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West Virginia unit airlifts food to refugees of war-torn nation

By 2nd Lt. Ellen G. Lampkins
Associate Editor

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Flying into "the most dangerous airport in the world" was nothing new for two aircrews from the 167th Airlift Group in Martinsburg, W. Va.

"This is pretty much what I expected," said Staff Sgt. Curtis E. Garrett, a loadmaster with the unit. "We've gone into other places, where we have seen machine gun nests. And this isn't a whole lot different."

Since the beginning of Operation Provide Promise on July 3, the two C-130E aircrews have flown several missions into this war-torn country without incident.

But they still remain cautious.

"The situation here is very fluid," said Maj. Rich Donoho, a 167th navigator.

For example on July 21, one of the aircrews had two flights to Sarajevo cancelled in one day.

On the first turnaround, the aircraft was barely 10 minutes out of the airport, when it was ordered to change course. The flight was given a later time slot for delivery into the airport.

U.N. officials adhere to a strict delivery schedule, because of the number of countries providing food and supplies to the residents of Sarajevo.

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Photo by 2nd Lt. Ellen G. Lampkins

(Right photo) A U.N. soldier from Poland keeps a watchful eye on visitors to Sarajevo airport in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Representatives of 15 countries participated in the airlift.



Utah band strikes up friendships on Russian tour

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia - The headline in a local Russian newspaper read: "When trumpets are playing, cannons are silent."

The headline does a good job explaining a unique exercise in detente as expressed by Utah National Guard soldiers packing band instruments through Russia instead of rifles.

The Guard's 23rd Army Band was invited by the mayor of St. Petersburg to take part in the third annual USA-RUSSIA musical dialogue concert.

The invitation also mentioned commemorative programs tied to this month's first anniversary of

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the nuclear arms reduction treaty known as START.

But those activities were redirected because of a local political sensitivity: The START treaty was negotiated with the United States by leaders of the Soviet Union, which no longer exists.

Russian officials chose not to ride defunct Soviet

coattails and chose rather to focus on strengthening ties between Russia and the United States.

Remnants of a Cold War were nonexistent as the Utah soldiers sat intermixed with Russian military musicians during two concerts.

"The rehearsal was one of the musical highlights of my career," said bassonist Staff Sgt. Richard Chatelain.

Some of the Utah musicians preferred the rehearsals over the actual performances because the setting and the absence of an audience allowed them

See **BAND** on p. 3



Furious training

Photo by Capt. Phil Miller

Maneuvering a crowded rubber raft in the surf without turning it over took the right rowing rhythm and good communication skills between Dutch marines and soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard in this beach assault exercise conducted during Caribbean Fury '92. See related article and photographs on p. 16.



National briefs

Conaway gets NAACP award

Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, chief of the National Guard Bureau, received the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Meritorious Service Award at their July convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Conaway is the first head of a U.S. military reserve component force to receive the 83-year-old civil rights organization's highest military honor.

"(He) is a leader with a vision and a deep abiding concern for people ... he has focused the National Guard on a clear path of equal opportunity and a commitment to excellence," the NAACP citation states.

Since Conaway became chief in 1991, the National Guard Bureau has taken several major steps to insure equal opportunity among its ranks.

The National Guard Bureau has established "equal opportunity for career development" as one of its top 10 goals for the 1990s, second only to "readiness."

Surveys: Fighters least likely to allow women in combat

Results of two Air Force surveys peg fighter aviators as the group least likely to accept women flying combat aircraft, while women aviators are the most supportive of the idea.

"The bottom is equal risk for equal pay, equal opportunity for equal ability," said a surveyed KC-135 pilot.

But while an F-4 pilot who deployed in the Persian Gulf conflict believes women could do their job in combat, he said, "It's their effect on everyone else that should exclude them from combat duty in all-male units."

The surveys were prompted by the passage of the Department of Defense 1992 Authorization Act, which repealed the exclusion for women flying combat aircraft.

Following the repeal, a presidential commission was created to study the feasibility of putting women on the front lines.

AMC bans smoking on all flights

People may no longer smoke aboard Air Mobility Command aircraft and that includes contract flights.

The policy is the result of concern for health and began June 1, the day of activation for the new command.

Smoking previously was allowed on international flights of six hours or more.

ARNG unveils cornerstone

A cornerstone ceremony was held in July for the Army National Guard's Readiness Center at Arlington Hall, Va.

The building consists of two wings connected by a central atrium with a two and a half story parking structure adjacent to each wing.

The three-story east wing will include a cafeteria, building maintenance, housekeeping, receiving, mailroom, computer room, video teleconferencing center, library and the building support offices.

The four-story west wing will feature a large multi-purpose area and operations center.

Melting pot now a salad bowl of cultures

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

Somehow it wouldn't be proper to omit the name of a particular Italian gentleman from this year's Hispanic heritage issue of *On Guard*.

"Good, bad or indifferent, whether hero or villain, Christopher Columbus had more influence in the world than any other individual in the last 500 years," said Maj. Gen. William Navas of the Puerto Rico National Guard.

Millions of people already inhabited the Americas, so some argue that Columbus didn't "discover" America. They prefer to say Columbus "brought two worlds together."

Navas describes Columbus as an entrepreneur, who convinced King Ferdinand V and Queen Isabella I of Spain to finance his expedition in search of a new trade route to India.

Although Columbus died without realizing he had "discovered" a new continent, his expeditions opened much of South and Central America, the Caribbean and parts of North America to colonization by Spain, which was then the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth.

From the 15th to 19th centuries, Spaniards came to the New World looking for adventure and riches to bring back to Spain.

Navas said the vast difference in culture, attitudes and values between South and Central America and North America is directly related to the early colonizations, which began with Columbus.

In contrast to the Spanish, who came for gold and silver, North America was colonized more than 100 years later by individuals leaving England, Germany and Holland looking for religious and political freedom," Navas said.

"These individuals came here to get away from the political system and religious persecution, and they established the Protestant work ethic of God-fearing Christians."

"Their attitude was one of 'I need to work. I'm

Maj. Gen. William Navas, the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau, left his position in August to work as a military executive for the Reserve Forces Policy Board.



going to make this my home. I don't want to go back. I can't go back. I am the master of my own destiny."

At the persuasion of Queen Isabella, the Spaniards also sought to spread Christianity, so along with their governing process they brought the Catholic religion, which was more "hierarchical in structure or dictatorial, if you will," said Navas, who is himself a Catholic.

"They used the Church as a means of dealing with labor and the slaves. The church taught that the more you suffer in this life the better the rewards are going to be in the future. Within that framework, the church was an instrument in helping the crown with the colonization process."

"These early Spanish settlers did not come looking for political freedom, so they created a cultural and religious system that depended on strong leadership in a hierarchical system, and that is why you see all this leadership style of Central and South American dictators today."

"Now, 500 years after Columbus, we're seeing a clash between these two cultures," but Navas continued, Hispanics can be as different from one another as an Alabamian is from a North Dakotan.

"We have individuals, who have lived all their lives in the United States influenced by the democratic system tracing back to the 13 colonies," Navas said.

"You have individuals like me who have grown
See **HERITAGE** on p. 4

DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE

Counterdrug Update

* Counterdrug volunteers on active duty tallied 3,973 in July as compared to 2,700 at this time last year.

* As of July, 17,227 National Guard-assisted arrests were made, almost three times the number of arrests (6,149) made during fiscal year 1991.

* July figures also indicate that the Guard assisted in seizing 456,643 pounds of illegal substances. The total for 1991 was 183,281.

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Hulan

Guard member vies for Miss America title

2nd Lt. Leah Hulan will represent Tennessee in the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., in September.

The 24-year-old is a member of the Tennessee National Guard and served as a military intelligence officer in Panama, a position that included work in drug interdiction.

Named distinguished military student at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Hulan hopes to help further the new image of men and women in the armed services.

"I will be representing all the men and women in green ... The old stigma of the soldier no longer exists," she said in an interview with the Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel.

She represented Knoxville in the Miss Tennessee 1992 pageant in June.

TQM: How will my office benefit?

By Maj. Bob Orwig
Quality Control Center

Total Quality Management conjures up many varied feelings among Guard members. Some have no idea what it is. Others know of TQM through experience at jobs in industry.

Some see it as the latest in management fads that will soon go away. Some see it as a radical change in the way business is done. Others say we have always done business that way.

The critical question is: What does TQM add to my organization that I am not already doing? Or, how will my organization benefit from TQM?

Ironically enough, it may be that TQM adds little or nothing at all. It is possible, although not likely, that your organization already operates at a high level of productivity with an equally low cost of quality.

Continuous improvement may be the watchword in your organization. Your customers may be continually delighted with your service. Your people may be productive workers, who get deep enjoyment through their association with your organization. These workers may be working both harder and smarter and enjoying it more.

If so, just keep doing what you're doing. You are a quality organization, and you are operating within TQM principles, even if you call it some-

thing else.

However, if you are like most organizations, you have problems motivating workers, providing appropriate service or meeting promises you make for your organization.

TQM has been effective in industry in solving these and other related problems. Air Force and Air National Guard leadership have selected TQM as the critical element behind efforts to improve our organizations.

TQM is known by a variety of names: Total Quality, Total Quality Leadership and "zero defects."

It is defined as "a management philosophy involving everyone in an organization in controlling and continuously improving how work is done, in order to meet customer expectations of quality."

In the broad sense, TQM is not new. It existed at least as far back as biblical times. Individuals have always strived to improve the way work is done. Meeting customer demands has been a pillar of the capitalist economic model.

TQM as we know it today has its roots in the manufacturing sector of the economy. The Japanese applied and expanded concepts from Edward Deming, a mathematical physicist, and Joseph Juran, a statistician. Their quality control efforts were rewarded in the standing that Japanese products now have in the world community.

Often interest in TQM is based upon a concentration on the statistical tools or short-range improvements. This is a major source of failure for organizations, which attempt to introduce the improvement tools alone.

For example, the "zero defects" concept can be confined to a motivational tool for workers rather than a management performance standard.

The resulting sloganeering demoralized people and was highly counterproductive.

TQM for most organizations includes what Deming calls a "profound change." A comprehensive approach towards excellence is required to be effective and TQM, when properly applied, is just that.

The Air Guard must respond to the Air Force's push towards a quality-oriented environment. Units will be increasingly measured by their gaining command with respect to quality.

In order to "prove" our worthiness in this new environment our people must understand and use quality language.

