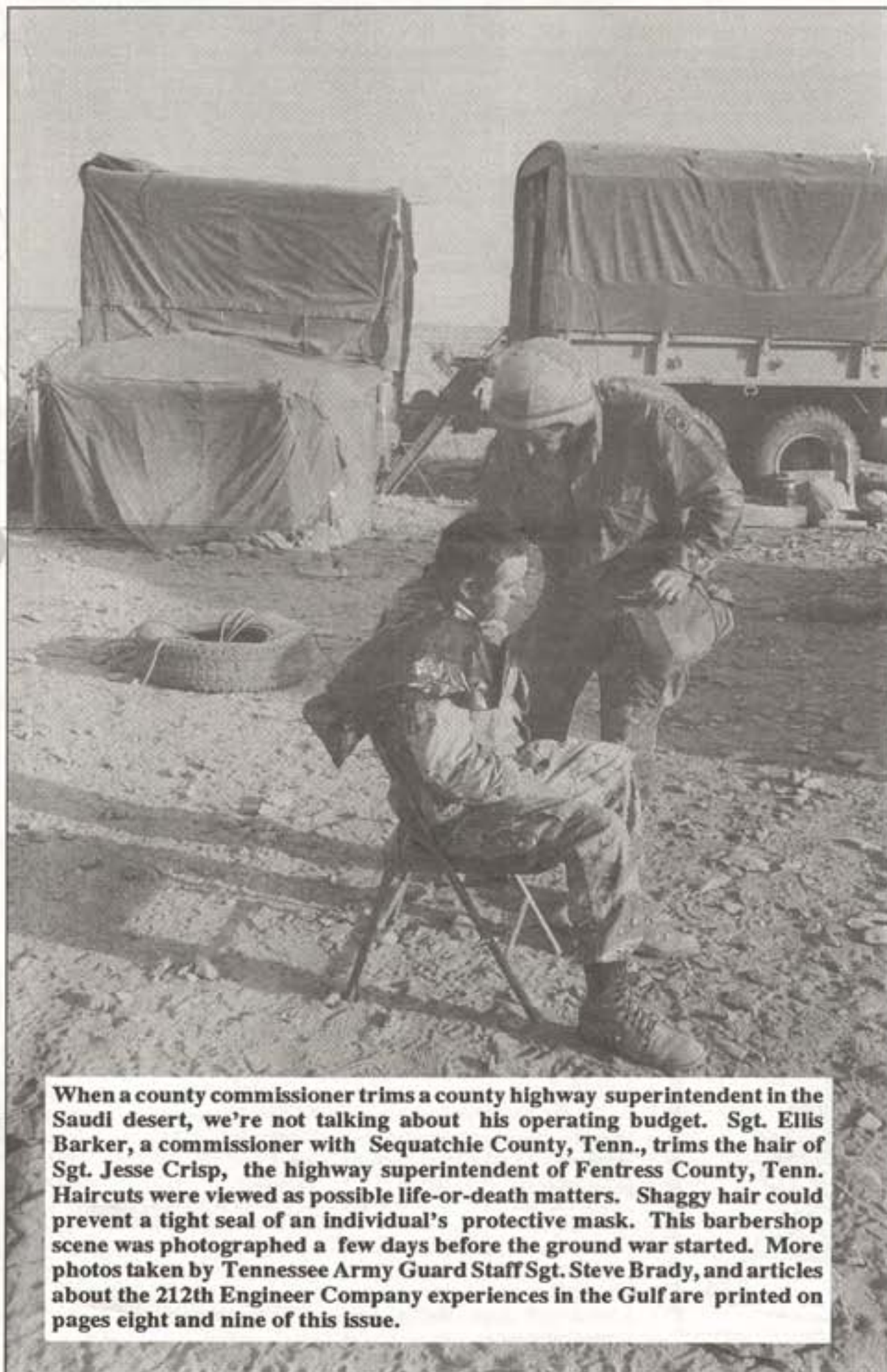


The National Guard ON GUARD

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June 1991



When a county commissioner trims a county highway superintendent in the Saudi desert, we're not talking about his operating budget. Sgt. Ellis Barker, a commissioner with Sequatchie County, Tenn., trims the hair of Sgt. Jesse Crisp, the highway superintendent of Fentress County, Tenn. Haircuts were viewed as possible life-or-death matters. Shaggy hair could prevent a tight seal of an individual's protective mask. This barbershop scene was photographed a few days before the ground war started. More photos taken by Tennessee Army Guard Staff Sgt. Steve Brady, and articles about the 212th Engineer Company experiences in the Gulf are printed on pages eight and nine of this issue.



MacArthur Leadership Awards...page 4



Master Sgt. Frank Jordan our man in the Gulf stories...pages 6 and 7



Scud survivor...page 3

Editorial

Jordan news articles give special view of Gulf

by Maj. Lester R. Stadig
Editor

What good fortune to become editor of "On Guard" at the time Master Sgt. Frank Jordan signed on for a 140-day tour.

Jordan, a Maine Army Guardsman on special assignment to the Persian Gulf, has supplied us with articles and photographs for two months.

If you haven't checked him out, you owe it to yourself to read his articles on pages six and twelve of this issue. You will surely agree that Jordan has both a gift for journalism and, as the photo of Frank and refugee children on this page shows, a knack for dealing with people.

This week, the acting director of the NGB Field Support Division, Mike Biddle, received a letter from 1st Lt. Joel B. Baker, stationed in Northern Iraq, with the 2nd Marine Division (page 12). Baker thanked the Bureau for sending Jordan to the field, and said Jordan had been invaluable in helping Marines deal with the ever present press corps.

Cargo ships are leaving the Persian Gulf daily, carrying tanks, vehicles and shipping containers back to the U.S., while aircraft are flying 5,000 or more soldiers daily.

As of May 6, about 100 Army Guard units had been released from active duty out of 398 federalized. Six Air Guard units had been released out of 121 federalized as of that same date. Not all units went to the Gulf, but in any event, homecoming celebrations will continue for hundreds of communities

into the summer.

Returning units have provided "On Guard" with articles telling of Gulf War experiences. Some will be reprinted as space permits. Articles like Jordan's and others tell of experiences that have scarred hearts and minds (see pages 3 and 5 in this issue).

The story of this war is an astonishing one. Numbers alone tell quite a story. From August to October, during the first 90 days of deployment, our military moved 1.3 million tons of equipment and 200,000 troops from all over the world to Saudi Arabia.

To give meaning to those numbers, imagine a town roughly the size of Jefferson City, Mo., its people, vehicles, and household goods, loaded onto ships and planes, moved 6,000 miles, then unloaded, put back together, and made to work within the first 30 days of deployment. By the end of January, the volume had swelled to 3 million tons and 539,000 troops.

During that period over 100 thousand National Guardsmen and Reservists were called to active duty.

As Guard soldiers who deployed know, getting to Saudi was no easy task. Families, jobs and businesses were disrupted. Commanders and troops trained and trained, with live ammo, sometimes in scorching heat wearing suffocating chemical protective gear.

Proud units like Tennessee's 212th Engineer Company (see page eight) and Georgia's 190th MP Company (May issue), and Kansas' 190th Air Refueling Group (page 16), and others played heavily in the success of Desert Storm.



"On Guard's" reporter in Persian Gulf, Master Sgt. Frank Jordan, Maine Army National Guard, with refugee children near the Iraqi-Turkish border.

Farewell to "Top"

by Capt. Phil Blahut
Associate Editor

Recently, a fine soldier, friend and member of the National Guard public affairs staff died. His name was First Sergeant Mike Zimmerman or "Top".

Zimmerman once proudly served as NCOIC and as Master Photographer for the 135th Public Affairs Detachment (PAD), Iowa Army National Guard, and most recently, as First Sergeant, for the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs, Theater Support Element (TSE) located in Panama.

His death drew mourners from the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Air National Guard and Navy. They came from across the nation to pay final respects and to say good bye to a professional soldier and friend. Many of those who came had worked with him in Iowa, many Central American countries, before, during and after Operation "Just Cause" in Panama and even during many "Reforger" exercises in Germany.

Zimmerman was no stranger to deployments. As a member of the Iowa Army National Guard, he served with the 135th PAD traveling to Europe and Central America for training, making friends and positively influencing photo-journalists along the way.

Zimmerman, a master "people person", wanted to be a part of the National Guard's role in "nation building" in Central and South America. He wanted to tell Americans back home about the National Guard story concerning soldiers and airmen and their involvement in humanitarian efforts and road building exercises through television, radio, written stories and photographs.

The National Guard discovered his talents and appointed him as TSE's First Sergeant in 1989, where he coordinated food, shelter, pay, transportation and mission requirements

for many Army National Guard and Reserve PADs training in Panama. His responsibilities included briefing incoming personnel of the constant in-country threat and explaining their missions and training assignments. It was during his briefings one could see, feel and experience the energy that Mike put forth, sharing his love for the Guard mission, his job and the soldiers entrusted to his care.

He was one of the finest photo-journalists in the business who so willingly shared his talent with others. He often spent extra hours working with younger Guardsmen helping them market their products and develop their soldier skills. Top would always emphasize "mission first" and worked toward its completion. He was a consummate soldier.

One of his more important missions was the documenting of the swearing in of President Endara and two Vice-Presidents of Panama in the early hours of Operation "Just Cause." Mike was the one and only one to take these pictures that the press used world-wide.

Zimmerman provided his fatherly guidance to PADs deploying to austere environments, documenting other Guard and Reserve engineers building roads and school houses, or doctors, nurses and dentists providing medical and dental treatment to villagers in Central and South America.

He was a steady shoulder for TSE staff, PAD members and others to lean on. You could always count on him. He served his nation and the National Guard well. His love for country and family, especially his dear wife Sue, was unmatched. He was an inspiration and the epitome of a citizen-soldier.

I will miss him personally, but his legacy will live on through the countless Guard (and Reserve) soldiers he has influenced.

Farewell Top!

