



THE NATIONAL GUARD

# On Guard

VOLUME XXI, NO. 8

MAY 1992

## Two ANG units provide Russians with hope

### New York's 105th, Mississippi's 183rd transport food, medical supplies

By 2nd Lt. Ellen G. Lampkins  
Associate Editor

When a C-141B Starlifter from the Mississippi Air National Guard arrived in the Russian city of Bishkek, two sober-faced uniformed officers climbed on board the aircraft.

Uncertain moments passed as they collected passports, inspected the plane and its cargo and asked questions about weapons and personal data.

But when the cameras started to flash, the stern postures turned to shy smiles that gave way to handshakes and verbal greetings.

The ice of the Cold War was broken.

"Who the hell would have thought this five years ago?" asked Senior Master Sgt. Patrick R. Kelley, a loadmaster from the 183rd Military Airlift Squadron in Jackson, Miss. This mission was "a real switch from Operation Desert Storm."

Operation Provide Hope was a massive U.S. humanitarian relief mission to distribute more than 4.5 million pounds of food and medicine to 24 locations in the Commonwealth of Independent States, formerly the Soviet Union.

In addition to the Mississippi Air Guard, the mission included C-5s from the 105th Military Airlift Group at Stewart Air National Guard Base in New York.

When the first C-5 landed in St. Petersburg, the 10 Guardsmen were greeted by an archbishop from the Russian Orthodox Church, who blessed the food before it was unloaded from the aircraft.

***"I'm a lot happier carrying humanitarian supplies than military equipment."***

Staff Sgt. Dale Hipkins  
105th MAG loadmaster

Also waiting were Kyrgystan President Askar Akayev's staff, officials from the U.S. Embassy and on-site inspection agents from the United States, who ensure that the supplies go to the intended recipients - local orphanages, hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

"I decided I much preferred the 54 flights we were working on this mission, as opposed to the 54 flights that could have occurred with our Titan



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dean Wagner

**WARM WELCOME** - 2nd Lt. Don Gee, a C-141B Starlifter co-pilot assigned to the 183rd Military Airlift Squadron in Jackson, Miss., gets a handshake from a Moldavan government official during an Operation Provide Hope mission to Kishinev. Along with

ICBMs whose warheads were predominantly targeted into the Soviet Union," said Lt. Col. James Cade, the OSIA team chief.

"I believe we have made a very positive, very encouraging initial introduction to Americans that I think easily counters what they have learned from their political officials."

Staff Sgt. Dale Hipkins, a loadmaster who flew this mission with his father, Chief Master Sgt. Leon Hipkins, echoed Cade's comments.

"I'm a lot happier carrying humanitarian supplies than military equipment."

Sutures, syringes and cotton were only a few of the items among the 24,000 pounds of medical supplies that the Mississippi unit hauled to Russia.

"When we first knew about the mission in late January, we anticipated a high degree of interest," said Maj. Buster Swinney, Jr., the 183rd's commander. "Six crews volunteered, but only one was tasked."

"Everybody wanted to go."

The three-day trip of more than 4,000 miles included stops at Rhein-Main Air Force Base in

the 105th Military Airlift Group from Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., and other U.S. active and reserve forces, the unit helped to fly more than 4.5 million pounds of food and medicine to 24 locations in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Germany and Incirlik Air Base in Turkey.

The next morning, the aircraft began the second leg of its four-part journey to the East.

"We have been to Kishinev and Muldova so far also carrying medical necessities," said Capt. James N. Jones, a pilot with the 183rd. "(The CIS representatives) seemed to want more medical goods than anything else."

The 105th's first flight was scheduled for Feb. 8, when the aircrew picked up 180,000 pounds of powdered milk at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Two days later, the crew touched down in St. Petersburg, formerly Leningrad. "I was told we were the first crew (to land) and the first crew out," said Maj. Mark White, the aircraft commander.

Their second mission to Yerevan, Armenia on Feb. 18 included 205,000 pounds of miscellaneous non-perishable food items.

"I really wish we could have flown more missions," White said. "But that's all they asked of us."

The food delivered to Russia by the active duty and reserve forces was containerized packages of

See **HOPE** on p. 4





## National briefs

### Reserve units reduced by 80 percent

A total of 830 National Guard units will be reduced or inactivated during the next two years, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced in March.

About 80 percent of the Guard and Reserve units to be inactivated were intended to support active duty units being eliminated in Europe.

Of all the services, the Army will take the majority of the reductions - more than 80,000 in the National Guard.

A Department of Defense spokesman said members of inactivated units may apply for vacancies in remaining selected reserve units or request assignment as an individual mobilization augmentee or individual ready reserve. Members, who have completed 20 qualifying years of service, may transfer to the retired reserve.

### IRS advises submitting new W-4

If employees and members do not want their withholding changed, they should complete a new form W-4 and submit it to their payroll office.

The Internal Revenue Service has advised that employees and members may claim the same number of withholding allowances as before, but indicate on Line 6 of the Form W-4 that you want additional taxes withheld each payday.

For employees and members withheld at the married rate, the amount on Line 6 should be \$345 divided by the number of paydays in the year. Employees and members withheld at the single rate should use 172. These amounts should be added to any amount already shown on Line 6.

Another option available to employees and members is to reduce the number of allowances they claim on their W-4. For more information, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

### Marathon team tops Blue Angel

The National Guard Bureau's All-Guard Marathon Team recently took the top two spots in the military team competition of the Navy's Blue Angel Marathon in Pensacola, Fla.

NGB Team 1 finished first with a combined time of 11:30:40. Army Guard team members were: Staff Sgt. Mark Doctor and Maj. Robert Williams, both of Indiana; 2nd Lt. Michael Smith of Pennsylvania; and Capt. Charles Locke and Chief Warrant Officer Brian Peterson, both of California.

NGB Team 2 placed second with a time of 11:43:48. They included: Maj. Ron Norman of the West Virginia Air National Guard; Maj. Tom Frazee of the Indiana Army National Guard; Sgt. Bobby Collins of the Kentucky Army National Guard; 2nd Lt. David Stills of the Arkansas Army National Guard; and Staff Sgt. Daniel Jensen of the Idaho Air National Guard.

Master Sgt. Wes Geringer of the Wisconsin Air National Guard finished first in the Grand Masters category with a time of 3:00:37.

Peterson and Frazee were first and second, respectively, in the 40-44 age division with a time of 2:53:13.

Third-place finishers were: Doctor, 23-29, 2:49:17; Locke, 35-39, 2:58:27; and 2nd Lt. Renee Breu of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, 25-29, 3:55:23.

## Everyone wins in nation assistance

By Angie Aguero  
NGB, Public Affairs Specialist

Just a couple of years ago, few would have believed it. A quick victory in the Persian Gulf, the end of the Cold War, the flowering of democracy in countries around the world.

With this "outbreak of Peace," why is the National Guard still deploying overseas?

"We have to see the Guard both in its federal role and in its domestic role," said Maj. Gen. William A. Navas, Jr., vice chief of the National Guard Bureau. "What we're doing overseas is the new federal role. Although we now have a more diffused threat, the world is still a very dangerous place. That's why we're looking more at having a continental U.S. base with an intermittent rather than full-time forward presence. Clearly, the National Guard is critical in this respect."

