

The National Guard

ON GUARD

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Although victory celebrated, those in Gulf still on minds

by Maj. Lester R. Stadig
Editor

You there in the dust and heat, missing your families, questioning the meaning of it all, dealing with frustration, dealing with anger, and wondering when you'll be able to come home.

What can we say or do to comfort you—brothers and sisters in the National Guard Family?

True, this nation held victory celebrations in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

The fireworks display at the Washington Monument was the best ever, and the USO program was indeed memorable.

Thousands listened to big name entertainers on the outdoor stage. Several hundred thousand were there—churning up the walking trail dust until air around the Washington Monument was thick—though nothing compared with the

SPC John Santoro and 2nd Lt. Terence Whatley seek highest point to display Old Glory at the 527th Engineer Battalion homecoming. (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD, LAARNG)

powdery sand storms and oil well smoke you must endure.

New York City held one of the most amazing tickertape celebrations of all times. Years ago, in the days of teletype machines, actual ticker tape confetti was available. Now, however, parade watchers resorted to other paper products like toilet paper, envelopes printed with obsolete corporate symbols, and even contents of waste baskets.

In both the Washington and New York celebrations, members of the public crowded around young men and women in desert uniforms seeking autographs on Desert Storm posters. These young privates and specialists were heroes.

The reality of the situation is that as of 1800 hours on Thursday, June 13, 10,616 Army Guard soldiers like you were still on the ground in the Persian (See Victory) ... page 16



Air National Guard director, Maj. Gen. Phillip G. Killey, addresses Air Guard civil engineers and security police from Arkansas, Indiana, and North Carolina at King Fahd International Airport in Saudi Arabia. (Photo by Lt. Col. Tom Berry).

Citizen soldiers show combat capability

by Maj. Lester R. Stadig
Editor

National Guard participation in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm was visible proof of the readiness, professionalism, and combat capability, and validated the Total Force Policy.

From the moment the decision was made to deploy United States forces to the Persian Gulf, the Air National Guard was there. The first U.S. aircraft to respond was a C-141 of the 172nd Military Airlift Group of Mississippi, flown by volunteers of that unit.

Almost as quick to respond was the 105th Military Airlift Group of New York with a C-5 and an all-volunteer crew. Not a single unit had been activated yet.

With the help of the Guard, twice as much tonnage was airlifted in the first month of Desert Shield than was airlifted

in the peak months of the Vietnam War.

Early in the effort the Air Guard responded with 24 C-130 tactical airlift aircraft, 56 KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft, 6 RF-4 reconnaissance aircraft, and 2 EC-130 special operations aircraft.

At the outset, the Air Guard was vital to the effort, performing daily fighter, reconnaissance, air refueling, and airlift missions.

More than 100 members of the 167th Tactical Airlift Group of Martinsburg, W.V., responded immediately to a late evening call for 40 aerial port volunteers.

On the ground, the 212th Engineer Company of the Tennessee Army Guard was the first U.S. unit to cross the Iraqi border. (See article in June "On Guard"). They, along with 62,411 Army National Guard soldiers, were federalized. Of that number, 37,848 were deployed to

Southwest Asia, and at the time of writing, 10,616 were still in theater.

Ninety-seven percent of the Army Guard soldiers met deployability criteria for mobilization on the first day of federalization.

Two artillery brigades, the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade of Fayetteville, Ark., and the 196th Field Artillery Brigade of Chattanooga, Tenn., were called to the battlefield. An Oklahoma battalion, the 1st of the 158th, a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) unit, attached to the 142nd Brigade, fired its first rocket within 48 hours of arriving in theater. They supported a British brigade, firing over 900 rockets during the war.

Army Guard postal units handled nearly 300 tons in a three day period. Unit work demand was such throughout the mission that units only enjoyed half-day breaks for Thanksgiving and

Christmas.

The 169th Tactical Fighter Group from South Carolina and the 174th Tactical Fighter Wing from New York flew over 3,550 missions combined and unloaded 20,000 tons of ordnance.

The 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of Alabama and the 152nd Tactical Reconnaissance Group of Nevada flew over 1,045 missions, of which more than 350 were in combat.

Air refuelers had impressive results as well. Sixty-three KC-135s combined flew 5,000 missions off-loading 249 million tons of fuel to 18,000 aircraft.

The airlift units moved 37,000 passengers and 108,000 tons of cargo between the states and the desert.

Soldiers and airmen of just about

(See Combat) ... page 16



Twenty thousand-gallon bladders hold untreated water as it flows from an artesian well. Staff Sgt. Gary Farmer displays the 1207th guidon. (Photos by 1st Lt. Rick Thurman, 370th Quartermaster Battalion).

Alabama E-6 commands unit in desert

by Maj. Lester R. Stadig
Editor

"Wetumpka", an Indian word for rumbling waters, is also the name of the home city of the 1207th Quartermaster Detachment.

The Coosa River "rumbles" through this south-central Alabama city in a rocky bed. Thus, the community of 15,000 received its name.

Ironically, men of the 16-member, 1207th, a water distribution unit, were summoned from the city of rumbling waters to perform their mission in a bone-dry place where \$2.00 could buy either one gallon of water, or fill a pickup with diesel fuel—a place where summer temperatures climbed to 125 degrees Fahrenheit.

Staff Sgt. Gary Farmer and his men are proud to say they spent seven-and-

one-half months in this arid place, working around the clock with minimal support, pumping some 25 million gallons of water from a well, then piping it three miles across the Saudi desert for use by coalition forces.

The nearest friendly elements were three miles away, while battalion headquarters was 200 miles distant, and company headquarters was even further off. Straight north 75 miles was the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Federalized on Aug. 27, the 1207th shipped to the Gulf Sept. 16 and relocated to an artesian well sometime in October. They were welcomed back to Wetumpka May 5.

Farmer, 32, was one of the lowest ranking commanders, if not the lowest, in the theater. He and his troops faced endless challenges. Their battalion assignment was with the 370th Quartermaster Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, of Great Falls, Mont. The battalion, with elements strewn nearly 1200 miles across the desert, did the best they could to provide logistical support.

In September and October, before supply lines were well established, the Alabamians had to scrounge for equipment, and even purchase items out-of-pocket on the local economy—items like cooking utensils and chicken. They made purchases in the town of Nairiyah, six miles away. Whenever the terrorist threat was low, the men also went there to telephone families back in Alabama.

The first time Farmer and his troops met battalion commander, Lt. Col. Sue E. McConaughy, it was about 110 degrees. They put in a couple of requests—coffee and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

"She was excellent and had genuine concern for troops—she didn't mind getting out into the dirt herself," remarked Farmer, speaking of his commander.

Somehow she came up with the coffee and chicken, which Farmer believes she purchased from her own resources.

Farmer said it was difficult to obtain needed supplies and services because he was only an E6. His unit had been issued a tent, a couple small apartment-size refrigerators, a television, a video recorder, a generator, and a kerosene heater.

The other heaters and tents which were "begged, borrowed and traded" proved to be critical during the winter when the mercury dipped below freezing at night. Smoke from burning oil wells blocked sunlight and also caused temperatures to drop.

Even though he was commander, Farmer felt an obligation to pull security along with the others. They split into two teams, each with 24 hours on, 24 hours off. Those operating the pumping station, day or night, were expected to stand guard at the same time. It was understood that those going off duty early in the morning brewed a fresh pot of coffee for the next shift.

Telephone communications with friendly units was made difficult by sheep herds. The animals chewed and grounded out the wire, making daily repairs necessary.

Staff Sgt. Rick Bowe, a minister by civilian occupation, fulfilled an important need for Farmer and his soldiers.

"He could counsel people, and he was an on-fire preacher," says Farmer.

Bowe prepared and delivered Bible sermons every Sunday that related well to the men, according to Farmer.

During their Gulf tours, two unit members had Red Cross emergencies requiring trips home and counseling support of Bowe. One soldier lost a father-in-law, while another's wife had a baby. The birth turned to tragedy when the baby's grandfather was killed in an auto accident while coming to see the child.

Even though they were told Christian medallions were not to be displayed openly in the Saudi community, unit members were not necessarily secretive about their religious practices. Farmer believes Saudis thought Christians were infidels who had no god and were surprised to learn that in fact they did worship a god.

"I'd like to say that on behalf of every unit there should be a spiritual leader. Everybody needed that leadership—everybody cried out to God at some time," said Farmer.

Farmer attended daily meetings with the nearest headquarters and was expected to provide figures on the volume of water pumped in each 24-hour

(See Farmer...on page 16)



Three miles outside the defensive perimeter the 16-man water pumping unit piles sandbags high enough to provide protection to those who might be sleeping on cots at the time of an attack.

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Mother of three serves in two combat zones



In less than three years enlistment as a Military Policeman in the 1138th MP Company, West Plains, Mo., SPC Charla Shull has had basic and advanced individual training, participated as an MP guarding Panamanian EPWs during Just Cause and, a year later, Desert Storm, guarding Iraqi EPWs.

Photo and story by
Capt. Daniel B. Miles, Jr.
Missouri Army National Guard

In less than three years Spec. Charla Shull, 1138th Military Police Company, West Plains, Mo., has experienced basic and advanced individual training and participated in two war zones. In 1989-90, she participated in Operation Just Cause in the Republic of Panama where she guarded Panamanian prisoners of war, and this year she served with the 1138th in guarding Iraqi prisoners in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Quite a record for the West Plains housewife, mother of three and a "late bloomer" who enlisted in the Missouri National Guard at the age of 30.

"When you add it all up," observes Shull, "I've been in two years and spent more time on active duty than as a traditional Guardsman with weekend training assemblies and annual training."

"While in Saudi Arabia, Shull was assigned to a number of military police duties including gate guard, prisoner escort, walking patrols and guard tower. "The Iraqis seemed to be taken aback to see female guards," notes Shull.

"The only duty female MPs haven't been assigned to is, understandably so, strip searches of prisoners being processed."

"Just being here," says Shull, "has proved how resilient a person can really be in an unusual situation. Of course we guarded Panamanian prisoners during Just Cause, and this is sort of the same type of duty but a lot more major operation."

"Being around hometown people has helped a lot because a mutual support system developed rather quickly. Everyone has a great deal of concern about everyone else—how they're getting along, any problems or whether their morale needed to be given a boost by everyone else," she said.

Shull's husband, Terril, is the owner of a business machine firm in West Plains and cared for their children, Airin, 12, and twin sons, Tyler and Corben, 8.

And, she wryly notes, while Just Cause and Desert Storm have been the experiences of a lifetime, there's one area of her duty in Saudi Arabia which won't be missed at all...not at all.

"The SCUD alerts and attacks are something practically everyone in the 1138th will remember—but not with a great deal of fondness because of the then belief chemical or biological payloads were aboard the missiles," she recalls.