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District of Columbia soldiers survive Scud

by
Sgt. Mary Beth Bowman
District of Columbia Army
National Guard

"I felt so guilty because I was spared," said a 19-year-old District of Columbia woman as she told about the Scud missile attack that killed 28 and injured 100 members of two Pennsylvania Army Reserve units.

Pfc. Ronda J. Marshall, and two others from the District Army National Guard had been cross-leveled into the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, and were with the unit when the Scud slammed into their barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The other Pennsylvania unit was the 326th Quartermaster Detachment.

Marshall and Spec. Michael W. Wilson were walking outside and were protected from flying debris by a large metal dumpster between them and the explosion. The third District Guardsman, Spec. Anthony M. Tiggs, was inside the building 25 feet from the point of impact. He escaped with hearing loss and minor

scratches.

Less than a year before the attack, Marshall had joined the 115th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). When she received that unforgettable phone call ordering her to report to the armory, she thought someone was playing a joke until the person on the phone said, "This is not a test. You have been activated."

That call came Nov. 15th.

Initially, Marshall and the other two MASH members mobilized to Fort Belvoir, Va., then went to Fort Lee, Va. to be cross-leveled and cross-trained as water purification specialists in the Pennsylvania unit. Two days after being attached to the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, they flew to Dhahran. That was Feb. 18th.

The Scud strike was Feb. 25th.



Three District of Columbia Guard soldiers escaped the Scud missile attack that destroyed this barracks building, a converted warehouse.

Marshall and the other two Guardsmen arrived back in the states March 8th along with other survivors of the attack.

She talked about those frenzied moments after the blast when she tried to comfort a man who had lost his legs.

"Have you ever seen a person with a look in their eyes, like they knew

they were going to die?" She asked. "I tried to comfort him, but deep down I knew he was going to die, too. I stayed with him as long as I could. After I helped everyone out, I went into shock. I'm not a star or a hero or anything. I was just doing my job."

Spec. Wilson echoed Marshall's sentiment. "I did what I thought was right. I don't think I'm a hero. I didn't stop the Scud—that's a hero."

10,500 troops slated to participate in victory celebration June 8th

Ten thousand, five hundred service personnel, including National Guard soldiers and airmen, are expected to participate in the National Victory Celebration, the largest military victory parade since World War II.

The parade will be held on June 8 along Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. to honor those who helped liberate Kuwait.

President Bush will review the parade while Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, U.S. Central Command commander-in-chief, will lead the procession.

Representatives from every branch of the military and a wide array of military equipment used in Operation Desert Storm, including Patriot missiles will be in the parade. A 20-minute flyover of Apache, Blackhawk, Harrier and other aircraft is planned. Eleven military bands are slated to be interspersed in the parade along with floats.

Although parades planned in other cities across the country may be larger, organizers say the Washington event is a national celebration because it will include day long festivities and will occur in the nation's capital.

The tribute is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. with a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery for those who died in the war. President Bush will lead that service, says Peggy L. Martin, a spokeswoman for the Welcome Home Foundation.

The parade will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the intersection of Seventh Street and Constitution Avenue and proceed west on the avenue past the presidential reviewing stand, counterclockwise past the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, ending in the Pentagon north parking area.

Organizers expect Cabinet members and congressional leaders to review the procession with the President.

After the parade, an exhibit of military equipment will be on display in the Mall.

At the same time, troops who marched will retire to the Ellipse with their families to what may be the mother of all picnics.

The tribute will continue at about 7 p.m. on the Mall with a "USO entertainment gala," Martin said. A fireworks display will climax the tribute at about 9 p.m.

The foundation organizing the event is a coalition of veterans' groups. Initially the foundation had hoped to raise \$6 to \$8 million for the event.

For assistance in finding accommodations, out of town visitors may telephone the Washington, D.C. Convention Visitors' Association, 1-800-626-HERO.

Several corporations and interest groups have offered perks to service members and their families. Hilton Hotel Corp. is giving a 50 percent reduction in room rates to qualifying veterans. Free

Baltimore Orioles tickets are available to those troops who served in and supported Desert Storm Delta Airlines has reduced fare for military families.

In addition, Ramada Hotel, Alexandria, Va., is offering \$49 weekend packages to Desert Storm returnees. Sears, Roebuck, and Co. has reduced all products by ten percent to service members. Sheraton Hotels are offering a free weekend night at most of their facilities.

National Guard troops will participate in celebrations across the nation during the coming weeks and months. At the time of publication parades were slated for New York, Houston, Dallas and Los Angeles with several others already incorporated into Armed Forces Day in May.

The celebration in Dallas on July 19th will involve units in a nine-state region.

"We began 1990 by thinking about how we were going to reduce the Army...then, in the middle of 1990, we executed the largest mobilization ever. And now in 1991, we're facing the largest separation ever."

Col. Jose Ocasio,
Army Transition Management
Chief
"Army Times" April 15th

Wilson said the situation seemed so unreal at the time he was helping rescue injured people from the barracks which had been converted from a warehouse. Both Marshall and Wilson said they had felt relatively safe until the missile hit.

"The attack made everyone realize there was no safe place," recalled Wilson.

Unit members stayed in tents between the time their barracks was destroyed and they rotated back to the states. Wilson admitted he was uneasy until he arrived back at Fort Belvoir.

An estimated 18-20 thousand were on hand at the Greensburg, Pa. airport to welcome them, while thousands more lined the streets cheering as the motorcade moved through the city to the Army Reserve center.

"Even though it wasn't my hometown, I felt good going through the streets of Pennsylvania," Marshall said. "It feels great...wonderful to be back."

Marshall lives in Hyattsville, Md. with her parents, a brother and a sister. At the ceremony she said she saw one of the people she had helped rescue. He came up to her and thanked her, and that made her feel good.

She also encountered an older man who was crying, and she asked if he was all right. He replied that he was happy the unit was home, but was sad that his son didn't make it.



Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, congratulates Capt. Carlos M. Martinez, of Puerto Rico, as a MacArthur Leadership Award recipient. The award program was hosted by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Carl E. Vuono.

Five receive MacArthur Leadership Award



Capt. Robert A. Hunt



Capt. Harold D. Turner



Capt. Walter E. Fountain



Capt. Wayne M. McArthur

Five Army Guard company grade officers were brought to the Pentagon recently to receive honors at a ceremony hosted by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Carl E. Vuono.

Captains from Virginia, Puerto Rico, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Utah were presented MacArthur Leadership Awards by Vuono and Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, widow of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The ceremony was held May 2nd.

Twenty-six lieutenants and captains from each of the Army's major commands and Department of the Army staff agencies were so honored. The five Guard officers represented each of the five Continental U.S. Armies.

Guardsmen honored were: Capt. Robert A. Hunt, a company commander with 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, 29th Infantry Division (Light) of Virginia National Guard; and Capt. Carlos M. Martinez, Commander,

162nd Field Service Company, Puerto Rico National Guard.

Also honored were: Capt. Harold D. Turner, Commander, B Company, 234th Signal Battalion, Iowa National Guard; Capt. Walter E. Fountain, Platoon Leader, B Company, 1st Bn, 245th Aviation, Oklahoma National Guard; and Capt. Wayne M. McArthur, Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, Utah National Guard.

Each officer received a bust of the late general as a memento of the leadership traits MacArthur epitomized — duty, honor, and country.

"Their backgrounds reflect the rich diversity of professional experience and personal accomplishment that has made the Army of today second to none," Gen. Vuono said in his remarks. "They stand before us having earned the admiration and the respect of the nation."

Tragic accident tests faith of soldier

by Capt. Frank W. White
118th Public Affairs
Detachment
Tennessee Army National
Guard

Spec. Bobby Dedman worked frantically pulling bodies from the mangled bus asking, "God, why did this have to happen."

As he struggled to dislodge a body from beneath the truck which had become entangled with the bus, someone yelled, "There's one here in the passenger side."

Realizing he could do nothing for the lifeless, mangled body under the truck, he rushed to the other side hoping he could help someone there.

What he saw there is part of a memory that will haunt the 26-year old man forever. The body of a young female U.S. soldier was dangling from the overturned truck as her feet were lodged under the dash. He continued to ask, "God, why did this happen?"

The Gulf War had ended with a cease-fire 19 days earlier. Dedman and five companions came upon the wreck along the narrow highway in northern Saudi Arabia as the sun was lowering on the flat desert horizon.

"As I saw what had happened, I pulled off into the sand and jumped out of the truck and ran. I didn't stop to ask whether I should help, I just started working," Dedman recalled.

He first pulled bodies from the bus while others held the severed bus roof up so he could crawl into the overturned vehicle.

Despite the urging of his sergeant major to move away from the wreck before the leaking fuel ignited, Dedman said later he couldn't leave without knowing everyone in the wreckage had been pulled out.

Dedman recalled that as he worked to free the young female GI from the truck he really became angry with God. "I really questioned the Lord then. It really hit me hard to see her there," he said.

As others hooked a chain to the metal crushing the soldier's body, Dedman squeezed as far into the wreckage as his muscular, 140-pound frame would go to loosen her feet from where they were trapped.

When her lifeless body fell into his arms, Dedman carried her like a baby to where other bodies were being collected. His legs, weary from the ordeal, collapsed under him as he ran.

"I just sat there with my head on her chest asking again, why did this have to happen? Then I noticed her rosary beads. As someone helped me up, I closed her hand around the beads."

Realizing there were no more bodies in the wreckage, Dedman turned

to help others dealing with injured Egyptian soldiers from the bus.

First he assisted a nurse treating a Egyptian soldier who had lost a lot of blood. "She hesitated to put an IV needle in. I grabbed the needle and stuck it in his arm because I knew his vein was going to collapse soon," he said. Next the nurse handed him a breathing tube. "I realized I didn't know how to use it. It seemed like half an hour, but it was only a few seconds that I hesitated before placing the tube in the man's throat."

Relieved that he had helped stabilize at least one patient, Dedman moved to assist others. Dusk was settling on the desert as helicopters arrived to take injured away.

