pilots were among just a few of the specialties called upon.

In New Jersey, the Guard's role was to provide support at the command operations center, aviation assets, as well as transportation for more than 300 State Police per shift used to provide security for the event.

Prior to the games, Guardmembers worked closely with the State Police by practicing different scenarios in case of an emergency at the stadium. New Jersey National Guard helicopters were used to train State Police to board and dismount safely from a helicopter in the event of needed mass arrests.

Col. Michael O'Connor, state Army aviation officer, supervised aviation support for the World Cup.

"We flew security missions, transported government officials, and assisted with aerial surveillance," he said.

## Soldier's despair produces blood marrow program

By SSgt. Tom Springer  
Michigan National Guard

**T**he phone message left that September day on Spc. John Crisler's answering machine was brief and devastating: his 36-year-old fiancée had lost her fight with leukemia.

The tragedy left Crisler deeply depressed and he spent most of October and November 1992 "sitting in a chair and staring into space."

While distracted at work, he accidentally severed part of his finger. His painting business faltered and he was evicted from his apartment. Yet, even as he struggled with his own grief, he vowed to somehow help other families avoid similar tragedies.

Oddly enough, the inspiration hit him as he waited in line for an HIV test during his November National Guard meeting.

"We were already giving blood," he explained, "and I thought why not take some more and test us to be bone marrow donors?"

Because of his fiancée's illness, Crisler knew that bone marrow donors could save lives. Further, he knew that most Guardmembers, because they are young and in good health, would be ideal bone marrow donor candidates.

And Crisler, a Michigan Army Guard paratrooper, doesn't give up once he begins a mission.

He persevered until his request was heard in the lofty reaches of the Pentagon.

Now, because of his determination, and a new Department of Defense policy, nearly one million Guardmembers can become potential lifesavers through the National Marrow Donor Program.

For those who suffer from any of 60 fatal blood diseases, a marrow transplant

offers the only choice of survival. People afflicted by diseases such as leukemia need marrow transplants to replace their own marrow, which is destroyed during chemotherapy treatment. But, only 30 percent of all patients can find a compatible donor from among their family members.

The National Marrow Donor Program, through its national registry, can help reduce those odds by drawing on a bank of 1.1 million potential donors.

To be placed on the registry, would-be



Photo by SSgt. Tom Springer

**DONOR - Michigan Army Guard medic Spc. Brian Bastianelli (left) draws blood from Sgt. Fernando Campos, a potential marrow donor.**

donors first undergo a simple blood test. The lab results from these tests are stored in a central computer. When a patient requests a marrow transplant, the computer scans its database to find a match. Once a likely match is found, the donor is contacted, and after more tests, the donor may be asked to donate a small amount of marrow.

Active duty service members have

long been able to participate in the registry program. But until Crisler started his push to revise the DoD's policy, Guardmembers were excluded.

Convinced that his cause was just, Crisler went straight to the top. He met directly with Michigan's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump — who agreed that it was a great idea.

On March 26-27 Crisler's unit, Company F (Long Range Surveillance), 425th Infantry, became the nation's first Army Guard unit to participate in the Bone Marrow Donor Program. Company F set a DoD record: nearly 80 percent of the unit volunteered for testing.

"In most active duty units, five to 10 percent of the available personnel choose to donate," said Hugh Hayes, with the National Marrow Donor Program. "And before Company F, the highest I've ever seen is 27 percent."

What's the chance a soldier from Company F will get the call to become a donor?

Only about one in 10,000, Hugh said. Should a match be found, the potential donor would be asked to take a second blood test for verification. If the test again verifies the match, the donor would be flown free to Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

The bone marrow is extracted from the pelvic bone by a syringe, under local or general anesthesia. The procedure takes about 60-90 minutes and the only after effects are some minor back soreness, which lasts about a week.

According to Hayes, it's easy for Guard units to participate in the program. The National Marrow Donor Program supplies the equipment and medical staff needed to conduct the blood tests. Or, units with assigned medics may use their own personnel to draw blood.

"If I die tomorrow, I want to know I've done something that matters," Crisler said. "In the end, it's only the good things we've done for others that remain."

## IN THE MUCK

**Members of South Carolina's Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery battled the muddy conditions (right) during their two-week summer camp at Fort Stewart, Ga.**



Photo by MSgt. Phillip H. Jones





# PEOPLE

## Warrior to the end

Oregon's Spc. Kathi Beck is lost to Colorado forest fire

By SSgt. Vicki Paulson  
Oregon National Guard

The Oregon Army National Guard lost one of its own when 14 firefighters perished in a wind-whipped forest fire on Storm King Mountain near Glenwood Springs, Col., July 6.

Spc. Kathi J. Beck was an adventurous 24-year-old, with a passion for rock climbing and the outdoors.

Beck was the daughter of Susan and Ernest Walsleben of Boring, Ore. She had returned home and joined the Oregon Guard in October 1992, more than two years of active duty at Fort Harrison, Ind.

A member of the 419th Signal Detachment, based in Salem, Ore., for only a month before her death, Beck served with the

741st Service and Supply Battalion at Camp Withycombe.

Spc. Christian Peetz and Beck were both radio operators in the 741st's communications section and often commuted to drill together from Eugene, Ore., where they attended the University of Oregon.

Peetz said Beck was taking a lot of wilderness survival and similar classes through the outdoor program at the university, where she was a psychology major.

"Being a firefighter was really something she was excited about doing. I think it was because she really loved the outdoors," said Peetz.

Peetz considered Beck an intelligent and adventurous person. She said she was smart enough to make money in the stock market and adventurous enough to use that money to finance a trip to Thailand later that summer. Fighting fires was to be her adventure this summer.

Some of us gain an extended "family" in the military, but Peetz said he could see



Courtesy of Associated Press

Oregon's Spc. Kathi J. Beck

firefighting becoming much more family to Beck than the Guard. It incorporated those things she needed to press in her life the most: a passionate love of nature, an intense need to fight for an important cause, and a hunger for extraordinary physical challenges.

"If you really got to know her she was an extremely caring person," said Peetz. "She cared a lot about people and especially about the environment. She was the type of person that didn't

want to sit down and not be a part of what was happening. She wanted to get out there and help rather than just sitting at home spouting off about how that's terrible and somebody should do something about it."

Beck did something about it. She joined what has been called the elite of the U.S. Forest Service firefighters known as the Hot Shots, based in Central Oregon. Nine of the dead came from this group of brave young people out of Prineville.

While the glory usually goes to the helicopter crews and smoke jumpers, it's the Hot Shots who are the frontline commandos on the ground engaged in an endurance race with the flames.

Because it was Beck's first season as a firefighter, some unit members were surprised to learn Beck was already a member of this special team.

"It really didn't surprise me that she would be able to get into a group that was better than the norm," said Peetz.

"I believe it was because of

how physically strong she was and how committed she was to doing things."

Sgt. Roy A. Barnes agreed with Peetz. He remembers Beck showing him the forms she was filling out to join the Hot Shots.

"They had a lot of requirements and seemed really concerned about strength and stamina, but she met those (requirements) with ease."

Barnes attributed her fitness to her dedication to rock climbing. She was always down at the Portland Rock Gym and out climbing most weekends. "It was her life," said Barnes.