In addition, continuous process improvement by the entire organization must be in evidence. The initiatives at the major command level are bringing TQM to the forefront for each local unit.

The Air Guard has a proud history of getting the job done. TQM for the
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to interact more with their Russian hosts.

Some Russian musicians, all of them active-duty soldiers, spoke enough English to be conversant, while others spoke none at all.

"The personal relationships with the musicians transcended language and regions," Chatelain said.

A packed concert hall at the Kronstadt Naval Base on an island in the Gulf of Finland was the setting for a July 17 concert, where the Utah band joined the naval band that represents the Kronstadt Garrison.

On July 13, the Utah band performed in a major concert hall in St. Petersburg with the Leningrad Regional Headquarters Band.

The concerts began with the bands joining to play both U.S. and Russian national anthems. Selections by each band saw the performing groups engaged in a battle of the bands, followed by more joint selections.

"Music is the international language. We were able to put a concert together with very little effort because both groups are very professional, well-trained and highly motivated," Chatelain said of the performance.

Oboe player Staff Sgt. Mike Paul said the Russian oboe player sitting next to him did not speak English. Paul does not speak Russian, but when he started warming up before the rehearsal by playing Marcello's Oboe Concerto, his Russian companion was quick to follow suit.

"We couldn't speak a word between us, but that kid joined right in and was right with me."

"We did the same thing with a Mozart bassoon concerto," Chatelain said of his warmup exercise with the Russian musician sitting next to him.

The band members did a lot of swapping: uniform patches and insignias, names and addresses.

Utah band members offered musical supplies their Russian counterparts either could not buy in Russia or had just never seen.

But a Russian tuba player's offering went unmatched when he gave his silver tuba to a member of the Utah band after the July 13 concert.

At the beginning of that concert, Academitian Onoshkiu, head of the St. Petersburg Department of the USA-Russia Friendship Society, issued one of several introductions for the Utah band.



Photo by 1st Lt. Milada Harries

MUSICAL EXCHANGE - Staff Sgt. Mike Cottam of Utah's 23rd Army National Guard Band concentrates on his music during a performance at Friendship Hall in St. Petersburg.

"May God grant that the soldiers meet more often in the concert halls and not on the battlefields," he said.

(This article was submitted by Steve Fidel, a staff writer for the Deseret News in Salt Lake City.)

AF tags Page as outstanding airman

Master Sgt. Sharon B. Page of the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron of Georgia has been selected as one of the 1992 U.S. Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

She is the NCOIC of the Electronic Computer and Switching Systems Maintenance Section for the unit.

In December of 1990, Page was activated

for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She received the Bronze Star for exceptionally meritorious achievement as superintendent of Electronic Switching Maintenance for the Joint Communications Support Element, U.S. Central Command.

These airmen will be honored by the Air Force Association during its annual convention on Sept. 14-16 in Washington, D.C.



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Guard salutes its top Hispanic achievers

By Capt. Phil Blahut
Editor

Beginning Sept. 15, the United States will celebrate the 500-year contribution of Hispanics to this country's history.

By the year 2020, the Hispanic community is expected to become the U.S.'s largest cultural minority, accounting for about 15 percent of the population.

In this issue, *On Guard* highlights some of the National Guard's Hispanic achievers.

At a recent salute to Hispanics in the military, three National Guard members were awarded the prestigious "National Image, Inc." Meritorious Service Award for 1992.

They are: Maj. Gen. Edward D. Baca, adjutant general of New Mexico; Lt. Col. Manuel G. Pereira, deputy commander for support of the 109th Airlift Group in New York; and 1st Sgt. Asencion R. Hernandez, a platoon sergeant for the 444th Chemical Company of Illinois.

Baca is an avid promoter of the tenets of civil and human rights, race relations, equal opportunity, affirmative action, human relations and public service programs.



Baca



Pereira



A. Hernandez

He has been instrumental in changing the work force for Guard members and customers whom the Guard serves within the state of New Mexico and nationally.

His positive focus on community building projects has brought together people of various backgrounds and cultures toward a common goal.

Most notable of these projects are Koats for Kids, the Red Ribbon Campaign, a Big Brother/Big Sister Program and the community based Drug Demand Reduction programs.

His Family Support Groups in New Mexico Guard communities sponsored many community-building events.

A gifted motivational speaker, Baca is often asked to address Hispanic, Afro-American/Black History, Women, Asian Pacific ethnic groups.

Pereira, an active member of New York's National Guard Minority Leadership Committee, was credited for writing, directing and producing the recruiting videotape, "People for the 90's - New York Air National Guard."

In the Syracuse community and later, Albany, Pereira worked with "at risk" youths and has served for three years as the regional coordinator for the annual Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy telethon.

Organizing two minority recruiting and cultural awareness seminars for more than 100 local middle and senior high school students were just a few of the reasons why the Lion's Club International presented him with their "Presidential Award" for two years in a row.

Hernandez organized the Hispanic American Awareness Committee to develop and foster better communication between the residents of Belvidere and rural Boone County, Ill.

In addition to serving as ward alderman for Belvidere, Hernandez also is a member of the Public Works and Public Safety's Fourth of July committees.

During Operation Desert Storm, Hernandez volunteered for duty in Southwest Asia serving as
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up in a bilingual, bi-cultural environment in Puerto Rico. And finally, you have the guys who came from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, who know very little about this democratic system and the work ethic."

Navas believes another trend over the past 100 years also has a powerful influence on new Hispanics coming to the United States.

During the Industrial Revolution, immigrants came into the country through Ellis Island and were quickly taken into the "melting pot" whether they knew English or not.

At that time, America needed strong backs and muscle. Today, however, the United States has gone beyond the industrial point into the information age where strong backs and muscle are less important while knowledge of English is critical.

Navas said those thousands of immigrants entering the United States every year from South and Central America no longer encounter open arms like immigrants of 100 years ago.

"Those coming now are destined to do the menial jobs and that's what's causing them to be unproductive members of the economy, and it is very hard for them to learn the language and assimilate.

"As a result, these immigrants go into little pockets of ethnic groups, where they retain their culture. Instead of the 'melting pot' of the past, we have a 'salad bowl' of different ingredients," Navas said.

"That may not be all bad if we can put a core system of American values into that salad sort of a dressing if you will."

When asked what North and South America would look like today if Columbus had not introduced the Spanish influence, Navas said, "Who knows? If we had had pilgrims landing on the coast of Venezuela maybe the situation would have been reversed.

"Maybe the Aztecs, Incas or Mayas, who were all very advanced civilizations at the time they were conquered by the Spanish, would have developed further and had a much greater impact on the hemisphere."

Interpreter breaks language barriers between Panamanians and military

By Spec. Angelica Rodriguez Tenorio
Colorado National Guard

ARRAIJAN, Panama - He looks controlled and composed despite the sluggish, humid climate.

As he turns around, his deep, caring eyes question the appearance of a visitor.

Before he can answer, a southern-accented voice yells, "Interpreter, we need the interpreter. Where is he?"

A few seconds later, two other young soldiers yell, "Aguirre, the military police need your help out front!"

With a fleeting smile, he hustles toward the front of the Roberto F. Chiari School.

In a chair between the military police sits a middle-aged Panamanian man.

He tells one of the military police, "Soy un carpintero de calidad, quiero trabajar con ustedes."

The military police look to the interpreter for help. "He said he is a good carpenter and would like to work with us," said Sgt. Samuel Aguirre of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Unfortunately, there was more than enough help, so the man was turned away.

Aguirre apologizing to the man walks with him to the gate followed by the military police.

A combat engineer with the 891st Engineer Battalion from Fort Scott, Kan., Aguirre is temporarily assigned to D Company of the same battalion for this two-week annual training.

"They were asking for volunteers, so I volunteered," he said.

Instead of building bridges or retrieving mines in combat, these engineers are renovating a school.

Their roofing, wiring, plumbing and installation of windows and doors is part of a humanitarian exercise called, "Cosecha Amistad," which is Spanish for "friendly harvest."

In addition to translating, Aguirre is responsible



Photo by Spec. Angelica Rodriguez Tenorio

FRIENDLY HARVEST - Sgt. Steve Oliver (left) and Sgt. Samuel Aguirre lift a backboard at a construction site during two weeks of annual training in Panama.

for wiring, welding, sawing and other construction jobs.

"I help where ever they ask," he said. "I could be mixing cement or wiring an electrical system."

The Panamanians are interested in how the work is done, and Aguirre tries to help them understand.

But there are constant interruptions. "Interpreter, interpreter!"

And once again, Aguirre is off and running.



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acting first sergeant of Task Force Bravo for the 144th Supply Company in Kuwait.

Hernandez also met with young soldiers, who were away from home for the first time in the war-torn environment, and provided counsel and addressed their personal family concerns.



Rios

The National Guard's honorable mention nominee's include: Staff Sgt. Miguel Rios, Jr. of the 128th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Wisconsin; Officer Candidate Ricardo T. Gloria of C Battery, 1-148th Field Artillery in Oregon; Staff Sgt. John S. Martinez of the 180th Fighter Group in Ohio; Master Sgt. Mark A. DeJesus of the 189th Airlift Group in Arkansas; Master Sgt. Robert Hernandez of the 177th Interceptor Group in New Jersey; and Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Sanchez, the deputy commander for State Area Command in Texas.

Rios is a highly qualified aerospace ground equipment mechanic. When the 128th Refueling Group was activated for Operation Desert Storm in 1990, he deployed for five months to the 1706th Air Refueling Wing at Cairo Air Base, Egypt.

Despite limited numbers of power units, Rios was instrumental in the 1706th's successful flying sortie rate.

A notable accomplishment was Gloria's work in



Gloria

maintaining and achieving 98-100 percent unit readiness in the DEERS pre-enrollment program.

"He further singled himself as a 'can-doer' by managing the unit's incentive programs to include bonuses, student loans and the G.I. Bill.



Martinez

"His effort to care for soldiers have brought him in close contact with all personnel in the unit and many of their family members.

He is highly respected as one who honestly cares and tried to help," said Capt. Steven Brown, his commander.

Martinez is thought of as "a true leader in the Air National Guard, the Hispanic community and in the civil rights movement," said Brig. Gen. Gordon M. Campbell, Ohio's assistant adjutant general.

"His active involvement in numerous affirmative action programs, including the Ohio Hispanic Employment Program, led him to initiate a summer youth employment and training program which is in its fifth year."

