

The National Guard ON GUARD

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Burdick: We are the safety program

Maj. Gen. Donald Burdick
Director, Army National Guard

The United States Army depends upon the National Guard as a combat-ready force in the defense of our country. I am personally very proud of the National Guard and of the soldiers who serve, enduring family hardships and personal sacrifice.

As safety officer for the Army National Guard, I am concerned with the safety of each of you as you participate in unit training assemblies, field training exercises, periods of non-duty and annual training. Injuries sustained in training and automobile accidents, or the death of one of our Guardsmen creates pain and suffering for all of us, and a void which cannot be readily filled. I emphasize to you the urgency of being aware of safety at all times.

Special emphasis during AT

There will be special emphasis placed on preventing accidents during FY 88 annual training period, and I ask that you join me in this effort. I expect all commanders to put forth the time and energy to make this program work. As com-

manders, you must influence through information, motivation and enforcement. My six fundamental actions from "The Director's Safety Philosophy" and "Responsibility Up and Down the Chain" can help you save lives and equipment.

They are:

- Set high standards
- Know your soldiers
- Know your equipment
- Apply dispatch discipline
- Manage risks in training
- Maintain awareness

Take positive action

Safety is a command responsibility.

All of us share the responsibility for our safety program; thus, we are the safety program. Your active interest and solid participation is essential if we are to make the Army National Guard a more effective, safer and combat-ready force. Only positive action by you can make our efforts result in an effective accident prevention program. For your sake, and that of your loved ones, I hope you will keep safety in mind and make this the safest training year ever.

Are you putting me on?



Memorial Day — Labor Day

Use caution during '101 critical days'

The week prior to Memorial Day was designated nationally as "Buckle-up America" week. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci has asked all Department of Defense members which includes the National Guard, to support this campaign. More than 48,000 Americans lost their lives last year on America's highways. Many of those fatalities could have been prevented if seatbelts had been used. This sad statistic has prompted a national goal of 70 percent usage of seatbelts during the last week of May.

The period between the week before Memorial Day and Labor Day historically has been a period of increased accidents. The Air Force calls this period of risk the "101 Critical Days."

Not so surprising, the 101-day period is also when the majority of Guard members do their annual training. Because we care about our Guard members, we can do better, and with a concerted effort by commanders and supervisors, we will do better. With emphasis on self-discipline, good judgement and common sense during all of our activities, especially while driving, we can have a successful 101 days. Remember, it's important to use protective equipment such as seatbelts and to be responsible in the use of alcohol. These two factors alone can significantly increase your chances of enjoying a Labor Day cookout with your family. See you in September.

Driving safety tips

Dick Campagna
Safety Officer, Fort Dix, N.J.

"Hit the road, Jack, and don't you come back no more; no more, no more, no more, no more."

So say the words to a song by popular singer Ray Charles. But many of you will be hitting the road this spring and summer, and you do hope to come back. And in one piece.

The arrival of summer increases motor vehicle travel and results in a seasonal rise in traffic fatalities. Here are some suggestions to enhance safe driving:

• **Safety belts** — Wear your safety belts at all times, since they are your best protection in the event of a crash. Lap and shoulder belts are more effective in reducing fatalities, and full use of safety belts can save an estimated 10,000 lives a year. Full, proper use of child safety seats can save another 300 or more young lives.

• **Alcohol** — Don't drive if you have been drinking. Alcohol slows reaction time and is a factor in half the nation's traffic deaths.

• **Car care** — Keep your car in safe driving condition. Inspect wiper blades and light lenses, replacing worn or broken parts. All fluid levels should be checked regularly and "topped off" or replaced as needed. Replace any worn fan belts and leaking or rotting radiator hoses and exhaust system components.

• **Spare parts** — It's a good idea to carry spare belts and hoses in the trunk. Belts should have a coating of protective jelly to prevent rotting.

• **Tires** — Keep your tires properly inflated and rotate them periodically to prevent premature wear. Inflate them to the pressure indicated in the owner's manual — and on the tire.

• **Brakes** — Don't take them for granted. Have them checked as your owner's manual directs, or when you notice loud or unusual noises or a pulling to one side when you apply them.