Col. P. Wayne Gosnell, chief of the International Planning and Development branch of the National Guard Bureau, agrees.

"Now that we've moved beyond the Cold War, our emphasis needs to shift from war-making to stability operations and peace-making, and one of the best ways we can make peace is to help third-world nations with the problems leading to instability."

However, Gosnell emphasizes, the primary purpose of overseas deployment training is to enhance the mobilization and deployment capability of the National Guard.

Its value became clear during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, when units previously participating in ODT had fewer problems deploying than units without such opportunities.

"They have to get their deployment and packing plans together and coordinate with receiving units overseas," Gosnell said.

"Once there, they practice their military skills ... in a foreign country, far from any logistical support base, in an austere environment. If something breaks, they can't go up to the armory and pick up a spare part."

"All this plus the humanitarian aspect of training missions increases the interoperability between our armed forces and allied forces and enhances the ability of our troops to operate with allied forces anywhere in the world."

"Since 1984, the National Guard has become the Department of Defense leader in nation assistance exercises," said Lt. Col. Clyde Vaughn, special projects officer for Army National Guard Operations and Exercises. "These programs have improved the readiness of our units, contributed to U.S. national security and foreign policy objec-

### Training in the '90s

According to recent figures, more than half of the Guardsmen sent overseas for training are Army.

	1991	1992
Army	19,000	27,500
Air Force	9,200	11,720

During the next fiscal year, more than 30,000 Army Guardsmen are expected to be deployed worldwide.

tives, and as our soldiers can testify, meant so much for the host country people. You can't put a dollar value on it."

Nation assistance training exercises are targeted to Third World countries, because they are desperately in need of infrastructure development, Vaughn said.

The training is available, because it does not compete with an existing ability in that particular area, as it does in the United States.

Most of the assistance takes place in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the National Guard has also carried out development projects in Senegal and Guinea in West Africa to name two recent examples.

The bottom line? "Either you deal with the root causes of instability or you react to instability after the fact," said Navas, the first Fuertes Caminos Task Force commander in 1984. "I don't have to tell you which is smarter. We're providing valuable training for our people while helping fledgling democracies with their own survival. We can do all that either with a large standing Army that costs the American taxpayer a lot of money or with a less expensive military establishment that relies on the National Guard's citizen-soldier."

"The federal and domestic roles of the National Guard constitute a balancing act, and we can do both," Navas said. "It's a win-win situation all around."

"On Guard" is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 and is intended for the use of units and members of the Army and Air National Guard. It is printed in 55,000 copies and is distributed to each unit of the Army and Air National Guard as well as major commands by the Command Information Team, National Guard Bureau Field Support Office, NGB-PAC, Skyline #6, Suite 401C, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Va. 22041. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, Army, Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

"On Guard" is the registered trademark of this publication and may not be used without specific, written permission. Questions or comments concerning "On Guard" should be referred to the editor at the above address or by calling Defense Systems Network number 289-1923 or commercial (703) 756-1923 or FAX (703) 756-0726.



Chief, National Guard Bureau  
Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway

Chief, Command Information  
Lt. Col. Lester R. Stadig

Editor  
Capt. Phillip C. Blahut

Associate Editor  
2nd Lt. Ellen G. Lampkins

**DRUG USE  
IS  
LIFE ABUSE**





## Ergometer to be included in Air Guard PT test

Physical training tests for Air National Guard members over the age of 30 may take on a new look in the future, according to the Readiness and Personal Affairs Section at National Guard Bureau.

Instead of the 1.5-mile run, the biannual test may consist of a ride on the cycle ergometer, a device similar to the stationary bicycle.

On June 1, the active Air Force will use a cycle ergometer to test a member's physical conditioning. The Bureau has not determined when this new method of testing will reach the Air Guard.

The actual test involves riding a stationary exercise bicycle between six and 10 minutes at a standard pedaling speed of 50 revolutions per minute.

During the test, the heart rate and the amount of resistance set into the cycle are entered into a computer, which calculates the person's aerobic fitness level.

Capt. Dennis R. Gries, who temporarily is assigned to the NGB section, said the Air Guard will study the new program.

The ergometer monitors conditioning on a sustained basis. In other words, the individual will not be able to do a "crash" conditioning program before each test, Gries said.

Cost and logistics are considerations for the Air Guard.

"We're facing budget constraints, and at the

same time we're contemplating a program that appears to require additional trained personnel, plus the cost of supplying the units with ergometers," he said.

"Logistically, the fact is, we can't test our personnel throughout the week like the active duty Air Force can."

An average of 1,200 people per group-sized unit participating in 12 unit training assemblies per year indicates that 100 guardsmen must be tested during each drill period.

If the test, including scoring, requires 15 minutes to administer, how many ergometers and administrators should be budgeted for by the Air Guard?

## Help needed for Vets' wall celebration

On Nov. 11, the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be celebrated in Washington, D.C.

A significant part of the commemoration will be the reading of the 58,183 names that are currently listed on the wall. The ceremony is expected to last for more than 60 hours.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has extended a special invitation to National Guard members throughout the country to volunteer as an honor guard or reader for a 30-minute period during the three-day ceremony.

For more information, write to the organization at 815 15th St. NW, Suite 601, Washington, D.C. 20005 or call 202-393-0090.

## Army center progress



NGB's Information Systems Agency is scheduled to be the first office to move into the new Army National Guard Center at Arlington Hall Station in December. The

outside walls and windows have been finished and the raised floors will be installed on the second floor of the east wing. Other offices will follow every two weeks.

## Readiness spot checks insure high-quality units

By Lt. Col. Lester R. Stadig  
Chief, Command Information

High-quality units are victorious on the battlefield. Operation Desert Storm proved that principle.

That being the case, Army National Guard leadership is testing a new system to insure quality and victory on future battlefields in spite of planned structure and budgetary reductions.

The system is easy to understand. It's nothing more than a series of readiness spot checks throughout the year that are oriented toward the soldier.

Army National Guard Director Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees said the new system will demonstrate to the soldier that leadership cares and is committed to their well-being.

Here are the elements that will be spot checked under the new system: attendance at scheduled monthly drills and annual training; individual weapons qualification; physical and medical fitness; duty MOS qualification; soldier pay; active guard and reserve soldier qualification and assignment; leader qualification and participation at drills and annual training; recruiting and overall unit readiness.

To track these areas, Rees has charged state adjutants general to give informal quarterly reports. By fiscal year 1996 (the first year after the ARNG will begin to stabilize after the planned cuts), all quality standards will be surpassed.

Looking at each of the quality indicator elements, the following goals will be sought.

Drill attendance is critical to unit and individual readiness, so the goal will be to have 90 percent or more of enlisted members and 99 percent of officers attend monthly drills.

Annual training also is among the key elements to unit and individual quality, so 95 percent or more of a unit must attend annual training.

Eighty percent or more of a unit's assigned soldiers must have qualified on individual weapons within the last 12 months, while 100 percent must pass the Army Physical Fitness Test (90 percent within any 12-month period).

Even though some units may be reorganized, disbanded, shifted to new armories or given a different mission due to budgetary and structure reductions, which may result in considerable retraining, Rees has set a goal of 85 or higher duty MOS qualification.