Martinez, an active member of the Toledo Minority Recruiting Committee for the National Guard, was appointed by the governor of Ohio as a commissioner for Spanish Speaking Affairs.

DeJesus, a supply technician, currently serves as the Hispanic Employment Program manager for the Arkansas National Guard.



DeJesus

In his community, DeJesus devotes many hours of personal time to Arkansas Children's Hospital and THEOS, an organization which assists newly widowed families.



R. Hernandez

Hernandez is not your normal F-16 aircraft engine mechanic. During the 177th's transition from the F-106 to the F-16 aircraft, he cross-trained from the position of crew chief.

Hernandez was singled out for continually demonstrating attention to detail and always exceeding the standards required in his work.

As a youth pastor, he has helped to improve the self-esteem of children ages 13-21.

He also counsels inmates at a state prison as part of their prison ministry.

Sanchez, a Republic of Vietnam decorated veteran, has a military resume filled with major accomplishment and assignments, including 30 years of civil service with the federal government.

As a member of numerous state and national organizations, he spends much of his free time at high school career days counseling potential drop-outs of all ethnic backgrounds on career opportunities and the importance of education.

Sanchez also is a guest speaker for the League of United Latin American Counsel and at Pan American University.



Sanchez

TQM from p. 3

Air Guard ought to be a natural continuation of our heritage of excellence.

TQM offers both the motivation and the tools to measure our advancements.

It's emphasis on problem-solving fits very well within our culture. We are at our best when solving difficult problems in the most efficient ways.

People are our strongest resource. The emphasis on empowerment of people should be welcomed at all levels in our organizations.

The Air Guard is in competition for all resources, dollars and people.

Increased monies come to the most productive and efficient units. Our present environment is one of decreasing world tensions coupled with a decreasing willingness on the part of the electorate to fund the military at the present level. The congressional cost cutters rarely cut the most productive units.

TQM is a philosophy that will help us to attract and retain top flight individuals, a prerequisite for the world class status we would like to maintain.

How can TQM help us do this? As younger people enter the workforce, they want to have immediate input into decisions. The quality initiative allows this.

TQM's emphasis on continuous improvement means that these workers will work for a "winning organization." The desire of workers to be on a winning team and to have an impact on that team will attract bright individuals even in the face of more lucrative offers elsewhere.

A recent survey by the American Society for

Quality Control brings out some information that should signal a clear challenge to the Air National Guard.

When asked about the quality of service provided by government, only one in 11 Americans believes that government does a very satisfactory job.

While it is true that the Guard maintains higher approval ratings than the government as a whole, the point to remember is that we work for the taxpayers. It is our duty to give them the best possible product with the limited resources available to us.

Furthermore, we must forecast the amount of resources needed to fulfill our most general mission of protection of the taxpayer.

TQM is particularly helpful to us in meeting the first duty of providing that best product given certain resources with which to work.

Governmental organizations that have implemented TQM agree that it differs from traditional management.

Maj. Gen. Philip G. Killey, the director of the Air Guard, has highlighted the following key issues in TQM as particularly important.

First is the idea of continuous improvement. Small improvements over time eventually yield an unbeatable advantage. The energy for continual improvement must come from the dedication of the individual worker. Unlike technology, this dedication to duty cannot be purchased.

The need for dedicated and involved employees requires an emphasis on systems improvement as opposed to blaming the rank and file.

When workers in an organization see problems blamed on personnel within the organization, it has a chilling effect on the workers' willingness to take risks. This behavior is extremely dysfunctional for the military unit.

Risk-taking must be encouraged. TQM, as a philosophy, empowers employees to accept responsibility for their part of the process and to improve it. The system is the first culprit when problems occur rather than the usual method of castigating workers.

Finally, the quality organization knows who their customers are, what they need and exceeds the customer's expectations. This requires work. The organization must think about who gets the output of what it does.

Once the customer is identified, the organization must gather information on what the customer needs and how the organization can best serve that customer.

Once the information is available, the quality organization uses it to continuously improve its processes.

TQM is with us. It will have an increasing impact on the way the Air Guard operates. We must be familiar with the history, the terminology and the techniques of quality.

But more important for the Air Guard and the nation is that we are quality.

(AC-141 aircraft commander with the 172nd Airlift Group in Jackson, Miss., Orwig currently works for NGB's Directorate for Productivity and Quality. He is an assistant professor at Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe.)



COMBAT TURN - Tech. Sgt. Don Mason (left) and Airman 1st Class Christina Bennett, both of the 162nd Combat Communications Group, scramble against the clock during Combat Challenge '92 as members of the quick reaction satellite antenna team.

Guard meets combat challenge in Air Force communications event

"There is no command without command and control," said Lt. Gen. Charles A. Horner, commander of the 9th Air Force.

He expressed this high regard for the communicators gathered at an awards banquet for Combat Challenge '92 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Seven teams, including two from the Air National Guard, competed in the four-day event.

The 162nd Combat Communications Group of the California Air National Guard was the overall winner in the first competition in 1986.

In the next three years, 1987, 1989 and 1992, the 3rd Combat Communications Group from Tinker won the competition.

A repeat victory has always been the goal for members of the 162nd, but it didn't come this year.

Some consoling words came from Col. Fred Smith, their group commander. "There are still only two names on that trophy, ours and the 3rd's."

Staff Sgt. Anna Ging, a member of the 162nd, received the "Fleet Foot" award for the best time in the 1.5-mile run. Chief Master Sgt. Steve Taber was chosen by his fellow teammates as the most valuable player.

The events include: the set-up of various communications systems; pallet build-up; camouflage activities; tent erection; marksmanship competition; a 1.5-mile run and a personal appearance inspection.

The 154th Tactical Control Group from Buckley Air National Guard Base in Colorado also competed in the annual event.

By 2nd Lt. Wanda Schuler
California National Guard



HEADLINERS - Nevada's CH54A "Skycrane" was used to remove construction materials

from behind Mount Rushmore in June. The mission was tagged "Golden Coyote '92."

113th tackles monumental project

By Sgt. Steven Collins
South Dakota National Guard

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The pilots and crew of the CH-54A "Skycrane" helicopter of the Nevada Army National Guard have moved their share of unique objects, including a bulldozer from Ronald Reagan's ranch in California, a wrecked B-52 and water for fire-fighting missions.

But in June, Company D of the 113th Aviation Battalion used its huge helicopter to move 50-year-old equipment and historical items from behind Mount Rushmore.

The mission was part of "Golden Coyote '92," an engineering exercise held in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

"We can move it all," said Staff Sgt. Michael Grady of the unit. "But we have never come this close to such a large national monument."

The Skycrane, which can lift 20,000 pounds of cargo, maneuvered carefully into the small canyon behind the faces and carried old pipes, railroad track and other equipment left by crews, which worked on the monument from 1927-41.

The canyon, which was the site of a mini-city during the construction of Mount Rushmore, is being cleaned in preparation for possible completion of Gutzlun Borglum's Hall of Records.

"There has been talk of turning the Hall of Records into a time capsule ... which would house some equipment and archives of the building of Mount Rushmore," said Doug Cockrum, curator of the museum at Mount Rushmore. "We have been wanting to clean out this area up here for a long time."

Just recently, Borglum's family approached the U.S. Forest Service about finishing a smaller version of the hall, said Jim Papovich, the chief of interpretive and visitor agencies at the monument.

"We invited the Army National Guard to come up and assist us in this mission, because there was really no other way to get the materials out of the Hall of Records canyon," he said.

The climb to the canyon behind Rushmore is steep, and the trail is covered with rocks, so the only conceivable way to remove the equipment was by helicopter.

However, the South Dakota Army Guard did not have an aircraft, which would be able to maneuver between the steep and narrow canyon walls.

A larger helicopter was needed, and fortunately, Nevada could provide one. The 113th has three Skycranes, one of the largest helicopters in the U.S. Army fleet. It can maneuver into tight spaces with a wench reaching nearly 180 feet down.

The Skycrane was the perfect helicopter for the mission, Papovich said. "The prime use of this machine (was) to move out heavy equipment with very little effort."

On the ground, two soldiers hooked a harness around the cargo onto the wench. In this case, two other soldiers helped to guide the Skycrane away from the canyon walls.

"We have rebar in the walls of the canyon, two trees in the path, and we (were) so close to an important national monument," Grady said. "This is not the easiest job ever, but the people in the unit are skilled and (pulled) it off."

Guard members from the 842nd Engineer Company of Spearfish, the 214th Engineer Company of Hot Springs and Custer and the 109th Engineer Battalion of Sturgis cleaned the area for several hours in anticipation of the Skycrane's arrival.

The equipment saved from the Hall of Records will be incorporated into a new museum being built at the monument as part of a \$40 million facelift for the visitor center and facilities at the foot of the mountain.

The Skycrane itself will become a museum piece very soon. "This is one of the last big missions for the Skycrane," said 1st Lt. Seppi Baumann, commander of Company D. "This is a '67 model, so it is 25 years old. The Army is replacing the Skycrane with newer D Model Chinooks."





Lichtenberg

Wolf

Veach

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 ... Blast off!

Air Guard members proven to have the right stuff

(Editor's note: This is the first in a three-part series of stories about Air National Guard members, who are involved in the U.S. space program. They are: Col. Byron Lichtenberg of Massachusetts, a payload specialist; and Lt. Col. Lacy Veach of Texas and Maj. David Wolf of Indiana, who are both astronauts.)

By 2nd Lt. Ellen G. Lampkins
Associate Editor

When Byron Lichtenberg was interviewed for a Space Lab mission at the beginning of his career with NASA, the first question that the group of scientists asked him was, "Give an example of how you have responded to stress in the past."

The A-10 pilot with the 104th Fighter Group in Westfield, Mass., casually mentioned that he flew 138 missions in South Vietnam and 43 in North Vietnam.

Enough was said.

The scientists quickly skipped to the next question. "It was really clear that I had been through something that not a lot of people have," Col. Lichtenberg said. "Over the years, I have also developed more experience in emergency operations. You don't have to be a pilot (to go into space), but it helps."

That was just one example of how Lichtenberg's military service has helped his career as a payload specialist with the space agency. He once applied to become a NASA astronaut, but was turned down.

Lichtenberg was not deterred. "My mother says I came home one day at the age of 7 and said I wanted to be an astronaut. The Mercury astronauts and the Russians had their people in space."