• **Unattended cars** — Don't leave your car running when you park it. Cars equipped with automatic transmissions can slip into reverse gear after the driver believes he or she has placed the vehicle in the "park" position.

Leaving the vehicle running with children in it creates a worse problem. It can endanger the children, as well as bystanders and other motorists. Also many cars are stolen in front of convenience stores after the driver leaves the car running to "just run into the store for a minute." (TRADOC News Service)

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From May-June 88

On Guard



Veterinarian Maj. Gary Shephard treats a burro for internal parasites in an Honduran village during his annual training. Shephard, a Colorado Army Guardsman, was attached to the 947th Medical Company (Clearing), Las Animas. (Photo by Sgt. James Burnett, CO ARNG)

Colorado vet treats 'all creatures...'

SSgt. Merrill Lundberg

Honduras — Anyone who lives and works in a ranching community will agree that the animals are everything.

And the noise they make, from the shrill whinny of the horses to the alto lowing of cattle, is appreciated like fine opera by the people who own them.

Recently, that opera swelled to a crescendo, heralding the arrival of a team of veterinarians attached to the 947th Medical Company (Clearing), Colorado Army National Guard, in Las Animas.

The 947th was in Honduras to participate in training exercises involving civil action projects as well as medical support for U.S. military personnel assigned to Palmerola. The unit's deployment and subsequent return to Colorado preceded the current U.S. military exercises in that country.

The medical civil action project was initiated when the Honduran Ministry of Health requested

veterinary assistance be provided to Honduran villages.

Maj. Gary Shephard, a practicing veterinarian from Lafayette, Colo., said that when he received a request to deploy to Honduras with the 947th for their two-week annual training, he quickly accepted although he is normally assigned to another unit.

"This experience has given me the opportunity to see animal diseases I had only read about," Shephard said.

"The team treated cows, burros and horses for worms, ticks and lice," he continued. "This was followed by inoculations to prevent rabies and other diseases."

"We also vaccinated dogs for rabies and pigs for hog cholera, both of which are problems of major concern in these small villages," said Shephard.

Shephard said the Hondurans brought their animals to the village, frequently from quite a distance. The owners tied their animals to a fence, and for ease of treatment, the vet team members would hobble animals which were harder to control.

"We have to be constantly on the lookout for the occasional runaway animal," he said. "They'd often charge through the line toward us. We'd all have to scramble to get out of the way."

Shephard said he hopes the veterinary assistance teams will continue to work with the Honduran villagers.

"While the long-term effects of the vet visits are yet to be realized," Shephard said, "the smiles on the owners' faces makes it all worthwhile."

Chaplain listens, supports and counsels in Honduras

Honduras — In a place where religion is often a taboo subject at dinner parties and social gatherings, the sight of a pastor in a desolate Honduran village still brings relief and comfort to many.

That was the case recently when Chaplain (Maj.) William G. Kniceley, West Virginia Army National Guard, provided moral support and general counseling to U.S. soldiers working on a road-building exercise here at the invitation of the Honduran government.

Kniceley's primary mission was to conduct Sunday and evening services and Bible study. He also assisted the medical team by giving general moral support in terms of hospital in-patient care, much like a civilian pastor does.

The chaplain also provided counseling to help soldiers deal with the often emotionally-charged reaction to seeing firsthand the conditions of bare subsistence-level living.

"The other evening, while medics were treating hundreds of people who were lined up for medical care, a soldier came over and just sort of collapsed on me. He was so racked with pain," Kniceley said.

"I found out that his family had migrated to New York City from Jamaica. What happened was that he was thinking 'There but for the grace of God go I.' He kept saying that his folks had made an opportunity for him and he was very thankful. There is a lot of emotion here," Kniceley added.

In civilian life, Kniceley is pastor of Oak Hill United Methodist Church in Oak Hill, W. Va. When his congregation of almost 500 members learned he would be going on a mission to Central America, they collected school supplies for him to take to the children, as well as 53 boxes of clothing.

"The Hondurans are thankful for the help we give. The people here are just great. They are family-oriented. They have the attitude, 'This is life; we're coping with it. We appreciate the extra help immensely.'"