Soldiers find Cajun hospitality amid grime and sweat of desert

Photo and story by
Master Sgt. Frank Jordan
Maine Army National Guard

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — Amid the grime and sweat of the desert, his smile is bright and uniform crisp. An unsmudged white paper cap adorns his head.

As weathered veterans of the Gulf War enter the building, each gets a firm handshake and a cheery greeting.

Staff Sgt. Gerald Henry is proprietor of the Desert Inn, an oasis in the truest sense to American troops in Saudi Arabia. The Desert Inn is a dining facility.

Three times a day, the Desert Inn serves as a link home for Americans stationed in Dhahran. Amid sweltering heat and powdery dust outside, the Desert Inn offers diners hot food and cold drinks inside. Air conditioning flows from ventilation ducts.

There are many such dining facilities in Saudi Arabia. The nourishment is about the same from place-to-place. The buildings may or may not have air conditioning. A hungry man or woman does not seem to miss the latter.

They all have virtually the same hours. Breakfast begins at 5 a.m. Supper is served until 9 p.m. Every day is a duty day for the American military in Saudi

Arabia. Every day is a day closer to finishing the job, finishing the tour, finishing ...

The Desert Inn has all those attributes. But, it has a great deal more. It has soul.

The soul is purely Staff Sgt. Henry. It radiates. It touches others. This is no mere job for Henry. This is a calling to give to others. This is a duty to provide nourishment, of course, but also warmth, advice and a listener.

Every diner gets a hand shake. Every diner gets a cheery greeting. Henry often sits down with lone diners. He has time for another cup of coffee. Time to listen some more ...

A succession of popular music plays from a set of stereo speakers. The audio tapes were purchased by Henry at his own expense.

"I receive much more back than I give," says Henry. Henry is a Louisiana Army National Guardsman assigned to the 3673rd Maintenance Co., of New Orleans.

"I'm a people person. I love people," he says.

Arriving in Saudi Arabia last Dec. 2, Henry worked at a series of food service jobs. Each was a greater challenge.

The Desert Inn has been the greatest challenge.

The dining facility serves

thousands of meals a day — every day. The staff is made up entirely of Third World citizens with virtually non-existent English skills.

Thousands of American troops stop there at least once a day to eat. Many soldiers travel extra minutes and miles to eat there.

Because of the Desert Inn, meal time is a treat for Staff Sgt. David Weigell, of the 146th Military Police Battalion, Michigan Army National Guard.

"I'm delighted if I have the opportunity to talk to Staff Sergeant Henry in the dining facility," said Weigell. "He just has a way of making me feel better."

That Desert Inn is a lot like a favorite restaurant in his own hometown, says Lt. Col. Terry Wofford, of the 22nd Support Command, Dhahran.

"I'm welcomed and feel at home," said Wofford. "He's always there making you feel welcome."

The troops will miss Henry. He



Capt. Francisco Tola of New York receives a warm welcome.

rotates home in a few weeks. Although he'll be gone, the music, soul and love will remain. And, thousands of American service members will remember.

Henry paid a final compliment to his many patrons recently. He personally supervised the cooking of a complete Louisiana style Cajun meal for his patrons ... for his soulmates.

Guarding Iraqis is experience of lifetime



Spc. James Kiely, a resident of Clinton, Mo., and a member of the 1139th Military Police Company, Missouri Army National Guard, experienced SCUD missile alerts and attacks while in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield. (Photo by Capt. Daniel B. Miles, Jr., Missouri Army National Guard).

By Capt. Daniel B. Miles Jr.
Missouri National Guard

Being a soldier in Operation Desert Shield was "the experience of a lifetime" according to SPC James Kiely, 25, Clinton, Mo.

Kiely, a 1984 graduate of Clinton High School, was a member of the 1139th Military Police (MP) Company, Harrisonville, Mo., when assigned to the 1138th Military Police Company for Desert Shield.

"An interesting thing about the prisoners was most of them initially thought they were to be shipped to the United States"

A staffer with Clinton Electric and Supply Company in civilian life, Kiely said his main impression of Operation Desert Shield "was the leadership and togetherness displayed by everyone in the 1138th when deployed to Saudi Arabia."

"The long hours everyone put in and the trailer loads and trailer loads of enemy prisoners of war (EPWs) who came in when the ground war started also

stand out in my mind," added Kiely.

Kiely said processing the prisoners was an interesting challenge along with controlling the compounds where the prisoners were placed. "We put in some long, long, long hours," recalled Kiely.

The Henry County resident said his main impression of the Iraqi prisoners was that "most of them seemed to be happy with their situation". "Some EPW's were uncooperative," he said. The screening process plus observation by MPs helped ease any potential problems through quick separation from the general EPW population."

"The language barrier for me and many of the other MPs from Missouri was unbelievable. Some of the Iraqis knew some English, but we were at a loss in Arabic. After a while, though, we began to pick up some Arabic."

"An interesting thing about the prisoners was most of them initially thought they were going to be shipped to the United States," observed Kiely.

Kiely said the most memorable experience of Operation Desert Storm, which will stand out in his mind years from now were SCUD missile alerts and attacks—plus the uncertainty whether the missiles contained a conventional war head or a payload of chemical or

biological agents.

"We got to be pretty proficient at going to MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) 4 in record time," commented Kiely, "because of the uncertainty. Of course all of us had pretty good training in MOPP levels in Missouri and timing ourselves putting everything on properly. But there's something about being in a war zone, under missile attack, which really emphasizes speed and proper wear."

Kiely said he looked forward to seeing his fiancée, family and friends in Henry County upon redeployment. He particularly was looking forward to resuming work as a staffer in his civilian job.

"Don Carlson," said Kiely, "who runs the family owned wholesale electric supply company, has been a strong supporter of the Missouri National Guard and my membership. He went to great lengths to assure me my job would be waiting for me when I get back."

"Between letters from home and the knowledge that the firm I was working for was, not only supporting me as a soldier, but was welcoming me back with open arms as a staff member, has helped make Operation Desert Shield an experience of a lifetime."

Personnel clerk's journal may soon become book

By Capt. Daniel B. Miles Jr.
Missouri Army National Guard

A member of the 1221st Transportation Company hopes to eventually gather enough material to write a book on Missouri's role in Operation Desert Storm.

With that goal in mind, Sgt. Kirk Mitchell, personnel clerk, has been keeping a journal of daily events since Nov. 19, 1990, when the 1221st was activated. Mitchell plans to combine his journal with other journals kept by both Missouri Army and Air National Guard personnel in Desert Storm to write a book highlighting the Missouri Guard's role—from stateside to Saudi Arabia—and back to various unit home stations.

"I realize it will be difficult to get in touch with every Missouri Army or Air Guard member in Operation Desert Storm who kept a journal when this is all over," acknowledged Mitchell. "But I'm going to try, and perhaps through combining all of the journals and material a really interesting account will emerge."

Not only assigned as a personnel clerk but assisting the truck master in convoy dispatching locations and progress, Mitchell has the additional duties of accounting for equipment.

Mitchell acknowledged maintaining a journal is not an exact science. "Sometimes entries are not in



Sgt. Kirk Mitchell keeping his journal. (Photo by Capt. Daniel B. Miles, Jr.)

chronological order," he said, "with some events skipped entirely. I've made a real effort to maintain integrity and accuracy in journal entries and have included emotions and fears."

"I'm making a journal which isn't just a dry account, but one which I hope will be interesting. Other Missourians over here are hopefully undertaking the same type of journal because this is history in the making."

Entries in Mitchell's journal run

the gamut of, "As a kind of weird twist, Saddam Hussein still claims that his retreating Republican Guard have won a great victory." And, "The ground war is continuing. Iraqi ground forces seem to be surrendering for the most part."

Mitchell, who was a technician for the 1221st prior to deployment for Operation Desert Storm, said he expected it could take up to three years to convince enough Missouri Army and Air National Guard personnel who kept journals to

share them for his projected book. "Just getting in touch with as many as possible will be somewhat of a nightmare," admitted Mitchell. "And in every journal maintained, perhaps there are observations written which the individual authors don't want to ever see the light of day."

"But this is an important project and a chance to highlight the Missouri Army and Air National Guard's role in Operation Desert Shield."



by Rudi Williams
American Forces Information Service

Allied troops were lucky not to have stormed Baghdad in May, because they probably would have encountered millions of tiny, potentially lethal stealth weapons that even Saddam Hussein can't control.

These enemies live under the hot desert sand and come out only at night. Troops can't see them, hear them, or feel their potentially deadly bite.

They are called sand flies, and their painless nibbles could be the mother of all bites, causing Leishmaniasis, a disease that raises sores which can grow to the size of a baseball.

If untreated, some bites can cause visceral Leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal form of disease.

A few Desert Storm returnees could be walking around with time bombs planted by the little critters. The disease's incubation period ranges from weeks to two years. So troops who break out with nasty-looking ulcers for no apparent reason should immediately tell their doctors about their possible exposure to sand flies, advised Dr. (Lt. Col.) Peter V. Perkins, chief of the Department of Entomology at Walter Reed Army Institute of research in Washington, D.C.

So far, all known Desert Storm Leishmaniasis victims have shown symptoms about a month after exposure. They've been infected with cutaneous Leishmaniasis tropical and major, the main forms found where allied troops were located. Officials said no case of the deadly visceral form has surfaced among troops who served in the Persian Gulf.

Of special concern to officials are the disease's alarming sores, which erupt everywhere the victim was

Sand fly bites can cause misery, scarring, death



Infected sand flies in the Persian Gulf carry various forms of Leishmaniasis, a potentially deadly disease. This is a magnified view of a tiny sand fly on a human finger. The telltale lesion caused by an infected sand fly bite can reach the size of a baseball, and may not appear until months after the bite. This photograph is of the wrist of a service member evacuated from the Gulf to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

bitten. The sores might be mistaken by unknowing families, friends and acquaintances. Also, there are historical cases where victims infected others through blood transfusions and sexual contact, said Navy Cmdr. Timothy H. Dickens, contingency liaison officer, Armed Forces Pest Management Board, Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

In ancient times, the disease was called "Baghdad Boil" because people broke out with sores when they traveled around Baghdad, the most heavily sand-fly-infested area in the Persian Gulf region. The sores heal but leave ugly scars, according to Perkins.

As of early May, ten military personnel from all services stationed on the ground in the Persian Gulf area were diagnosed as having cutaneous Leishmaniasis and treated at Walter Reed. More cases—officials said possibly hundreds more—could occur before all

American troops come home from the desert.

Health officials don't know how many cases went untreated because "when some of the fellows learned what caused their lesions and saw people being evacuated home, they wouldn't go on sick call—they didn't want to leave their unit before fighting," Perkins said.