Dedman recalls helping carry 14 litters to the waiting helicopters.

"My legs felt like jelly. Every time I ran to a helicopter, I pleaded for the Lord to help my legs hold up for this

one more trip," he said.

When the last helicopter and ambulances had left, bodies of five Egyptian soldiers and the one American remained at the scene. Dedman said he doesn't know whether any of those placed on helicopters died later.

More than two hours after Dedman had run from his vehicle to help, he eased his vehicle back onto the highway. "As we pulled away, the sergeant major asked me how I knew to do some of the things I did to help people."

Dedman said he hadn't known how to insert an IV or a breathing tube or other things he did—he had never done those things before. "I always had a desire to be a nurse but never was able to quit work and go to school," he explained later.

"The Lord had to help me do what I did. I couldn't have done it on my own," he said.

Now, Dedman is relying on the Lord to help him deal with the tragedy he saw that night.

"I try to talk about it rather than hold it all in and at the same time, I try not to think about it," he said.

As time passes, Dedman believes he is handling the grief better. He still struggles with the question of why. He knows that God can heal the hurt even without answers to the lingering questions.

Spec. Bobby Dedman is a member of the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment from Frankfort, Ky. He lives in Lexington, Ky., where he is a member of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church. He looks forward to returning to his family and holding the daughter he has seen only in photos. She was born January 7, 1991, two weeks after Dedman's unit left for Saudi Arabia.

Gulf soldiers still need mail

Although Desert Storm is over, many men and women are still in the Gulf and need letters and packages from home. You may still write to Desert Storm service men and women, using the "Any Servicemember" address, which are:

- * Army, Air Force and Marine Corps: Any Servicemember, Operation Desert Storm, APO NY 09848-0006.

- * Navy and Marine Corps aboard ships: Any Servicemember, Operation Desert Storm, FPO NY 09866-0006.

USO, Anheuser-Busch to host service members

From Armed Forces Day, May 18, through Labor Day, Sept. 2, the United Service Organization and Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. will offer a "Yellow Ribbon Summer" program.

All active-duty military and active Guard and Reservists and their immediate dependents may visit any one of the company's seven family entertainment parks free of charge.

The seven parks include four Sea World parks in San Diego, San Antonio, Orlando, Fla., and Aurora, Ohio; Busch Garden parks in Williamsburg, Va., and Tampa, Fla., and Cypress Garden in Winter Haven, Fla.

The USO and Anheuser-Busch also plan a "Yellow Ribbon Day" for military guests and their families to feature prominent entertainers and special activities in honor of the armed forces. (Interested service members should contact their

local base or post recreation services office for details).

War zone vets not tax exempt

People who served in the Persian Gulf War Zone have until January 1992 to file their 1990 Income Tax returns. The IRS advises that, because the area was not declared a combat zone until January 1991, money received in 1990 is not tax exempt.

Of special note:

Due to a shortage of National Defense Service Medals its wear will not be mandatory until Jan. 1, 1992.

NCO status begins at E-5

As of May 2, the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard began their NCO grades with E-5. The change stemmed from a study of the enlisted structure in relation to the coming Air Force 1990's slim-down.

As of May 2, senior airmen will hold that title until promoted to staff sergeant. Also, they must compete for NCO status through WAPS. (Weight Airman Promotion System).

Policy on accrued leave changes

DOD says the number of days to be sold may now be waived for Guard and Reserve, retired regular and retired Guard and Reserve members ordered to active duty in support of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The change applies only to unused accrued leave from fiscal years 1990 and 1991.

Desert Shield, Storm yield short-tour credit

Military members who served at least 181 consecutive days in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm may be eligible for short-tour credit. The areas considered eligible are: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen, Diego Garcia, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Israel.

People who served less than 181 consecutive days will have their time there accumulated toward the normal 300-day requirement for award of short-tour credit.

More information may be obtained from your local base or post personnel office.

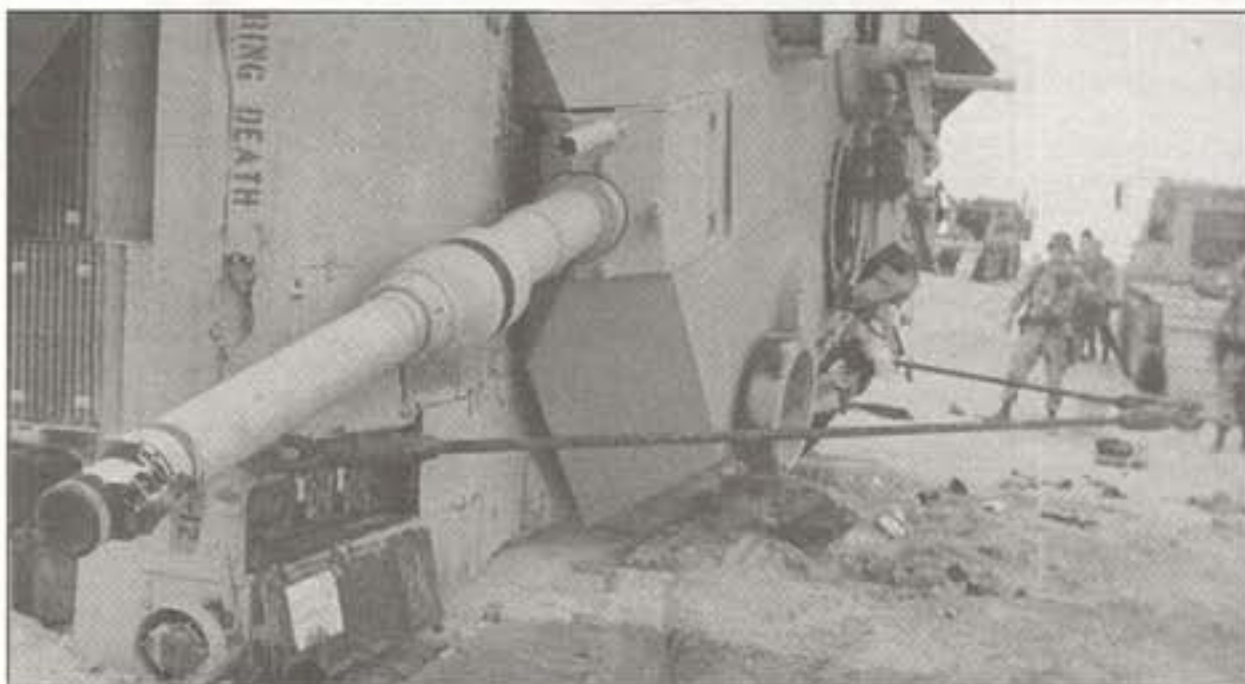
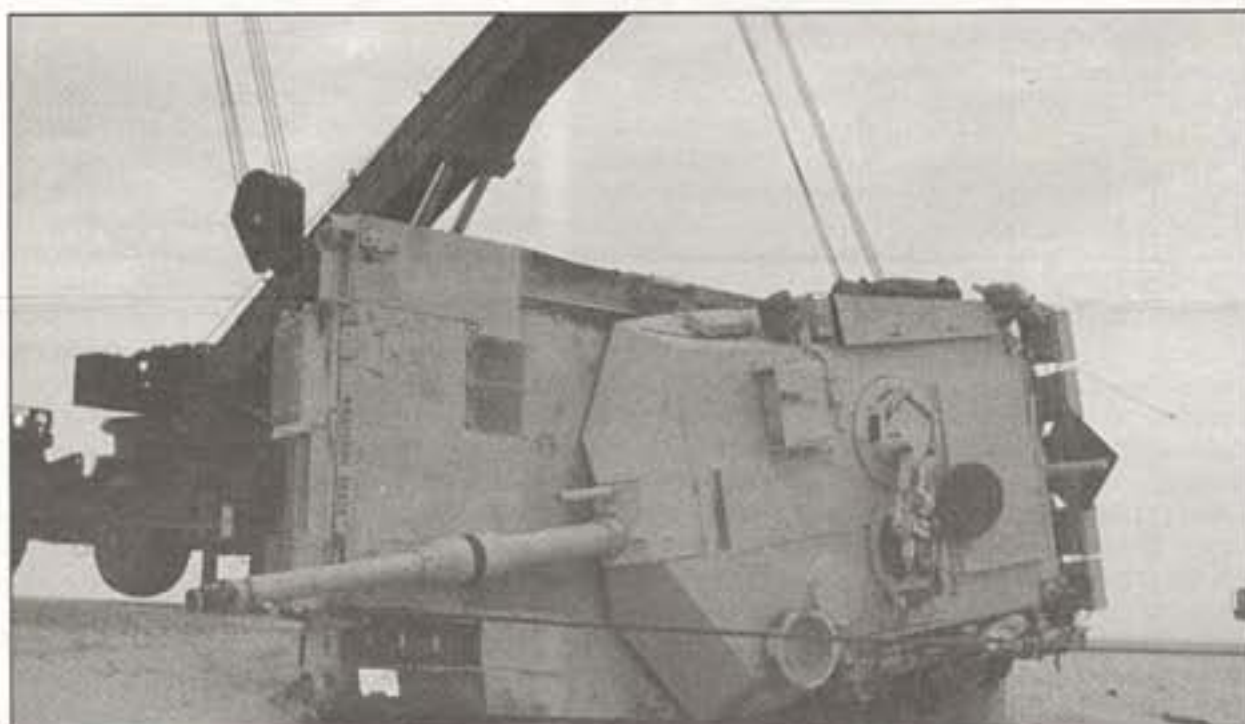
Guard doctors get special medical pay

Guard physicians and dentists called up to support Desert Shield/Storm are entitled to the same special medical pay their active-duty counterparts receive.

Desert Storm auto technicians get a break

Automatic one-year extensions will be given to Automotive Service Excellence technicians who can't take recertification tests because they are serving in the Persian Gulf area. The extension also is being given to Reserve and National Guard members on active-duty because of Operations Desert Storm. To get the extension, technicians must send a brief note explaining the circumstance and, if possible, a copy of military orders to: ASE, 13505 Dulles Technology Dr., Herndon, VA 22071.