"It was possible to do it, so I started to gear my career toward (becoming an astronaut)."

He earned degrees in mechanical and biomed-

ANG's space mission

In 1975, the 102nd Air Rescue Squadron, the oldest unit in the Air National Guard, began its search and rescue mission.

The decorated unit, which is part of the 106th Air Rescue Group from New York, has served as the primary rescue force for all NASA Space Shuttle launches since 1987.

cal engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while flying with the state's Air National Guard unit.

During a flight training session in Tucson, Ariz., Lichtenberg spoke with a former astronaut candidate who encouraged him to use medical research as a path into the space program.

About six months later, NASA announced that it wanted experiments to fly in the space shuttle.

"I flooded my paperwork in (to NASA), Lichtenberg said. "I applied for both pilot and mission specialists, and then the payload specialist came up and my adviser nominated me for that."

In 1978, Lichtenberg was chosen as one of two American payload specialists to train for the mission.

About 14 years later, Lichtenberg is a two-time veteran of space travel, who currently is assessing his goals for the future. "I would go again for sure, but it's not like it is up to me. I feel really good to be able to do two flights."

"If I get a chance, I will go. If not, I will not be devastated by it. The memories of my first two experiences will carry me through the rest of my life."

Lichtenberg, who joined the Guard in 1974, is hesitant to start any new projects, because his unit will convert to F-16s this year. "That's three months

of training, so I have purposely not jumped into a new or major career move," he said.

But Lichtenberg remains active in the field with consultation work on a space station program and continued studies into a commercial space tourism program.

Lichtenberg made history in 1983, when he and German scientist Ulf Merbold were among the crew for the maiden voyage of the Spacelab scientific center, Columbia.

Since that time, he has travelled around the country for NASA increasing public support for the space program.

Lichtenberg said he believes the American space program has bounced back from the 1986 Challenger disaster. "It's been 'back' for quite a while, because (space travel) has been a routine happening. If you asked anyone on the street about what's in the air right now, they wouldn't know. That can be good and bad."

"On the one hand, you have the glamour and the attention, but on the other hand it's better if it is routine, because if something does happen people are not too concerned one way or the other."

On his last mission with the Atlantis in March, Lichtenberg and a team of scientists conducted experiments on the upper atmosphere of the Earth.

Asked about the safety of space travel, Lichtenberg said, "It's a lot like flying airplanes. You have to look at the risks ahead of time in your mind."

He judges the rewards versus the risks. "We all die sometime. You just have to decide if you want to die doing something that you dearly love."

After the Challenger incident, Lichtenberg said he did reassess his feelings, but the answer was the same. "I had already been there once and knew how marvelous it was. Not everybody is in that big exploration mode ... but I am."



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On the second attempt, the aircraft managed to fly for 30 minutes before being summoned back to the base.

The Sarajevo airport was closed because of continued fighting between the three warring ethnic factions in the area. "The U.N. ground troops determine if it is safe to come in or not," said Capt. Matthew Beecher, the mission commander. "By the time the word filtered down to us, it was too late ... we were already airborne."

The humanitarian relief effort conducted by the United States is part of a multi-national initiative.

In addition to the Guard unit, the other organizations involved in the U.S. airlift are: the 37th Airlift Squadron of the 435th Airlift Wing at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany; the 317th Airlift Wing from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; and the 934th Airlift Group, an Air Force Reserve unit from Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.

"We didn't know until the last minute that we were coming, and now that we're here we never know when we are flying," said Capt. Scott Messerli, a pilot from the 167th.

As of Aug. 11, the West Virginia unit had flown at least nine missions into the theater.

A routine flight would include two landings at the Sarajevo airport. The aircraft leaves Rhein-Main with about 13 tons of Meals-Ready to Eat, which would be unloaded in Sarajevo about two and a half hours later.

On the ground at the airport, U.N. peacekeeping troops quickly unload the pallets from the C-130s that land about every 20 minutes.

"Your boys have done a fine job," said Flight Lt. Lee Doherty, a British transportation liaison officer working at the airport. "They make it easy on us by being ready to unload these supplies."

Their sense of urgency is carried over to the aircrew members and public affairs and civilian media representatives, who explore their new surroundings during the unloading.

They quickly interview, take photographs and trade hats and patches with the U.N. soldiers.

Because of the risk of sniper fire, the pilot instructs the crew and passengers to put on their flak jacket about 30 minutes before the aircraft lands at the airport.

Many kept their engines running while unloading, in case of a surprise attack by one of the warring factions.

The flight then continues to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, where it would take on pallets of Iranian feta cheese or wheat from the European community.

About two hours later, the aircraft is unloaded in Sarajevo and then returns to Rhein-Main.

Delivery as Promised



HATCH WITH A VIEW - Master Sgt. William L. Scott, a loadmaster with the 167th Airlift Group from Martinsburg, W.Va., watches

activity on the flightline at Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany before an early morning takeoff to Sarajevo.

Photos by 2nd Lt. Ellen G. Lampkins

As of Aug. 7, the Air Force had delivered more than 960 tons of food, supplies and equipment to the area, public affairs officials said.

From Germany to Sarajevo, the most direct route would take an aircraft over the Alps. However, military aircraft are not authorized to travel through Swiss air space.

Because of the nature of the mission, the United Nations acquired special permission from the Swiss government for the flyover.

In one of their last flights in July, an aircrew from the 167th delivered a load of MREs and then reconfigured the aircraft to transport 46 Canadian
See AIRPORT on p. 9



SHOP TALK - Tech. Sgt. Don Jackson (left) and Staff Sgt. John Windle (pointing) discuss loading procedures with U.N. troops based at the Sarajevo airport.



Staff Sgt. Curtis Garrett fastens down a new load before takeoff.



(Top) A U.N. soldier from Argentina inspects boxes of MREs at the airport. (Bottom) Capt. Matt Beecher, the mission commander, talks with a U.N. soldier.





ALMOST THERE - A U.N. soldier inspects some of the food and supplies that have been airlifted into the Sarajevo airport. An inadequate number of trucks

has made it impossible for much of the food to be delivered to the civilian population. As of Aug. 7, the Air Force had delivered more than 960 tons.



SAY CHEESE - Another load of Iranian feta cheese is ready for delivery from Zagreb to Sarajevo via the 167th's aircraft.



(Top photo) Two members of the U.N.'s peacekeeping force arrange boxes on a truck headed for people in the besieged city of Sarajevo. (Bottom left photo) The convoy is escorted by an Armored Personnel Carrier.

AIRLIFT from p. 8

members of the U.N. peacekeeping force from Sarajevo to Lahr Canadian Base in Germany.

The West Virginia unit was chosen for Operation Provide Promise, because of the aircraft's defense capabilities.

Only two Air Guard units have C-130Es, a propeller-driven aircraft capable of carrying 12.5 tons of cargo for 2,500 miles. The other unit is the 118th Airlift Wing based in Nashville, Tenn.

The 167th also has participated in Operation Provide Comfort in 1991 and flown several humanitarian missions to Africa and Central and South

America.

Messerli said training in Panama with its high mountainous terrain and high temperatures has prepared the two crews for this particular mission.

The Sarajevo airport is surrounded on three sides by mountains and temperatures on the flightline have hovered around 90 degrees.

Under these conditions, "aircraft performance is not as good ... and you can get yourself in a little bit of hurt," Messerli said.

"Crews exercise a lot of judgement when they go in now," Donoho added.

Despite the hazards of flying into the airport, including ground fire and minimal navigational instruments in the control tower, the crew is comfortable with their commitment to this mission.

They feel that they are making a difference. "We all wanted to do something for the people in Sarajevo," Messerli said.

"Hopefully, our support of the U.N. will help keep people from starving and encourage peace," said 1st Lt. Douglas E. King, a pilot with the 167th.

The first crew to fly into Sarajevo consisted of: Messerli, 1st Lt. Walter Koehler, the co-pilot; and Donoho: Staff Sgt. Don Kees, the flight engineer; and Tech. Sgt. Don Jackson and Staff Sgt. John Windle, the two loadmasters.

The other crew included: Beecher and King; 1st Lt. Brian Blackford, the navigator; Chief Master Sgt. David Frazier, the flight engineer; and Garrett and Master Sgt. William Scott, the loadmasters.

From the air, the crews have seen the effects of the civil war on the city. "There is a lot of destruction," Donoho said.

"There is very little activity or ground traffic and very few people out and about."

Because of the 37th's willingness to rotate more aircrews into the schedule, one aircrew from each of the other units was sent home during the last week of July.

The remaining aircrews then began a pooling process with their aircraft to make scheduling easier.

Different aircraft meant more training for some of the Guard members. When one of the aircrews flew a C-130 from Pope, the navigator received a few lessons on the All-Weather Aerial Delivery System.

The airman's duty day is sometimes stressful, often boring, but always rewarding and ... long.

The two Air Guard crews clocked in many 14-hour days after landing at Rhein-Main.

"When you don't sleep and then wake up at three or four in the morning, your days tend to run together," Koehler said.



TEAMS works to save time, money in SOUTHCOM

By Sgt. Larry Burch
Colorado National Guard

FORT KOBBE, Panama - Soldiers in the U.S. Army have worked in teams for more than 200 years.

Today, however, TEAMS has a whole new meaning.

TEAMS is short for Theater Equipment and Maintenance Site, which provides 100 percent of the equipment, medical supplies, spare parts, tents and rations needed by most of the reserve component engineer and medical units serving under the supervision of the U.S. Southern Command throughout Central and South America.

Before the creation of TEAMS, Army National Guard and Army Reserve units deploying to the U.S. Southern Command shipped all of their equipment and supplies from their home station at great expense to the government.

Since October of last year, TEAMS has expanded its role. Soldiers deployed here now only need to bring personal equipment and minimal organizational equipment.

Lt. Col. Charles E. Lloyd, the TEAMS commander since the beginning, said the small cadre of

10 full-time soldiers can support two engineer task forces with 500 or more soldiers every year and two medical units with 45 doctors, nurses or medics each month.

Nothing is wasted. "We're saving the government at least \$1 million each year," Lloyd said.

The money saved is used to help civilians in remote areas here as part of the Guard's humanitarian efforts.

Because of TEAMS' support for deployed soldiers, they can travel light and move quickly to their duty area.

Units usually arrive in the country on a Saturday, move to the job site on Sunday, where their equipment is waiting and begin work on Monday morning.