Before leaving for firefighter training, Beck had worked for three weeks with Barnes, a unit clerk, climbing a mountain of paperwork generated by the reorganization of his unit, the 3670th Maintenance Company based at Camp Withycombe.

Barnes had learned about Beck's death while at work earlier that day. "I'm still stunned," he said, holding the piece of paper with her Forest Service address that she had given him. "I didn't know she was in Colorado. Only last week I had decided I'd go out there and visit her, but ..."

He looked down at the paper.

Florida's 1st Lt. Felix Buxo takes a spiritual dip during annual training.

## Blanding baptism

By 1st Lt. John Daigle  
Florida National Guard

Like any good soldier, Florida National Guard Chaplain Cecil Radcliff loves new and unusual challenges. That's why he jumped at a rare request to baptize a soldier during recent annual training exercises.

Sunset at Camp Blanding's Kingsley Lake made a perfect setting for the old-fashioned baptism and revival. A crowd of local civilians and Guardsmembers gathered to watch Radcliff baptize 1st Lt. Felix Buxo and then play lead guitar in an all-Guardsmen gospel quartet.

"I thought it was a great opportunity," said Radcliff, an Enterprise, Fla., pastor who serves as the chaplain for 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery based in Daytona Beach. "It's so hard to get anyone at an adult age to make a commitment to anything."

Buxo, from Bravo Battery, 1/265 ADA, said he had been consulting with Radcliff during annual training exercises when he realized that he wanted to be baptized.



Photo by SFC George Mirabel

He said he saw no reason to wait until after the training period.

"This was a public way to express that I want to change my life," Buxo said after the ceremony. "People in the military may think they'll never be in a situation where they will need God, but in Him is where you'll find your strength."

Radcliff and Sgt. Rayfield Campbell led Buxo -- who

**CLEANSING THE SOUL - Florida Army Guard Chaplain Cecil Radcliff (left) performs a baptism on 1st Lt. Felix Buxo (center) as Sgt. Rayfield Campbell assists.**

cannot swim -- out into about chest-high waters of clear Kingsley Lake singing the gospel song "Onward Christian Soldiers."

With supporters and curious onlookers watching from a near-by dock, Radcliff said prayers while dunking Buxo in the water. The crowd offered a round of applause at the end of the ceremony.

A dripping wet, but gleeful Buxo told the crowd, "The water was nice and warm and I can try to start a new life from now."

Radcliff said he's performed baptisms before, but never in a lake and never for a uniformed Guardsmember.

Buxo underwent several prayer sessions with the chaplain in preparation for the baptism in which he reconfirmed himself as a Catholic.

Although unprecedented at Camp Blanding, military baptisms are not unheard of, said Camp Blanding's Chaplain Steve Hess.

"What has happened here is not unusual," Hess said. "A soldier stepped forward with spiritual needs that the military was able to fulfill."



Thousands of Georgia Guardmembers are called to duty in the wake of 'Alberto'

# FLOOD of support

By Spc. Rob Hainer  
Georgia National Guard

The overflowing Flint River took everything Eric Newton owned. He watched in early July as its muddy waters swept into his Albany apartment complex and claimed his car, furniture and clothing.

Hours later, he was called to active duty with his Georgia National Guard unit to help keep the same thing from happening to others.

Having nothing left but the drenched civilian clothes he was wearing, Spec. Newton caught a ride to the Albany National Guard armory, where he was issued some uniforms.

Newton's was one of thousands of Georgia Army and Air Guardmembers who helped bail out a state devastated by tropical storm Alberto. The storm dumped 20 inches of rain on Southwest and central Georgia in less than 24 hours over the Fourth of July weekend.

In total, 31 lives were lost, 8,763 homes affected and more than \$200 million of damage done to public roads and buildings in the Peach state. State agriculture officials said Alfredo wiped out thousands of acres of peanuts, tobacco, cotton, corn, peaches and other crops.

Georgia was not the only state affected. Eight counties in Alabama and 12 in Florida also were harmed. In Alabama, nearly 500 Army and Air Guardmembers were called to duty. Florida needed 600 citizen-soldiers and airmen to help assist flood victims.

By July 6, six Georgia armories were opened and 157 Georgia citizen-soldiers were called to state active duty to support Operation Crested River. By July 18, nearly 3,700 Guardmembers from nearly 80 separate units were needed.

Guardmembers hauled, distributed and purified water, evacuated critically-harmed patients, performed search and rescue missions, repaired roads and bridges, and provided security.

At Albany's Palmyra Medical Center nearly 150 members of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment built a sandbag wall to protect patients and staff from rising waters.

Tons of sand and hours later, the hospi-



Photo by Capt. Sandra Robinson

**FLOOD RELIEF** - TSgt. Bennie Williams (left), a member of the Georgia Air Guard's 224th Joint Communications Squadron gives an elderly Macon County resident bottled water. Georgia Guardmembers (below) build a sandbag wall. Alabama's 167th Engineer Company (bottom photo) transport residents across a flooded shopping center.



Photo by Spc. Rob Hainer



Photo by Sgt. Chris Brown

tal became an island surrounded by an ocean of muddy water three feet deep. But being on an island meant that Guardmembers would have to stay and provide transportation for hospital's employees.

"Our vehicles are the only means of getting in and out," said 2nd Lt. Jeffery Fountain. "We have to keep this hospital running because we have nowhere to evacuate the patients."

Up north in Americus, Ga., with flood water rising above the hubcaps of his car, John

Hurley Jr. didn't panic. He simply jumped out of his car in the middle of the night to go look for help, leaving his 28-year-old wife, Kathy, and 2-year-old son inside.

Panic did set in, however, when a rush of water swept him away as he was half-way out of the car door. He went under and the current pulled him away.

"I tried to swim back, but when I came up the last thing I could see was the tail lights go under," Hurley said.

The next day, on July 7, Hurley's car was found empty.

Capt. Jeff Hobaugh and 10 soldiers from the Albany-based Headquarters Company, 2nd Bat-

talion, 121st Infantry Regiment, were charged with the grisly task of locating the bodies of the woman and child.

"My wife's back in Albany with water about 50 feet away from the house. She's okay now, but I don't know how much longer she'll be able to stay there," Hobaugh said.

Hobaugh later managed to convince an Army Guard helicopter pilot at the airport to take him and a local firefighter on an aerial search -- one last chance, he hoped, at finding the woman and the young boy alive.

"We need to try one more time. They could be hanging from a tree screaming for help and we wouldn't know it," Hobaugh said to the pilot.

The flight was filled with silence as Hobaugh and Americus Fire Capt. Tommy Whitaker took off. Thirty minutes turned to 60. Sixty became 90. The only sound was the constant thumping of the rotor blades. The only sight was miles of brown water and dense forest.

## FLOOD FACTS

- 4.8 million gallons of water produced by water purification units.
- 2.3 million gallons of bottled water distributed.
- 914 hours of aircraft time flown
- More than 200 pieces of engineering equipment used in clean up efforts.
- In Macon County alone, more than 87 miles of road temporarily repaired.
- 153,021 meals served.





Courtesy of the Georgia National Guard



Courtesy of the Georgia National Guard

**DIGGIN IN -** A Georgia Guard member (above) shovels some sand in Macon County. The flooding (top photo) in Georgia was evident from above.

"I don't see anything," Hobaugh said. "Let's turn back."

After landing at the Americus airport, the south Georgia heat subsided. The sky grew dark — an all too familiar site in Americus.