The patients at Walter Reed reported that several members of their units had at least one lesion, he added.

"We're afraid to guess at the number of people in the desert who will come down with some form of the disease, but a ballpark estimate is more than 1,000," said Dickens.

In a mid-April message to military commanders in the Gulf, he warned that April and May are extremely high-risk months for sand fly bites.

When service members arrived in the desert last August, sand flies were already tucked away for the winter, with less than five flies per square meter outside. The fly population in April and May routinely soars to more than 200 per square meter, Perkins said.

"Therefore, many more people are expected to be bitten by infected sand flies if they don't protect themselves by using the new aerosol clothing repellent and the new repellent lotion for exposed skin. If used properly, the military's insect repellent system provides 100 percent protection against sand flies and other insects," he added.

All patients being treated for the disease at Walter Reed have said they didn't use the repellent.

Dickens emphasized that the sand fly-transmitted diseases of greatest concern for redeploying U.S. forces include:

Cutaneous Leishmaniasis, a skin disease potentially causing large sores and ugly scars two to four inches in diameter;

Visceral Leishmaniasis, which attacks internal organs and is uncommon, but often fatal if untreated; and

Sand-fly fever, an intense but non-fatal, flu-like viral disease, outbreaks of which could delay redeployment to the United States.

"The treatment for Leishmaniasis takes 30 days and is less than enjoyable," said an infectious disease specialist.



"Gone fishin' ... instead of just a wishin'." Capt. Jim Coratti, 35th RAOC, didn't have access to a solar table and perhaps, that's why the sand trout weren't biting at King Kahlid Military City, Saudi Arabia. Coratti hopes to eventually become a chaplain in the Missouri Army National Guard. "Fishing and religion have a common link," advised Coratti. "Remember the reference 'Fisher of men'?" (Photo by Capt. Daniel B. Miles, Jr.)

DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE

The Guard supports a drug free America.

District combats drugs with lights

by Sgt. Mary Beth Bowman
District of Columbia Air Guard

When people think of drug interdiction programs, they have glamorous visions of helicopters swooping low in surveillance operations; or they think of soldiers boarding up "crack houses." These activities do take place, but there are several facets to the District of Columbia National Guard's counter narcotics operation.

One such facet of the "War on Drugs" is the District of Columbia Air National Guard (DCANG) "Lite-all" program. The TF-1 Lite-all is a portable cart that holds four 1,000-watt floodlights operated by a generator. The lights can be arranged so that they shine in four different directions.

DCANG teams of two to six members set up the lights in conjunction with neighborhood coalitions and D.C. Metropolitan police patrols. A typical mission involves traditional Guard members who volunteer to work evening shifts (on military orders) in addition to their full-time civilian jobs and normal military duties.

The extra time these Guard members put into the community pays off — parents and residents have often come up to the Lite-all teams and thanked them for being there. Residents have said they feel safe walking to the store while the DCANG is there, and, in some cases, the presence of the Guard has prompted

parents to let their children out at night to play.

Evening missions run anywhere from one day to over 30 consecutive days. The DCANG Lite-all program has supported neighborhood watch coalitions since August 1990. The volunteers, wearing fatigues and flak vests, typically begin their mission at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., around 6:30 p.m. Personnel conceal their name tags to avoid possible retribution. They report to designated areas of the District, and, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Department, set up and maintain the floodlights where the coalitions patrol. The mission is over when the coalition determines the lights are no longer needed — usually between 10 and 11:30 p.m.

The Lite-all program's goals and objectives are to supplement these community patrols; and through the presence of uniformed personnel they deter illegal activities. Neighborhood coalitions consist of concerned citizens who patrol their neighborhoods at night to cut down on illegal activity in their community. Coalition members are commonly known as "orange hats." Coalitions now number more than 10,000 members city wide, according to Tech Sgt. Tyrone Holt, a regular Lite-all volunteer who is an information management specialist for the DCANG 231st Combat Communications Squadron.

The Lite-all program has succeeded in several ways, Holt said. Participation in coalitions increases when the DCANG has Lite-all machines functioning in an area, according to Holt. Novice neighborhood watch members say they feel much safer patrolling their areas when the DCANG is on the scene, he added.

Another measure of success is the absence of visible crime and drug activity. Holt said open air drug dealings are either relocated outside of the patrol areas manned by the DCANG, or they are moved indoors out of sight of children and residents. "When we turn the lights on crack houses or up and down streets, these drug dealers don't like to be seen," he said. The lights provide enough illumination so that coalition members can take down license plate numbers of unfamiliar vehicles and report them to police using walkie-talkies.

Coalition members also carry video cameras used to record suspicious activities as they patrol their neighborhood. One light-all machine with four lights can light up seven-and-a-half acres. The lights are so strong they activate the sensors in street lights, causing them to shut off. Holt said missions are in several city neighborhoods. Not all missions are in low income housing areas or in areas where the homicide rate is high, he explained. "The drug problem is

everywhere." The prime time for drug dealing is from 6 to 10 p.m., Holt said. The DCANG presence puts a dent in drug activities by forcing dealers to go elsewhere, he added.

The DCANG's presence has, on at least two occasions, prevented serious bodily harm to neighborhood individuals, according to Staff Sgt. Joe Spencer, an aerospace ground equipment mechanic for Detachment One, DCANG. In one case, Lite-all team members administered first aid to and called an ambulance for a cocaine overdose victim who had collapsed in front of a Lite-all machine. "Their quick reactions probably saved her life," Spencer said. "We see a lot of domestic disputes during these missions," he said.

"We can't stop the drug trade completely," Spencer said, "but we slow them down a little bit." Holt said he wished more Lite-all machines could be used. His hope is to have at least two machines out on missions at the same time.

Ultimately, what Holt would like to see is a project he calls "Operation Surprise Blessing," which would involve manning 81 drug markets for 90 days with Lite-all machines. "That would wipe the dealers out," he said. "They would have to either deal in their homes or go out to Maryland and Virginia and stay there."

Shorttakes

Board makes several uniform changes

The latest uniform board has ruled that:

- * Flight clothing may now be worn off-base for short visits to convenience stops and fast food restaurants, but not for extended shopping, dining or other social events. They may not be worn where alcohol is the main bill of fare.

- * For men, it's now okay to wear satin-finished and chrome studs, cufflinks and badges with the mess dress uniform. They may not be mixed.

- * For women, plain, black patent leather or high-gloss purses with fold-over flaps are authorized as long as they are no bigger than 13 inches by 9 inches by 4 1/2 inches.

- * Black or brown turtleneck T-shirts may now be worn with fatigues. White T-shirts or thermals may be worn — but they may not show.

For further reference Air Force Regulation 35-10 has more information on the changes.

Servicemen's Group Life Insurance amounts, premiums can be changed

People who don't want the new \$100,000 Servicemen's Group Life Insurance or SGLI, coverage, or want to cut back on the amount of coverage may do so through the personnel office.

The Persian Gulf Conflict Supplemental Authorization Act of 1991 increased SGLI coverage to \$100,000 last April. It was done to automatically provide \$100,000 of SGLI to beneficiaries of eligible members who might die before having a chance to sign up for the new increase.

The change also applies to reservists eligible for full or part-time coverage. Premium rates remain at 8 cents per \$1,000. Reduced coverage and premiums start the first day of month after change is requested. No action is required of anyone wanting to keep the full \$100,000 coverage.

Report says agent orange not the villain once thought

Air Force says Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange show no evidence of a link between the herbicide and its dioxin contaminant, and cancer or liver, heart or kidney diseases, immune system disorders, psychological abnormalities or nervous system disease. It does show an association between dioxin and diabetes.

For more information contact Air Force Surgeon General, Bolling AFB, D.C. 20332-6188.

Tuition assistance open to all military members soon

All U.S. military members are eligible for college education tuition assistance starting Oct. 1. Before, people having Vietnam-era G.I. Bill benefits couldn't use tuition assistance, which covers 75 percent of course costs. People using Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits pay the full cost of a class and are reimbursed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

More information is available at the base or post education offices.

Certain rules apply for "Yellow Ribbon Summer" family entertainment parks

Anheuser-Busch has joined the USO to salute members of the Armed Forces and their families with Yellow Ribbon Summer (YRS), a special invitation for a free visit to one of the company's seven family entertainment parks between May 18, and Labor Day, September 2, 1991.

Participating Theme Parks are the four Sea World parks in San Diego, Calif., San Antonio, Texas, Orlando, Fla., and Aurora, Ohio, near Cleveland; Busch Gardens parks in Williamsburg, Va., and Tampa, Fla., and Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven, Fla.

All active-duty military, active Reservist, National Guard and their ID-card-holding family members, as well as their children ages 9 and under, are eligible for admission. This includes military who may be on annual leave from overseas duty stations or who are enroute during permanent change of station moves.

Adult family members whose spouses are deployed during the YRS offer are eligible and do not need to be accompanied by the military sponsor if they present a military ID.

Each member of the visiting family should present a valid military ID card at regular, or designated ticket windows at some parks, for free admission. (Children 9 and under must be accompanied by an ID-card-holding adult to obtain admission.)

Inactive Reserves who were called to duty during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm but do not hold military ID cards (or active duty who have lost the ID), may present their DD Form 214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty" together with a current photo ID to gain admission for themselves and their families.

Discounted tickets for non-dependent family members or guests are available for purchase at Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) ticket offices near the parks.

Guard and Reservist's families get medical care beyond active duty

Guard members activated for Operation Desert Storm and their families may use military health care benefits for up to 30 days after release from active duty or until their employer-sponsored health-care plan resumes, whichever is first. Normal procedures apply for filing claims with CHAMPUS during the 30-day transition period.

This action is authorized by the Persian Gulf Conflict Supplemental Authorization and Personnel Benefits Act of 1991.

Legislature seems favorable to Guard

Early indications are that the legislature is looking favorably toward restoring end strength and force structure of the Guard to near FY 91 levels.

And, early actions of the House point to a possible 4.1 percent pay increase for the 92-93 fiscal year.

The reader is advised, however, that the legislative budget process normally takes several months, usually up through September.

At the time of "On Guard" publication, only the House provided figures, while the Senate was expected to provide preliminary numbers around mid-July.

Final enactment of the budget requires agreement of both Houses and the President.

The budget process actually began in the fall when various entities within the Pentagon compiled budgetary needs and provided those needs to the Secretary of Defense, who then provided a consolidated Pentagon budget request to the President.

In February, the President delivered his entire federal budget to the legislature.

The House and Senate are now engaged in months of committee and sub-committee hearings, and research. Eventually, two separate pieces of legislation will come from the Congress—an appropriation bill and an authorization bill.

The appropriation bill will stipulate how much money the Pentagon has available, while the authorization bill will stipulate how much money the Pentagon is allowed to spend. The two aren't necessarily the same amount.