"Everything they need is waiting for them, when they arrive at the job site," said Sgt. 1st Class Terry L. Scales, the TEAMS equipment NCO-in-charge. "We keep everything in our warehouse and ship it to the job site when needed on dedicated C-27 aircraft."

"We have one of the largest supply inventory lists available. For example, Task Force 264 had more than 6,800 items on their Class 9 list (spare equipment parts) alone."

"Because the requirements are so great, we use

an automated supply list to make sure they have everything they need. Soon, we'll have direct satellite communication to units in the field for resupply."

The TEAMS staff is augmented by a few soldiers from the unit being served. With its centralized supply point and automation, TEAMS usually fills supply needs within 24 hours.

"This is a real improvement over the old system which often had a 20-day turnaround time," Lloyd said. "TEAMS was designed to meet the growing needs of the reserve components. The down and dirty of TEAMS is saving money on shipping and the conservation of personnel."

When a unit's equipment breaks down, Lloyd's people often have it up and running within 24 hours.

"This is not like training. This is for real. It's like work," said Sgt. Dennis L. Krom of the 891st Combat Engineer Battalion in Fort Scott, Kan. "We run all the equipment all of the time."

Master Sgt. Garry L. Huff, NCO-in-charge of the maintenance section, said that the regular Army isn't always aware of the problems facing reserve component units.

"They can meet the needs of their people, but they may not be able to help us with everything we need. I think it's better this way," he said. "Guardsmen know what Guardsmen need."

A marriage made in the Army

By Capt. Lori McCreary
Pennsylvania National Guard

FORT DRUM, N.Y. - The rumble of distant artillery replaced the peal of church bells at noon on July 3, when two members of Company B, 228th Forward Support Battalion, were married during their two-week annual training.

The bride, Sgt. Vicky Maruschak of Phillipsburg, Penn., and the groom, Spec. Kevin Beish of Walleston, Penn., explained that they decided to get married at their field command post, because it was different and more convenient.

"All our family and friends are here," Maruschak said. "They didn't have to take any time off from work. Besides, they would have all been in the mess tent around lunch time anyway."

Maruschak, a unit member for 12 years, defended their decision. "People get married at the ends of bungee cords, in balloons and even at the arctic circle," she said. "So why not at annual training?"

Both the bride and groom had always wanted a military wedding. Their families have a military background.

This is "the first field wedding that the 28th Infantry Division has ever had," said Michael Derk, the battalion chaplain from New York.

Earlier in the week, the couple asked Derk for permission to hold the wedding ceremony. "First Sgt. Christopher Rowles and I determined it was militarily possible," Derk said.

"I'm here to take care of my troops," Rowles added, "And that's just what I did."

Doned in their battle dress uniform, the couple was married in a dignified service that lasted about an hour.

The matron of honor and best man were Staff Sgt. Ann and Sgt. Terry Hawk, also from Company B.

The bride was given away by her uncle, Staff



BDU BRIDE - Sgt. Vicky Maruschak (left) and Spec. Kevin Beish were married by Chaplain Michael Derk during annual training at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Sgt. Raymond Maruschak of Company E, 728th Main Support Battalion.

The wedding luncheon consisted of Meals-Ready-to-Eat, catered by the U.S. government.

The wedding cake with three layers and camouflaged icing was provided by Sgt. Michael Hemmer of Company B, 228th Forward Support Battalion. He baked the cake on his own time.

The ceremony was described by the couple as being "like any other outdoor wedding, except for the garb and the icing on the cake."

"The wedding was handled very well," Beish said. "The 28th Infantry Division was very accommodating. Everyone was really great."

When asked if they would be married the "right way" when they return to their home station, Maruschak said, "This is the right way."



Peavey



Thomas

Army Guard names soldier, NCO of year at Pentagon

Spec. Kelly W. Peavey of Iowa and Sgt. Terry L. Thomas of Oklahoma recently were selected as the Army National Guard Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, respectively, after a nationwide competition at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Peavey, who joined the Guard in 1986, is employed as a personnel information management specialist with the Headquarters, State Area Command in Iowa.

Thomas joined the U.S. Army in 1984 and served on active duty for six years with one tour in Germany.

In 1990, he enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard, where he is assigned as a fire support sergeant in Detachment 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Section, 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery.

Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Blackwood and state command sergeants major from the Command Sergeant Major Advisory Council narrowed the selection of the state finalists and chose the two winners.

The winners were honored in a ceremony held at the Pentagon, where each received the meritorious service medal from Brig. Gen. John R. D'Araujo, the deputy director of the Army National Guard.



D.C. military policemen tail Bandits, Spots and Boots in Panama training

By Sgt. Larry Burch
Colorado National Guard



Photo by Sgt. Larry Burch

THE CAT'S MEOW - Staff Sgt. Jimmie C. Simmons transfers a stray cat to a holding cage while working for the Army's animal control operations in Panama. Simmons and Sgt. Daniel Lisabet had never worked with animals before this assignment.

COROZAL, Panama - Catching two-legged fugitives is nothing new for military police officers.

However, apprehending four-legged critters is a different story.

Recently, two military police officers from the District of Columbia Army National Guard deployed here for their two-week annual training to assist the U.S. Army in animal control operations.

Staff Sgt. Jimmie C. Simmons and Sgt. Daniel Lissabet, both members of the 275th Military Police Company, were assigned to the animal control unit of the U.S. Army Veterinary Services.

While in Panama, Simmons and Lissabet worked out of the Corozal Veterinary Treatment Facility, an animal hospital and quarantine center for pets and exotic wildlife.

Post regulations do not allow animals to roam freely because of concern for public safety and the possible spread of disease.

Using nets and cages mounted on trucks, the two military police officers patrol Army installations in search of stray animals and respond to complaints about pets or wild animals.

They also helped with injured animals. Among those at the veterinary facility is a harpy eagle, the national bird of Panama and the largest of the eagles.

The regal looking bird had been shot through the wing. It was brought in by local Panamanians, because of the facility's excellent reputation for working with exotic wildlife.

Simmons and Lissabet have experienced a wide variety of training exercises, but this was their first assignment to animal control.

"We're combat MPs," Simmons said. "We usually work in the field with infantry units doing movement control or escorting supply convoys. But it's totally different here. We're patrolling all day looking for stray animals, mostly dogs and cats."

"We capture them and bring them to the veterinary hospital, where they receive a medical examination. Then, we confine them to the kennel area until we can locate the owner."

On a typical day, the two D.C. Guardsmen will pick up about four animals. One of the soldiers will remain on 24-hour call in case there is a complaint after hours.

"I've learned a lot about animals," Simmons said. "Dogs can be the biggest threat to you. They're usually very vigorous and want to bite you. Cats aren't so bad. They will usually lay down quietly once you catch them."

"Our biggest challenge was catching an 85-pound German Shepherd that had broken its leash and left the owner's yard. We had to use nets to bring him in. Just the size of that dog was enough to scare you."

Storm-related accident demonstrates need for clinic

By Spec. Don Cygen
Colorado National Guard

SAN BLAS, Panama - Amalia Garcia's nightmare journey began with a thunderclap and a blast of wind on this tiny island of Wichub Huala.

In the middle of the night, a storm shook the grass-roofed huts and buildings that make up this island that is no larger than a football field.

A chunk of concrete tile blew loose from a neighbor's hut and slashed through the soft roof, striking Garcia in the head and neck.

Garcia, one of the many Cuna Indians who inhabit these islands on the Caribbean side of Panama, screamed and fell to the ground, stunned.

Sgt. Thomas Sprague, a 20-year-old Kansas Army National Guard member from Wichita, heard the scream and woke with a start.

"The local chief came running to our commander," Sprague said. "He said, 'Mayor, Mayor! Come quick. Bring the medicine.'"

By this time, all five members of the work detachment from Company D and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Combat Engineer Battalion at Fort Scott, Kan., had heard the cry and arrived at the woman's hut. "She was bleeding real bad ... and in shock," Sprague said.

Maj. Clifford M. Silsby of Topeka, Kan., the detachment commander, applied a field bandage to Garcia's head and calmed the woman's family.

"Our biggest worry was that she was clearly in a state of shock, and we were far away from any medical care," Silsby said.

Wichub Huala is just one of the 365 tiny and very remote islands in the San Blas chain. The island boasts about 100 Cuna natives, proud people with

little of the modernization found on the Panama mainland.

Medical care is rare. One doctor from the Panamanian government covers the entire province of Comarca De San Blas and visits the island about once a year.

That's not often enough, the Cunas say.

In order to get Garcia to the nearest medical facility, the 30-year-old woman had to endure a dangerous 35-minute ride in a pitching hollow canoe.

"The (Cuna Indian) women are pushing the men even more to get it done."

Maj. Clifford M. Silsby

The four-foot waves, whipped up in the dark night, threatened to swamp the tiny boats as it headed for the mainland.

"She was so scared, the poor lady didn't want to go to the mainland," Sprague said. "We had to let them borrow our gas for their boat motor. They only had a little to get between the islands."

Another Guard member, Staff Sgt. Randy S. McAllister from Mapleton, Kan., offered his heavy-duty flashlight to the helmsman to navigate through the dark and rainy night.

"They're brave people ... that's for sure," Sprague said. "They earned my respect by the way they got that woman to the mainland with just a flashlight."

Garcia's sister, Dores, said Amalia was treated for a deep cut and shock at a clinic at Carti Suitopo.

The incident was a scary one for the inhabitants of Wichub Huala, but it demonstrated the need for a medical clinic to serve many of the 49 inhabited islands in this remote section of northeast Panama.

It also drove home the mission of the five Kansas Guard members.

"It's just too remote," Sprague said. "These people should have their own facility right here."

Completing that facility is just what these soldiers hope to accomplish before leaving this peaceful tropical island.

They are part of a U.S. Army humanitarian exercise, called "Cosecha Amistad '92," which is Spanish for "friendly harvest."

The San Blas project is just one of several authorized by the U.S. Army and the Republic of Panama. Other projects include building and renovating schools, medical clinics and the water system.

The majority of the work is accomplished by National Guard and Army Reserve units on two-week training tours in the region.

The Panamanian people benefit, and the reserve component soldiers receive valuable training that is not available at home.

The five Kansas soldiers will put the finishing touches on a 1,385-foot medical clinic built of concrete and cinder blocks.

Along with the Cuna Indians, they also have renovated a local school with ceiling fans and a new tile floor. They hope to complete both projects during their two-week rotation.