John Hurley Jr. never gave up hope that search teams would somehow find the bodies of his wife and young son. He maintained a four-day vigil on a downstream bridge.

After the rain stopped and much of the water fell back into the Muckalee Creek and the Flint River, local rescue workers found his wife's body July 9. They found his son's body the next day, raising the death toll in Americus to 15 — the highest number of deaths attributed to the flooding in any city or county statewide.

Rudi Williams, American Forces Information Services, contributed to this story.

Massachusetts's  
102nd Fighter  
Wing is on call if  
the Endeavor  
gets into trouble

## Shuttle saviors

By Frank J. Adinolfi Jr.  
Massachusetts National Guard

**L**iz Cumming's blue astronaut suit grew hot. Condensation formed on the inside of her helmet visor. Droplets fell into her eyes and mouth. The exercise became too much of a reality.

"Right engine is down. Right engine is down. Endeavor is headed to Otis," was the call from Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Lt. Col. Paul Worcester, in charge at Otis Air National Guard Base's Survival Recovery Center, set the base's response plan into action. The week-long annual refresher training for the remote possibility of a space shuttle emergency landing at Otis was now in its final phase.

When a space shuttle lifts off on a high inclination launch from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., the Air Guard's 102nd Fighter Wing is standing by. Otis is one of six emergency shuttle landing sites on the east coast. The base would have 15 to 20 minutes after notification to prepare for a shuttle landing on Cape Cod.

"The 102nd Fighter Wing is a prime player in the DoD Space Shuttle Support team," says Col. Michael A. Shilkits, USAF, commander of the DoD Manned Space Flight Support Office, Patrick AFB, Fla. "Geographic locations like Otis and Pease (ANGB) are right in the flight path. The astronauts would be very uncomfortable without an emergency landing site," says Shilkits.

The Guard and Reserve are absolutely critical to the shuttle support program, adds Shilkits. "Despite the DoD draw downs, the requirement is still there. There are not enough active duty assets. We couldn't do it without the Guard and Reserve."

The Air Guard provides shuttle support in addition to the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 102nd Fighter Wing. For every shuttle launch, an HC-130 Hercules rescue controller with nine pararescuemen is in the air 180 miles over the Atlantic from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., says Maj. Hadj Thomas of the New York Air Guard's 106th Operations Group.

After the Challenger crash in 1986, the 106th was the unit that did the testing and "wrote the book for the whole procedure" that's used if the astronauts bail out of the shuttle, says Thomas. The New Hampshire ANG maintains another emergency landing site at Pease ANGB where the 157th Air Refueling Group performs functions similar to the 102nd at Otis.

Guard C-130s also support potential transoceanic abort landing sites at Moron and Zaragoza Air Bases in Spain;

Ben Guerir AB, Morocco; and Yundum Airport, Gambia.

"The most positive thing about any exercise is becoming aware of your strengths and weaknesses," says SMSgt. Fred Wadsworth, 102nd disaster preparedness superintendent. "The toughest part ... is that you're not dealing with real things."

A Contingency Response Force convoy, with the 102nd's Lt. Col. Paul Brogan as the on scene commander, followed after the space shuttle Endeavor as it landed hard on runway 34. For the exercise, a blue Air Force bus stood in for Endeavor. The "shuttle" simulated braking hard, a wheel well fire flashed, and the shuttle skidded off the right side of the runway. Smoke canisters spewed gray clouds around the bus to add drama to the exercise.

Otis Fire Department vehicles positioned around the nose of the simulated shuttle. Water fired from the vehicle turrets, hit the bus. Fire Lt. John Johnston led an eight-man rescue team to the vehicle.

"The first things we do when we reach an astronaut in the shuttle is close the protective face shield on the helmet, lock it, and pull the green apple," says Johnston. The oxygen bottle located in an astronaut's suit is activated by pulling a round green handle. The bottle holds a total of 10 minutes of breathing time, says Johnston.

"Astronaut" Cummings, secretary to the 102nd Fighter Wing's executive officer, sat in the bus, role playing an injured crewmember. She was the only one of the volunteer

victims to wear a real, though unserviceable, \$220,000 astronaut suit. "It (the suit) was a lot harder to get into than I thought," she says. Once on, the suit is "very heavy, very hot. It adheres to your body, kinda like putting on panty hose," she added.

The astronaut suit — not Cummings — had once been in space, according to MSgt. Cornelius Hughes, one of the exercise trainers from the DoD Manned Space Flight Support Office.

"I was anxious about how they were going to get me out of there," says Cummings. She is a civilian employee who said she had never before participated in a military exercise



Courtesy of Vincent DeWitt, Cape Cod Times

**RESCUE -** 102nd firefighters carry an injured astronaut to safety during a practice exercise at Otis Air National Guard Base.

of this magnitude.

Firefighters reached Cummings inside the bus, closed and locked her helmet visor, and simulated activating the oxygen bottles. They passed her to other members of the rescue team waiting outside the door where her medical condition was quickly appraised. Two silver-suited firefighters carried her to a waiting pickup truck. They then returned to the shuttle to bring out more victims.

"Our number one priority is to save the astronaut's lives," says Brogan. "Once we get them out, we'd leave the shuttle alone. It's a sophisticated and exotic vehicle that's best left to the people who handle it everyday."

In the event a shuttle does land at Otis, the first of 400 NASA personnel will arrive within three hours of touch down. They will remain for 60 to 90 days to prepare the shuttle to leave Otis on the back of a special NASA 747, according to Lt. Col. Randy Barnes, the second member of the Patrick AFB training team.

The Air National Guard will have two more opportunities in the near future to support the shuttle program. "Otis will be standing by in September and October," noted Col. Donald Quenneville, 102nd air commander. "There will be one high inclination launch in each of those months."

As for Cummings, she drove home, drank two and a half quarts of water and went to sleep for nearly three hours.



## FAMILY SUPPORT

# Helping your own

Georgia floods reveal strength of family programs

By Lt. Col. David Super  
National Guard Bureau

Floodwaters soaked everybody along Georgia's Flint River this summer, including more than 40 members of the National Guard called to state active duty to help their neighbors and, it turns out, receive help.

Rescue for the National Guard members is coming from the increasingly active network of state Family Programs in Georgia and across the nation. In the Peach State alone, a fund-raising effort is underway to collect \$21,000 that will provide a \$500 grant to each of the injured families.

The efforts in Georgia are an example of how state Family Program offices nationwide gear up to assist National Guard families during long periods of training or state emergencies. While their efforts were most visible during the Gulf War, Family Program coordinators and thousands of volunteers are working hard to sustain their level of support.

Among new areas of emphasis, according to Ms. Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, the chief of the National Guard Bureau's Family Programs office, are efforts to ensure that their programs are more "purple."

"We want to take full advantage of the strengths of the Army and Air National Guard families in each state," she said.

In Georgia, Sgt. William Embert was both rescuer and victim. In less than one day his recently rented home was under seven feet of water. The next day, Embert, a member of Headquarters Company, 2/121st Infantry, put on his uniform and went to work with other Guardmembers to build a sandbag wall around the Palmyra Medical Center in Albany.

"There was nothing he could do at home," said Embert's wife, Sue. "I'm glad he was able to go out and help someone else."

The Emberts returned to their home after flood waters subsided. They found most of their possessions destroyed - except for one item.