The goal for AGR strength is 98 percent. In other words, 98 percent of authorized AGR slots must be filled, and all individuals filling those slots must meet educational requirements.

Rees' goal is for 95 percent or more of Guard soldiers enrolled in the SURE-PAY system providing financial security when mobilized.

Figuring unit status reports, individual medical readiness and recruiting standards are somewhat

more involved and require factoring in several elements.

For example, elements of medical readiness include physical exams, HIV testing and pan X-rays. USRs obviously are involved and the desired percentages depend upon unit mission.

Recruiting quality standards will be calculated using the number of non-prior service and high school graduates recruited.

The aim of recruiters will be to enlist as many high school graduates as possible when considering non-prior service individuals. The goal is 92.5 percent or better.

Equations for figuring leader qualification will consider number of officers who have attended their officer basic course and number of enlisted members who have a completed primary leadership development course.

The desired educational goal for officers is 95 percent completion of the officers' basic course within 12 months of commissioning. The desired goal for PLDC completion is 85 percent.

Obviously, several of the above computations will take into account soldiers who are away in initial entry training.

During this fiscal year, reporting periods and procedures will be tested and measurements will be validated.

Starting Oct. 1, reporting will become formal.





## Ukrainians get "lift" home from Mississippi Guard

By 1st Lt. Mike Allegre  
Oregon National Guard

PORTLAND, Ore. - Stranded here after more than a month of medical tests, the 11 Ukrainian children were restless and anxious to go home.

Money for their return airline tickets to New York City could not be raised, and officials with the city's Russian Four Square Church asked for help from Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.).

With the approval of Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, the Mississippi and Oregon Air National Guards were tasked in January to transport and fly the children and their escorts on the first leg of their trip.

The children are survivors of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident. They were brought to Oregon in December by the church for diagnosis and treatment of any long-term illnesses caused by exposure to radiation.

Mississippi's 172nd Military Airlift Group flew the mission. "We were in the western region just prior to both dates, so we got the call," said Lt. Col. Bob Matthews, the unit's air operations officer. "It's good training for us too, and we're so proud to have been asked to help."

After last-minute instructions and tearful goodbyes from their foster families, the children clamored aboard the blue Air Guard buses headed for the C-141B Starlifter on the flightline.

Aircrew and television news cameras met the children as they walked toward the giant aircraft. Maj. Gen. Gene A. Katke, Oregon's adjutant general, waited on the tarmac to help the children board the plane and to wish them well.

"I can't say enough about the positive teamwork that has made this so successful," he said.

"These folks really came through with a wonderful gesture to make this project complete," said Col. Bill Doctor, the project officer from the 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group.

The Portland church's pastor, the Rev. Leonard Mielnik, accompanied the children to New York. He and his congregation appreciated the Guard's help.

"You people are an answer to prayer," he said. "We're all very grateful."



Photo by Sgt. First Class David H. Funk

ALL ABOARD - Staff Sgt. Richard Davis, a loadmaster with the 172nd Military Airlift Group in Jackson, Miss., helps Ukrainian children onto one of the unit's C-141B Starlifters. The

children were stranded in Portland, Ore., after a medical exam by American doctors. The Defense Department authorized the unit to fly the children to New York.

## Delaware collects for student relief

By Sgt. Karen D. Skolfield and  
Chief Warrant Officer Terre Cochran  
Delaware National Guard

After 16 tons of canned food was collected for the Russian Student Relief Project, Zoanne L. Nelson, the treasurer of the National Council for Soviet and Eastern European Research, faced another logistical nightmare - distribution.

So, she contacted the Delaware National Guard. More than 25 Army and Air Guard members eagerly volunteered their services.

They helped to box, load and ship the food to Dover Air Force Base, Del., which donated warehouse space and a C-5 aircraft to transport the food to Russia.

"The Guard was a big help," said Val Nardo, president of the Newark White Clay Kiwanis Club. "They took a big load off of me, (because) they were very efficient."

Nelson said timing was everything. "If we are interested in seeing our ideals and values become part of Russia's future, then it is crucial that we do something now while the opportunity exists."

The food is expected to reach three grade schools in Moscow by the end of April.

Participants were impressed with the amount of food collected by Delaware's public and private schools and colleges.

"I don't want to see anybody go hungry," said Warrant Officer Butch Marino of Troop Command, one of the project's volunteers.

"I volunteer for a lot of things with the Guard, and I'd like to do this again."

Nardo agreed. "Hunger has no territory," he said. "We should help feed these people. It's our way of sharing."

Nardo said the Guard's involvement was greatly appreciated. "I'd be tickled to death to have them come back."

### HOPE from p. 1

dehydrated meat, potatoes, vegetables and fruit designed for 100 soldiers, but the people made the best of it. They adapted it to their own country's recipes.

OSIA linguists were asked to translate the English food preparation instructions into Russian and interpret questions for both the Russians and Americans.

Many of the shipments to the CIS included an inventory list with a cover sheet that read: "From the American people, who assure you that the struggle for democracy is worth it."

"They were very, very happy to receive the food that we brought them," said Maj. Michael Slifka, the OSIA team chief. "At Ulan Ude and Chita (Siberia), they're on the very tail end of the food supply line in the Russian republic."

"With the demise of the Soviet Union, they lost a

lot of their food sources, so now they made good use of the food we gave them."

Without mechanical equipment, soldiers from the Kyrgyzstan Republic, formerly the Soviet Army, joined with special mobile aerial port teams to unload the supplies package by package onto waiting trucks.

"They had old flatbed trucks with roller that didn't roll very well because they were rusted," said Dale Hipkins, a Desert Storm veteran.

After three hours of unloading, the Mississippi Guardsmen were not quite ready to return to Incirlik. Their hosts invited the crew on an impromptu visit to the city's downtown area.

"How many times do you get to stand in the middle of Russia?" Swinney asked.

When they returned to the Bishkek airport, he accepted a special gift - seven Soviet Army belts

and buckles - for each member of the aircrew.

"A lot of them didn't want anything in return," said Maj. Tom Mikolaycik, a pilot with the 105th. "A little kid gave us Russian pilots' wings and insisted we take them. (Another) guy wanted to take us to his house for lunch."

Many of the airmen were uneasy about walking around Russia in their military uniform, but that apprehension was erased once they met the people.

"(They) were no different than the ones over here in the states," said Chief Master Sgt. Joe Panoski, a flight engineer. "They were very friendly and appreciative. It was a pleasure helping them."

(This article was compiled from information provided by Capt. Mike Milord of the Maryland Air National Guard headquarters in Baltimore, Tech. Sgt. John Malthaner of the 105th MAG and the Air Force News Service.)





Photo submitted by the Puerto Rico National Guard

**EDUCATIONAL MISSION** - Brig. Gen. Arnaldo J. DeJesus, the deputy adjutant general of the Puerto Rico National Guard (top row, second from left) and Col. Miguel A. Kercado, the commander of Troop

Command, (third from left) talk with residents of Las Delicias and Las Trincheras in Honduras, where members of the 130th Engineer Battalion built two schoolhouses.

## Fuertes Caminos '92: Real training, real mission

Sgt. First Class Tom Rusk  
JTF Bravo Public Affairs

**LAS DELICIAS, Honduras** - An opportunity to train in various parts of the world is rare.

For the Joint Task Force 105, this is one of those missions... the "real thing."