Here are a few of the preliminary recommendations that came out of the House of Representatives:

- * The Secretary of the Army is to modernize the two Field Artillery Brigades that deployed to Operation Desert Storm with Multiple-Launch

Rocket Systems (MLRS) as they become available from Active Army drawdowns.

- * Repeal the requirement calling for five percent of Active Guard and Reserves (AGRs) to be replaced with Active Component soldiers.

- * Authorize the governors of Virgin Islands and Guam to appoint adjutants general.

- * Require a baccalaureate degree for promotion to the grade of captain.

- * Require the assignment of 1,015 Active Component officers to Army National Guard combat units as inspectors, instructors, or active duty advisors starting in FY 92.

- * Freeze Reserve Component force structure to the April 15, 1991 level of approximately 471,000 for Army Guard, and 118,100 for the Air Guard.

- * Retain eight full divisions and modernize their Tables of Organization and Equipment (TO&E) so they are fully compatible with Active Components using equipment displaced from the Active Components.

- * Although the Air Guard had requested nothing in 92-93 budget for equipment, the House Appropriations Committee recommended \$406 million for equipment to include two C-130H Aircraft, six C-26 Aircraft, and a number of aircraft upgrades. The House Armed Services Committee recommended \$235 million for equipment.

Elsewhere in its summary report, the House Appropriations Committee recognized the Guard and Reserves as essential components of the "Total Force", and said many believe the overwhelming public support of the Gulf War was due in part to the early involvement of Reserve Component soldiers and airmen.

155th Reconnaissance Group receives citation

LINCOLN—Several members of the 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Nebraska Air National Guard, have received special citations recently.

Staff Sergeant Jeffrey D. Marshall of Avoca and Staff Sergeant John J. Severson of Lincoln were presented the TAC Crew Chief Safety Award in May, presented by Headquarters of the Air Force Inspection and Safety Center in Washington, D.C. According to the citation, the two members of the 155th's Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were honored for, "the quick and well-coordinated actions of these individuals may have prevented serious injury and assuredly prevented the destruction of a valuable combat aircraft under very stressful conditions."

The incident occurred in late June of 1990 while both sergeants were

(See Award) ... page 16

Months of Task Force 354 work end in Panamanian ceremony

by Capt. Phil Blahut
Associate Editor

NOMBRE DE DIOS, Panama - On June 4th, amidst a hot and humid tropical setting stood a crowd of villagers, school children, dignitaries of Panama, the United States Southern Command, and National Guardsmen witnessing a historic ceremony marking the end of Task Force 354, of Fuertes Caminos '91-Panama.

At this same site, 500 years earlier, Christopher Columbus had landed on his fourth and last journey. This time, a different group of travelers called citizen-soldiers or Guardsmen who made up Task Force 354, arrived and have since left this area with 14 miles of new road, three new bridges, playgrounds, repaired bridges, schools and a community center along Panama's Caribbean coastline. There were Guard medical and dental teams who treated over 9,000 Panamanian villagers during their annual training all adding to the task force success.

National Guard and Reserve forces are often deployed in exercises like Fuertes Caminos '91-Panama (meaning "strong roads") because most of the U.S. Army's engineering assets are in the Guard and Reserve forces. In addition, it provides these units with meaningful and realistic training while simultaneously aiding a "Promote Liberty" effort in countries such as Panama. For example, local food was purchased by the National Guard and Army, as well as lumber, sand, gravel and other building materials.

Guard engineers have built roads in Ecuador, Panama, Honduras, Belize and have assisted in the remodeling of schools, medical clinics and community centers throughout Central and South America.

Guardsmen who support such engineering exercises leave their civilian jobs which are often related to their (See Task Force 354) ...page 15



ABOVE: Engineers from Missouri begin offloading bulldozers from an Army LCU 2000. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Patton) UPPER LEFT: Specialist sandblasts rust from steel cables of suspension bridge at Nombre de Dios. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Patton) LOWER LEFT: Spc. Richard Sentell, Missouri, plunges into river to clear stopped up intake pipe. BELOW: Panama's Caribbean coastline offers a scenic view for Alabama's 151st Combat Engineers. (Photo by Sgt. Ed Rollins, Maryland Army National Guard)



(Information and photos for this story are from the Theater Support Element, (TSE), SOUTHCOM Public Affairs, Panama. TSE trains Guard and Reserve public affairs detachments documenting National Guard and Reserve units at work in Central and South America.)

ABOVE: SPC James Trent, Company C, 110th Engineer Battalion, Missouri, (left) takes refuge from a rain shower along with Nombre de Dios resident Ulysses Rodriguez. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Brown, Florida Army National Guard)

BELOW: Missouri nurse, 1st Lt. Janna S. Haston listens to the heart of a Cuna Indian boy. (Photo by Sgt. Ed Rollins, Maryland Army National Guard)



Death, filth were reality at Kurdish camp



Resupply to mountain refugee camp

Photos and story by
Master Sgt. Frank Jordan
Maine Army National Guard

ZAKHU, Northern Iraq - My body felt stiff and sore as I crawled out of my sleeping bag. I had slept on a hard bumpy surface. I pulled on my BDUs, and shook out my combat boots to make sure no creepy things were inside.

For a moment I thought how I took a simple thing like a shower for granted.

I ran my hand across my cheek, the whiskers were back, reminding me of my daily chore of cold water shaving. I filled my canteen cup, grabbed my shaving kit from my ruck sack and stepped out of my tent into the cool crisp air to start a new day.

The sun was already bright, signaling a very hot day ahead. It was strange for me to see new grass dotted with bright red poppies and tall green trees. (Something like our western pines and cedar.) In the distance, I could see the mountains that circle the floor of the valley.

Their jagged peaks poked up into fluffy white clouds. Not at all like the flat, hot and sandy desert that I had left behind in Saudi. I boarded an Army "Blackhawk" helicopter to fly into the mountains where Kurdish refugees were. I was apprehensive.

We had been told many disturbing things during the briefings. An Army doctor said, "one day at a time." Was he right?

As we flew into the mountains, I noticed a couple of tents flying the Iraqi flag. More of Saddam Hussein's soldiers.

The first camp we visited that day was a sight I will never forget. There were about 8,000 refugees camped in a small valley. As we descended, I saw tents of every color made of blankets, plastic coverings and cardboard.

I climbed out of the helicopter. The smell of human excrement and wood smoke from camp fires jolted me into reality.

As I started down the side of the mountain toward the camps I could hear voices rising up from below. It was eerie-like the sound track from a scene from a Stephen King movie.

MRE (Meals-Ready-to-Eat)

packages were strewn about. Loud and excited voices of many different cultures seemed to blend together. Soldiers call the place "Woodstock." Tents of every conceivable type were pitched side by side. Camp fires were everywhere.

Small cooking kettles were boiling rice, beans, and other food that had been airlifted to the site the day before. Clothes that had just been washed were hung out to dry in the hot sun in the nearby tree branches.

Babies were crying. Some were real sick lying on blankets inside the tents.

Their wimpers and sobs could be barely heard above the noise. One look at the sick said death was nearby.

My heart ached and the feelings of anger and frustration roared through me like a roller coaster. Up one minute and then down, before you knew what had happened.

At this point, I remembered the briefing prior to coming to this camp. We were told you can not fix all that you are going to see.

Along the path to the camp site many small creeks filled with water from the melting snow flow into a larger creek. This is where the refugees get their water to drink and to wash clothes.

One small creek reeks from the smell of human excrement which is everywhere. At the larger creek, the refugees have set up more latrines in the water by partitioning them off with blankets, so the excrement would drop into the water.

Nearby, there were small children scooping water with their hands to get a drink.

Adults filled buckets with this same water for drinking and cooking. Women were washing clothes in this same water.

Inside the camp, you could here coughing and sneezing. These refugees are sick from the trip to the mountains when they fled their homes.

They had endured the cold and the snow. Now the hot weather is setting in. The camp is full of people with pneumonia, diarrhea and dehydration.

Children are dying from this. Many are too sick to drink fresh water that has been airlifted in.

One Kurd, a man of 20,

approached me and speaking excellent English, said, "Please sergeant," he said. He took my hand and led me to his tent. I signaled one of the Army medics to follow me. He had been working in the camp for a few days.

No words were spoken between us as we followed the young Kurd to his tent.

Upon entering the tent the smell of death was strong, like a whiff of ammonia.

She looked about 16 years old, very thin, and her eyes were sunken. There were visible signs of diarrhea.

The medic talks to the young man. He checks the color of the diarrhea and writes in his notebook. It is important for the doctors to know. The medic speaks to the camp leaders. The girl has to be buried immediately.

I sat down, emotionally drained. "Welcome to the real world Sarge. Let's go. I have more tents to check," said the medic.

As the medic and I moved through the tents, the refugees smiled at us. One father approached us and with broken English spoke in frustration about the problem of poisonous snakes and scorpions that were now appearing around the campsites.

His 12-year-old son had apparently been bitten a few hours ago. The youths foot was swollen. He was sweating and feverish. The medic told me we had nothing for him in antibiotics. Right now the priority for the camp was food, water and baby diapers.



Kurdish refugees

Medicine should be arriving in a couple days.

"What the hell are we going to do. Can't we medi-vac him out," I asked.

He answered, "If he sweats it out, he lives. There's nothing we can do. As for a medi-vac, there is a little girl that will go first. The helicopter is full.

We move on.

A Kurdish woman speaking English said, "Sergeant, you are new

here." I noticed her hair was combed she was wearing lipstick, which is really rare here. She showed me a picture of a man.

"My husband," she said, "I do not know where he is. Have you seen him.

"She looked into my eyes. I shook my head and said no. "If you see him, tell him I am here," she said.

I continued on with the medic. As we moved along the ridge, family after family was preparing their meals. Women cooking in the most primitive way.

The men are separate from the women, sitting in a circle. One woman is making bread. The oven is rocks piled up in a dome shape.

She sees us coming toward her and offers us a roll of bread. I smiled back and had to say no.

Some of the children are orphans. You can spot them easily. You see them by themselves or in pairs picking through the piles of empty MREs looking for food that may be left over.

These children get a lot of attention from the 10th Special Forces soldiers whose rank have been filled with National Guardsmen from Maryland, Florida and Alabama.

They make sure that the kids are fed and looked after by the Kurds.

The sound of a C-130 aircraft overhead sends children and adults racing to the drop zone as tons of food and water slowly drift to the ground suspended chutes.

Men and young children scream with delight as pallets of food and water hit the ground. They all pitch in folding the parachutes, and lugging the boxes of food and water to campsites.

It seems strange. Today, after the airlift, the refugees seem hopeful. Food and water has again arrived. Military medics and doctors are working around the clock to save them.