Eight-man team specializes in



Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Frank Jordan,
Maine Army National Guard

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait - The highway is black and stretches for miles, with no green grass, trees or hills in sight. The heat waves dance in the air as they reflect off the highway's tar surface in the 111 degree temperature.

A sign points to a small building surrounded by Iraqi T-55 and T-72 tanks, fully loaded rocket launchers, Chinese and Russian-made "Silkworm" missiles, howitzers and many other types of military hardware.

This is the home of an eight-man detachment from the Tennessee Army National Guard's 776th Maintenance Company, which arrived in Saudi Arabia last fall. The main duty of these eight Tennesseans is to remove tanks and large equipment from the streets of Kuwait City and the surrounding desert. It is important, and sometimes dangerous, work.

The active-duty soldiers who depend on the skill and professionalism of these eight Guardsmen hold them in high regard. Maj. Sandy Davidson of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, also stationed in Kuwait City, described their "great Guard spirit. These guys are indispensable. They reflect the best of the citizen soldier."

When the land assault on Kuwait began on February 24th, these eight Guardsmen were attached to the 1st Marine Division, hauling supplies and ammunition. With the Marines, the eight Tennesseans drove all night in a convoy, reaching Kuwait at noon the next day.

Black, oily clouds from burning oil wells made the sky pitch black. Sgt. Ron (Mud) Hartzog of the 776th kept looking at his watch; it took him a while to figure out that the sun was completely blocked by the black smoke.

Sgt. David Hensley recalled that on the way into Kuwait, the convoys were moving so fast that he couldn't see beyond his truck. Driving through the mine fields was an experience Hensley will never forget.

At times one person would get out of his truck with his flash light and guide them on the tracks that had been made by the vehicle in front of him. "You could see the mines on both sides of the tracks at one location," Hensley concluded.

Staff Sgt. Craig Shelton, a tall soft-spoken man told of the same experience. Shelton recalled that he and his fellow Guardsmen were shocked into reality as they traveled across the desert. They began to see bodies of Iraqi soldiers-legs here and there, and body parts.

One sight that stands out in Shelton's mind was a dead Iraqi soldier laying on his back, as if he were sleeping, with a donkey standing beside him.

I asked him at that point what he was thinking. He replied, "I was so tired. I had not slept in over 30 hours. I was fighting to stay awake. I was thinking of my wife and two children, wondering if I'd see them again."

During a short lull, the convoy was moving slowly. "All at once Shelton jumped out of the truck and wrote something in the sand," said Hartzog. This is what he wrote; "Kathy (his wife), Kendall and Candice, I love you!"

He then took a picture of those words sketched in the desert sand. Hartzog said, "Old Shelton didn't

removing tanks, equipment



Staff Sgt. Jim Andrews and his teammates recovered this Iraqi anti-aircraft single barrel gun from the desert.

even care if there was mine fields out there when he did that. He just wanted a picture in case anything happened to him, his family would know how much he loved them, in the event the picture was ever found."

Staff Sgt. Michael Biggs brought a lot of humor to the team. The team tells of the story of the first days in Kuwait when there was a lot happening. News media people came up to Biggs and asked who was the soldier in the tank a few feet away and he replied, "Yes sir, that is Sgt. Michael Biggs." Not only once did he do that but a couple of times, according to his teammates. They all still laugh at this little bit of humor.

Biggs grinned when I asked him about those events. He wouldn't comment on that.

I asked Biggs, "Were you scared at times?" He became very serious and looked directly into my eyes. "Yeah, I was scared," he replied. "But I did what I had to do."

In the next few days, the Guardsmen encountered POWs. A Vietnam veteran, Specialist Bruce Wood, and Staff Sgt. Jim Andrews were pressed into hauling POWs to collection points by truck.

"We would fill up our truck with prisoners, and more would appear, all trying to surrender to us. We just pointed them in the direction, South, and kept on trucking."

"Hell, a lot of these POWs were dragged off the streets of Baghdad, Iraq to fight."

Wood said he was happy to see prisoners give up, rather than be killed.

Sgt. Andrews agreed until he saw with his own eyes what the Iraqi soldiers had actually done to the people of Kuwait. "I have no pity for them at all now," Andrews said.

A few days later the unit became separated from the 1st Marine Division and were parked in the desert discussing among themselves what to do next when Maj. Sandy Davidson, of the Army Reserve 352nd Civil Affairs Command pulled up and asked if they had any experience in tank recovery. He needed help in moving tanks and other equipment from the streets of Kuwait City. "Can do!" was the reply.

Davidson could not say enough about the eight man unit. "They were incredible," he said. "Hell, they would pull up to a tank and in 15 minutes it would be loaded on a flatbed and pulled out of the way. It might not have been done by the textbook, but it was effective and done in one-third the time it took the active Army teams in doing it," said Davidson. There experience in the civilian world made the difference," Davidson said.

It wasn't long before 776th team became a legend in Kuwait City. The active Army began to request more and more of their assistance.

Staff Sgt. Merle Nidiffer said they worked around the clock removing equipment. Bodies had to be removed from the tanks and equipment before the team could begin work.

The 352nd Civil Affairs Command found a former Kuwaiti government compound to house the eight Tennessee soldiers. In addition to a large fenced area where the Guardsmen could park all of the tanks and equipment, the site also included living quarters which they could call home. The Tennessean soon discovered that was the former home of an Iraqi Republican Guard company.

The living quarters had no showers but they did have cold running water and lights that were provided through an Iraqi diesel-powered generators they had found earlier on an abandoned truck.

The building has one toilet. It is slightly tilted, with a large crack along its side that has been slightly patched up. When the team moved in they found the toilet room to be extreme filthy. The team dumped gasoline in the commode and lit it. After the explosion, the toilet now sits with a tilt, but as the Guardsmen say, "It's now clean."

Staff Sgt. Charles Boruff, another member of the team was sitting on a Soviet-made 255cc motorcycle that was used by the Iraqi soldiers.

Boruff and other members of the team found these motorcycles in an Iraqi van in the desert. Andrews remembers it all too well. He said, "The van was crammed full. There was a safe that apparently had been taken from a Kuwaiti office or home. It was jammed up against the three motorcycles."



Staff Sgt. Craig Shelton, (foreground) a soft spoken Tennessee soldier, is shown during a water and food break.

"As we pulled the safe away from the cycles, the door flew open and an Iraqi "frag" grenade rolled out from the safe across the floor of the van.

"They froze dead in their tracks as it rolled out of the van. They heard it strike the soft sand of the desert.

"Thank God, it didn't explode," Andrews said.

Boruff, was Vietnam veteran during 1968-70. He was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade. Boruff was awarded a Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and has earned a Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. He is proud to be serving over here.

He said this time, "Washington had their heads together. I'm damn happy they did."

"It's a lot different from Vietnam as far as I am concerned. This battle was fought for those Vietnam vets too. It's great to hear about the support. I'm proud to be an American."

Photos by
Staff Sgt. Steve Brady
Tennessee National Guard
Story by Maj. Lester R. Stadig, Editor

After occupying a position in the Euphrates River Valley for three or four days the Tennessee Guardsmen befriended a small band of Bedouin shepherders whose animals had been destroyed by Iraqi soldiers. The shepherders were skeptical about the Americans at first, but eventually accepted medical care and supplies from the Americans and shared tea with Staff Sgt. Steve Brady (left) and 1st Sgt. Chuck Seiberling.

Ten commands attend military review for king of Saudi Arabia

One of most memorable experiences for Tennessee Army Guard Staff Sgt. Steve Brady was a military review he and others participated in for Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, U.S. Central Command commander-in-chief, and the king of Saudi Arabia.

According to Brady, ten commands, representing the United States, France, Syria, and Egypt, each provided 100 soldiers for the review on Jan. 6th. Brady was among those selected from the 212th Engineer Company.

Brady said he was impressed that the general, himself, briefed the formation on the events of the day. "He (Schwarzkopf) showed lots of emotion for the men and hugged one of the men in the front ranks before he left," said Brady.

The review occurred ten days before bombing started.



At Iraq-Kuwait border Tennessee flag is hospitality sign

Tennessee's flag became a symbol of hospitality and may have been used by coalition bombers to get an azimuth for bombing runs into Iraq.

According to 1st Sgt. Chuck Seiberling of 212th Engineer Company, his soldiers used several sections of camouflage poles to fly the "Volunteer State" flag high in the air while his company

camped along the Kuwait-Iraq border.

The flag was so high that the Saudi government had asked that it be taken down, Seiberling believes, because the Saudi flag has religious significance, and no other flag should be flown higher.

That Saudi request didn't set well with coalition pilots, according to a Tennessee Air Guardsman who Seiberling had a chance meeting with back in Nashville. The two were guest speakers at a recent patriotic program at a Nashville middle school.

The Air Guardsman said pilots were opposed to the Saudi request because they, the pilots, were using the flag to get an azimuth for bombing runs into Iraq.

The hospitality connection with the flag became evident when, "An MP (military police) sergeant from the 101st Division (Airborne) walked over to us once and said they were just about out of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and fuel, and hadn't had a hot meal. They were told to look for the Tennessee state flag," says Seiberling. "Soldiers of different missions came to our camp often for help."

Seiberling says the friendship feelings were mutual. The MPs provided perimeter security for his engineers as they worked on roads and berms.

Reflecting back on the Gulf War experience, Seiberling said the most he had concerns as to whether soldiers could be kept from boredom, but that changed in a hurry as they relocated four times up to and beyond the Iraq border, sticking with the 24th Infantry Division into the Tigris-Euphrates Valley.

Boredom certainly disappeared the morning Armed Forces Network (AFN) announced bombing had begun.