JTF 105 will build the final 8.2-kilometer (about five miles) segment through the Macora River Valley between the village of Macora and the Aguan River during Fuertes Caminos '92.

JTF 105 is a combination of active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces from the Army and Air Force. The task force is headed by Col. Ralph Howell, commander of the 105th Engineer Group of the North Carolina National Guard. The engineering effort is controlled by U.S. Army South-

ern Command at Quarry Heights, Panama.

Howell and a six-month staff of more than 200 Army and Air Guard personnel have directed 10 rotations lasting about 17 days each June.

During the entire operation, about 2,000 Air Guard and Reserve and more than 6,000 Army Guard and Reserve members will serve with JTF 105. The 536th Engineer Battalion from Fort Kobbe, Panama also is attached to the task force.

Fuertes Caminos has deployed the largest contingent of Guard and Reserve forces from 34 states in recent history.

Base camp construction began last November by Air National Guard RED HORSE elements, which built the base facilities, including living quarters, wells, power and communications set-

ups and camp security facilities.

This is a complete community. In addition to medium tents for billeting, there is an air-conditioned dining facility manned by Air Guard personnel, a Deployable Medical System Hospital staffed by Army Reserve personnel, water department, sanitation and waste disposal facilities, a small airport and helipad, a movie theater with satellite television and a post exchange.

"The objectives of the operation are to enhance the readiness of participating U.S. and host country units, to provide Reserve component forces the opportunity to deploy to a remote overseas locations to fulfill their annual training requirements and to expose them to a bare-base tropical environment," said Lt. Col. Barry King, chief of public affairs and protocol for JTF 105. "Also to develop a positive image

in the host country toward the U.S. government and its armed forces."

They also have made plans for four civic action projects, including a water upgrade, an addition to a Honduran school and construction of a day care center.

During the exercise, engineers moved more than 750,000 cubic yards of dirt, constructed 45 concrete and three steel culverts, placed 450,000 cubic yards of fill and sustained quarry and rock-crushing operations.

"When we depart the area in June, we intend to leave a legacy of a good neighbor and a strong friend," King said. "We want our soldiers and airmen to depart with a greater appreciation of the people of this region and with a full understanding of our jobs and missions when undertaking any future task of this nature."



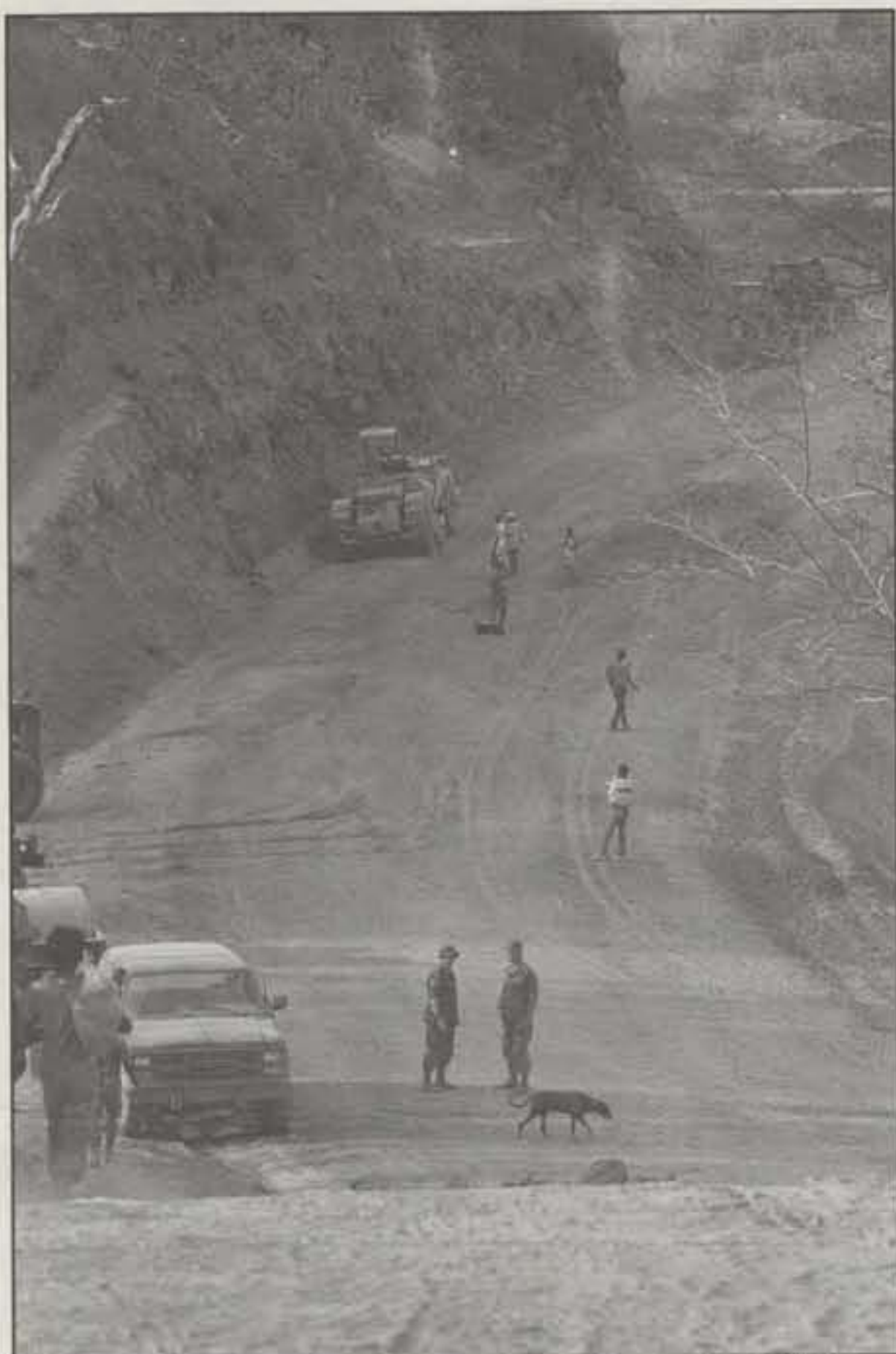


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Winslow

(Above photo) In less than two weeks, this road located between Yoro and San Lorenzo, Honduras was constructed by Company A of the 505th Engineer Battalion in North Wilksboro, N.C. (Top right photo) The final 2.2 kilometers of road is opened by Company D of the South Carolina Army National Guard's 122nd Engineer Battalion. (Right photo) Staff Sgt. Jesse Ward, a construction specialist with the 203rd RED HORSE Civil Engineering Flight in Virginia Beach, Va., cuts a board on a tablesaw at Camp Las Delicias, Honduras.



Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip H. Jones



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Viessman

## Ambassadors in BDUs do more than build

(Editor's Note: The following is a collection of stories submitted by public affairs specialists from Army and Air Guard units deployed to Central America.)

### Base camp built for 7,000

LAS DELICIAS, Honduras - Master Sgt. Andy Hamell of Chester, Va. has left his saw at home and picked up another in this Honduran community.

Hamell, a member of the 203rd RED HORSE Civil Engineering Flight of the Virginia Air National Guard, recently completed construction of Camp Las Delicias. The camp will house more than 7,000 reserve component soldiers and airmen participating in Fuertes Caminos.