Weeks ago they fled their homes to the mountains in fear. Once in the mountains they stopped running from Iraqi troops and simply waited here to die. Now there is hope.

The 10th Special Forces have used their expertise already to devise systems for cleaner water. They have fed the refugees as well as provided medical support. They are here holding dying babies in their arms.

I am full of pride because of these soldiers, your sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and the kid next door who joined the military.

Jessica's poems touch Powell, President

Everlasting Peace

*On August second, nineteen-hundred and ninety,
A man, not God, thought he was almighty.-
He took everything a country had.
When the world said, "No," it made him mad.
Now our sisters, brothers, mothers, and fathers,
Fight along side our sons and daughters.
They fight today for everlasting peace.
Praying that war will forever cease.
My greatest hope for the children of our land,
Is to never again fight over a line drawn in the sand.*

CHEYENNE, Wyo.—A phone call and a national poetry recitation from Gen. Colin Powell have acknowledged a 12-year-old girl's private tribute to her Wyoming Army National Guard father stationed in the Persian Gulf.

After Jessica Messick's father, Kenneth Messick, a pilot in the 1022nd Medical Company, was activated in late November 1990, the sixth-grader began to write poems and draw illustrations about her feelings. The compilation, called "A Daughter's View of the Persian Gulf War," was mailed to President George Bush, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, Gen. Powell and Wyoming Gov. Mike Sullivan.

Jessica explained she wrote the poetry to show "how proud I was of my dad."

Although some of her work had been published in a monthly family support newsletter for the unit, the poetry received nation-wide recognition on April 17. During a national celebrity tribute to the troops broadcast by C-SPAN, Powell mentioned Jessica and read her poems in his speech.

As Gov. Sullivan watched the television show, he called Maj. Gen. Charles J. Wing, Wyoming adjutant general, about the broadcast. In turn, Wing called Jessica's mother, Tracey.

"My mom went downstairs and turned on C-SPAN to see if they just might rerun it," Jessica remembered.

The following day, a Powell aide called the Messick residence in Cheyenne, Wyo., to explain the general had read the book several times.

"The aide said he (Powell) just loves it and shows it to everyone," Mrs. Messick said. The aide wanted permission for the general to give away copies.

But mother and daughter were in for a bigger shock.

At 4 p.m. the telephone rang, and a woman asked Mrs. Messick, "Will you hold for a call from Gen. Colin Powell?" She recalled, "I fell on the floor."

Jessica was at volleyball practice however, so she missed the call. Nevertheless, her reaction was one of surprise and disbelief. Powell asked when Jessica would return home.

"I looked at her, and I said, What?," Jessica said. "Mom said Colin Powell was going to call, and I looked at her and said, Errrrrr, wonderful!"

Later that evening, Powell called a second time. With modesty, Jessica recalled the general was busy "so he didn't have much to say, but he said, Thank you for sending me your poems, and there were a lot of people crying in the audience, during the broadcast."

Powell also wanted to speak to Jessica's father, not realizing the Vietnam veteran was still serving in the Gulf. (He returned to Cheyenne on May 20.)

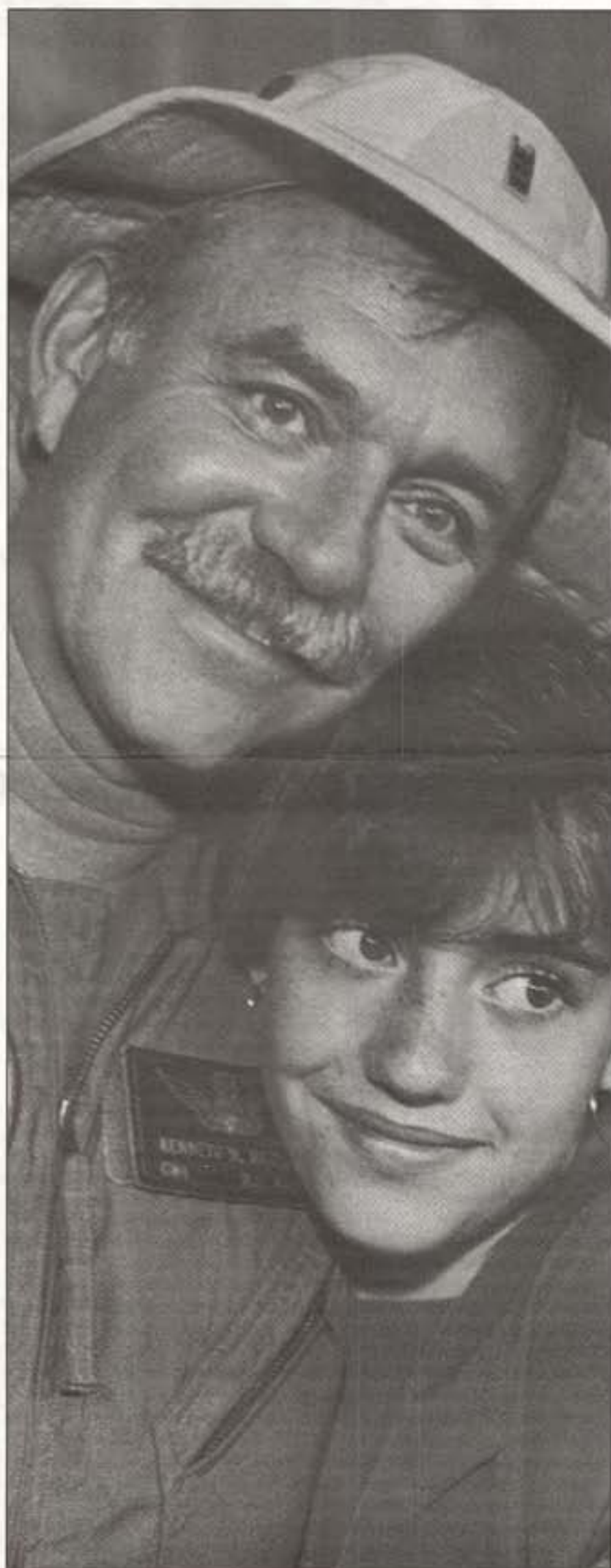
In addition to the phone call, Powell also wrote Jessica a letter of praise. President Bush accompanied his letter with an engraved presidential seal pin.

Bush wrote: "My friend Dick Cheney gave me a copy of the book you wrote about the Gulf War. I appreciate the poems about me, and I especially love the letter to your dad."

In late April, Jessica was able to tell her father in Saudi Arabia about all her recognition because of her poems for him.

Not believing his daughter had spoken with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Messick asked incredulously over the long-distance lines; "WHO called?"

Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Messick, a pilot with the Wyoming Army National Guard's 1022nd Medical Company, greets his daughter Jessica at the unit's homecoming where Jessica surprised her father by reading one of her poems to conclude the ceremony. While her dad was stationed in the Persian Gulf, Jessica, 12, wrote a book of poems that so moved Gen. Colin Powell that he used her poetry in a nationally televised tribute to the troops. (197th Public Affairs Detachment photo by Master Sgt. Paul Crips)





170th of Kansas faces miles of equipment

by Master Sgt. Frank Jordan
Maine Army National Guard

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia - U.S. military equipment is lined up for miles outside this sprawling city. The port of Dammam is bordered by light green and blue waters of the Persian Gulf.

Tracked and wheeled vehicles line up row after row, awaiting cleaning before shipment back to the U.S. This is accomplished by using wash racks and steam cleaning equipment. Once cleaned, the equipment must pass a United States

Department of Agriculture inspection by Customs officials.

Sgt. Dana Branstetter is working inside an M-1 tank. By the motions of this soldier, the heat doesn't seem to

exist. But it is 100 degrees outside. Dust from the desert sand blows constantly, covering the soldiers and their equipment.

The beautiful blue and green water of the Persian Gulf is always in view.

"There are

times when you just want run across the desert sand and plunge into the water to cool off. But that's impossible," said Spc. Kris Keberlain.

The 170th Maintenance Company, Kansas Army National Guard has been here working 24-hours a day, two shifts, since Feb. 27th. "It is a never ending battle," says Chief Warrant Officer Harold Linville of Hays, Kan.

"To date, for example, we have pulled the power packs on 344 M-1s, and steam-cleaned the entire tank. It takes four soldiers ten hours to do one tank. There are 374 Bradleys and 100 Iraqi tanks waiting for a scrub down," continued Linville.

"Every day takes 25 of my soldiers to repair the old run-down buses donated by the Saudis for troop transport."

Another 39 soldiers from the 170th work at the wash racks each day, washing trucks and all sorts of equipment.

Photos above: Left: Sgt. Dana Branstetter Center: Spc. Kris Keberlain Right: Sgt. Terri Fyre

The Guardsmen from Hays, Kan. work steadily in the sweltering heat. Their tee-shirts are wet from sweat. Huge white perspiration stains are visible around the sides of their BDU hats.

It's been hard keeping soldiers motivated when everybody else is turning in their equipment to be cleaned. Once we do a unit, they rotate home and then another unit comes in. It never stops," said Linville.

"If I could just tell my soldiers a rotation date, it would help. It would be something to look forward too," he said.

Editors note: The 107th Maintenance Company returned to the U.S. June 18.



Linville

Seen any good World War Two movies lately?

You don't have to pick up a book to pick up a little history. Some of the following movies are better than others, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. Check your local video store or Late Show listings and you'll find more.

From Here to Eternity. Set at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in 1941, this is not only one of the best American movies ever made, it is also one of the best movies ever made about the U.S. Army. Stars Burt Lancaster and Frank Sinatra, won a bunch of Academy Awards, and the attack on Pearl Harbor scene is wonderful.

Tora! Tora! Tora! A joint U.S. - Japanese production about the Pearl Harbor attack. Not a great movie, but historically accurate.

In Harm's Way. John Wayne plays a rough, tough admiral in this long Navy epic, which begins with Pearl Harbor and details the beginnings of the war in the Pacific.

They Were Expendable. The great director John Ford's tribute to the U.S. forces who held out in the Philippines in early 1942 against hopeless odds. John Wayne is in this one, too, and the last scene will choke you up.

by Renee Hilton-Greene
National Guard Bureau
Historical Services Branch

December 7, 1991, the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, will begin the Department of Defense's commemoration of key events of World War II. President Bush is expected to attend ceremonies in Hawaii memorializing the 2,500 Americans who died in the attack.

The National Guard began its 50th anniversary celebrations last year. At the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the entire National Guard was already on active federal service. September 1990 marked the 50th anniversary of the beginning of that mobilization, and a special ceremony was held at the Pentagon to honor the more than 225,000 Guardsmen who began their World War II service before we were officially at war.