"I think what happened last night really hit home for them," Silsby said. "The women are pushing the men even more to get it done."

Once the project is completed, the next step will be finding a doctor to live on the island.

"As far as I know, they have a program similar to what we have in the United States," Silsby said. "Maybe a doctor who is paying back the government for his schooling will come here."



Newsmakers

A District of Columbia Army guardsman recently won the 1991 Civilian Journalist of the Year award in the Keith L. Ware competition.

When he does not perform his military police duties as second platoon leader during drill, **2nd Lt. Patrick Swan** writes full-time for the Army News Service in Washington, D.C.

He enlisted in the Army in 1981 and trained as a military journalist.

2nd Lt. Julie Cox, a member of the 105th Airlift Squadron of the Tennessee Air National Guard, recently became the state's first female pilot.

She will fly the unit's C-130H transport aircraft upon completion of additional training.

Five New York Army National Guard members will be recommended for heroism citations for rescuing two Pennsylvania National Guardsmen who crashed in a twin-engine U-8 aircraft on landing at Muir Field, Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., in June.

Spec. Joseph Kloiper, Private 1st Class Joseph E. McCormick III, Capt. Marc L. Redgate, Staff Sgt. Manuel Narvaez and Chief Warrant Officer Robert S. Wold are assigned to C Troop of the 101st Cavalry at Rochester, N.Y.

Authorities said the aircraft apparently lost control and catapulted from the Muir Field landing zone to a perimeter area, where the New York unit was camped for annual field training.

Two Army National Guardsmen recently helped the Army to win their first Armed Forces track and field championship since 1988.

Maj. Jim Barrineau of Georgia won the high jump at seven feet and one-half inches, and **Officer Candidate Melvin Hempstead** of California won the pole vault at 15 feet, 11 inches.

Both will compete for spots on next year's CISM Track and Field team competing in France.

Two Idaho National Guardsmen recently were awarded the Idaho Cross, the state's highest decoration for heroism and valor.

Sgt. 1st Class Howard Worcester and Staff Sgt. Dean Lamott rescued three passengers from an overturned car last November.

Worcester pulled the last passenger from the car only minutes before the car was hit by a tractor-trailer rig.

Both soldiers have been recommended for the Valley Forge Cross, and their story is being considered for the television series, "Rescue 911."

Spec. Jeffrey M. Kish of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 115th Infantry in Glen Burnie, Md., was named the distinguished honor graduate for the Primary Leadership Development Course in June.

More than 40 soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard graduated from the course at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Here is a list of the 1991 recipients of the National Safety Council awards for recognition of mishap reduction performance: **187th Fighter Group of Alabama**, award of merit; **139th Air-**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. E. Paquette

HEAVY WEIGHTS - Tech. Sgt. Dave Gellner (right) of the 161st Mission Support Flight and Senior Airman Eric Chabra of the 161st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, both of the Arizona Air National Guard, recently took top honors in the American Weightlifting Association national championships in Mesa. Gellner won the 50-54 age division in the 132-pound class, while Chabra finished second in the 182-pound open division.

lift Group of Missouri, award of commendation; **202nd Engineering Installation Squadron of Georgia**, the **243rd Engineering Installation Squadron and 265th Combat Communications Squadron**, both of Maine, NSC President's award letters.

Lt. Col. Robert Turbyfill, an executive officer in the Army Comptroller Office at the National Guard Bureau, recently placed second with his four-man team in the U.S. Relay Championships in Northfield, Mass.

The Quantico Orienteering Club Forest Runners were edged out of the top spot by one second with a time of 2:06:43.

Turbyfill will be the coach for the U.S. team, which will compete in the 1993 World Championships in West Point, N.Y.

The Second U.S. Army's National Guard Soldier of the Year, **Sgt. Stephen Paul Heard** of Crystal Springs, is the first Mississippi Army National Guardsman to receive the prestigious award.

A member of the 162nd Military Police Company, Heard has been the National Guard Soldier of the Year for Mississippi in 1990 and 1992.

Senior Airman Joel E. Dake of the 128th Fighter Wing in Wisconsin has been named the 1991 Air Force Outstanding Intelligence Airmen for the reserve category.

The **193rd Support Flight of Pennsylvania** and the **200th Civil Engineering Squadron of Ohio** have been selected for the 1992 Hennessy Trophy, the Air National Guard's Large and Small

Dining Facility awards, respectively.

Sgt. 1st Class James W. Osborn won the First U.S. Army/FORSCOM NCO of the Year competition at Niagara Falls, N.Y., earlier this year.

The Ohio Military Academy instructor sharpened his competitive edge by spending the first week of May in Washington D.C., where he and 10 other NCOs vied for the title of National Guard Bureau NCO of the Year.

The **201st Airlift Squadron**, formerly Detachment 1, Headquarters, recently became the Air National Guard's newest flying unit at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

The unit officially joined the 21st Air Force and Air Mobility Command during activation ceremonies.

Staff Sgt. Charles Longfellow and Sgt. Jim Tompkins of the 287th Army Band of the Delaware Army National Guard won a six-state M-60 competition this summer.

Most of their Guard duty involves a trombone and tuba, respectively, but the two soldiers proved that they are combat ready.

Tompkins also won first place as the highest individual scorer.

2nd Lt. Mark Davis recently became the first Army National Guardsman to receive a direct appointment to the Army Medical Specialist Corps as a physician's assistant.

He has six years of prior service on active duty and in the U.S. Army Reserve prior to transferring to the Iowa Army National Guard in 1991 to enter the warrant officer program.

Chief Warrant Officer Gregory Terpstra became the first Iowa Guard member to be converted from a commissioned warrant officer to the rank of captain as a physician's assistant.

He has more than 10 years of experience as a military physician assistant and more than 17 years of professional civilian experience in the field.

The **142nd Fighter Group** of the Oregon Air National Guard was recognized in May by the Portland Federal Executive Board as the 1992 Federal Agency of the Year in the Portland metropolitan area.

The board also selected **Tech. Sgt. Scott O'Neil** of the 224th Combat Communications Squadron as the federal military employee of the year.

Nominees from every federal agency in Portland were judged on their civic and job level accomplishments, the impact of the agency's accomplishments through money saved, improved morale, effective personnel management and its effects on the community.

Rev. Albert N. Sanchez recently was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Guam Air National Guard to become the organization's first chaplain.

He faces the challenge of building the chaplain service mission from the bottom to top during monthly and annual training activities for the local Air Guard units.



Photo by Sgt. Richard Johnson

WOUND UP - Staff Sgt. Grant Safter (left) shows Fusilier Scott Fitzgerald how to wind up

a rappelling rope during mountain training at Camp Ethan Allen, Vt.

Brits return to U.S. with less vengeance

By Sgt. Danny Devine
Maryland National Guard

The lush green Vermont countryside and the steady rain made the visitors from Britain feel right at home.

Though the last time the Royal Fusiliers were in America, it was under completely different circumstances. They were part of the Army that burned the White House during the War of 1812.

On this trip, the 150 members of the 6th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were in America to ignite the rappelling ropes dangling from the granite facades of the green mountains of Camp Ethan Allen near Burlington.

This volunteer unit of the Territorial Army, which is the equivalent of the Army National Guard, trained in July with Maryland's 2nd Battalion of the 115th Infantry in mountaineering skills as part of an ongoing exchange program between the two countries.

"It's an opportunity to exchange ideas and philosophy on tactics and enhance camaraderie," said Maj. Bud Cox, commander of the 2-115th.

Since the beginning of the program, certain cultural differences had to be overcome. "Notably, a change in the menu, a change in language (and) a change in attitudes, but they've adjusted quickly," Capt. Fred Calvert, an administrative officer, said about his Fusiliers. "They are even excited to get an MRE everyday at lunch."

Sorting through the cultural differences also was an ice breaker for the two training units. Both sides found common interests in music and nicknames, "Yanks" for the Americans and "Jordies" for the British. "Jordie" is short for George, a common first name in the region.

Fusilier Sgt. John Gibbons, a warehouseman for a department store, said the unit drills about three weekends each month and one weekday each week, "so we have to be quite dedicated to continue in this unit."

The work days in Vermont were long and involved technical mountaineering skills, such as learning the more than 15 knots needed to successfully complete the course.

Members of the Maryland teaching cadre noted how quickly the British soldiers caught on to this training.

"The Brits are good, motivated soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Tony Damico of Bowie, Md. "Something

About the Fusiliers

Capt. Fred Calvert, administrative officer for the 6th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, spoke proudly of their mission.

"The Territorial Army is about 72,000 strong and any Fusilier can be attached to the regular Army for training or they can volunteer to join U.N. forces for up to six months to improve their specialization."

The Maryland Guard members were especially interested in the distinctive plume worn on the British soldiers' berets.

Fusilier Sgt. John Gibbons said the wear of the "Hackle" came after the Royal Fusiliers defeated the French in 1778 at St. Lucia, West Indies. They took the white plumes from their enemies and stuck them in their caps to symbolize their victory.

Years later, all Fusilier units were authorized by the King to wear the distinctive feathers, but the Royal Fusiliers was allowed red-tipped Hackles for special distinction.

The original Hackles were made of turkey feathers imported from India.

I would attribute to their long and proud history."

Calvert said that his soldiers would "take away the high standards (and) professionalism of the Maryland National Guard.

"We give a lot of responsibility to young sergeants and corporals, giving the qualities of team spirit, leadership and discipline, which I know is all too lacking in those men without this experience in the military."

The British soldiers paid special attention to the safety factors that were constantly being stressed by the Maryland Guard members, Calvert said.

"They are quite willing to jump into the training knowing they've got to learn the basic and the rules of the mountain first."

Along with Ranger rope bridge construction, balance climb and basic mountaineering dexterity, the British troops picked up some additional skills.

"They are learning to handle American weapons and equipment which is very important, particularly after our tremendous cooperation in the (Persian) Gulf," Calvert said. "It is important that our reserve forces have that same rapport with their American friends."

State briefs

INDIANA

About 400 Indiana State Police Officers recently were supported by 60 Indiana National Guard members in Operation Smokescreen, which targeted retail stores specializing in the sale of indoor hydroponic and gardening equipment.

Trucks driven by Guard members will be used to transport seized equipment in this on-going drug investigation.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The 231st Communications Squadron and PRC Realty Systems of Reston, Va., recently delivered computer keyboards, monitors and central processing units to Suitland High School in Suitland, Md.