For one, citizen soldiers worked around the clock in shifts building roads and staging positions at King Khalid Military City (KKMC), Saudi Arabia. The location was to serve as a final staging point for the 7th Cavalry Division when the ground war started.

Roads had to be built quickly in order to provide the element of surprise, according to Seiberling. To make the work all-the-more challenging, wearing of chemical gear was required. Thus, sleeping also was not easy. Seiberling says four hours per night was average. "Often we didn't know what day it was."

"We got word right before we got ready for G-Day (ground war) that the Iraqis were releasing anthrax, so along with our mission to clear mines, we had to find and bury bodies of animals and people," said Seiberling.

Iraqi troops had killed lots of sheep at one location while several others died of natural causes, but when a veterinarian drew and tested blood from the animals it proved to be anthrax negative. After the 212th had been in a position near the Euphrates Valley three or four days, an old man walked into camp and indicated that he and several other civilians had been hiding over a hill. Among those hiding were two children, one a 14-year-old girl who had been hit with shrapnel.

The group, surviving with no food or shelter, and sleeping on rugs laid on the ground, had tried to wash the girl's injuries with unclear water, and thus contributed to an infection. By the time the 212th left the area the girl appeared to be recovering.

One of the big concerns of American soldiers, says Seiberling, was unexploded cluster bombs dropped by friendly air elements.

"The thing that meant the most—

and I have a company that is 40 percent Vietnam vets—was the pride instilled on everybody," concluded Seiberling. "The fact the plan went so well. The military was able to go in without being held back with political decisions. They turned the Army loose and let us go in and do our job."



This is the last known photo of the 212th's wringer washer. Shortly after this photo was taken all the members of the company were gone from the area and an unidentified "friendly" unit borrowed it. As the Tennessee Guardsmen returned to camp they observed the machine disappearing into the clouds slung under the belly of a helicopter. Sergeants Haskell Mills (left) and Tricky Newsom had removed their laundry before the incident.



'Desert' and 'cold' usually aren't associated, but the 212th Engineer Company found the Iraq-Kuwait border cool enough in January to justify a make-shift shelter and oil heater for gate guards. Two mornings the unit found ice on the hand washing tank. Staff Sgt. James Erwin, (left) and Sgt. Glen Bennett pulled duty at a position along Route Montana, one of the roads the company built for coalition ground forces.



Staff Sgt. James Harris of the 212th Engineer Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, demonstrates the value of the issue bandanna and goggles during a sand storm at King Khalid Military City, Saudi Arabia.

Storms leave sand in food, gear

"During those storms you ate dirt...no way to get away from it," according to 1st Sgt. Chuck Seiberling, 212th Engineer Company. "Sand got into your duffel bag and sleeping bag, and storms lasted about two days. Dust was like talcum powder," said Seiberling.

While the 212th was in Iraq a particularly severe storm moved through their position, then on to King Khalid Military City (KKMC), Saudi Arabia, where the company had left its tentage. The unit only carried a combat load once the ground war began.

When the company returned to KKMC they discovered much of their tentage had been destroyed by that same storm they had experienced in Iraq.

Wind clocked at 60-65 miles per hour kicked sand up to 10-thousand feet, turning the air completely yellow.

Nebraska pilot has harrowing flight in Gulf fog

by Sgt. Kevin McAndrews
Nebraska National Guard

LINCOLN, Neb.—Imagine driving down the highway at 60 mph in a dense fog at night using only a flashlight to see.

That's how helicopter pilot Steve Stone described his most harrowing flight while serving in the Persian Gulf with the 24th Medical Air Ambulance Company, a Nebraska Army National Guard unit based in Lincoln, Neb.

"We were trying to fly through a rainstorm at 50 feet with night-vision goggles at 3 a.m. in the morning," Stone recalled. "You couldn't see anything. We probably had less than an eight-of-a-mile visibility. We had a search light and all the further you could see was at the end of that light...I felt like a blind person with a cane."

The 24th Med. received a heroes' welcome when they returned here April 22nd after spending nearly four months overseas in support of Operation Desert Storm. The unit's 117 members were stationed at Log Base Charlie, a medical facility located in Saudi Arabia about 12 miles south of the border of Iraq.

The 12 helicopters they flew made it through the war intact, a feat that escaped some regular Army units. Some said there were more than half a dozen helicopter crashes in the area where the unit was stationed.

That made people back home like their wives nervous, but the experience of the unit's pilots made them a good bet to do as well as they did.

At age 43, Stone is twice as old as some of the Army pilots, who usually had between 500 to 1,000 hours of flight time. The average pilot for the 24th Med has about 2,500 hours and that made a big difference when it came to flying, said Stone. Together Stone and his co-pilot, who flies a helicopter full-time for an Omaha hospital, have more than 8,000 hours.

In addition to having superior flight time, almost half of the 24th's 31 pilots are Vietnam veterans who know what it's like to be in combat. Stone served for a year in Vietnam with the 176th Assault Helicopter Company, based in Chulai about 60 miles south of Da Nang, a city of about half a million people along the South China Sea in central Vietnam.

His main job was to take U.S. troops in and out of combat and to resupply them. His UH-1H helicopter, also known as a "Huey", doubled as an ambulance when needed.

"Getting shot at was about an every other day occurrence," Stone said. "I never got one shot up from under me but we took (fire) somewhere around 25 times."

To this day, the number 42 sticks in his mind; That's the number of holes

he had in his Huey by the end of his year-long tour towards the end of the 1960s.

Things were different this time around, Stone said. In Vietnam he was constantly flying missions. But in Saudi Arabia, where most of the American casualties were in traffic accidents instead of combat, Stone and his fellow pilots kept a slower pace.

"In Vietnam I was flying eight to ten hours a day," he said. "In the medical company I might get a mission one day and fly two hours and then I might sit four or five days without a mission. It was quite a change. There were hours and hours of boredom punctuated by moments of terror."

Another difference was the way they flew. In Vietnam, pilots stayed high enough to be out of range of small arms fire. A rifle or even a handgun can down a helicopter, but in the Gulf, helicopters flew much lower, Stone said.

"In the desert, if you flew more than 50 feet above the ground you were taking a chance," Stone said.

Technological advances in radar and missiles mandated what the Army call "Nap of the Earth" flying. In their training in the states, the 24th frequently practiced this type of flying, which requires the pilot to stay dangerously close to the ground.

Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Francis, 42, who also flew a Huey in

Vietnam and spent nearly two decades with the 24th Med. said he never expected seen another combat zone.

"We have done a lot of state missions to help with natural disasters such as tornadoes and blizzards but I didn't ever feel there was a possibility of being called up on the federal side."

By and large, most of the vets said there was little comparison between this war and the one they fought in Vietnam. They were just a lot more busy in the previous war.

Still, this one had its moments.

Take for instance Feb. 27, nicknamed "Bloody Sunday." The unit flew several missions that day because there were so many traffic accidents along the Allies' main supply route near the border of Iraq.

And then there was the day an Army colonel asked Francis and crew to fly him to a location where plans were being made to set up a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH).

Francis said they were soon over an airbase near the city of Talil, located near the Euphrates River northwest of Kuwait. On the ground they could see soldiers in what appeared to be French uniforms waving at them in friendly fashion.

The next thing they knew a call came over the radio telling them to change course immediately because they were

flying over enemy territory. What they realized later was that the soldiers waving at them were Iraqis wanting to surrender.

"I didn't feel we were in any imminent danger when we came in there," Francis said. "They seemed like friendly guys for Iraqi troops."

The crew was amazed to see cars and cargo planes that hadn't been destroyed, Francis said. "We were marveled that these things were sitting intact and that hangers and airplanes were OK."

It was pretty quiet onboard after the mistake had been realized, Francis said. On the way back they saw U.S. forces just three miles out and two hours later the Iraqi soldiers were officially taken prisoner.

Stone said the crew took a little ribbing over the incident; "We told them 'You could have gotten the best pictures of the war. You had the enemy waving at you.'"

Like Stone, Francis flew troops in and out of combat zones during Vietnam, but he also flew gunships during the latter part of his tour. As a medivac pilot, he was at the opposite end of the spectrum this time around, a position he found more rewarding.

"Maybe I'm not a trained killer," Francis said. "I enjoyed saving lives much more than taking them."

Coming home to a hero's welcome was another big difference between the two wars, Francis said, Lincoln residents lined the streets and waved flags and welcome-home signs as the unit was escorted by police.

"The last time I felt I had done a good job in the wrong situation," he said about his experience in Vietnam, "It was overwhelming seeing the support we had when we came back into town."

His co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Lee Grossnicklaus felt the same way.

"We came home as a unit whereas in Vietnam you came home as an individual," he said, "I never got spit on or pushed around but you became a number before you ever left Vietnam."

The big advantage to having vets in the unit was the experience they were able to pass on to younger members, he said.

"This wasn't as hectic as Vietnam so we could afford to slow down a little bit," he said. "As a military, we killed ourselves more than the enemy...We can be proud of this unit. There were a couple of people who got scuffed up here and there but we all came home."

Chief Warrant Officer Ken Merlin, also a Vietnam vet, said the welcome home the unit received in Lincoln was "humbling".

"I don't feel like a hero but the people who think we are really the heroes are the Iraqi people that we picked up," he said. "You could see the thanks in their eyes."

Illinois sergeant earns \$10,000 for great idea!

It was not magic nor hocus-pocus. It was ingenuity and a little brain power that turned reams of computer paper into a \$10,000 cash reward for Staff Sgt. Allan L. Campbell, an inventory specialist, of the 182nd Resource Squadron, Illinois Air National Guard.

Campbell developed an improved supply operating system which has been adopted Air National Guard-wide. His idea is estimated to save the government \$2 million dollars a year in paper costs and man hours.

Prior to his development, everyone who requested an item from supply would receive a "receipt" in their mailboxes as a record in the trash," said Campbell. The computer would spit out reams of papers containing these "receipts", and then someone from supply would have to separate and distribute them, said Campbell. "It wasted a lot of time, and a lot of paper".