The plan to commemorate

"events of national significance" (see box) will also involve the National Guard. The 36th Infantry Division (Texas) participated in the assault landings at Salerno, Italy in 1943, and the 29th Infantry Division (Virginia, Maryland, and DC) landed at Normandy, France, in June 1944. The role of the U.S. Army in the Pacific theatre will be commemorated on the anniversary of the assault landings at Lingayen Gulf on the main Philippine island of Luzon, in which the 37th (Ohio), 40th (California, Nevada, Utah), and 43d (Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island) Infantry Divisions took part.

States are being encouraged by NGB to plan their own events to commemorate their states services in World War II.

This is an excellent opportunity for today's Guardsmen to learn about the distinguished record which their predecessors achieved in the largest war in history.

Celebration set for December 7th as part of WWII 50th anniversary

June 2-8, 1991
"Week for the National Observance of the 50th Anniversary of World War II"
December 7, 1991
Pearl Harbor
May 4-8, 1992
Battle of the Coral Sea (Navy)
January 1992 - December 1995
The Homefront and Industrial Mobilization
June 6, 1992
Battle of Midway (Navy)
March 20, 1993
Battle for the Atlantic Ends (Navy)
September 9, 1993
Salerno
June 6, 1994
Normandy
January 9, 1995
Luzon
May 8, 1995
V-E (Victory in Europe) Day
September 2, 1995
V-J (Victory over Japan) Day

Virgin Islanders turn out for Armed Forces Day

by Capt. Edward Richards
Virgin Islands National Guard

A Virgin Islands Army National Guard helicopter hovers over the turquoise-blue waters of the Caribbean Sea. Suddenly, a Billy-Pugh rescue net is thrown out of the aircraft to rescue what appears to be a panic-stricken fisherman.

Before a crowd of more than 300 spectators, the UH-1H chopper successfully rescues the victim and flies off in an easterly direction at a steady speed of 45 knots. The crowd cheers and applauds.

The above drama was only a demonstration, but it highlighted an afternoon full of activities as the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING) recognized Armed Forces Day, tropical style on May 18.

The activities were held simultaneously on both St. Thomas and St. Croix to pay tribute to our nation's Armed Forces, especially those who served in the Persian Gulf. Guest speakers from local American Legions and Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts were on hand for the opening ceremonies.

The activities, which were dedicated to those veterans who served and are now serving in our nation's armed forces, were met with enthusiastic support from the community.

"It gives me great pleasure to see the Guard recognize Armed Forces Day," said Mr. Samuel Bough, a representative from the territory's Delegate to Congress office and Senior Vice Departmental Commander for the VFW of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. "In the past, we in the territory have forgotten the contributions of our military to our nation's defense and to our community."

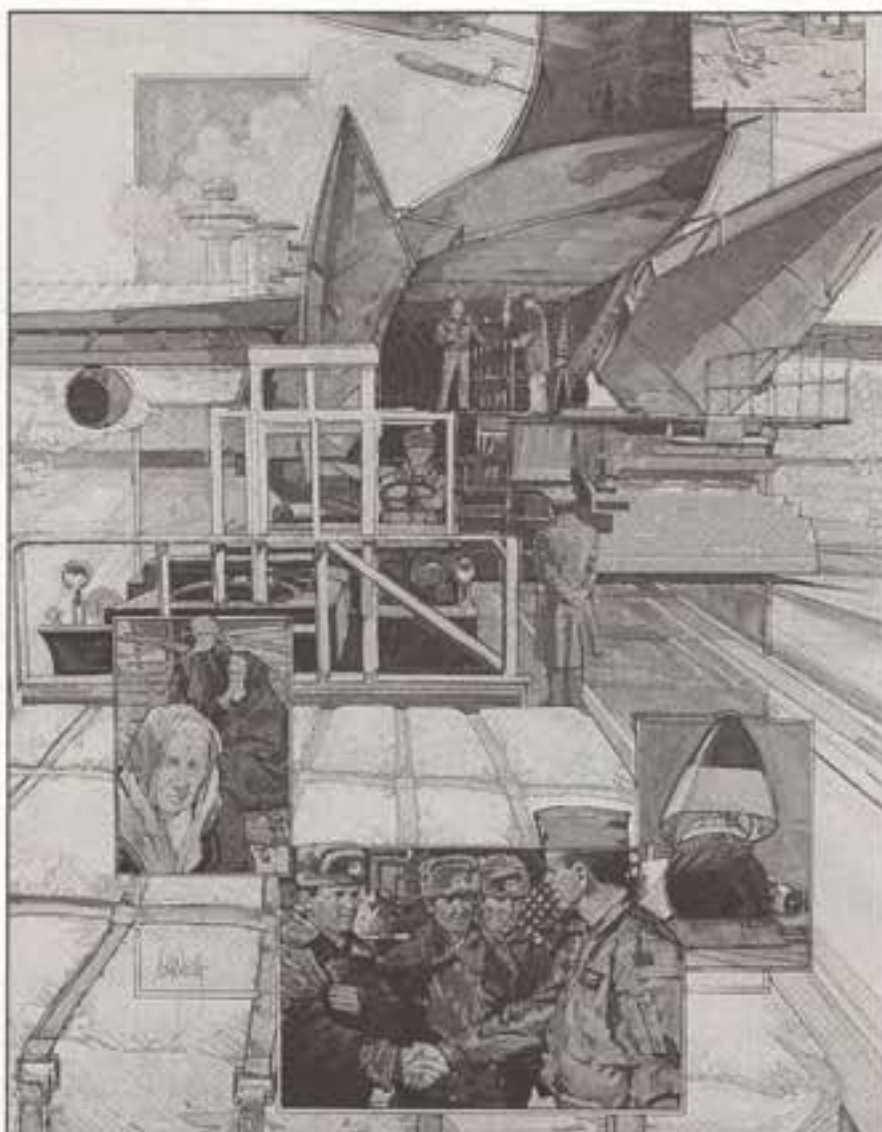
"As a former servicemember, I hope that today's activities will not be forgotten but instead raise the community's awareness of our Armed Forces contributions," Bough said.

Besides the opening ceremonies, VING Air and Army units demonstrated their communication capabilities between the territory and Montgomery, Ala., as well as provided free blood pressure screening to the public. Water purification units also displayed their urdulators and other equipment which could be used to support the territory's water needs during natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Throughout the day, guardmembers and the public were entertained by local and military bands. The activities concluded with the community joining the guardmembers in an organized "fun run" through the city streets while singing cadence.

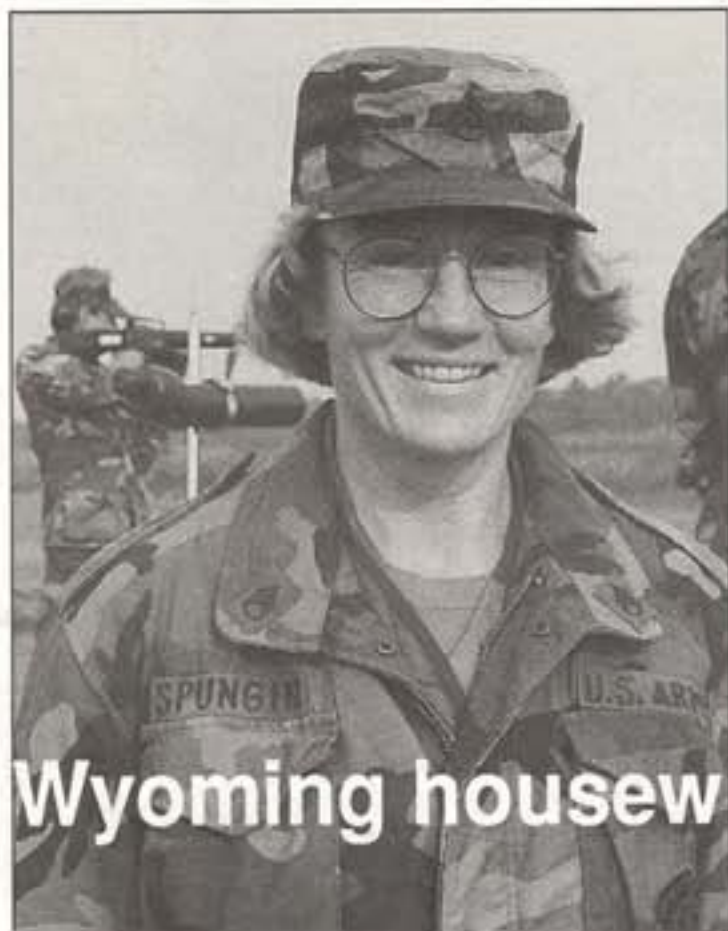


A Virgin Islands National Guard helicopter demonstrates an Air-Sea rescue off the shore of St. Croix, Virgin Islands during recent Armed Forces Day celebration.



State mission posters now available through your state Public Affairs Office





Wyoming housewife owns Army M-16 record

by 1st Lt. Bridget K. Taylor
Photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Green
Marksmanship Training Center

FORT BENNING, Ga.— Army National Guard shooters from across the nation made a clean sweep of awards during the annual U.S. Army Small Arms Championships held here, May 11-22.

National Guard shooters fired their way into five out of twelve possible aggregate championships in the final competition against the best shooters of the Army National Guard, the Active Army and the U.S. Army Reserves.

Staff Sgt. Beverly J. Spungin, a housewife and mother of two children, outshot 144 individuals for the M-16 Combat Rifle Individual Championship.

Spungin achieved a score of 717 points (including 46 X-rings), out of a possible 750 points, setting a new All Army record for the M-16 Combat Rifle. The previous record, set two years ago, was 712 points.

The precision Combat Rifle Individual Championship is an aggregate of six different matches ranging from 100 yards to 400 yards in distance fired.

The weapon is fired in the sitting, prone, and standing positions. Last year's winner, Staff Sgt. David J. Kerin, of Pennsylvania National Guard, had a score of 707 points (including 53 X-rings).

The 12-year veteran of the National Guard is a member of the Wyoming Military Academy, where she is a 91B, Medical Instructor.

With a score of 2,223 (with 56 x-ring hits), the Wyoming National Guard combat rifle team beat out 14 other teams, placing third in the grand aggregate competition. First and second place wins went to regular army teams.



South Dakota's Light Machine Gun Team wins 1st place in the Team Grand Aggregate at the All-Army matches.



Vermont's National Guard Combat Pistol Team takes a break after their 2-mile run.

The team members were, including Spungin: Team Captain and Coach, Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Kack, of the Wyoming Military Academy in Guernsey; Chief Warrant Officer Thomas King of the 960th Maintenance Company in Torrington; 1st Sgt. Dennis West of Headquarters, STARC in Cheyenne; Staff Sgt. Mark Spungin of the 475th Medical Detachment in Guernsey; Spec. Keith Spencer of the 113th Engineer Company (-) in Laramie; and Pvt. 1st Class David Hartings, a member of the 349th Air Traffic Controller Detachment in Cheyenne.