"I don't know how, but the TV still



**FAMILY TOUCH** - As part of a recent exercise in Puerto Rico, citizen-soldiers like SSgt. Nadia Garcia (left) worked in the family support center.

Courtesy of the Puerto Rico National Guard

works. We only had to clean it up a little," Embert said.

The family had renter's insurance, but their policy covered everything except floods.

In Atlanta, 1st Lt. Tanya Brinkley, Georgia's Family Programs coordinator, is leading a relief fund to help "fill in the gaps" not covered by other emergency groups such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Our goal is to get \$500 to each Guardmember in a bind. The money will come in vouchers that they can use at local stores to purchase their immediate needs. Our only problem is getting Guardmembers to apply for assistance. Some of them see people who are much more worse off and decide they don't need help," Brinkley added.

Ironically, while the Georgia National Guard was responding to the flood with an activation of its troops, the Family Program office had scheduled a training workshop for its volunteers. Rather than cancel the workshop, Brinkley and her colleagues used the emergency as a "laboratory" for their training.

"It was great," Brinkley remarked.

## Support center answers call

At the same time National Guard troops in Georgia were meeting at armories in response to early July flooding, the state opened its Family Assistance Centers in eight communities. The Centers were manned by Recruiting and Retention personnel, Family Program staffers and volunteers. The range of activities included:

- A volunteer network phone tree was established.
- Guard family members or other citizens who called the centers could receive a briefing as to the scope of the Guard's mission during the flood.

- The Centers delivered messages to and from activated Guardmembers and their families.

- Information was gathered regarding Guard families that suffered losses from the flood.

- A locator service was established to help on duty Guardmembers find their families that were moved during the flood.

- The Centers became collection and distribution points for donated relief items.

- An emergency relief fund was established to aid Guard families hurt by the flood.

"Our volunteers, whether they were involved in the flood or not, were really able to see the importance of our work."

Other National Guard units in Massachusetts, Iowa, Maryland, Wisconsin are pledging to start similar programs to help troops in Georgia.

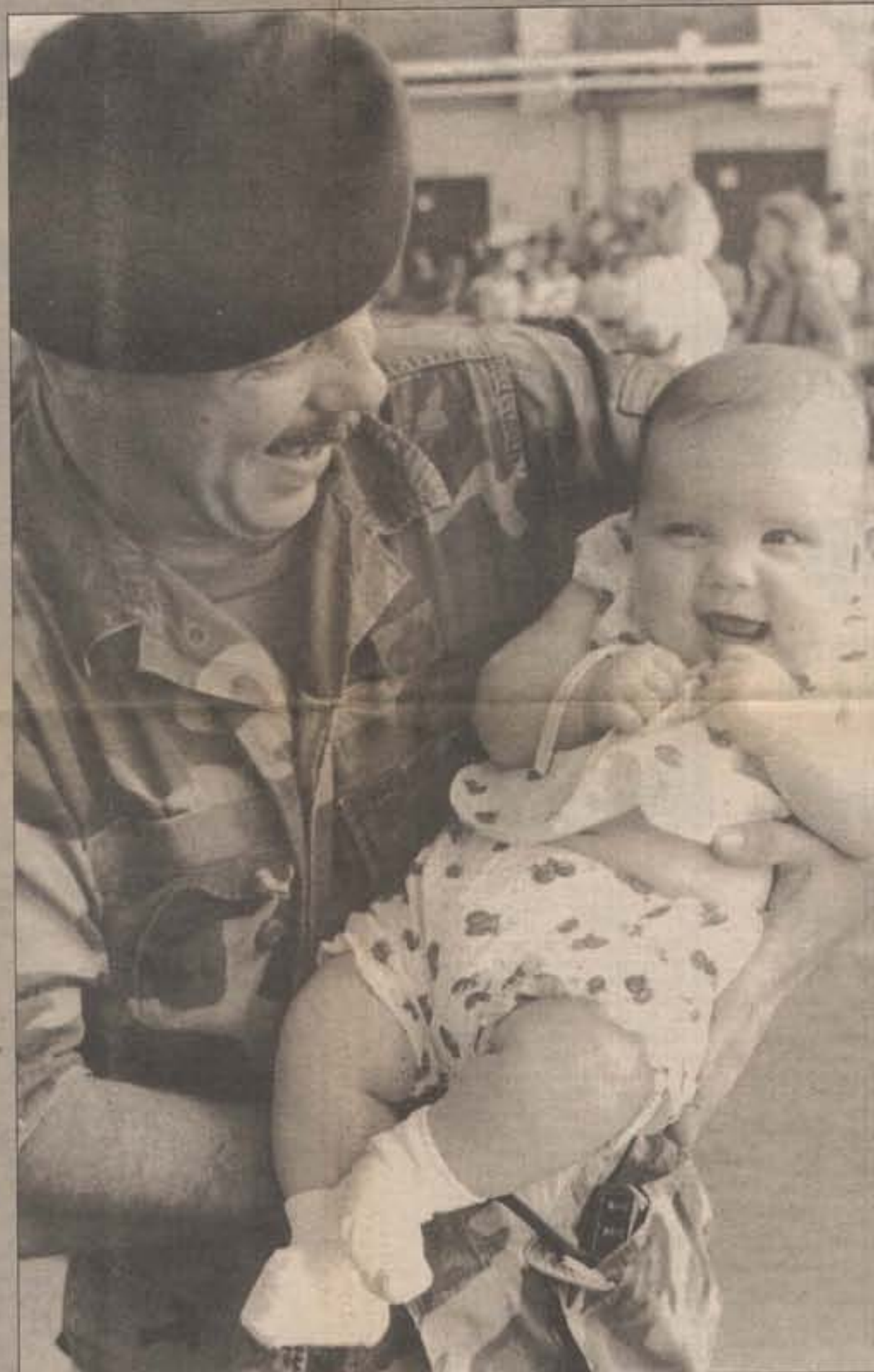
"We've faced this ourselves last year, and we know how hard a flood can hit a Guard family," said Col. Charles Chabot of the Iowa National Guard.

Massachusetts has set up a program named "Operation Peachtree." According to Maj. Debbie Rich, Family Support officer with the Bay State, the state raised money for Iowa Guardmembers last year.

The fund drive is a direct way to help Guardmembers who have been injured during an emergency like a flood, Rich said. "Unlike active duty troops, she continued, Guardmembers can't turn to the Army Emergency Relief program for assistance."

"When you are helping the community, who's helping you?" she continued. "We need to help ourselves."

Sp. 1st Lt. Hainer of the Georgia National Guard contributed to this story.



Courtesy Texas National Guard

# All in the FAMILY

Many Army and Air Guard units around the country have taken a day to remember what's important



Courtesy Texas National Guard

**FAMILY DAY** - The Texas Air Guard's 149th Fighter Group's TSgt. Johnny Andrada enjoys his unit's festivities with his 5-year-old son Jeffrey.



Photo by TSgt. Bill Bloszinsky

**ALL SMILES** - Texas Air Guard's MSgt. Craig Folts (left photo) shares a laugh with his daughter Katrina at his unit's Family Day. A member of the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 193rd Special Operations Group (above) gives a tour of his base to his parents and daughter.

Family Support program could get boost from unit retention NCOs

# Retaining the CLAN

An important change is being considered for the family support programs of the Army and Air National Guard.