Michael J. Gabrielli, the PRC terminal manager, said it was "much more productive" to donate the equipment than sell it.

"Now they'll get a chance to work with equipment not generally available to high school-level electronics classes."

The donation was the formal beginning of the 231st's Adopt-A-School program in which unit members share their time and talents with the high school, located about five miles from Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

OHIO

White House aides recently selected Ohio's 122nd Army National Guard Band to play "Hail to the Chief" for President George Bush during his visit to Columbus.

With an impromptu performance of patriotic melodies, the band succeeded in entertaining the attendees as they waited for the president, who was delayed enroute to his speaking engagement with the Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

When Bush made his entrance, the band was afforded their "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity.

"I had a knot in my throat until we hit the first note," said Warrant Officer David F. Bruner, the commander of the 122nd.

"After that, the technical proficiency and professionalism of this band put my mind at ease."

VIRGINIA

Airplanes and uniforms of the 192nd Fighter Group of the Virginia Air National Guard were stripped in July of insignias bearing the Confederate battle flag logo by order of Gov. L. Douglas Wilder.

He issued the order after a newspaper reported that the insignia was being painted on a new fleet of F-16 fighter jets based at Richmond International Airport.

The insignia has been a Virginia Air Guard symbol since 1956.

PUERTO RICO

More than 400 children representing 38 public housing projects at Camp Santiago recently joined the children of National Guard families for an innovative program, called "Juntos" or "Together."

During the two-week program, the children received valuable information on moral values, discipline, religion, sex education, personal hygiene, sports, culture and leadership.



State briefs

LOUISIANA

Two members of Company B, 527th Engineer Battalion in Marksville recently provided life support to one of America's most precious endangered species.

In March, 14 eaglets were transported via military vans by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen W. Decuir and Staff Sgt. Dale W. Lonidier from the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans to the Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge in central Louisiana.

After being captured near Houma, La., the eaglets were taken to the zoo for observation and care until they were old enough to feed themselves.

ARIZONA

At-risk students have begun to realize that with a little effort and determination, the sky is the limit.

Since 1986, students in Tucson has been given the unique opportunity to fly if they set and meet an academic goal. This is the strategy of Wright Flight, a non-profit organization that gives high school students the incentive to do well in school.

Wright Flight is the brainchild of Maj. Bruce R. Stoddard, an F-16 instructor pilot at the 162nd Fighter Group in Tucson. He thought of the idea of rewarding good grades with airplane lessons after seeing how much kids love to get their hands on the aircraft.

"It provides incentive flights to prove that an education does mean something, and that when students learn, there are benefits and tangible results," Stoddard said. "Aviation is a good way of motivating kids at an early age."

For more information, call Stoddard at commercial 602-294-0404 or DSN 853-2404.

OREGON

A Delta Air Lines jet landed safely in Portland in June after an Oregon Air National Guard pilot flew his F-15 close enough to check for a flat tire.

The midair check was made by Capt. John McCaige, who is a Delta pilot in civilian life. He found no problem and the jet landed without incident.

The pilot of Delta flight 1717 from San Antonio and Dallas radioed the Portland International Airport control tower about the tire.

Air traffic controllers radioed two National Guard F-15 fighters to see if either had enough fuel to intercept the Boeing 727 and visually check its tires.

The F-15s were returning to the Portland Air Base from a routine training mission, said Lt. Col. Lars Granath of the Oregon National Guard.

McCaige got special clearance to move in closer than the usual 500-foot safety zone.

ILLINOIS

A pilot with the 183rd Fighter Group was killed on July 31 in the crash of an F-16 jet fighter that slammed into a muddy soybean field near its base in Springfield, Ill.

Capt. Donald Leckrone was killed shortly after takeoff for an overseas training mission.

The plane was "Number four" in one of two eight-plane formations flying to NATO exercises in Denmark when it crashed, said Warrant Officer Bud Roberts.

The crash is currently under investigation.

Nevada firemen cap Kuwaiti fires

By Master Sgt. Marvin Snow
Nevada National Guard

More than 600 oil wells were torched by a fleeing Iraqi Army at the end of the Persian Gulf War.

But through the efforts of the 152nd Reconnaissance Group of the Nevada Air National Guard, those fires were doused in six months, not five years.

Reno is the home of the University of Nevada Fire Protection Training Academy in Stead, one of two such training sites in the United States that specializes in training petroleum firefighters.

Sixteen of the flammable liquids training instructors at the university are firemen with the 152nd.

Since the end of the Operation Desert Storm, hundreds of Kuwaitis and Saudi Arabian firemen have been trained by these Nevada Guardsmen to put out oil well fires.

"UNR's primary charge is the petro-chemical industry," said Senior Master Sgt. Ron Vernon, fire chief for the 152nd. "In other words, they teach brigade firefighters from refineries, such as Shell, Texaco and Exxon, regularly."

Prior to 1985, the Nevada Guard used its own burning pits at Reno Cannon International Airport for training.

However, growing concerns about the environment prompted the unit to voluntarily shut down the pits.

"We decided that we weren't going to do that any more," Vernon said. "So, we went to Stead. The university has graciously trained us since 1985 to the present, free of charge."

"They have their school, which is ... very, very self-supporting as far as revenues are concerned."

"Many times, they will have pre-paid slots open in their school when people who are sick or can't come for one reason or another, cancel. So, they'll call us and we can put one of our people in there for one full week free."

With petroleum firefighting experts on his staff



Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin Snow

HOT STUFF - Members of the 152nd Reconnaissance Group demonstrate how to extinguish an oil well fire.

and a specialized site available to him, Vernon hopes to make the Nevada's unique abilities available to other Air Guard units.

Firefighters from Georgia and Kentucky Air Guard units recently participated in a pilot program at the school.

"This was a test run. We have been selected as the western regional fire training center," Vernon said adding that he has not received official word from the National Guard Bureau on the designation. "But we will see it."

He hopes that the Stead site will become one of the two national training schools, because it is a "natural."

"You can put a C-130 aircraft on the ramp there. They can go to the barracks, to school and get back on the plane and fly out."

Turtles flee extinction via C-12J

By Tech. Sgt. Larry Wills
Nevada National Guard

First, there was Operation Desert Shield followed by Desert Storm, an offensive movement against the Iraqi Army in Kuwait.

Now, the Nevada Air National Guard has been called in support of Operation Desert Tortoise.

This unofficial air rescue mission came at the request of volunteers, who hope to save the tortoise from extinction. The reptile rapidly has lost its habitat around Las Vegas, because of the dizzying pace of housing development.

Darlene Pond, the co-chairman of the Reno Tortoise Club, needed a way to transport the turtles from Las Vegas to northern Nevada, where residents were waiting to adopt them.

She worried about the nine-hour car trip from Las Vegas to Reno through the hot desert, since it would place too much stress on the displaced creatures. Some might not survive the trip.

Believe it or not, tortoises don't like their natural habitat when it gets hot. They burrow into the ground to escape the heat and then hibernate through

the summer months.

Volunteers continued to rescue the reptiles from oncoming bulldozers, but there were simply too many for adoptions in the Las Vegas area.

"We've already got more than they said they had," Pond said.

That's when a friend, Lt. Col. Dave Sanger, a C-12J pilot for the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Reconnaissance Group, had an idea.

Sanger, a state Wildlife Department employee, reasoned that some of the tortoises could be flown to Reno when his plane was sent to Las Vegas for Guard business.

The first flight took 38 tortoises northward, and the second rescued 55. Guardsmen met the plane, helped unload the boxes of young reptiles and then checked their condition.

"I must praise your entire unit for becoming so enthused about our adoption project. (They) assisted us in every way," Pond wrote to Col. Ernest Clark, the group commander. "Nevada and the whole nation is good hands with such a fine, efficient unit on our doorstep to handle not only military matters, but humane ones as well."



The National Guard in World War II

U.S. Hispanics play vital role in outcome of the 'great' war

By Maj. Bruce Conard
National Guard Historian

World War II touched all parts of the nation. From large cities to small towns, from the wealthiest families to the poorest, all religions, all races.

The largest war the world has ever known brought the war home in rationing food, gas and tires.

Hispanics, too, were touched by the war, and in turn, Hispanics had an impact upon the course of the war.

Hispanics formed major parts of National Guard units from California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

New Mexico National Guard members of the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) took part in the hard-fought early battles in the Philippines.

The New Mexicans, as part of the forces that defended the Philippines, were outnumbered and out-supplied. The inevitable defeat occurred, and the tiny island of Americans inside the Japanese Empire surrendered on May 8, 1942.

Regrettably, the trials of the 200th and 515th were just beginning; capitulation was followed by the "Bataan Death March," a 12-day march of 85 miles in which more than 6,000 of the 16,000 prisoners died.

The remainder of the war was a fight for survival in the Japanese prisoner of war camps where disease, poor medical care and starvation were the norm. The survivors of these camps at the end of the war were shadows of their former selves. Survival itself was a battle.

The 36th Infantry Division from

Texas was home for many Hispanics, and the 141st Infantry Regiment had a particularly high proportion of Hispanics.

The 36th's indoctrination to combat was participation in "Operation Shingle," the landings at Salerno, Italy, which is south of Naples.

The Germans reacted swiftly and forced the Texans on the defensive. There was much hard fighting for a secure beachhead, but eventually courage and firepower tipped the scales of battle and the American Fifth Army was firmly ashore.

The 158th was referred to by Gen. Douglas MacArthur as "the greatest fighting combat team ever deployed for battle."

In the next months, the Texans slogged up the "boot" of Italy. Names that would inscribe themselves on the minds of the participants included the Volturno River, "Winter Line," San Pietro, Rapido River, Cassino, Anzio and Rome. These places exemplified the hard fighting and courage of the soldiers of the 36th.

The courage of Hispanics is exemplified by the names of Corp. Benito G. Dominguez, who stopped an enemy half-track with a rifle grenade and Private Raymond G. Guittierez, who assaulted an enemy machine gun position by finally dispatching the gunner with his knife.

The 36th continued to fight. After they were relieved in Italy, they moved to France and fought up the Rhone River Valley to the upper reaches of the Rhine, into Germany and finally



A National Guard Heritage Painting by H. Charles Barron

CUIDADO - The 158th Regimental Combat Team of the Arizona National Guard wore its motto, "Cuidado" or "Take Care" in jungles for six years. Mustering in the great southwestern desert, the unit was mainly "Mexican-

American" and North American Indian from 20 tribes. Expanded in Panama, it was one of World War II's few organizations to complete the trail from there to "down under" to Japan. It was organized in 1865.

into Italy.