Chaplain (Maj.) William G. Kniceley, a West Virginia Army National Guardsman from Oak Hill, W. Va., counsels an Army Reservist stationed at Camp Powder Horn, Honduras.

Colorado's T-43s still flying

Colorado's four Boeing 737s (or Air Force T-43s) were not affected by the recent order by the Federal Aviation Administration. Following the **bizarre mishap in Hawaii**, the FAA is investigating only those 737s with more than 30,000 landings or take-offs. All Colorado Air Guard T-43s were built in 1972 and 73 and have less than 10,000 take-offs and landings per aircraft. They are, therefore, not subject to the specific requirements ordered by FAA.

All-American wins with Black history essay

A brand new Air Guardsman in basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, volunteered to write an essay on Black history. A1C Harold A. Garren's essay, one of 60 submitted, won. He wrote of the turmoil Black Americans have faced since being brought to this country as slaves; about the Emancipation Proclamation, the Ku Klux Klan and the continued discrimination in buses and lunch counters. The young blond-haired, blue-eyed

airman closed his essay by suggesting that if the rest of the country would follow the examples set by Black Americans, our country would continue to remain the great country it is today.

The District of Columbia Guardsman was recognized by the first Black astronaut, Air Force Col. Guion S. Bluford, who has made two trips in space. Bluford was at Lackland to give the squadron a presentation on the space program and to present Garren with an award certificate during Black History Week in February.

Garren, a Pennsylvania native, earned a mathematics degree from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville in 1986. While there, the nearly 6 foot 3 inch, 260 pounder played offensive center

for UVA's Cavaliers — and he played very well. He was named All-American and played in two bowl games. So well, in fact, that the Green Bay Packers chose him in the sixth draft round. However, Garren had already withdrawn his name. He wanted to pursue other goals.

Son of a World War II veteran, Garren had always wanted to be a part of the Air Force. After college he moved to the Washington, D.C. area and became an associate programmer analyst. He also saw Air Guard recruiter, MSgt. Lisa Kerwin, and fellow church member. He aced his entrance tests, qualifying him for any available job. But Garren wanted to know what the unit, the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing at Andrews AFB, needed the most. Traditionally, there is a shortage of weapons loaders so that was what he chose.

Now at aircraft armament school at Lowry AFB, Colo., Garren has maintained a 98 percent average and was appointed a student leader. After graduating in May the airman will have one month of on-the-job training in the 113th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Andrews AFB.

Eventually, Garren hopes to become a pilot and plans to join the aero club at Andrews to earn his private pilot's license.

A resident of Upper Marlboro, Md., Garren is active in his church's youth program and is an assistant scout master for Boy Scout Troop 282. The airman's long range goals besides becoming a pilot, are to earn a master's degree in technology management and work his way up to becoming a corporate vice president.



Astronaut Col. Guion S. Bluford (l.) presented Black history award to A1C Harold A. Garren at Lackland AFB, Texas.

All-American A1C Harold Garren turned down Green Bay Packer's offer to play football. He wants to be a corporate vice president and pilot someday.



Vietnam veteran awarded DFC—22 years later

SSgt. Terry Brown

A New York Air National Guardsman, MSgt. Richard Durant, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, recently added another medal to his collection of combat awards.

Durant, a heavy equipment operator and supervisor with the 109th Civil Engineering Squadron, received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the nation's eighth-highest award, during a recent ceremony at the New York Air National Guard base in Scotia, near Schenectady. Lt. Col. Kenneth Crandall, 109th CES Commander, presented the award.

The medal was earned for Duran's performance as an Army helicopter door gunner for the 52nd Airlift Battalion in South Vietnam during 1966. He was rated "outstanding" for more than 125 helicopter combat assaults and more than 50 medical evacuations for the 101st Airborne Division, 25th Infantry Division, 5th Special Forces Group and the First Marine Division.

Why the 22-year wait

He was surprised when he received a letter from Army Headquarters earlier this year, saying he would soon receive the medal. "Someone checked

my records and discovered I was entitled to the Distinguished Flying Cross, but the award was never presented to me," said Durant.