Thanks to a proposed change in policy within the Army Guard and the potential for a similar change within the Air Guard, retention NCOs could have a more specific role in supporting their unit's family support program.

In the future, Army Guard unit retention NCOs - about 450 strong nationwide - will be required to stay behind to act as a family liaison officer if their unit is called to federal service and deployed. Announcement of the possible change was made during the National Guard's August Family Support Conference in Louisville, Ky.

In the Air Guard, the family support mission has become part of the retention NCO's job description, just as it is in the Army Guard.

However, a decision has not been made whether the Air Guard NCOs will remain at home station upon activation. According to National Guard Family Program officials, the retention NCOs often are the most familiar with all of their unit members, their families and the local community. This knowledge base makes them a natural to perform the family support liaison mission, says NGB family program director Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee.

Family support volunteers favor the policy change, secure in knowing there will be a unit member remaining at the home station who can assist with a wide range of actions while Guardmembers are on active duty. Assisting the specifically-designated retention NCO will be members of the state's remaining full-time recruiting staff, the state's Family Program office and scores of family volunteers.



Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee





# SPORTS

- Hall of famer
- Texas hot shots

## SPORTS SHORTS

### STEWART ENTERS MARKSMANSHIP 'HALL OF FAME'

**Lt. Col. Randy W. Stewart**, a member of the Arkansas National Guard, was recently inducted into the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit Running Target Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Ga.

Stewart is the only National Guardsman ever to receive the prestigious honor. He earned the Hall selection by winning 134 individual national championships and 15 interservice championships during his seven year stint with the Army Marksmanship Unit.

In the unit's 38 year history, only seven shooters have been selected.

### TEXANS TAKE SHOOTING TITLES

*The eyes of Texas* were certainly looking down on several members of the Texas Army National Guard during the U.S. Army Combat Arms Matches held recently at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark.

A Nueces County deputy sheriff finished first in the 'Old Class' category at the combat sniper individual championships, while a rancher took the overall title.

SSgt. Edmund E. Becka Jr., a police firearms instructor and SWAT Team sniper with the sheriff's department has won numerous awards over the years, including the 1993 Texas state pistol and sniper competition.

Becka is an infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry based in Corpus Christi.

Sgt. Charles W. Blackwell, a member of Company B, 249th Main Support Battalion based in Fredericksburg, won the overall Combat Arms individual championship.



**HOT SHOT** - Texas Army Guard's Sgt. Charles Blackwell (left) made an impressive showing at the Army's Skills at Arms Meeting in Brisbane, Australia. Connecticut's SSgt. Raymond Baker (below) cleans his pistol.

### Guard's International combat team makes respectable showing at Australia's arms meet

By SFC Jim D. Green  
Arkansas National Guard

**M**embers of the All Guard International Combat Team took some top honors in the Australian Army's Skill at Arms Meeting held recently at the Belmont Range complex in Brisbane.

Texas Army Guard's Sgt. Charles Blackwell outgunned 49 others to become the top pistol shooter. Blackwell also placed third in one sniper match by firing 10 shots for record from a distance of 800 meters and placed third in another sniper match that required him to shoot from the 800 meter berm.

Blackwell received two bronze medals for rifle, and one for pistol. These were awarded because he placed in the top 10 percent. One additional medal was awarded for placing in the top 5 percent of a special rifle/pistol match.

Blackwell teamed up with Utah's SSgt. Neil Mellor to take first place in the machine-gun falling plate match. Nebraska's 1st Lt. Todd Wolford and New York's Sgt. Henry Bunk took second place honors in this competition.

Vermont's Sgt. Ralph Young took second place in a rifle match that was an aggregate of four individual matches. He also placed fourth in a rifle match which was a combination of seven other matches. In addition, Young took second place in a match requiring him to fire three stages in a series of continuous attack and reorganization.

For his efforts, Young received seven bronze medals in rifle, one in pistol and one for placing in the top 5 percent in the

## Top guns down under

special rifle/pistol match.

Vermont's SSgt. Larry Reynolds received four bronze medals for scores attained in various rifle matches.

Connecticut's SSgt. Raymond Baker placed second in a rifle match where he fired 10 shots from the 300 meter berm. His score placed him in the top 10 percent and he received a bronze medal.

The Guardmembers also placed fourth in a special eight-man match. This match required the team to run a two-mile relay in eight minutes with full field gear, weapons and ammunition. This team was comprised of Wolford, Bunk, Blackwell, MSgt. Glen Bowles, Mellor, Morris, Reynolds and Sgt. Mark Richard.

"Top physical conditioning is a must for this competition. Each soldier must be committed to the team effort. There is no room for individuals on this team," said Maj. Larry Sims.

The Australian competition was battle



Photos by SFC Jim Green

focused training and oriented toward survivability on the battlefield. Competitors from all countries stayed in tents and dined in a large field dining tent.

"This is a high intensity type shooting and is the nearest thing to actual combat shooting. Soldiers that compete in this type match have to be in top shape to endure the physical stress necessary to complete these courses of fire," said CWO Hager L. Hollon, Guard team coach.

Col. R.J. Margetta, director of the Australian Infantry, said the competition provides valuable skill-at-arms training. Previous conflicts have singled out battle stress as the largest single factor which degrades shooting accuracy, according to Margetta.

"Despite advances in technology and its impact on weapon systems on the modern battlefield, future conflicts will still depend upon the skill-at-arms proficiency of the individual soldier," Margetta said.

Teams representing the countries of Australia, Brunei, Great Britain, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and the United States competed in this competition. The United States had teams representing the National Guard and the Army Reserve.





Photos by 1st Lt. Karen Huff

## FUTURE LEADERS

Many of today's officer candidates are benefitting from training at consolidated schools

By 1st Lt. Karen Huff  
South Carolina Army Guard

**T**he strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack. This, says Maj. Phil Williams, is the goal of five southeastern states that have joined forces to conduct Phase I of Officer Candidate School.

Nearly 200 Army Guard OCS candidates from Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, North Carolina and South Carolina have consolidated their state programs at South Carolina's Leesburg Training Center. Previously, each state hosted its own initial two-week encampment for the incoming candidates.

The consolidation is part of a longstanding campaign to lower costs and standardize training within the Army Guard's commissioning program that has been generating second lieutenants since 1951. According to Maj. Joe Pugh of the National Guard Bureau, the formal consolidation initiative started in Fiscal Year 1993 and has evolved ever since. 1996 is the



target year for the nationwide operation of five consolidated Phase I sites and two Phase III sites. Phase II training will remain an individual state responsibility.

1st. Col. Phil Grubbs, commandant of the South Carolina Military Academy, explained the reasons for the consolidation. "This is an effort to pool resources and staff, and thus far, we're seeing that it's very effective. We have a marginally larger staff to serve this program for four states and Puerto Rico. Normally each would have just to support its own program. It is saving the taxpayers a lot of money."

In addition to keeping costs down, consolidation has enabled the participating schools to uniformly implement the active Army's program of instruction.

"In working with one another," says Grubbs, "we've learned how to standardize what we're doing, and I think that's going to make for consistency throughout the Officer Candidate program."

Because of the larger numbers of cadets involved, the program also allows more realistic "platoon level" training.

The consolidation of state OCS programs has required new levels of interstate cooperation.