RED HORSE is a military acronym for Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operation Repair Squadron Engineering. Hamell's unit is trained to deploy worldwide to build bases from scratch.

"The most enjoyable aspect of being a RED HORSE was assisting young airmen with learning new carpentry techniques and helping to solve carpentry problems in a supervisory capacity," Hamell said.

"This base camp is in a rustic location. About 60 percent of our unit's airmen haven't had the opportunity to train in their specialties in an overseas location.

### S.C. engineers finish road

LAS DELICIAS, Honduras - In the midst of the 100-degree heat, dust and noise, 190 engineers from South Carolina's Army National Guard's engineers are putting the finishing touches to a road building exercise named "Fuertes Caminos '92" (Spanish for "strong roads").

The engineers will complete a 2.2-kilometer section of road here in north central Honduras, the

final phase of a 55-kilometer road-building exercise that began in 1986 and will be finished in June.

The road will allow Hondurans living in the Augan Valley year-round access to local towns, markets and medical care facilities.

### Hondurans accept schools

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras - Building two schools in only 29 days is a challenge for anyone.

Building two schools in the mountainous terrain of Honduras is an even bigger challenge.

Company B, 130th Engineer Battalion from Vega Baja, Puerto Rico deployed 100 soldiers to support road-building exercises at Las Delicias and Trincheras in central Honduras.

The terrain was rugged and getting supplies to the worksites was another challenge.

Bringing educational hope to the Honduran chil-





Photo by Sgt. Eunie Brown



Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip H. Jones



Photo by Capt. Debbie Haston-Hilger

(Top left photo) 1st Lt. Jennifer A. Noblett of the 209th Medical Company tries to restrain her patient with the help of a few friends. (Top photo) Maj. Joseph L. Thoman of the 294th Medical Detachment from Fort Dodge, Iowa, examines a Guatemalan patient during a medical readiness training exercise in Santa Apolonia. (Left photo) Members of the 133rd Military Police Company of the South Carolina Army National Guard patrol a road near Camp Las Delicias, Honduras.

## Old roads, schools in Central America

dren became a common goal for these Puerto Rican engineers.

Despite the obstacles, schoolhouses would be built by the unit. "To know that we are contributing to make a better life for these children, perhaps has been the most gratifying feeling that I have ever experienced," said Spec. Luis Dias from Company B.

The soldiers compensated by having the supplies flown in by helicopter or driven to the sites in villagers' trucks.

But, it was time-consuming. A lack of running water and no electricity, except from portable generators, also added to the difficulties.

The 130th engineers are not amateurs in building. "Most of the soldiers are construction workers in their civilian jobs, which is a benefit to us," said 1st Lt. Arnaldo A. Ramos, executive officer for the 130th. "We were able to complete more

work in a faster amount of time since most of us are in the career field."

"We taught the villagers how to mix cement, and to construct sturdier buildings using modern construction techniques," said Sgt. Angel M. Casas, a 130th engineer.

As an addition to the elementary schools, which will house 125 children, the unit installed kitchens and external bathrooms.

### Old schools wired, painted

SANTIAGO, Panama - School will be a breeze next year for the children at Escuela los Boquerones, because of Staff Sgt. Ryan Nernberger, an electrician with the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Gleaming white fans now hang from the ceiling of every classroom.

"When I saw the school for the first time it needed a lot of work," he said. Members of Company D,

724th Engineer Battalion from Medford, Wisc., have gained experience in Panama, while on their two-week annual training.

"The roof had been torn off. There were no doors. There was no conduit or electrical fixtures. The paint was faded and peeling," said Nernberger who is in Panama for "Fuertes Caminos '92.

About 5,000 U.S. Army and Air National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers have rotated through Panama to build roads, renovate schools and improve medical clinics.

The National Guard was sent to Panama to receive realistic training in an unfamiliar climate and culture and to show the U.S. commitment to the country's emerging democracy.

Nernberger is head electrician for the school renovation. "We completely rewired the building with conduit and put in a circuit breaker box," he

See **ROADS** on p. 8





# ENRETE '92: Powell visits Buckeyes in Jamaica



Photo submitted by Ohio Army National Guard

**FOUR-STAR VISIT** - Task Force 416 commander, Capt. Mark Sarka, greets Gen. Colin Powell and his wife, Alma; Glenn A. Holden, the U.S. ambassador to Jamaica; and

Lt. Col. Samuel T. Smith, the military liaison officer for Jamaica, during their recent visit to Camp Buckeye in the West Indies. ENRETE '92 is a 7.2-mile road-widening project.

By Staff Sgt. Lawrence S. Ice  
Ohio National Guard

**CAMP BUCKEYE, Jamaica** - When most people think of Jamaica, they think of the North Coast towns of Montego Bay or Ochos Rios.

But for 90 Ohio Army National Guard engineers, Jamaica means something else - hard work and friendly, smiling people.

During the next six months, members of the Company A from the 612th and 112th Engineer Battalions will rotate through Jamaica as members of Task Force 416 supporting the Engineers Readiness Training Exercise (ENRETE) '92.

Their primary mission is to widen and pave a 7.2-mile stretch of the farm-to-market road. Company A was the first rotation of engineers to work the project in Jamaica.

On a snowy February morning in Ohio, the engineers boarded Air National Guard C-130s and six hours later landed at Kingston International Airport, where the temperature was 85 degrees.

Incoming soldiers were briefed from an embassy official and split into two groups. One group started on the road project, and the other went to Kingston to begin work on the Bellevue Hospital.

During the two-week rotation, Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other dignitaries flew in to visit both project sites and tour the base camp.

## South Dakota plans for Rushmore '93

By Sgt. Steven Collins  
South Dakota National Guard

When winter chill hits South Dakota next year, some National Guardsmen will leave the area with orders for Central America.

Col. Tracy Hamblet, the task force commander, and his staff have developed the logistical blueprints for the movement of thousands of South Dakota Army and Air Guard members to Panama for Task Force Rushmore '93.

As coordinators of the joint operation, South Dakota personnel plan the construction of a 30-kilometer, farm-to-market road from Plaza Del Caoan to San Andres, both in eastern Panama.

"This project will be an exciting and challenging one for South Dakota," said Maj. Gen. Harold J. Sykora, the state's adjutant general. "The training will enable Guardsmen and women to train on their wartime missions while they assist a developing nation."

"The area where the new road is planned is the bread basket of Panama," Hamblet added. "It is one of the few places where a family can go, stake a claim and raise crops to make a living."

Transportation is a key ingredient in boosting the economy for the area farmers. "These people cannot get the food out of the area without contracting transportation," Hamblet said. "Usually, these people with the transportation take the crops to neighboring Costa Rica, and so Panamanian cities go without the food and the resulting profits."

The base camp, designed to support 700 soldiers, will be constructed by members of the 114th Tactical Fighter Group in Sioux Falls and the 153rd Engineer Battalion of Huron.

## ROADS from p. 7

said.

Other crews built cement block supports and attached corrugated sheets of aluminum for a roof. Two lights and a fan also were installed in every classroom.

"The school is going to be a lot cooler," Nernberger said. "The white roof we put on will reflect a lot of heat and the fans in the rooms will stir the air around."