Campbell set up a program on the computer allowing the requests to be typed in, and then instead of the "receipts" printing out, they are sent through the computer system to the requesters' computer. Therefore, the requesters have their "receipts" recorded on their computers.



Staff Sgt. Allan L. Campbell

Campbell says he came up with the idea one day when he was separating the "receipts." He said, "I thought there must be a better and more efficient way to do this job." His project took about one year to set up.

Campbell is currently a sophomore at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, Ill., majoring in data processing technology. He has been a Guardsman since 1985.



Sgt. Sandra K. Jensen, of Wisconsin took first place in the women's open division. (Photo by Maj. Charley Najacht)



2nd Lt. Barry K. Holder, of West Virginia, running in his second 26 mile race, took first place in the men's open division. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ron Bradrick)

Holder, Jensen finish on top in 8th annual marathon trials

by Staff Sgt. Ron Bradrick
Nebraska Army National Guard

LINCOLN, Neb.— National Guard members were recently called to fight a Desert Storm, and won. This May, they were called to a "Nebraska Storm" and again there were winners.

The storm, of course, was only the wind, rain and cold stormy weather that greeted Guard runners who gathered in Lincoln, Neb., on May 5 for the 8th Annual National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials.

The winners were 2nd Lt. Barry K. Holder, 167th Tactical Airlift Group, West Virginia Air National Guard, and Sgt. Sandra K. Jensen, Headquarters, State Area Command, Wisconsin Army National Guard, who took first place in their open divisions for men and women.

Holder, with a time of 2:30:22, said "I was worried about the weather before the start because it was raining and cold, but after I passed the four mile marker, I stripped off the extra stuff and no one passed me from then on." Holder had a fourth place finish overall in the 14th Annual Lincoln Marathon, won by civilian Tim Jones of Loveland, Colo. with a time of 2:22:10.

This was the first time Holder ran in Lincoln and only his second attempt at the 26-mile marathon distance. He had been the military's second place finisher in the 15th Annual Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D. C. last November.

Holder outdistanced Air National Guardsman Sgt. Curtis Rogers, an avionics technician from the 184th Tactical Fighter Group, Kansas Air National Guard, who finished in 2:33:29.

Jensen, took first place in the women's Guard

division with a 3:06:22 time to beat last year's female winner, Spec. Kelly L. Watkins, Utah Army National Guard, who ran second in 3:13:09.

Jensen and Watkins finished in the same order in last year's Marine Marathon where Jensen became the first Guard woman to have back-to-back victories in the "Run through the Monuments." Jensen finished fourth, while Watkins finished sixth in the overall competition for women behind civilian winner Nancy Stanley, Lincoln, Neb., with a 2:49:56 finish.

Jensen said "I felt real good during the whole race, but that wind in our face the last six miles was a problem. It has been an icy winter in Wisconsin and I've had to do some crash training during the last six weeks; I was a little surprised at how strong I finished."

The cold 35 mph northwest wind must have delighted the Alaska Guard runners since they not only were the first place team, but SFC Laddie Shaw won the Master Team competition. Shaw, of Company B, 6th Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard is no stranger in the Master's group having won that division last year both in the Lincoln and Washington, D.C.

This is the eighth consecutive year that the Lincoln Marathon has served as the trial run to determine the Guard's 50-member All-Guard Marathon Team. Over 300 Army and Air National Guard members came from around the nation, including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The All-Guard Team promotes combat readiness through physical fitness. The team competes annually in the Lincoln Marathon, the Navy's annual Blue Angel Marathon in Pensacola, Fla., and in Washington, D.C., at the annual Marine Corps Marathon.

Gulf duty brings perks

All of the estimated 750,000 men and women expected to get the Southwest Asia military medal for service in the Persian Gulf War will be entitled to veterans preference that will help them get and keep a job with Uncle Sam.

This will be the first time since 1975 that a large group has become eligible for veteran's preference and the first time that so many women will be among those eligible.

The government generally stopped offering the benefit with shift to the all-volunteer military force.

Anyone with veteran's preference gets an extra five points on a passing federal job test score. They also get added protection over non-vets in the same grade-occupational group during layoffs.

Disabled vets get a 10 point preference and even greater job security. Unlike the Vietnam era veterans who qualified for veteran's preference, even if they didn't leave the United States. Coverage this time only applies to holders of the Southwest Asia Medal for war zone service. Preference will also go to federal workers (many of whom were not previously considered veterans) in National Guard or reserve units who get the medal.

American forces not fighting, yet tensions high

by Master Sgt. Frank Jordan
Maine Army National Guard

ZAKHU, Northern Iraq - It is 2100 hours, a fire fight between the Parazany (Kurdish Rebels) and Iraqi soldiers was to the east of us; flares illuminated the mountains around us.

American forces are not fighting, but tensions are high. I am with Company C, 2nd Combat Engineer, Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. Three hours ago I landed in Slopi, Turkey.

I still had 12 miles to go to cross the border to the base camp. I really had no idea if there were any National Guard troops there or not. I didn't know if it was worth going through it all or not. I was dead tired from my feet up. My rucksack felt like a ton of cement.

The landing strip behind me was a bee hive of activities. Soldiers were unloading supplies, putting up tents and stock piling supplies. Forklifts were racing back and forth at Slopi, sending up clouds of dust.

The backwash of the rotor blades of helicopters was whooping up dirt and dust particles from behind me.

I asked the Marine sergeant what was the best way to get to Zakhu. He replied all aircraft traffic is shutting down at 1800 hrs. They don't fly supply runs until tomorrow at 0600 hrs. It is too dangerous. There are too many terrorist activities all around us.

It was now 1750 hrs. He told me a Marine combat engineer convoy was heading for Zakhu; the last one for the night.

All road traffic was halted for safety reasons when night came due to the presence of Iraqi troops and terrorist.

Before the convoy left, I climbed into a dump truck. A Marine captain standing in the back of the truck said, "Do you have MREs and water soldier?" "Sure, I replied." "Good!" he said. "Marines carry everything they need on their back. They don't babysit anyone," he said. "Welcome aboard," he replied.

The truck I was in was in the center of the convoy. Vehicles ahead of and behind us had 50-caliber machine guns mounted over the cab.

Marines in 2 1/2 ton trucks had their weapons locked and loaded as we pulled out of Slopi.

The Marine captain asked what outfit I was with. "The National Guard Bureau Public Affairs," I yelled back with pride over the loud diesel engine noise.

He nodded his head and said. "You are ahead of our own combat video team. They should be joining up with us in a couple of days." "Yessir," I answered, thinking smugly to myself, "National Guard is first on the scene again."

"Just a little inter-service pride, scoring a touchdown."

As we proceeded down the road,

the Marine captain told me up front that if we ran into trouble, lay face down in the truck. The sides will give you some protection.

As we approached the city of Zakhu, we were stopped at the Turkish border crossing. The Turkish guards were not exactly friendly, but professional. They were checking each vehicle before crossing into Northern Iraq.

When the Turkish soldiers saw me in my desert BDUs, they started yelling and pointing me out. The Marines were firm in saying, "He's one of us."

The problem was, the Marines were dressed in the wooded green BDUs. Apparently, the Turkish soldiers had not seen the desert BDUs before.

I kept pointing at the American flag on my right shoulder. They recognized that, and we soon proceeded.

I was relieved. I had visions of spending the night in a Turkish jail.

As we entered the city of Zakhu, the home of many Kurds who had fled into the mountains after being driven out by Saddam Hussein's soldiers, I was shocked at the number of Iraqi soldiers with AK-47s standing on street corners, inside door ways of houses and on the roof tops. It was a very tense situation.

I couldn't believe it. I had seen Iraqi POW camps. This was the first time that I had actually seen armed Iraqi

soldiers.

As I glanced around the convoy, Marines with helmets on their head seemed to rotate back and forth in rhythm as they watched windows and roof tops.

Many of the Iraqi soldiers glared at us. You could see the hate in their eyes. We glared right back with "Make my day," Iraqi stare.

"It was like two boxers before the fight starts."

The convoy picked up speed. The houses and streets quickly disappeared in the darkness, that was settling in around us.

We pulled into the clearing where the refugee camp was being built, completely surrounded by mountains. Darkness came suddenly as we settled

down for the night.

Later on in the night sounds of small caliber weapon arms fire could be heard.

The Marines at another camp started firing artillery location flares (illumination flares) which lit up a whole area to the east. It reminded me of fireworks on the 4th of July.

Air Force A-10s and F-15s, flew low over our position all night. The presence of our Air Force was a great feeling. A solid comforting feeling like an extra blanket on a cold winter night.

The next thing I knew I was fast asleep.

Tomorrow I will go to the refugee camp in the mountains.

Conspicuous Service Cross presented by Delaware AG



Maj. Gen. Arthur V. Episcopo, adjutant general for the Delaware National Guard, recently presented a posthumous Conspicuous Service Cross to Mrs. Cassandra McCoy as her mother Mrs. Lill Brown, and sister Anya Payton watch. Her husband, Corp. James R. McCoy, is the only person from Delaware to be killed in action during Operation Desert Storm. He was serving with the 2nd Army Cavalry Regiment and is a former member of the Marine Corps and the Delaware Army National Guard. In a letter home, McCoy wrote, "my unit is on the front line because we're the best there is." (Photo by Frank Bryson, DE Army National Guard)

CCAF graduates 221 Air Guard men and women

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. — (CCAF/PA) — The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) has 221 Air National Guard men and women among its 4,453 students graduating in April 1991.

They join the more than 90,200 students who have earned associate in applied science degrees in occupationally-related Air Force career fields from "the enlisted person's college."

CCAF offers low cost two year degree programs to all Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air Guard, enlisted members.

Once a person separates service or retires they are no longer eligible for the degree program. However, free transcripts of course work toward a partially completed degree continue to be available.

Administrative Center for the CCAF is Maxwell AFB, Ala. It is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

For information on your CCAF degree program, certification, or certificate, contact your unit CCAF representative.