**EXTRA EFFORT** - Officer candidate Marisol Laboy (top photo) sounds off for TAC officer 1st Lt. Eric Gaddis. Candidates (above) absorb instruction from South Carolina's Capt. Robert Bradshaw.

School traditions and long-standing ways of doing business are adjusted to meet new situations. And while candidates from several states train together, each state retains commissioning authority.

The consolidation of Phase III training is nearly complete. This year, 16 states sent 196 candidates for their final training to Fort Lewis, Wash. On the East Coast, 102 candidates were sent from five states to Fort Bragg, N.C. Next year, 24 states will consolidate at Bragg, and 16 at Lewis.

At the active duty installations, Phase III students are formed into a National Guard regiment that trains parallel with senior ROTC cadets. Together, the two groups of student officers use the staff, classrooms, barracks and training facilities that have been part of the ROTC program for many years. National Guard TAC officers remain as the primary supervisors of Guard students.



Photos by MSgt. Joel Lebowitz

## JERSEY ASSAULT

Spc. Joseph Balmos (above), a member of the New Jersey Army Guard's Battery A, 1st Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, sights his howitzer during annual training at Fort Drum, N.Y. Sgt. Robert O'Neill (left), Sgt. Terrence Hill (rear) and Spc. John Folley of New Jersey's 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry dismount a M113 armored personnel carrier. Nearly 2,900 citizen-soldiers from the Garden State pulled their AT at Fort Drum.



## NEWS

## MAKERS

Compiled by Capt. Phil Blahut  
National Guard Bureau

**Lt. Col. Dennis Zicha, 105th Airlift Group, New York Air National Guard**, has been awarded the Pollution Prevention Award for Individual Excellence. The award is presented to the individual who made the most significant contribution to the ANG's pollution prevention efforts. Zicha's unit was also recognized as having the ANG's best or most improved pollution prevention program.

**SSgt. Larry Davis, 245th Medical Company (Clearing), Oklahoma Army National Guard**, recently saved the life of a 13-year-old boy who nearly drowned. Returning from weekend drill, Davis was approached by a neighbor whose nephew was lying on the bottom of their swimming pool. Davis, a CPR instructor, rescued the boy from the pool and revived him by using resuscitation before the paramedics arrived.

**SSgt. Karen Lukasik, a member of the 143rd Airlift Group, Rhode Island Air National Guard**, is the recipient of the 23rd Annual Rhode Island Federal Employee Award for her contributions to her government and community. As a government executive secretary, Lukasik has spent numerous hours volunteering to make the 143rd AG's annual airshow a success. Beginning 10 months in advance, Lukasik coordinated billeting accommodations, transportation and all administrative support.

**Members of the 189th Security Police Squadron, Arkansas Air National Guard**, recently met the challenge of a German Air Force Security Police Sports competition at Hulbert Field, Fla. The competition consisted of firing expert with the M-16, a 5,000 meter run, a 100 meter dash, a 100 meter swim, broad jumping or throwing a shotput, and a 30 kilometer march in combat boots and BDUs while carrying a 22-pound ruck sack.

In plain English, that's 18 1/2 miles in less than five hours.

**More than 400 Montana Air National Guard members from the 120th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron** have been selected as the winners of the U.S. Air Force's Maintenance Effectiveness Award. Their accomplishments included outstanding ratings during a major Operational Readiness Inspection, a William Tell competition and an extraordinary daily in-commission rate of the 120th's fleet of F-16 fighters.

**Col. Louis A. Cabrera, Nevada Army National Guard**, was selected by the Department of Defense to receive the 1994 National Image, Inc. Meritorious Service Award. The National Image Award is given to individuals who increase opportunities for Hispanic-Americans.

**Capt. Frank A. Hijuelos, a Drug Demand Reduction administrator for the Louisiana National Guard**, was selected by his state and his military advisory committee to receive the Military Personnel of the Year Award for 1993 for the National Guard. Hijuelos credits his success to the more than 3,500 state volunteers who have supported his state's youth programs.



Sgt. Rodney Fuller (center) with his civilian and military bosses.



Lt. Col. Ann Fausone wins 'Nightingale.'



California's Col. Rick Testa wins A.F. Association's Exceptional Performance Award.



TSgt. George Nieves, Florida's top gun.

**Sgt. Rodney B. Fuller, Detachment 4, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 192 Aviation, Alabama Army National Guard**, was instrumental in getting his civilian boss, Don Guthrie, recognized with a DoD Certificate of Appreciation from the National Committee for Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve. Guthrie was recognized for allowing Fuller to attend a special six-week course after an unexpected quota to the school became available with only one day's notice.

**Col. Richard "Rick" Testa, deputy commander of the 162nd Combat Communications Group, California ANG**, was presented the Air Force Association's Exceptional Performance Award. Testa served as the Director of Communications for U.S. Central Command during Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait in 1993. He coordinated all of the joint communications in that theater to include U.S. and coalition forces.

**Maj. Mike Williams, 124th Fighter Group, Idaho Air National Guard**, is one of only four pilots in the U.S. Air Force history, and possibly the only ANG member, to fly 100 combat sorties over Iraq. Williams, an electronics warfare officer, achieved this milestone when he flew his F-4G Wild Weasel on a mission over Iraq on June 6.

**MSgt. Freddie Bennett of the 134th Air Refueling Group's base education office** was recently named one of the Outstanding Air National Guardmembers by the Air Force Association. Bennett is credited for guiding 25 Tennessee ANG members toward their associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force.

**CMSt. Joseph Poltis, 125th Fighter Group, Florida Air Guard**, was recently awarded the Enlisted Engineer of the Year Award for 1993 by the Society of American Military Engineers. Poltis influenced the 125th's base relandscaping project, their \$9 million alert complex in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, and built the foundation and concrete mounts for a static F-106 display in honor of Gen. Chappy James, America's first black four-star general.

**TSgt. George V. Nieves, Florida Air Guard's 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron**, recently took first place in the individual rifle category at the "Combat Focus" Florida National Guard James A. Dowling Trophy Match. Florida Army and Air National Guardmembers annually compete for rifle, pistol and machine gun marksmanship awards.

**Lt. Col. Ann Fausone, 191st Medical Squadron, Michigan ANG**, received the Nightingale Award for Nursing Administration from Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, the Surgeon General of the United States. Among other achievements, Fausone gained recognition for initiating and implementing a National Defense Medical System exercise between her base, the Macomb, Mich., Community Medical System and several hospitals that simulated an aircraft incident involving 100 victims.



## Arizona's Mike Garland could not read. Today, thanks to ChalleNGe, he has his GED

By Lt. Col. David Super  
National Guard Bureau

Mike Garland, an Arizona teenager, was headed for trouble several months ago, the first steps on a path littered with what have become familiar danger signs: gang membership, drugs, trouble with the police, juvenile hall and difficulties with his parents.

There was one more problem facing Garland as he enrolled in the Arizona National Guard's Project ChalleNGe class, he could not read.

Sgt. Mike Penterman, a former Phoenix police officer and now team leader for the Arizona ChalleNGe program, tells how the National Guard's youth program changed a teenager who, on the first day of training "had a tough look on his face," but a "scared to death" look in his eyes.

Three weeks into training, a classmate revealed to Penterman that Garland could not read. Accustomed to teenage exaggeration, but believing Garland could do some reading in spite of his low test scores, he was ready to brush off the remark.