"I don't know if they even had lights before. With the florescent lights, every classroom will be very bright."

Other improvements include a fresh coat of paint, sidewalks and new roofs for the bathrooms.

Combat engineers, like Nernberger, seldom get to work on vertical construction projects.

"Most of our annual training is geared toward military or combat type training," he said. "This is different. We're doing something constructive. We will leave here with a feeling of having accomplished something."

## Vet gets hands-on training

**CHIMALTENANGO, Guatemala** - 1st Lt. Jennifer A. Noblett has wanted to be a veterinarian since she was three.

During annual training in this Central American city, she received hands-on training in her career field.

Noblett and her unit, the 209th Medical Company of the Iowa Army National Guard, deployed to Guatemala for two weeks.

Their mission was to provide medical care to the people of Santa Apolinia and Xecoxol communities during a medical readiness training exercise.

"As a third-year veterinary student, I gain medical and military training experience working with animals and the people of Guatemala," Noblett

said. "I learn about their culture and their country. I get to see and vaccinate against some exotic diseases that we don't have in the United States. It's a unique experience."

## Basic dentistry revisited

**SANTA APOLONIA, Guatemala** - The 294th Medical Detachment from Fort Dodge, Iowa, provided dental care here for human patients.

"The dental team of military and Guatemalan dentists provided emergency dental care under crude conditions," said Maj. Joseph L. Thoman. "We provided anesthesia and did extractions. We had no water, no suction, no air and no hand pieces."

Despite the conditions, Thoman described the experience as a "pleasure."

"As professionals, we exchanged ideas, discussed different treatments, learned about each other's culture and improved our English and Spanish."

## Islanders travel 9,000 miles

**TIGER ISLAND, Honduras** - The 122nd Engineer Detachment from the Guam Army National Guard traveled more than 9,000 miles last month to perform annual training here.

"We had a choice between coming here or going to Saudi Arabia to pick up unexploded mines," said Dee Spidell, the detachment commander.

"Since we live in Typhoon Alley, we're used to picking up after storms and rebuilding. We're not trained to handle mines, so we opted to come to Honduras."

The Guardsmen made the trek to Honduras to fix the showers for Company C, 187th Battalion.

Because of their fast work, they also upgraded the dining hall and worked on the pumping and supply station during their two-week stay.



# Suggestions invaluable to DoD

By Tech. Sgt. Vicky Cerino  
Nebraska National Guard

Staff Sgt. Ron Benjamin was unfamiliar with Total Quality Management when he invented a potentially life-saving product last year.

The management concept encourages workers to share their ideas on how to improve products or services in the military.

About \$246 million was saved by significant contributions to total quality in the Air Force Suggestion Program during 1991, according to a report from USAF headquarters.

This total represents an increase in savings of \$109 million, or nearly 80 percent, in 1990.

Despite the deployment of many Air Force personnel during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, they took the time to submit more than 37,000 suggestions, inventions, patents and scientific achievements.

More than 11,000 ideas were adopted by the Air Force, and \$3.6 million was awarded to program participants.

"The Air Force Suggestion Program is a proven means to draw on the experience, know-how and creativity of our people," said Maj. Gen. James M. Hurley, the director of Manpower and Organization for the Air Force.

In 1990, the Nebraska Army National Guard's 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry, received the first of eight AH-1 Cobras. It was another aircraft for Benjamin to work with as a member of Detachment 2, Company D, 109th Aviation of Lincoln.

He discovered that the aircraft's life support

items were being packed loosely into the tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-commanded missile tube mounted on each side of the Cobra.

If the aircraft crashed, aircrews would find themselves groping for these items. "The way that many crews got to their survival equipment was to pull a cord that was rigged inside of the TOW tube, and with it came the contents - onto the ground," Benjamin said.

"I couldn't believe that people had been accepting this way for years. As far as I could find out, this is how it was worldwide."

So, he developed a container. "The idea was to be able to get to the kit as fast as possible," Benjamin said.

He designed a five-inch in diameter by 40-inch in length green nylon canvas bag with shoulder straps that is placed in the Cobra's TOW tube.

A canvas handle at each end of the tube makes it easy for aircrew members to grab the bag and go. Aluminum sheeting lines inside the bag makes it rigid and easy to carry. A zipper down the length of the bag makes survival items accessible.

Benjamin named the 37-pound kit, "TISK," which is short for TOW Individual Survival Kit. He put together 16 kits, two per helicopter.

The survival kit supports aircrew safety, but also saves Benjamin time in periodic inspections of the survival items.

"Now, all I do is slip the bag out and take it into the shop," he said. The kits include: drinking water; compass; hand saw; candle; mirror; insect repellent; blanket; sun hat; and a survival manual.

"There's nothing in the kit that can't be used year-round," he said.

## Am I eligible for "incap" pay?

Incapacitation pay is a benefit all National Guardsmen are entitled to receive when injured in the line of duty as authorized by Public Law 100-456.

Yet, many soldiers have been denied benefits or have not received proper medical care, because the system has not been attentive to their needs, according to the Army Comptroller Division.

Congressional inquiries and inspector general concerns have been initiated on behalf of soldiers across the nation at an alarming rate.

"Our benefit hasn't really been a benefit, but has become a thorn in our flesh," said Col. Russell J. Delaney, the chief of the Army Comptroller Division. "The system sometimes does not work."

What can we do to fix the problem? And what must we do to make the system work?

Soldiers must be able to make medical appointments and be scheduled for operations at medical treatment facilities to heal injuries from Army training.

Full pay and allowances must get to the injured and diseased soldier sooner than what is being experienced nationwide.

"We have recognized that one of the problems facing us is that many of our commanders do not know how this complicated process is supposed to work," Delaney said.

"Nor do our unit clerks understand what documents are needed to get the payrolls started. The best way for you, the soldier, to get paid after you sustain an 'In Line of Duty' injury or disease, is to know what is expected of you."

If you are an injured Guardsman, you should notify your commander and ensure that a Line of Duty Form 2173 has been prepared by your unit and signed by a doctor.

HQDA recently decided that an informal LOD form should be completed within seven days of the incident.

When you have stabilized, your unit should provide a disability counseling statement for your signature. These are instructions that should guide you in your medical decisions.

Soldiers should keep all medical appointments and always bring back copies of all medical treatment documents. "Many soldiers have found that it is always best to keep a copy of everything that they give to the unit," said Jon Dart, the incapacitation analyst for the division. "Normally, an injured soldier does not attend unit training assemblies until released by a military medical authority."

Public Law 100-456 allows for full military pay and allowances at your current rank and years of service.

LeRoy Proctor, a entitlement specialist with the division, said the "confusing and sometimes frustrating" ruling is the next statement in the law that reads "less any earned income."

Any sick leave, annual leave or income protection insurance paid by your employer during your incapacitation period must be subtracted from your full pay and allowances.

The incapacitation pay system is a difficult one. "But, through changes and concerted effort, we can make it better," Delaney said.

## State briefs

### OKLAHOMA

More than 200 years ago, the Indian lands of Oklahoma were mapped and recorded by early explorers who respected the rich, red soil and abundant wildlife.

Today to help preserve these natural resources, a new type of mapping is being conducted by the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Along with the Army Corps of Engineers' Construction Engineer Research Laboratory, the Guard will use the Integrated Training Area Management System to develop a program designed to manage the thousands of acres of training areas.