The Guard proved to be the experts when it came to light machine gun, M-40 shooting, taking home first, second and third place in both the team and individual aggregate championships.

The S.D. machine gun team placed first in the M-40 Light Machine Gun Team Championships with a score of 2332, just 90 points ahead of the team from Utah Army National Guard. A Miss. team placed third, allowing a clean sweep for the Army National Guard, in a competition against 11 other teams.

Members of the winning team were Staff Sgt. Jerry M. Seiser, Team Captain, and Spec. Patrick J. Soukup, both members of the 54th Engineer Company in Wagner; Staff Sgt. Otto T. Foush and Spec. Gary L. Kalka, both members of HHD 137th Engineer Battalion in Wagner.

The Utah M-40 shooters included: Staff Sgt. Neil R. Muller, a full-time guardman from Payette; Staff Sgt. Alvin R. Lund, a lieutenant from Ephraim; Sgt. Richard D. Olson, an employee of Landolt Astro Circuits in Logan; and Sgt. Dale J. Sellers, an employee of the Department of Transportation from Hanksville. All are members of Battery B 1/40 Field Artillery in Manti.

Muller continued his first place wins from this past Wagon P. Wilson match, by placing first in Match 125, M-40 Grand Aggregate with a score 1593.

Also from Utah, Olson, a shooter with only a one year of M-40 competition experience, placed third in the grand aggregate. Making up the third place Miss. team were: Staff Sgt. Richard E. Reilly, from Pontotoc; Staff Sgt. Arthur C. Fishery, from Sherman; Staff Sgt. Jerry S. Parrish, from Thaxton and Spec. Randy L. Jones, from Belden. All are members of Detachment 1, Troop C, 1/108th Armored Cavalry in Pontotoc, Miss.

Fishery, an 8 year veteran of M-40 competitions, placed second in the grand aggregate.

It was an encore performance from 1990 for the members of the 186th Forward Support Battalion, VI Army National Guard, in the Combat Pistol arena. The team surpassed 13 other teams for the Grand Aggregate award.

Vermont's Combat Pistol team members were: Staff Sgt. Lawrence T. Grace (team captain), Headquarters Company, 186th Forward Support Battalion, in Northfield; Sgt. David W. Treash, and Sgt. Gerald W. Gallison, Jr., both members of Company B (-) (Maintenance), 186th Forward Support Battalion in Winouak; Sgt. Larry E. Russell and Staff Sgt. Richard G. Oakley (team coach) of Company C (Medical), 186th Forward Support Battalion, in Colchester.

Gallison, from Essex Junction, Vt., placed first in the Combat Pistol Grand Aggregate, Open division, with a score of 2645. He is a full-time, seven year veteran of the National Guard.

Combat pistol shooters from N.D. earned second place in the Team Grand Aggregate. The team members are assigned to Headquarters, State Area Command in Bismarck and include Sgt. Russell L. Olson, team captain; Capt. Fred R. Parks, III, team coach; Capt. Robert G. Kilber, Capt. Kevin D. Wolf, Staff Sgt. Sam E. May, and Sgt. Michael P. French.

Two Mass. Guardmen, from Headquarters, STARC, earned a major team and took second place in the grand aggregate competition. Staff Sgt. Kevin Dupont and Sgt. Donald Fosse competed against 23 other teams in what is considered to be a new competitive discipline. To be eligible to compete in the sniper match, competitors must be in an authorized sniper role in their home unit.

Sgt. John Linder of the 880th Engineer Battalion at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. and Staff Sgt. Dan Parker of the 1107th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot in Springfield (Mo. National Guard) placed third in the Sniper Aggregate. 1st place went to a team from the U.S. Army.

National Guardmen took home first and second place wins in match #540, the National Match Team Match. The team consisting of the best M-14 guard shooters from Dela., Pa., Vt., and N.Y. placed first, with a score of 2886, just two points ahead of another National Guard team from the 5th Army Area. A U.S. Army Reserve team from the 1st Army Area placed third.

Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Skodow, of STARC in Wilmington,

Dela. coached the winning team. Other members included, Maj. Jon Howell, Sgt. 1st Class George Meyer and Sgt. Michael Jamison (team coach), all members of the unit in Wilmington. Pennsylvania National Guard members included Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Hoffer of STARC, Pa. NG, in Fort Indiantown Gap, and Sgt. Toni Karin of Detachment 1, Company C, 28th Signal Battalion in Blairsville, Pa.

Sgt. 1st Class Kay Anderson, a novice shooter from Headquarters Company, 254th Aviation Battalion in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and Sgt. Peter Viss, also a novice shooter from Company B, Maintenance of the 186th Forward Support Battalion in Winouak, VI, completed the tripartite team.

The team representing the 5th Army Area included: 1st Lt. Curtis Robinson, team captain, and Capt. Jerry Jones, 2nd Lt. Michael Johnson, all members of the 45th Support Center in Oklahoma City, Okla.; Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Thompson, of Detachment 3, Headquarters, STARC in Briggs, Okla.; Sgt. Bruce Halderson, a member of 245th Medical Company in Midwest City, Okla.; Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Harter, of Company B, 1/195th Armor in Lexington, Neb.; Sgt. Kevin Troutman, HHD 245th Transportation Battalion in Ardmore, Okla.; and Staff Sgt. Bryan Clark of Company C, 113th Engineer Battalion in Salem, Mo.

National Match Pistol shooters from the 2nd Army Area did not want to be outdone by their fellow guardmen. The team led by Sgt. John Poe, of Detachment 1, Headquarters, STARC in Columbia, S.C., placed first in match #443, 45 Caliber Service Team Match.

Other team members were: Staff Sgt. Patrick G. Powell, of Headquarters, STARC in Nashville, Tenn.; Sgt. Edward Boney from the 118th Field Artillery Brigade in Savannah, Ga.; Staff Sgt. John A. Brickley of Battery A, 4/113th Field Artillery in High Point, N.C.; Master Sgt. Paul E. Burson of HHD 194th Engineer Brigade in Nashville; Sgt. Timothy W. Hanson and Sgt. Addison L. Ott, both members of Detachment 1, Headquarters, STARC in Columbia, S.C.

Shooters from across the nation, including the service members participated in the U.S. Army Small Arms Championships. Participation in competitions, is designed to improve individual proficiency with small arms, and at the same time, improve overall combat readiness.

Task Force 354 (continued from page 8)

military ones, to train, work and support "nation building" projects such as Puentes Caminos.

Task Force 354, one of two participating in Puentes Caminos 91-Panama, involved over 4,800 Army National Guard engineers from Missouri and Alabama, and 200 Air National Guard Prime BEEF (Base Emergency Engineer Force) from seven states. They all worked closely through National Guard interpreters and the Panamanian Ministry of Transportation as a team.

For some Guard soldiers and airmen, it was an experience of a lifetime. For some it was unique and exceptional training. For the most, it will be a long lasting memory.

"Not only have we opened the door to a better tomorrow for a lot of people, our people, our soldiers will benefit from more challenging, comprehensive annual training than they dreamed possible," said Col. Clyde Vaughn, a Missouri Army National Guardsman and commander of Task Force 354.

With additional projects that it accepted, the task force accomplished well over 100 percent of their original mission — a significant achievement, Vaughn noted.

Today, in an area now rich only in history, Army and Air National Guard engineers can be proud of their handiwork especially the 14-mile main road building project. It stood the acid test.

Despite a pounding from 32 inches of rain during the first week of an early rainy season, the road from Nombre de Dios to Ciuango survived with comparatively minor flood damage.

Hard charging engineers put Task Force 354 enough ahead of the power curve to absorb the setback, make repairs, complete remaining work and deliver the project.

The road was built to the standards of a U.S. highway, except that it is not covered with concrete or asphalt. The gravel surface and clay base are designed to provide rapid drainage during the eight-month rainy season in which 160 inches of rain falls. This necessitated elevating the road up to 15 feet and making hill cuts up to 50 feet to reduce steep grades.

Three precast concrete bridges and 44 culverts also were installed along the route. The task force also installed three concrete and three steel bridges and restored two others, one a suspension bridge serving Nombre de Dios.

Air National Guard Prime BEEF teams, and other specialists in vertical construction, remodeled schools and medical clinics in seven villages.

The task force also built four sport fields, remodeled a community center, and to aid schoolchildren, built an elevated access road to a village that required 18 culverts in 800 meters of swamp terrain.

Army Guard helicopter crews flew 1,332 missions with 145 in support of medical exercises. They logged 89,000

air miles, carried 5,300 passengers, transported 60 loads of supplies and equipment in cargo nets slung underneath the helicopter and did 30 medical evacuations.

Maj. Rod Layton of the 203rd Engineer Battalion in Joplin, Mo., designed the road. He said it was difficult steering the road through an area that is not even completely mapped.

Armed with \$40 million worth of equipment, the engineers sliced through hilly terrain, beating back a thick tropical jungle populated by deadly bushmaster and fer-de-lance snakes, along with rivers inhabited by 12-foot alligators and sharp-toothed caiman.

At night, vampire bats threatened and Africanized bees were well-established in the area.

Intense heat and humidity during the day require constant vigilance against heat-related illnesses.

Still, there was only one fatality: Staff Sgt. Jerry Thomas, Missouri Army National Guard, for whom the operations base camp, Camp Thomas, is named. Thomas was killed in December when a backhoe he was driving to the base camp overturned. A bridge was dedicated in his honor during the task force closing ceremony.

There were many other Guardsmen who were there supporting the road building effort. One such soldier was Staff Sgt. Steve Ates, 1140th Headquarters Company, Missouri Army National Guard, who operated a MARS (Military Affiliated radio Station) on his own time in the evenings, after working a full day as "commo" chief for the task force.

After logging in visitors to his tent, Ates used an AM radio set to contact MARS operators in the United States logging 1,542 patches (calls) during his two week duration there.

There also was Capt. John Bonasera, Alabama Army National Guard who flew one of the six Huey helicopters which provided air transportation for the engineers and needed parts for maintenance.

And there was an apprentice surveyor from Spotsylvania, Va., named Staff Sgt. Doug Richardson, 27, a member of the 113th Civil Engineering Squadron, District of Columbia Air National Guard.

Richardson used this opportunity of a lifetime to test his skills and learn a few new tricks of the trade.

The 14-mile improved gravel road Richardson helped "stake out" now links four isolated villages to Panama's road

system.

"This was a big-scale job compared to what we usually do in our unit at annual training," he said. "We usually get to lay out a building for a few days, then work with the carpenters the rest of the time."

Then there was one Guard soldier who just couldn't seem to get away and stay away from Panama.

Sgt. 1st Class Roy D. Hanley has volunteered for duty in Central America five times in recent years. When he's not among his captors, he works in installation support at Camp Robinson near North Little Rock, Ark., where the Arkansas Guard is headquartered.