The student insisted, "No sir, he cannot read; he simply cannot read."

Penterman took Garland to the library and picked up the first book he could find,



Photo by SFC Stan Willis

**TEACHING - ChalleNGe instructor Capt. Clayton Marlowe explains the finer points of computer literacy.**

mented Capt. Brian McClenney.

In the classroom, out of the classroom, outdoors, in the dining hall, in the barracks, everyone worked with Garland to ensure his crash reading program would be a success. Early on, he wanted to quit, McClenney recalled, but had a change of heart. "Somewhere toward the middle, life changed for Mike."

With lots of hard work and help from everyone, Garland became a reader. The GED was within his reach.

As graduation neared, Sgt. Penterman heard Garland remark that he wanted to write a thank you letter to Arizona's now-retired Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Donald Owens.

From troubled teenager to the proud recipient of a freshly earned GED certificate, Garland was encouraged to write, and read aloud, his thank you letter during the state's first ChalleNGe graduation ceremony.

In part, here is what Garland read: "I wanted to write to you to thank you for the opportunity to go to Project ChalleNGe. I got all the help and attention I could possibly want. I read every chance I could. I read to anyone who would listen. I learned about respect. I earned the respect of others."

"Project ChalleNGe was very difficult for me. Project ChalleNGe gave me a life that I wouldn't have had. I can read. I have my GED... I have a future... thank you for my life."

## Meeting the CHALLENGE

opened to a page and read the first line. He passed the book to Garland and asked him to read aloud. A full minute passed. Garland had not read 10 words. He had difficulty sounding out "the... and... of."

"I didn't know whether to cry or scream," Penterman admitted. So he did what soldiers are trained to do, continue the mission, in this instance to help a young man. They returned to the NCO's office where Garland spilled out his story. He could not read simple signs. Filling out a job application was impossible. He would get into fights with kids who made

fun of nonreaders.

Although he concluded that Project ChalleNGe's goal of having students complete their GED was far out of reach, Garland enrolled to rescue himself. He just wanted to learn to read. He feared that if he didn't get his life together he would end up in prison, or dead.

Trained as a security policeman, Sgt. Penterman, the rest of the Arizona ChalleNGe faculty and students joined forces to give Garland, in Penterman's words, "all the help he could stand."

"He had such a long way to go," la-

## FIRES

From Page 3

Guardsmen were also hauling office equipment for the State of Washington Emergency Management Division, cooking meals, installing and operating showers, installing floodlight systems and providing traffic and security patrols. They were also treating minor injuries and transporting rations, Hubbert noted. Before going onto the fire line, service members received crash courses in the art of fire fighting. They learned and practiced hose laying, mop-up, fire behavior and trail construction with a heavy emphasis on safety.

Uncontrolled forest fires were also under attack by specially-equipped Air National Guard C-130s, that began bombing blazes in the spring and have been busy ever since.

"These are the most unforgiving fire conditions since Yellowstone burned in 1988," said Fred O. Walk of the U.S. Forest Services, Washington D.C., office. "Hundreds of thou-



Photos by PFC Andrew Hughan

sands of acres have burned. And it's early. Typically, you don't see fire conditions like this until later in the summer."

Air Guard units from the 153rd Airlift Squadron of Cheyenne, Wyo., the 156th Airlift Squadron of Charlotte N.C., and the 146th Airlift Wing of Channel Islands, Calif., were involved in the effort. Each plane can make about 10 drops a day. Huge fires are brought under control by gradually surrounding them with firelines.

"Firefighting is demanding, difficult work," said Maj. Jerry Champlin, mission commander for the Spokane operation at Geiger Field. "The ships make their drops at 100 to 200 feet above the tree tops. At times, when the plane is low in a canyon, the crew is actually looking up at the flames along the walls of the canyon and tops of peaks."

"Our job is to lay down a line of retardant where the Forest Service believes it will do the most good," Champlin contin-



**FIREFIGHTING - A California Army Guard helicopter (far left) loaded with water heads for the fires. CWO Betsy Eskridge (left) prepares for flight. Several Army and Air Guard units have been involved since July.**

quarter-million gallons have been used. As of Aug. 9, National Guard and Reserve units had flown more than 850 hours of firefighting missions.

Walk had high praise for the Air National Guard. "In Spokane, we were operational within 24 hours. At some sites we were ready to protect homes, lives and property in half of that time."

"Our expertise is on the ground," he added. "The Guard's expertise is in the air. When we capitalize on each others' strengths, we can be extremely successful."

C.B. Bylander, a MAFFS fire information officer, contributed to this story.

ued. "We buy time for the people on the ground by slowing down the speed of the fire."

Each Air Guard unit C-130 Hercules transport plane is equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, A MAFFS unit - a series of five, 600-gallon pressurized tanks and two discharge pipes - drops nearly 3,000 gallons of fire retardant in about 10 seconds. The retardant covers an area equivalent to about five football fields.

By mid-August more than a





# STATES

- Jersey Games
- Idaho flyers
- Nebraska Cobras

## NEW JERSEY

Forty-five members of the New Jersey Army National Guard took center stage supporting the Garden State Games held at Rutgers University this summer. These soldiers provided security, water, communications for medical support and set up equipment to help more than 2,000 Garden State athletes compete for the Olympics.

"Besides being an excellent recruiting tool and public awareness for the Guard, it shows we can be a service to the community," said SFC Gary Barraco, a New Jersey Army Guard recruiter.

## CONNECTICUT

More than 150 Connecticut children were given a special opportunity this summer to develop, mature and prepare for future challenges thanks to the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard and the Connecticut National Guard. The three military entities joined forces with six Connecticut cities to complete a pilot drug education and prevention program for children ages 9 to 12, called "Drug Education for Youth" or DEFY.

DEFY, a two-phased program consisted of both residential and mentoring phases, which provided instruction in drug education, self-esteem development, peer leadership and personal fitness.

The Connecticut National Guard provided the logistical support for the DEFY program.

## SAFE HOUSE

White smoke pours from the upstairs window of the Dane County Fire Safety House as it is unveiled in a ceremony in Madison, Wis. Wisconsin Guardmembers and workers from Madison donated hundreds of hours to help build the structure. The house is used to train firefighters.



Photo by Larry Sommers

## NEVADA

About 200 members of Nevada's 152nd Reconnaissance Group deployed from Reno to Denmark during July. The "High Rollers" left with 10 RF-4C Phantom aircraft along with four C-141 transports loaded with additional aircrews, maintenance and operations support personnel for a two-week photo mapping mission in Europe.

The unit provided updated bombing and gunnery range photographs of Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium, England, Scotland and France.

## NEBRASKA

The Cornhusker state "beefed up" its frontline recently, when the 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry received eight AH-1 F-model Cobra helicopters.

Arriving aboard a New York Air Guard C-5A, the helicopters are upgraded versions of the AH-1 aircraft.

## IDAHO

One hundred members of the 124th Fighter Group, the last of an estimated 450 to serve the past six months in the Persian Gulf enforcing the United Nations "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq, are finally home with family and friends.

The 124th flies the F-4G "Wild Weasels." The unit achieved many historic milestones, to include having one aviator who flew 100 combat missions over Iraq.