This extensive environmental preservation, protection and restoration program will begin with the Camp Gruber training site, located near Muskogee, Okla. The camp is a major weekend and annual training site for National Guard, reserve and active component units from Oklahoma and other states.

Using the ITAM system, a comprehensive approach to land management will be developed for Camp Gruber, including a strategy for planting and maintaining vegetation, providing a quality wildlife habitat and preventing erosion.

### NEVADA

Two Air Guard Security Police Flights, the 175th of Maryland and the 124th of Idaho, recently participated in Silver Flag Alpha here at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas.

The training program was started in 1982, because "air base ground defense is a perishable skill if it is not practiced," said Master Sgt. Jack Raburn, an active Air Force cadre member.

Since the Army no longer provides security around air bases, the Air Force must learn infantry tactics to protect against penetration by enemy forces.

"We did an after action survey and noticed that units that had gone to Silver Flag Alpha performed better and were more prepared (in Operation Desert Storm) than those that had not," Raburn said.

Air Force Guard and Reserve security police flights first rotated through Silver Flag Alpha in 1989. Raburn said the cadre teaches about 2,000 students a year.

Both Air Guard units were surprised by the training. "The hardships actually welded them closer together," said Senior Master Sgt. William Pollack of the 175th.

In addition to weapons qualification, the two units covered operations security, patrolling and military operations on urban terrain.

### PUERTO RICO

The Puerto Rico National Guard has waged war against its deteriorating public school system.

The Public Schools Improvement Office, known by its Spanish acronym, OMEP, was created by the legislature for the rehabilitation of more than 1,400 schools.

Maj. Gen. William Miranda-Marin, the adjutant general of Puerto Rico, will oversee the two-year program, which will cost \$200 million.

He was selected because of the availability of resources in the Guard, and its capability to handle a major project in a short amount of time.





## State briefs

### LOUISIANA

The 236th Combat Communications Squadron, a Louisiana Air National Guard unit located in Hammond, recently was honored for its contributions to the Louisiana Special Olympics Committee, the Olympians and the local communities.

The "Extra Mile" award was presented for "consistently supporting this worthy event above and beyond the call of duty," according to a news release.

### IDAHO

Three members of the Idaho Air National Guard have designed and built a fuel collection system for the RF-4C.

Master Sgts. Dave Jacobs and Jim Hunter and Tech. Sgt. Greg Cash, all members of the 124th Tactical Reconnaissance Group in Boise, Idaho, constructed a stainless steel vent box and an elevated drain pipe, which is attached to a fuel bowser that collects the vented fuel.

As a result of their invention, fuel no longer falls to the floor, a valuable asset is recaptured and environmental clean-up costs are saved by the unit.

### NEW JERSEY

Because of new education benefits offered by the New Jersey Army National Guard, Spec. April D. Giron recently transferred from the U.S. Army Reserve.

Legislation signed by Gov. Jim Florio allows Guard members, who are accepted into degree programs and attend on a space available basis, to receive 12 tuition-free credits at any state-operated college.

### OHIO

The 160th Air Refueling Group at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base recently was named the 15th Air Force Outstanding Air Reserve Unit of the Year for 1991.

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Shea of the Ohio Air National Guard, will be presented the Outstanding Strategic Air Command Intelligence Non-commissioned Officer of the Year for the reserve forces on May 20.

A member of the unit's intelligence branch, Shea will receive the award at SAC headquarters, Offutt AFB, Neb.

### PENNSYLVANIA

One year after their involvement in the Persian Gulf war, members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 154th Transportation Battalion have distributed surplus food to the poor and homeless people in their state.

During January, 26 trucks travelled more than 7,500 miles and delivered 221 tons of surplus goods.

In addition to the food, bedding and clothing were included in the humanitarian mission.

### NEW YORK

Two National Guard units were featured on nationwide broadcasts of the Discovery Channel's "Firepower" series in April.

The 1st Battalion, 210th Armor in Albany and the 174th Tactical Fighter Wing in Syracuse were subjects of separate 30-minute episodes.

## All in the family



Photo by Staff Sgt. Janet Fitzgerald

Chief Master Sgt. Gus Parsel congratulates his son, Capt. Mike Parsel, after both were presented the Air Medal for their service in Desert Storm with the 190th Air Refueling

Group in Topeka, Kan. Mike is a pilot and Gus is a boom operator for one of the unit's KC-135Es. They escorted the first wave of F-15Es to the Iraqi border.

## Fires bring out heroes in Guard

Within two days in February, two Army National Guardsmen reacted in a moment's notice to save the lives of people trapped by fire.

"I was doing basically what the military teaches you," said Spec. Joseph Joseph A. Dea, a traditional Guardsman with the 3623rd Maintenance Battalion in Bethlehem, Penn.

"I know what the price of life is and if I had it to do again, I'd do it with no problem. I wouldn't even think of it."

Dea is a veteran of Desert Storm, and Warrant Officer David Wright of the 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery in Evansville, Ind., works full-time for the Guard and volunteers for a local fire department.

On Feb. 6, Wright heard a call for help on his monitor and responded immediately.

A C-130 cargo plane from the Kentucky Air National Guard crashed into a hotel and restaurant near the Evansville airport.

Wright had problems getting to the crash site because of traffic, but he was one of the first firefighters on the scene. He immediately offered his service to the city Fire Department.

After several trips up and down a staircase filled with smoke and gas, Wright rescued William F. Capodagli, an employee of the University of Southern Indiana, from the hotel fire.

Also on the scene providing support were: Master Sgt. Dan Carlile, an operations non-commissioned officer with the 163rd, who also is a member of the Evansville Police Department's SWAT team; and Staff Sgt. Ronnel Tabor, the chief of the unit's medical section and a member of the Evansville Fire Department.

Dea was training as a sales representative in Philadelphia on Feb. 8, when he saw smoke and

flames billowing from a second-floor apartment.

"I had to go find out what the deal was, because there were no medical or fire emergency vehicles on the scene," he said.

Aided by another passer-by, Dea forced entry through a locked door on the second-floor porch.

Through the thick smoke, Dea followed screams to find the children, who were situated in separate rooms. He carried each of them to safety.

"I remember getting to the first two children, and then the next thing I remember I was out in the parking lot receiving oxygen," Dea said. "Everybody calls me a hero. It's a big word."

According to police reports, the fire started after 7 p.m., when the three children between the ages of two and six started a fire with some matches.

For his efforts, the 39th Police District has submitted Dea's name to the Carnegie Commission in Pittsburgh for consideration as a Carnegie Fund Hero.

The Philadelphia Fire Department plans to nominate Dea for a heroism award, the city's highest honor. "It was heroism in the true sense of the word," said Capt. John R. Hild of the city's Fire Prevention Division. "I think he deserves all the credit in the world."

"If he did not do what he did, we would have had three fire deaths that day."

The Pennsylvania National Guard also will review several different awards for Dea. "We are very proud of (him)," said Capt. Dennis Demara, the 3623rd's commander. "He is a shining example of the type of people we have not only in our unit, but the entire National Guard."

(Compiled from stories submitted by Sgt. Lee Silen, Indiana ARNG, and Maj. Chris Cleaver, Pennsylvania ARNG.)