Hanley was in Panama on a six-month stint as a liaison between U.S.

Task Force 354 and villages dotting the tropical forest near Nombre de Dios.

He helped work out minor problems that cropped up, such as a coconut tree that was knocked down by heavy equipment and a water line that sprang a leak near the construction

site.

Hanley was a prisoner of compassion when he talked about the 14-mile improved road the Guard was building. It was told that his eyes really lit up when he and an Army chaplain could deliver donated story books to the principal of a nearby school. The school was being remodeled by Guard troops based at Camp Thomas.

But Hanley, a husband and father himself, says his most fulfilling moments came once a week when the citizen-soldiers pooled together donations, such as the story books. Then he and the chaplain would take the bounty to the village.

There was a story that had a sad and happy ending. Closing the door on his 42-year career with the Alabama Army National Guard is Chief Warrant Officer Paul R. "Slug" Smallwood.

Smallwood, a resident of Arab, Ala. was commander of Detachment 1, Task Force 354. During the January to June exercise he controlled all rear-area operations, including logistics, funding, transportation, deployment and redeployment of 4,800 Army National Guardsmen.

Smallwood lays claim to the fact he helped start the first Reserve Component Special Forces (Airborne) in the nation — in Homewood, Ala., on May 2, 1959.

"The Special Forces were formed with 15 teams with between 10 to 24

soldiers in each team. We had teams all over Alabama," he said.

Soldiers from the 135th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH), Missouri Army National Guard experienced a rare culture right out of "National Geographic's" pages as well as treated 2,900 medical and dental patients at two Cuna Indian villages during an eight-day Medical Readiness and Training Exercise (MEDRETE). They trained on the unique and austere San Blas Islands off Panama's north coast.

The task force also provided animal care specialist from the U.S. Army Medical Department, Gorgas Hospital, and Panamanian colleagues who treated 704 domestic animals and pets.

"We didn't have a plethora of medicines or diagnostic equipment but I think our people can be proud of what they accomplished," said 1st Lt. Janna Haston of Kansas City, a surgical nurse, who worked with the Cuna Indians.

Haston continued, "The majority of complaints were about dermatological, upper respiratory and gastrointestinal problems, most all related to the tropical climate, inadequate ventilation or internal parasites."

As a whole, the Cuna Indians were a relatively healthy people, Haston noted. Interestingly, she said, stress-related problems seem non-existent in Cuna society.

Cunas have made their mark in professions like medicine, law and engineering. One of the MEDRETE physicians was a Cuna. On the flip side of the coin, some of the more orthodox Cunas still adhere to folk medicine practices.

Physicians from the MASH examined as many as 100 patients per day, a heavy load by any measure.

MEDRETE participants credited much of their success to an unusual ally — a floating medical warehouse anchored nearby.

Planners from Task Force 354 faced the problems of getting 75 people to the islands and sustaining them eight days without resupply.

The task force logistical support commander, Lt. Col. Keith Crumley of Sedalia, Mo., turned to the U.S. Army's navy.

The new LCU 2000, a 175-foot utility landing craft, easily stows 9,000 gallons of water, four generators, medical supplies and equipment, cots, field rations and stoves, personal gear, rafts and motors, and 1000 gallons of diesel fuel.

Since the LCU 2000 can operate in only seven feet of water fully loaded, the skipper — with state-of-the-art navigation equipment brought the boat through a maze of coral reefs to within 200 yards of both islands.

Thus, the National Guard medical teams were able to complete their missions without resupply. The task force planners and coordinators achieved a milestone.

"Not only have we opened the door to a better tomorrow for a lot of people, our people, our soldiers will benefit from more challenging, comprehensive annual training than they dreamed possible"

Crew chief calls wife by radio request line

by Sgt. Kevin McAndrews
Nebraska National Guard

There's nothing worse than getting a constant busy signal when you're in a hurry and especially when you're more than 7,000 miles away from home.

Sgt. Charlie Lang, a helicopter crew chief serving in the Gulf with the 24th Medical Air Ambulance Company, decided after two failed attempts to call to his wife, that he couldn't wait any longer. He started flipping through his personal telephone book in search of a neighbor's phone number so he could ask them to go across the street and get his wife off the line.

He didn't have the number but he did come across KZKX-96, a Lincoln Neb., radio station he regularly called for

song dedications.

"I got a hold of Jim (Patrick) at the radio station and he couldn't believe I was calling from Saudi Arabia just to dedicate a song to my wife," Lang said. "I said, 'Well, actually I tried to call her and the line was busy, so... if you want to you could put a plug in for me and tell her to get off the phone because her husband is trying to call.'"

Patrick, a disc jockey who has a morning radio show with Carol Daniels, was happy to oblige. In addition to playing "Battle Hymn of Love" by Kathy Mattea, he made the announcement.

Lang said he waited a couple of minutes and again dialed his wife, Spec. Trish Lang, herself a Nebraska Army National Guard member and a KZKX listener. Sure enough, he got through.

Gulf heart attack patient, wife reunited in Frankfurt hospital

ROCK ISLAND, Ill.—Thanks to the help of individuals at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., a story involving an Illinois Guardsman and his wife had a happy ending.

Staff Sgt. Steve Truedsen of Sterling, Ill., had been serving in the Gulf with his unit, 1644th Transportation Company, when he suffered a heart attack, and was evacuated to a military hospital in Frankfurt, Germany. His wife, Jane, wanted to go be with him, but encountered problems.

Mrs. Truedsen had no passport or travel orders, nor did she have a copy of her birth certificate, which was necessary in order to obtain a passport.

The American Red Cross turned to the Rock Island Arsenal, Transportation Division for help, calling upon Mikki Weeks. Weeks contacted the office of U.S. Rep. Lane Evans, which in turn contacted the State Department and re-

ceived a waiver on the passport.

Weeks next turned to the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command for help coordinating Mrs. Truedsen's visit with a logistics assistance representative in Germany.

The representative, Ray Johnson, picked Mrs. Truedsen up at the airport and helped her locate her husband, who had by now been transferred from the military hospital to a civilian hospital for surgery. She arrived at his bedside one hour after surgery. Another individual, also an Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command representative, named Charlie Johnson, and his family provided food, lodging, and transportation for Mrs. Truedsen throughout her 10-day stay in Germany. Today, Truedsen is back home and doing fine. Mrs. Truedsen said she has no doubt that her presence aided in his recovery.

Victory (continued from page 1)

Gulf doing lackluster work under extreme conditions—the work of gathering, cleaning, and preparing equipment for shipment back to the United States.

We're told by Master Sgt. Frank Jordan, who just returned to the states, that a handkerchief held over your mouth and nose will fill with soot from the numerous oil well fires.

Your eyes are red and irritated from blowing sand and pollution, and your face is likely streaked with lines of running sweat. How can it be otherwise when you work on M-1 tanks or drive 915 tractors for hours on end in temperatures ranging up to 131 degrees Fahrenheit?

It surely must be difficult to watch others line up to go home when you have

no definite departure date and your families write to tell you the media seems to be saying everyone is already home from the Gulf. And, you may be wondering why the nation cannot wait until you return before having this celebration.

You may even be frightened at the thought of returning home and reuniting with your family and friends and returning to your civilian jobs.

The bottom line is that you need to know someone cares. Your community, family, and friends will celebrate your return and help you readjust.

"On Guard" will continue telling your story and saluting you until you close at home station.



Farmer (cont'd from page 2.)

period. He claims the well, which had a natural flow, seemed to fluctuate in output with the fullness of the moon.

Straight from the well water contained traces of oil and sulphur, but purification systems were able to remove those impurities.

"I was extremely proud of my people," concluded Farmer, "They hooked onto something they had trained

for since they were established and did very well."

Four members of the unit were awarded Army Commendation medals and Farmer was honored to be selected as one of the Gulf commanders to be interviewed on videotape by the National Guard Historical Services Branch.

"Those guys were the best we had out of 13 units," boasts 1st Lt. Rick Thurman, the battalion adjutant.

"They were outside the defensive perimeter of Logistics Base Bastogne, one of the first log bases established, so they were responsible for their own security. They worked around the clock, seven days a week, with very little support."

Thurman and McConaughy each attempted to visit the 1207th weekly, and enjoyed seeing and supporting the unit any way possible because the Guardsmen from Alabama were gentlemen and very dedicated workers who never complained.

In Thurman's opinion, one of the 1207th's greatest challenges was nature—the dust, heat, cold, powdery sand, insects, and snakes. "I mean, these guys were in the desert by themselves, and they produced 110 percent all the time."

The 370th Battalion is credited with providing 240 million gallons of water during the time of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Some of that water was trucked from wells far behind front lines, and the 1207th understood that every drop they could pump and purify was a drop that didn't need to be trucked, Thurman said in a recent phone interview.

The battalion, to include the 1207th, is being considered for a unit award.

Technology

The stealth fighters came and went undetected ...

We lost 4 M-1 Abrams the Iraqis 3,800

Awards (cont'd from pg. 7)

preparing an RF-4C Phantom II jet for a night flight. Both external wing fuel tanks were dropped from the aircraft, and the right one caught fire. Severson put out the fire with an extinguisher while Marshall rescued the air crew from the cockpit.

Technical Sgt. Michael M. Courtney of Lincoln, a full-time personnel technician with the 155th Mission Support Squadron, has been named the recipient of the 1990 Outstanding Air National Guard Personnel Manager of the Year Award. The award ceremony will take place at the 1991 Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention Conference in Austin, Tex., on May 28.

According to his citation, Courtney's "knowledge of personnel procedures and untiring dedication were instrumental in establishing the 155th Mission Support Squadron as the model for other units to emulate. By computerizing office procedures, he was able to increase productivity, increase customer service and increase accuracy."

Technical Sgt. Greg Phillips of Lincoln, retail sales supervisor for the 155th Resource Management Squadron, has been awarded a 1991 Minority Student Leadership Award from the Culture Center at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Attending the university on a half-time basis at night, Phillips was cited for his "continuous dedication and perseverance" which has "set you aside as a student leader among your peers." Phillips received his award at the Culture Center's 1991 "Shades of Leadership" Minority Student Leader recognition reception in May.

Combat capability

(continued from page 1)

every specialty including medical, ordnance, police, transportation, signal, public affairs, logistics, maintenance and intelligence were federalized.

At the time of this writing some 10,616 Army Guard soldiers were still in the Persian Gulf, while another 4,999 remained on active duty in Europe and elsewhere in Continental United States. Seventy-five percent of those federalized had been released.

On the Air Guard ledger, 3,856 were still on active duty as of 6 p.m. Thursday, June 14, and of that number 441 were volunteers. A total of 7,608 had returned to their civilian endeavors.