Homecoming safety critical

Soldiers and airmen returning from gulf duty have been living under restrictive conditions — without alcohol — with a great deal of stress.

Naturally, they'll want to celebrate, as will those of us who did not go to Saudi Arabia. However, it's especially important in this instance to stress safety and more safety, else disaster may rob the joy of homecoming.

During a two-day period in April, eleven Guard soldiers died in vehicle accidents. In every case, the probable cause of the accident was alcohol or fatigue, and in some cases, the life may have been saved had the soldier been using seat belts.

Can you imagine these death factors developing as a result of the next homecoming celebration?

Air Guard KUDOs

Outstanding airmen, unit recognized in Capital



Stark



Maynard



Mason



Rod



Sheffield



Dessenberger



Fleming



Eubanks

Eight individuals have been selected from a field of 119 as the Air National Guard "Outstanding Airmen of the Year" for 1991 and a Pennsylvania unit was selected for the "Outstanding Unit" award.

Individual Awards

Master Sgt. Steven K. Stark, recruiter, 205th Electronic Installation Squadron, Oklahoma Air National Guard.

Master Sgt. Stephen C. Maynard, ground safety manager, Headquarters, District of Columbia Air National Guard.

Master Sgt. Lanty R. Mason, NCOIC, security police training, 161st Security Police Flight, Arizona Air National Guard.

Technical Sgt. Roxanna J. Rod, training technician, 133 Mission Support Squadron, Minnesota Air National Guard.

Technical Sgt. Mark L. Sheffield, avionics instrument specialist, 167th Tactical Airlift Group, West Virginia Air National Guard.

Senior Airman Joe A. Dessenberger, munitions maintenance specialist, 184th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard.

Senior Airman Todd C. Fleming, law enforcement specialist, 129th Mission Support Squadron, California Air National Guard.

Senior Airman Mark S. Eubanks, ground radio equipment repairman, 273rd Electronic Installation Squadron, Texas Air National Guard.

These Guardsmen were honored in Washington, D.C. recently. They will represent the Air National Guard in the 1991 United States Air Force "Outstanding Airmen of the Year" competition.

Unit Award

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 112th Tactical Control Squadron (TCS) recently received the Air Force "Outstanding Unit" award for providing exceptional service.

This 90-member unit was graded "Excellent" for their last Operational Readiness Inspection adding to their history of exceptional ratings.

The 112th TCS, better known as BRUMAL CONTROL is a forward Air Control Post which is a highly mobile and rapidly deployed radar system. The system has the capability of controlling a multitude of military aircraft in missions of close air support, air refueling, air intercept, air combat and air surveillance.

During the last several years the 112th deployed to Turkey, assisted with drug interdiction in the Bahamas and provided radar control in the U.S.

Paratrooper paradise Nebraska jumpers hit rain-soaked field from 1,000 feet

by Susan Ranta
contributing journalist

Pacing around in the mud of a rain-soaked field, the ground crew tried to ward off the chill of the early morning mist as they waited for the sound of a C-130.

The Air Guard aircraft would bring members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 134th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) to their location—"DZ Husker," a drop zone 10 miles north of Ashland, Neb.

Shortly after 8 a.m., the plane was spotted, approaching low on the horizon. Within seconds, paratroopers were tumbling out of the rear doors, their chutes filling with air, as they floated to the ground. With each pass, more jumped, 35 in all.

The Sunday morning, April 14, exercise was a practice. In a wartime situation, the 134th's mission is to go behind enemy lines undetected. Once there, they gather intelligence and relay it back to field commanders.

One member was making his first jump with the unit.

"It was a blast," said Spec. Trent Jensen, as he packed away his chute. "It was everything I thought it would be and everything I wanted it to be."



"It was a blast," shouted Spec. Trent Jensen, as he celebrated his first jump with the 134th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance). Photo credit: Susan Ranta

MARS volunteer helps soldiers stay in contact with loved ones

By Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Brown
Florida Army National Guard

NOMBRE DE DIOS, Panama—Civilian and military volunteers are helping National Guard soldiers throughout the world keep in touch with loved ones thousands of miles away.

One such service is at a lonely outpost in a camp near this village on the Atlantic side of the Republic of Panama.

Thousands of National Guard soldiers working in two-week deployments, and others working for the duration of a six-month road building project, are generally unable to communicate with home without long delays, unreliable service and considerable expense that might be expected in a tropical setting.

Enter MARS—Military Affiliated Radio Stations.

Staff Sgt. Steve Ates of Jackson, Mo., operates the station on his own time in the evenings. He does so after working all day as communications chief for the task force.

Callers are logged in at his tent, then Ates uses an AM radio to contact MARS operators in the United States. These operators are volunteer civilians who have additional expertise and a spe-

cial license. The civilian volunteers in turn make collect telephone calls to relatives of the soldiers and "patch" the calls through the radio.

Most messages are carried free on the airwaves, so calls cost less. The audio is clear and there is rarely an interruption.

"We can call anywhere in the world and we work at night because the MARS operators are all volunteers," Ates said.

Range is not a problem. "We talked to Saudi Arabia the other night," he said.

Between Jan. 7th and March 14th, Ates logged 1,542 calls, attesting to the popularity of his service. The population of the base camp is about 540.

Ates is with 1140th Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Missouri Army National Guard in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Other soldiers in the 1140th were assigned to the project for two weeks, while Ates' assignment is for the entire six-month period.

On a typical evening, a doctor spoke with his wife in Cleveland, and another soldier spoke with his wife in Florida. The Florida man learned that his 5-year-old daughter had knocked out a front tooth that day.

"Most calls are family chitchat," Ates said. "Some spouses will also call the MARS operators and leave messages which the people here can receive when they log in."

In 1986, Ates ran a MARS station in Honduras, logging nearly 5,900 calls.

Ates became interested in radio while serving as a "RATT rig operator" (radio-teletype) in the Army, and later obtained a ham license. He is willing to devote his own time because he believes that he is providing a valuable service to other soldiers far from home.



Staff Sgt. Steve Ates

President OKs desert medal

by Sgt. 1st Class Linda Lee
AF Information Service

Military members serving in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will get to wear the new Southwest Asia Service Medal recently established by an executive order from President George Bush.

Service secretaries are determining specific eligibility requirements.

"This medal was designed to represent the period of service from Aug. 2, 1990, when Kuwait was invaded, until Jan. 16, 1991," said Army Lt. Gen. Donald Jones, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military manpower and personnel policy. He added a campaign star will be authorized for the period Jan. 17 to a date to be determined by the secretary of defense. The campaign star denotes the commencement of the war effort, he said.

Instead of awarding the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to service members in the Persian Gulf conflict, their performance and professionalism merited the creation of a new medal, said Jones. "It specifically recognizes those young men and women who deployed to the Persian Gulf and participated in this complex, demanding and highly successful operation," he said.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney recently authorized the award of the National Defense Service Medal to individuals serving on active duty Aug. 2, 1990, or later in recognition of the efforts of the armed forces worldwide. The Southwest Asia Service Medal is special recognition for the forces that deployed to the gulf region, Jones explained.

According to Jones, the colors of the Southwest Asia Service Medal, designed by Army's Institute of Heraldry, incorporate the colors of the United States and the Persian Gulf area. The basic

ribbon is sand-colored, which represents the desert, with red, white, blue, green and black stripes.

"We wanted to make the medal representative of all services. It is a joint operation, and we wanted representatives scenes of the area," he said. The front of the medal shows the desert and sea with a tank, armored personnel carrier, helicopter, ship and aircraft. The reverse side depicts a sword entwined by a palm frond representing military might and preparedness in defense of peace.



Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Central Forces commander, visited the 3673rd Maintenance Company of the Louisiana Army National Guard in Saudi Arabia. Here he is shown with Maj. Marc McNeill, company commander. Schwarzkopf praised the Louisiana unit and said he appreciated the great contributions they had made in support of Operation Desert Storm. The company is from Jackson Barracks, New Orleans and it was activated Oct. 16th and deployed to Saudi Arabia on Nov. 30th.



Eye doctor operates in Central American village

by 2nd Lt. Bob Hart
Florida Army National Guard

BELIZE CITY, Belize—An ophthalmologist performing prostate surgery in a Central American village is perhaps a bit far-fetched for most people to believe. But for Dr. J.R. Walters, an ophthalmologist from Lynchburg, Va., it's not so unbelievable.

Walters, a major in the South Carolina Air National Guard, was assigned to Belize to provide medical support for the 169th Civil Engineer Squadron during a construction project at Price Barracks, the headquarters for the Belize Defense Force.

A graduate of University of South Carolina Medical School, Walters said the prostate surgery was the first he had performed in nearly six years. "I

actually assisted the chief British surgeon," said Walters.

After graduating from medical school, Walters had a year of residency and three additional years of training to become an ophthalmologist. Ophthalmologists deal with the structure, functions and diseases of the eye are are qualified to perform surgery.

The 169th was the third in a deployment of four Air Guard groups to Belize as part of a multinational effort with the British and Belizeans to construct a vehicle maintenance facility, munitions bunker and arms room.

While in country, Walters had an opportunity to tour British medical

facilities and to fly to the interior of Belize with a group of British surgeons to examine patients and perform surgery in some of the rural villages.

"I spent three days with the British in the field doing surgery," Walters said. "It was fascinating that they could set up a complete operating room in about 10 or 15 minutes and begin seeing patients."

One of the places Walters visited with the British crew was Belmopan, the capital of Belize. The capital, which has a population of 3,700, was relocated when Hurricane Hattie ravaged the original capital, Belize City, in 1961.

He also had an opportunity to

visit a Mennonite village with British surgeons. Belize, formerly British Honduras, was a British colony until 1981, and has a small Mennonite population in the northern part of the country. "The Mennonites have a paramedic in the village to take care of their minor needs," Walters said. "If they have surgical needs, they call by radio and the British line up the surgery."