## The National Guard in World War II

### Americans forced to surrender Bataan, Corregidor Islands

By Staff Sgt. Tod Cornell (Retired)

Let the world you know today change to one before television, before jet aircraft, before interstate highways.

The Great Depression is ending. Money is in short supply and prices are very low.

If you happened to be in Albuquerque, N.M., in the spring of 1942, you could buy dress trousers starting at \$1.98.

The local drug store advertised "one large country egg, with bacon, potatoes, orange juice, toast and jelly" for 14 cents.

Yes, it was a different world 50 years ago. The world was at war. Japan was running wild in the Pacific.

The Japanese were winning at every turn: their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor was the most successful in history, and they had quickly conquered the British colonies of Hong Kong and Malaya and the Dutch colonies in the East Indies.

The only exception was in the Philippine Islands. In this U.S. territory, American and Filipino forces were holding out on the Bataan Peninsula.

In Albuquerque and other New Mexico towns, talk at the breakfast counters was all about Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Gen. Jonathan Wainwright and the National Guard.

There were three National Guard units in the Philippines: the 192nd Tank Battalion from Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky; the 194th Tank Battalion from Minnesota and California; and the 200th Coast Artillery from New Mexico.

With other U.S. and Filipino troops, these National Guardsmen fought the Japanese. When it was apparent that no reinforcements were coming, the "battling bastards of Bataan," as they called themselves, made grim jokes about having "no Mama, no Papa, no Uncle Sam." But they fought on.

By midday, April 9, 1942, it was all over. Maj. Gen. Edward P. King, Jr., commander of the Bataan forces, had decided that enough was enough.



Photo submitted by Lt. Col. A.L. Allen, Jr. (Retired)

**GUARDSMEN ON PATROL** - A reconnaissance unit from Headquarters Company, 192nd Tank Battalion patrols the island of

Luzon. Photographs such as this are extremely rare. Most were sent home before Japan tightened its grip on the Philippines.

His troops had all but run out of food, ammunition and medical supplies. They were hungry, sick, and outnumbered.

The general sent a white flag to the Japanese lines and surrendered the entire Bataan Command.

The 200th Coast Artillery consisted of almost the entire National Guard of New Mexico, and the news of the fall of Bataan hit the state hard.

New Mexico's total population was only a little over 500,000. To lose 1,835 of its native sons really hurt. The impact covered every corner of the state.

The fall of Bataan would have hit New Mexicans even harder if they had known what was going to happen to their Guardsmen.

For the U.S. and Filipino soldiers, this was the beginning of three years of hell as prisoners of the

Japanese. No soldiers of World War II endured more than these men, and more than half would die as prisoners of war.

One Guardsman who survived, a Kentuckian from the 192nd Tank Battalion, noted grimly that if the Americans had known how they would be treated as POWs, they would have fought literally to the last bullet.

It was a grim epitaph to the U.S. Army's first campaign of World War II - a campaign which the National Guard helped to fight.

(Tod Cornell retired from the Iowa Army National Guard with more than 23 years of service. He is an associate life member of the veterans organization, the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.)

### "Good duty" spoiled by Japan

In the fall of 1941, as U.S. - Japanese relations deteriorated, additional units were sent to reinforce the U.S. territories of Hawaii and the Philippines.

Congress had just extended the time on active duty of mobilized National Guard units, and three Guard units were sent to the Philippines.

Regular Army troops told the Guardsmen how lucky they were to pull such "good duty." In the Philippines, officers lived in big houses with plenty of servants, and even privates could afford Filipino houseboys to clean their barracks and take care of their gear.

The "good duty" evaporated with the Japanese attack on December 8, 1941. U.S. and Filipino forces had to retreat south into Luzon's Bataan Peninsula.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur told them that "help was on the way," but the Philippines were too far from the U.S. to be reinforced by troops.

Ordered out by President Franklin D. Roosevelt but vowing "I shall return," MacArthur left Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright in command and escaped via PT boat and submarine to Australia.

The Bataan Force surrendered in April, followed one month later by the last U.S. defenders on the island of Corregidor. It was the largest surrender in U.S. military history.



National Archives photo

**DEATH MARCH** - American prisoners and their Japanese guards march to a prison camp after the surrender of Bataan.





Photo by Master Sgt. Phillip H. Jones

WINTER WONDERLAND - Members of the 251st Support Center in West Columbia, S.C., hit the slopes in February during a two-week

winter training session at Camp Ripley, Minn. The soldiers learned some valuable lessons about surviving in cold weather.

## South Carolina Guard winters at Camp Ripley

By Staff Sgt. Danny Brazell  
South Carolina National Guard

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. - Put a home-grown, combat-hardened South Carolina Army National Guard soldier on a pair of cross-country skis on a Minnesota hillside and what do you get?

In most cases, a soldier more dangerous to himself than he is to the enemy.

About this time last year, the S.C. Army Guard's Rear Area Operation Center was treading the white sands of the Saudi Arabian desert.

It played a major role in the quick victory of the multi-national forces over the Iraqis in Operation Desert Storm.

But this year, the unit traded the white sands of the desert for the white snow of Minnesota.

Fifty-one members of the West Columbia-based unit participated in Cold Weather Operations Training here during their two weeks of annual training.

The 30- to 40-degree temperatures at Camp Ripley amounted to a heat wave for Minnesotans, but it was still a bit chilly for the Southerners.

They were just beginning to enjoy spring-like Carolina weather before they departed for training in February.

Temperatures are cold enough and there is still enough snow on the ground at Camp Ripley for the Guard members to get a real idea of how important it is to learn the skills needed to survive a cold

combat area.

"What if the flag goes up, hostilities start in Alaska or North Korea in the deep of winter?" asked Lt. Col James F. Merritt, the unit's commander.

"The things you learn here, such as the fact that diesel fuel turns to black jelly in the cold and frozen artillery pieces can sometimes unexpectedly lose parts, can be transferred to those theaters."

Some lessons the soldiers learned in Minnesota include: dressing for the cold; drinking plenty of liquids; and learning that snow skis sometimes have a mind of their own.

That final lesson was a hard one to learn as evidenced by the crumpled mass of South Carolina soldiers lying on the training slope.

## Virginia's 3rd Battalion to represent ARNG at center

The 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry of the 29th Infantry Division of Winchester, Va., has been selected by U.S. Forces Command and the National Guard Bureau to represent the Army National Guard at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

From Aug. 3-23, the battalion, which consists of 600 members, will augment the 177th Armored Brigade.

The mission of the training center is to train combat support units to fight effectively and win on the modern battlefield.

Their selection marks the first time that a Virginia Army National Guard battalion has trained at the center and a light infantry battalion has augmented the opposing force.

## Three drill sergeants' schools to close

Training and Doctrine Command will close three of six drill sergeants' schools by October, because fewer recruits being brought into the Army require fewer drill sergeants. They are: Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Sill, Okla.; and Fort McClellan, Ala.



## It's time to give something back.

Times of national crisis, such as the Persian Gulf conflict, can disrupt a military family's life. This is especially true for the children of Reservists and National Guard personnel. These kids need the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. And now, because of a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, their membership is free!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA

For further information call Monday through  
Friday, 8:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M., E.S.T.

**1-800-854-CLUB**