The only non-integrated Hispanic unit in the Army in World War II was the 65th Infantry Regiment from Puerto Rico. This unit fought in Central Europe and Germany.

The 158th Regimental Combat Team from Arizona also contained a high proportion of Hispanics. This unit was sent to the Pacific theater of operations and fought in New Guinea and the Philippines.

The 158th was referred to by Gen. Douglas MacArthur as "the greatest fighting combat team ever deployed for battle." This is high praise from a fine fighting general.

The 158th fought its way up the Bicol Peninsula in the Philippines, as part of a coordinated offensive pincer movement, the 11th Airborne Division was moving down the peninsula. The fighting was fierce, the terrain was tough. The soldiers of the 158th Regiment met the challenge.

With the exception of the 65th Infantry from Puerto Rico, Hispanics fought as part of integrated units in World War II. Therefore, it is difficult to fully examine the impact of all the Hispanics in the war. The true story of National Guard Hispanics in World War II is the whole National Guard's story in the war.

Pilot reminisces during Selfridge anniversary celebration

By Spec. Robin Morr
Michigan National Guard

Few people can recall some of the events, which occurred more than 50 years ago.

Likewise, not many people can shoot down 31 enemy aircraft and live to tell about it.

That is, unless your name is Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski.

The World War II flying ace recently attended the 50th reunion of the 56th Fighter Group and the 75th anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan.

He spoke not only of his own courage, but that of his comrades as well.

"We had the most outstanding group during World War II," he said about the 56th, which was stationed at Selfridge after the war.

"Our mission was to protect the bombers. We were called the Guardian Angels."

Gabreski's boldness won him fame during many quick, successful "dog fights" in which he logged more kills than any other fighter pilot in the American armed forces.

The squadron that Gabreski commanded was equipped with P-47 Thunderbolts.

The 56th's pilots flew hundreds of missions over Germany. Their objective was to ensure the B-17s and B-24s safely reached their targets deep

behind German lines.

On Gabreski's last bombing run before returning to the states, his P-47 developed an oil leak.

Forced to land, Gabreski managed to evade capture for five days, before he finally surrendered to some German farmers. He spent nine months at a German POW camp until the Germans fled a Russian advance.

Gabreski's military career did not end in the European Theater, where he was the top pilot in the 8th Air Force.

The 32-year-old seasoned combat veteran led his men into the Asian Theater over Korea in 1951.

Flying an F-86 from Selfridge, Gabreski again found himself facing

off against enemy pilots.

He destroyed six and a half MIGs from the air. "I'd blow them out of the sky and pull up," Gabreski said. "Combat doesn't take that long. It's a hit-and-miss situation, and all we needed was one pass."

Today, Gabreski is retired at the age of 73 and recently written a book entitled, "Gabby, A Fighter Pilot's Life."

When asked about the technology of today's Air Force, Gabreski expressed his pride in their accomplishments.

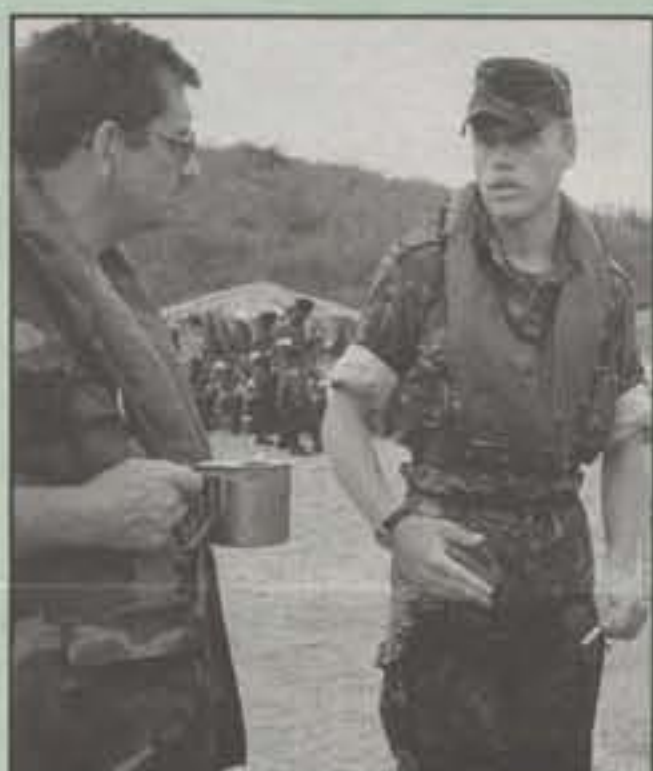
"Today's technology reinforces my ... confidence in my country. We have the technology, ambition and will to move ahead in this world."



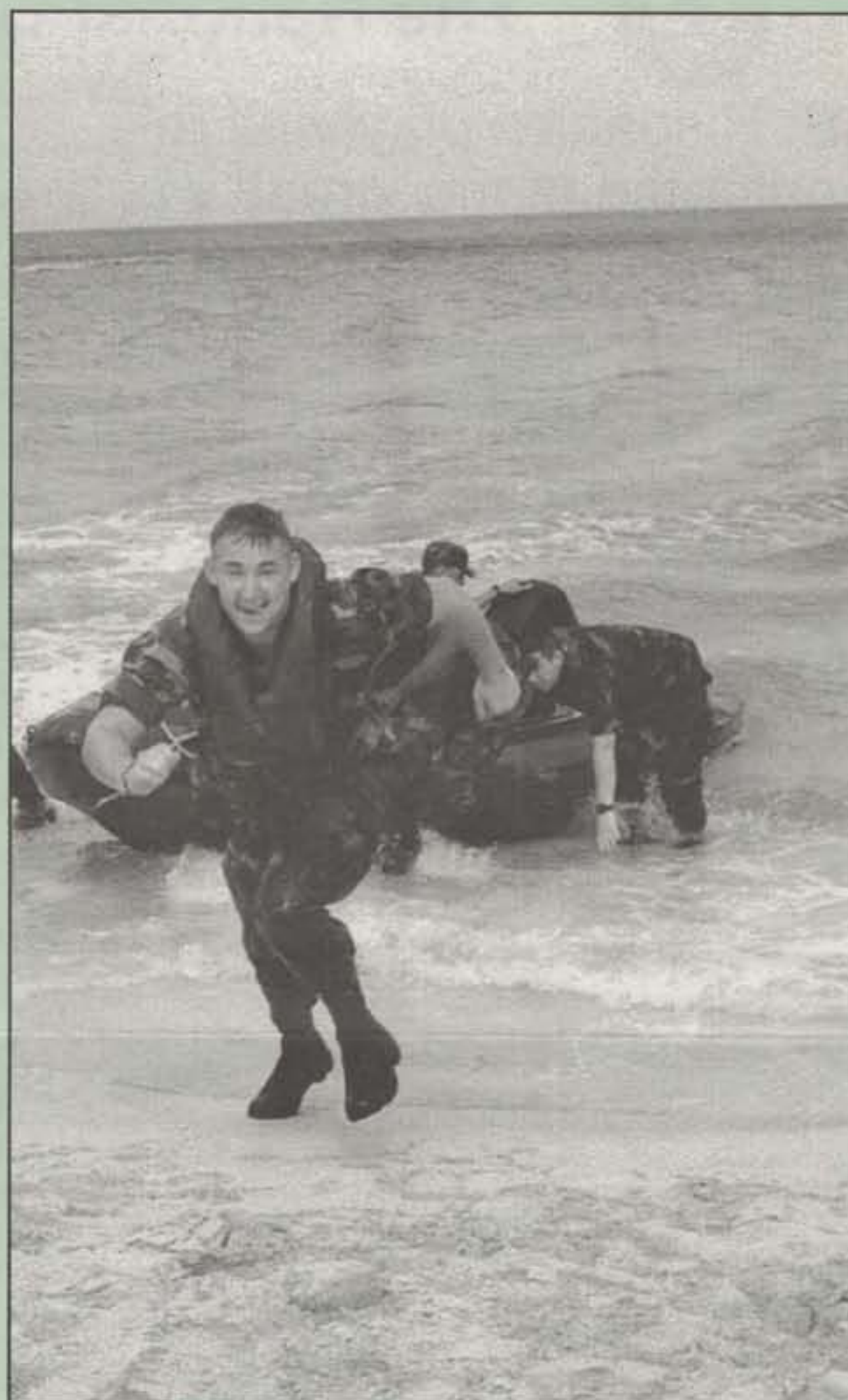
(Far right photo) Spec. Steve Hall of Company A, 1-149th Infantry is one of the first soldiers onto the beach.

(Top photo) Members of Kentucky platoon and their Dutch marine counterparts prepare to launch an inflatable assault boat used during the landing phase of their amphibious training.

(Right photo) Sgt. 1st Class Daugh Sizemore (left) of the Kentucky Army National Guard shares a chunk of bread and a cup of tea with Dutch Marine 1st Class Sandor Althof during a break in the training on the island of Curacao.



Story and photos
by Capt. Phil Miller
Kentucky National Guard



Caribbean Fury '92

Kentucky unit hits the beach with Dutch, British marines

CURACAO, Netherland Antilles - "Caribbean Fury" was the code name for an amphibious beach assault conducted in June by the Kentucky Army National Guard and the British and Royal Dutch Marines.

The trilateral exercise was hosted by the 21st Company of the Dutch Marines on this island located on the eastern coast of Venezuela.

For two weeks, these soldiers competed day and night in land and water navigation exercises, rappelling, mountain climbing and amphibious drills and weapons training.

During the final phase of the training exercise, about 34 soldiers from the 3rd Platoon,

Company A of the 149th Infantry Division made an amphibious landing on the northern tip of the island. They secured a beachhead for a follow-on landing by the Dutch Marines.

Under Dutch command, the Kentucky platoon then defended the beach against the "invading" British forces.

"The opportunity to train with foreign troops and getting to know how they operate was worth every bit the effort," said Sgt. Travis L. Mason.

These Guard members first deployed to the region in 1989 in a trilateral exchange with French, British and American forces on the French Antilles island of Martinique.



Staff Sgt. William Jeffries of Company A, 1-149th Infantry sets up a .50-caliber machine

gun in a defensive position along the Curacao shoreline to protect against the "invading" British.