Some of the medical conditions Walters and the British team encountered during their trips to the interior were hernia repairs, an ovarian cyst, fractured bones, and prostate problems.

Walters, who did his undergraduate work at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., also briefed the Belizean medical staff on eye diseases and injuries and treated one Belizean soldier with an eye injury.

Normally, Walters is a flight surgeon for the South Carolina Air Guard. His duties are those of a general practitioner.

Overall, Walters said the two weeks in Belize provided excellent military training. The opportunity to travel with the British medical crew to the interior made training even more meaningful.



South Carolina Air National Guard Maj. J.R. Walters, an Ophthalmologist giving a medical exam to a fellow Guardsman at a medical facility in Belize. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Bob Hart, Florida Army National Guard)

43rd Army Band plays in Omaha

by Capt. Bob Vrana
Nebraska National Guard

The Humvee parked in front of the Orpheum Theater was the first clue that something was out of the ordinary at this cultural center in Omaha.

"It's just a wonderful evening of music for all the men and women's efforts in Desert Storm," said Nebraska Governor Ben Nelson.

Over 2,000 midland residents including business, government, and military leaders attended the concert which featured the Nebraska Army National Guard's 43rd Army Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Klintberg.

The performance was a tribute to the members and families of the armed forces who served in Operation Desert Storm, the real VIPs of the evening.

A medley of service songs brought the audience to their feet, clapping and waving flags. "I can remember three or four emotional highs from being on-stage over the years, this is one of them," said Klintberg.

During intermission, Maj. Gen. Stanley M. Heng, adjutant general of Nebraska, presented "Omaha World-Herald" World War II war correspondent, Lawrence Youngman, the Nebraska National Guard Legion of Merit for his coverage of the Guard's 134th Infantry regiment during World War II.

"World-Herald" reporter Jeff Gauger, and photographer Phil Johnson, were commissioned honorary colonels in the Nebraska National Guard for their coverage of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Displays in the lobby highlighted the work of the three reporters.

Units haven't always returned from war intact

by Maj. Bruce Conard
Historical Services Branch

We have a picture in our minds of returning troops. This picture shows the same soldiers that left for the war marching home in a parade, flags waving, high school bands playing, welcoming the home-town heroes. This picture is not quite correct. In many past wars, the National Guard units that left for the war did not return as a group, they returned individually.

Desert Shield/Desert Storm is different. National Guard Units are returning intact, marching, or in some cases driving, through their home towns to sidewalks crowded with well-wishers.

That's not always the way it was.

The National Guard units which deployed to Vietnam came home as units, their welcome home was sometimes muted, sometimes openly hostile. The units that did not deploy to Vietnam became manpower pools for the war, and

therefore, these soldiers returned to their homes individually. There was little flag-waving and more relief than joy was expressed.

The Korean War, however, was different. The divisions that deployed, the 40th Infantry Division, and the 45th Infantry Division were treated as active force units, that is, the soldiers that fought in Korea "earned" points and when a sufficient number of points were accrued, the soldier was reassigned stateside. This means that after the unit had been in the lines for a period of time, less and less of its soldiers were the original Guardsmen who deployed with the division. Soon nearly the entire personnel structure of the division was non-Guard. The troops who came home, came back as individuals.

When the Guard mobilized in 1940 and 1941, it was assumed that the soldiers would return home in a year. The attack on Pearl Harbor changed all that.

National Guard division and units fought world-wide in World War II. Casualties, rotation policies and the needs of a rapidly-expanding Army drew soldiers out of their home-town units. The final blow came with the demobilization plans of the Army which relied on granting points to individual soldiers. This meant that troop transports full of soldiers from different units returning home for demobilization.

Those National Guard units which fought in Europe in World War I were sent home as units bringing flags and equipment home with them. This may have been the closest to the Hollywood ideal. One can find photographs in state archives of the "boys" coming home from the "front" in 1919, greeted by the State Governor and welcomed home.

As with so many parts of Desert Storm/Desert Storm, the soldiers of the National Guard will be making history with their return.

8,000 plus greet the 190th as they return home

By Staff Sgt. Mike Dorcey
Kansas National Guard

TOPEKA, Kans. - "There they are!" someone shouted and pointed to four tiny specks in the overcast sky just above a line of trees across the runways at Forbes Field on March 14.

The crowd of 8,000 to 10,000 that had become hushed as the 3 p.m. arrival time had come and gone now broke into cheers. Eight thousand American flags waved in the steady easterly breeze.

The formation grew from four to seven to 10 KC-135E tanker aircraft and floated over the field toward the south, then merged into a long single line as it banked east and circled back to the north to begin the approach and landing.

As each plane's wheels touched down on the runway the crowd erupted in cheers and whistles again.

Looking tired, elated and somewhat stunned at their reception, 265 members of the Kansas National Guard's 190th Air Refueling Group arrived home from war in the Persian Gulf.

The 190th had volunteered for duty in Saudi Arabia in August. Six aircraft and 250 people left Aug. 10. Some had rotated between the Middle East and Kansas before the entire unit was activated for federal service and mobilized for duty in Saudi Arabia Dec. 20. Other members who arrived Topeka March 14 had not been home since August.

The 190th was assigned to the Saudi Arabian Air Force base at Jeddah on Saudi Arabia's southwestern shore of the Red Sea.

"The 190th's tail number 631 was the first American plane into Jeddah and the last KC-135E out," said Maj. Joe Rose, a 190th maintenance officer.

During the eight months, the 190th helped log some impressive statistics:

- * Delivering 182 million gallons of fuel in the biggest tanker operation of the war — 2.5 to 3 million gallons a day at the peak of the air phase of the war;

- * Providing the first National Guard officer to command a wing made up of Air Guard, Air Force Reserve and active Air Force elements, that flew and maintained 99 tankers (KC-135s and KC-10s) and 16 B-52 bombers;

- * Maintaining a mission capacity rate of 87 percent for the KC-135E, "well above Air Force goals."

As the planes rolled to a stop, small American flags appeared in cockpit windows and crew members walked out on the wings carrying larger American flags.

Despite efforts by Air Guard security personnel to hold the crowd back at a safe distance, it surged forward across the safety line and surrounded the planes.

"I sure didn't expect that kind of turn-out," said Master Sgt. Kenneth Elliott, a 190th maintenance non-commissioned officer.

"I knew there was a homecoming planned, but didn't think many people would turn out after I heard the weather report," said Col. Charles M. "Mick" Baier, the commander of the 190th. "And I never imagined the intensity. It was in the air. You could walk on it."

As each airman came down the ladder and touched the Kansas soil, they were handed a can of beer (an Aspect of Americana they had lived without to comply with local customs) and then turned into the waiting arms of spouses and family.

The embraces were long, intense and tearful. There were the expected questions of concern but mostly the hugging of spouses, children, parents and

friends.

During a short ceremony that followed in the adjacent hangar, Maj. Gen. Philip Killey, director of the Air National Guard, told the crowd, "I think this represents what America is all about, right here."

He noted that during a visit to the 190th in September of last year, "They were doing a super job then. Jeddah was the biggest military operation we had" in the area... "and Col. Mick Baier was put in command."

Brig. Gen. James Rueger, Kansas' adjutant general, commended the Air Guard contingent. Rueger gave credence to his statement by announcing to the crowd that he was appointing Baier to the position of chief of staff for the Kansas Air National Guard, with a promotion to brigadier general.

On hand to officially welcome home the 190th was U.S. Representative Jim Slattery of Topeka; Sen-

ator Finney, husband of Governor Joan Finney; and Topeka Mayor Butch Felker.

A number of Topeka area businesses pooled their resources to provide hot dogs, pie and soft drinks for the crowd.

After the ceremonies, the crowd broke into small groups gathered around the individually returning airmen, then began to dwindle away, content that one contingent of Kansas' representatives to the war had returned home safely.

Yet to come home, 65 more members of the 190th and about 60 members of the 184th Tactical Fighter Group; 31 Kansas Army National Guard volunteers scattered around the United States and Germany the 170th Maintenance Company of the Kansas Army National Guard; and individuals of other Reserve components, none expected home soon.



Members of the 190th Air Refueling Group were among the 232 who returned to Kansas in March. (Kansas National Guard photo)

CISCO looks like wine cooler but packs stronger punch

Cisco looks like wine cooler, but a 12 ounces of the fruit-flavored wine actually packs the punch of five one-ounce shots of 80-proof vodka, experts say.

Did you read that correctly? Look at it again. A 12-ounce drink has the effect of five shots of vodka. Jessica Harding, head of DoD's Working Group on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention, said a 100-pound person who drinks two 12-ounce servings of Cisco in an hour could die. In other words, that amount could result in lethal alcohol poisoning.

A 150-pound person drinking the same amount in an hour would be legally drunk and unable to drive in any state.

U.S. Surgeon General Antonia C. Novello called Cisco a "wine fooler" at a recent press conference. She asked the manufacturer to change the packaging so it would more closely resemble the other fortified wines.

Novello, who said the wine's street name is "liquid crack," cited reports of significant behavior changes following consumption of Cisco, including hallucinations, disorientation, loss of motor control and unconsciousness.

According to Joseph Wright, an emergency room physician in Washington, D.C., 10 of the 15 adolescents admitted to his hospital's emergency room last year for acute alcohol poisoning said they had been drinking Cisco. Furthermore, eight patients reached for follow-up said they had thought Cisco was a wine cooler which typically contains about four percent alcohol. Cisco's makers claim their drink has 20 percent alcohol.

Officials of both the Army and Air Force Exchange System and the Navy Resale and Services Support Office said Cisco is not on their master lists for purchase, but some stores could be selling it if there's a local demand.

Novello noted that alcohol abuse is more widespread among youth than the use of tobacco or illicit drugs. "In fact," she added, "it is the only drug whose use has not been declining significantly, according to the 1989 National High School Senior Survey."

Dr. (Rear Adm.) Edward D. Martin, deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, added, "Any alcohol product which is packaged so as to be misleading about its potency carries more risk, particularly to young people."