## RHODE ISLAND

By 2nd Lt. Lisa Hollinrake  
Rhode Island Air National Guard

While thousands of eyes were fixed on the skies above Quonset State Airport enjoying an airshow, Rhode Island Air Guardmember, Maj. Larry Gallogly, set his sights on the amount of money being raised for a local children's hospital.

For the past three years, Gallogly and hundreds of Rhode Island Guard and community volunteers, have put on an open house and airshow to benefit the Hasbro Children's Hospital. Gallogly, a member of the 143rd Airlift Group based at Quonset Point, says the Guard's relationship with the hospital makes good sense.

"When the Guard took over running the Quonset Airshow three years ago, the Hasbro Children's Hospital was being built," Gallogly recalled. "This

new facility was going to be important to our families and to the Southern New England Community. We really wanted to play a role in supporting its development."

This year, the airshow was attended by nearly 140,000 people. The show raised more than \$50,000, bringing the total donated to the hospital to more than \$70,000 over the past three years.

Admission to the Guard-sponsored show is free. Proceeds from concessions and contributions are donated to the hospital.

Planning and organizing an airshow is a full-time job for some. Gallogly has been able to pull it off as an additional duty.

"The show requires a year-round commitment from many members of our staff," he conceded. "It's a commitment that we have taken on not only for the excitement of running an airshow, but for the



Courtesy of the Rhode Island National Guard

**AIR SHOW - New Englanders converged on the 143rd Airlift Group's Quonset Airport.**

gratifying feeling of knowing you made a difference in helping people."



## The National Guard in World War II



# Dropping the ANVIL

Allied strategy in the late summer of 1944 was centered not on whether the Germans would be defeated, but how soon could they be beaten.

British strategists, most notably, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, had championed a Mediterranean strategy as the line of advance to Germany with the greatest number of possible paths. The owner of the Mediterranean could strike at the Balkans, Turkey, at the Potley River Valley in Italy, or Southern France.

Some British strategists even proposed cancelling the Normandy landings, and that reinforcements available in England be sent to the Mediterranean. Winston Churchill, who considered himself something of a very talented amateur strategist, even fought against the landings in southern France, preferring an assault in the Balkans. Although this line of attack may have had political advantages, landings in the Balkans would add a thousand miles to the supply lines, and would nearly triple the turn-around time for supply ships.

As it turned out, landings in Southern France, code named Anvil, were an ancillary move to the Normandy landings. The forces in Southern France, the 6th U. S. Army under Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch Jr., would form

the anvil upon which the Normandy forces would be a hammer. Germans would be in the center between hammer and anvil. Anvil Landings also ensured that allied force in the West was concentrated in France, rather than frittered away in "side show" events, such as the eastern Mediterranean. With the Anvil landings, there would be only two Western theaters, France and Italy.

The Anvil landings were, as were most amphibious operations, carefully planned. There would be three American divisions landing abreast. From left to right, the 3rd Infantry Division, the 45th "Thunderbird" Division (Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona National Guard) and the 36th Division (Texas National Guard).

To assist the assault divisions, a division-sized airborne drop was conducted to cut the beachhead off from German reinforcements, and three large commando/Ranger operations were mounted to secure the flanks of the beachhead.

As part of the special operations, the Canadian-American First Special Service Force was ordered to secure some German occupied islands that threatened the landing operation. Of course, preliminary air strikes were used to "soften up" the beachhead, and to strangle the area of operations. French partisans, who had become very active, were instrumental in cutting rail lines, bridges,

Maj. Bruce Conard  
NGB Historian



roads and communications to the beachhead. The Navy would transport the soldiers to the beach, and would pound the defenders with Naval gunfire.

With one exception, the landings on Aug. 15, 1944 went off without a hitch.

The "Thunderbirds" quickly secured their beachhead and moved inland. On the "Texans" sector, the right flank, problems occurred. On one of the 36th's landing areas, named "Camel Red," the Germans were prepared to fight. Numerous anti-tank and anti-boat guns dominated the beach. Underwater obstacles and mines made approaches dangerous. "Camel Red" was not to be assaulted at the same time as the other beaches.

Texans from the 142nd Infantry bided their time waiting for the order to proceed toward the beach. As the day wore on, naval and army commanders did what they could to ease the problems of the 142nd Infantry. Heavy bombers blasted the beach once again, with little perceptible result. Robot mine-clearing boats were then sent in to clear the mines. Unfortunately, some of the robots turned on their masters and had to be destroyed.

By the early afternoon, the naval commander of the operation, decided to shift the landing of the 142nd to an already-occupied beach. It was a good decision. Casualties were extremely light.

Once ashore, the 36th and 45th Divisions secured their areas and moved forward. There was some hard fighting for the 36th Division behind "Camel Red" where the Germans resisted tenaciously. This overland attack cost the division 12 hours.

The net result of the fighting on Aug. 15-16, 1944 was that the southern flank of German-held France was breached. The operation, even with the delays caused at "Camel Red" was 24 to 48 hours ahead of schedule. For Allied planners, the Rhone River valley, stretching north to Germany was now a highway that they could travel.

The end of the war was just that much closer.

## HITTING the BEACH, AGAIN

Combat-equipped California Guardmembers (right) with the 3rd Battalion, 160th Infantry based in Inglewood, Calif., escort World War II veterans to the cheers of thousands during a D-Day remembrance ceremony at Santa Monica Beach.



Photo by SFC Jim Ober





# TRAINING

**TAKING COVER-** SrA. Duana Elvins (right), a member of the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Security Police Squadron, takes up a defensive position within a massive crater at the air base in Lincoln.



Photo by SSgt. Jill Weng



Photo by TSgt. Alan Brown

**MEDIC -** SrA. Melissa Lake (above, left), with Nebraska's 155th Medical Squadron, bandages SSgt. Amy Weinman.

Cornhusker's 155th Air Refueling Group battles on

## Nebraska 'know-how'

By TSgt. Deanna Frazier  
*Nebraska National Guard*

**T**he 155th Air Refueling Group marched into battle recently, when they conducted simulated emergency war operations under enemy attack.

The ability to survive and operate exercise is a yearly requirement where Guardmembers' responses to a base-wide attack are evaluated, according to SMSgt. J.D. Davis, response coordinator.

The exercise included command and control, communication, intelligence, camouflage and concealment, air base recovery, base defense, recovery after attack, medical recovery, fatality processing and safety. In addition, airmen were required to do their jobs while wearing Mission Oriented Protective Posture uniforms.

Other Guardmembers were tested on their ability to deliver self-aid and buddy care, to decontaminate chemically-exposed airmen and to report security breaches. For the second year a four-day bivouac was also part of the exercise.

Around 170 troops "roughed it" just west of the Lincoln Municipal Airport in an open field.

According to MSgt. Terry A. Valenta, dining hall supervisor, a staff of 20 cooks served nearly 3,500 meals during the exercise. To do this, a Mobile Kitchen



Photo by TSgt. Vern Moore

**NO CAR WASH -** Two Nebraska airmen decontaminate a van during an exercise.

Trailer was used to prepare and serve meals. The MKT is a tent-like structure mounted on a trailer containing a kitchen.

Security police trained on convoy and base camp security, while civil engineers received heavy equipment, electrical wiring and plumbing training during the exercise.

The training is designed to help units prepare for an operational readiness inspection, which is conducted by the active Air Force. The Nebraska Air Guard's next ORI with its new KC-135R aircraft is planned for 1998.