As a civilian, Durant works as a millwright rigger for the Central Electric Company. As a traditional, part-time Guardsman, he supervises six heavy equipment operators, including bulldozers, graders and backhoes.

"We do all the same things the Army combat engineers do," the sergeant says. We are the combat soldiers of the 109th Tactical Airlift Group and the 109th Civil Engineering Squadron." He added that there are 14 other Vietnam combat veterans in his unit.

Served on land, sea and air

Durant also served in the Army Reserve for a few years before going active Army from 1964 to 1967; he also served briefly in the Naval Reserve. He then enlisted in the Air Guard. "I guess you can say I am one Guardsman who can boast that I've served my country on land, the sea and in the air."

Active in civil affairs, he is a member of the Tri-county Vietnam Era Veterans, American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is also a communicant and Eucharistic minister at St. Joseph's Church in Scotia.



Better late than never, MSgt. Richard K. Durant received his Distinguished Flying Cross 22 years later, for outstanding combat performance in Vietnam.

Training in Korea cold, realistic

Hawaii Army Guard soldiers deployed to Korea in April to participate in Team Spirit 88, the 13th annual field training exercise involving Republic of Korea and U.S. forces.

Because of their proficiency, 150 Hawaiians from various islands and units of the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry, 29th Infantry Brigade (Separate), formed Alpha Company to perform their two weeks of annual training in Korea. The purpose of the exercise is to improve defensive readiness of ROK and U.S. forces through combined joint operations including receiving, staging, employing and redeploying out-of-country forces.

Particular emphasis was on improving ROK-U.S. force interoperability and teamwork, to demonstrate the determination of the two countries to preserve freedom in the Republic of Korea. The exercise focused on increasing the readiness of ROK and U.S. Army, Navy, Marine and Air Forces in combined, joint operations, with 200,000 ROK and U.S. military personnel participating.

Serious Training

Training was serious, demanding and realistic. Inevitably, the Hawaii Guard soldiers encountered hardships and problems. Cold weather, water shortages, fatigue, cold food and lack of food were some of the problems they faced.

Struggling up one side of a hill, down the other, crossing rivers, crawling through brush, marching along dirt roads "eating" the dust of the soldier or vehicle ahead of the Alpha trooper, jumping onto helicopters, scrambling off of helicopters, day after day, packs on their backs, weapons cradled in their arms, the men of Alpha performed their missions. After a while the days blended, one into the other, until it was difficult to remember which day it was.

Controlling the opposing forces' aggressiveness also challenged the leaders. Rules of engagement provided that the opposing forces maintain a safety distance from one another to prevent physical contact. However, in the words of Alpha Company Commander Capt. Levon Wong, "... the attacking Koreans keep on coming, even though we 'killed' them."

Then the Koreans learned that Alpha's soldiers were from Hawaii and a "cultural interchange" followed.

"After the battle we shake hands, trade MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) — they get tired of their food like we get tired of ours, so we trade our MREs for theirs. They don't give up rice, but they give up their kim chee (fermented cabbage). We take pictures and trade (shoulder) patches," explained SP4 Joseph H. Kahee from Molokai.

"Home" for the Hawaiians was on their backs. It consisted of a sleeping bag, rations, water, extra clothing, ammunition, MOPP suits (rubber suits which protect the soldier from chemical and biological weapons) and anything else they could squeeze into, tie on, or somehow attach to, their rucksacks. This was in addition to radios, missiles and other gear they were required to carry — 60-70 pounds of gear. Some, however, like Wong, did without sleeping bags in order to carry more equipment. During the cold Korean nights they almost froze.

"I don't use my sleeping bag; I like to use my MOPP suit (the suit does not 'breathe,' it retains the wearer's body heat). It keeps me warm until 0300 hours (3 a.m.), after that I freeze!" half-joked Sgt. Roland Tacsat of Kauai.

"This is my first time (in Korea). It's cold, but it's nice. We can trade one MRE for 10 mandoo (Korean dumplings)," said another Guardsman, Pvt 2 John F. Mauga of Kalihi, Hawaii. "Anytime



How to plot tactical situations on battle maps is taught by SFC Norman S. Jimeno to Pvt. 2 Donovan M. Tuisano.

... call us back. It's better than Pokakuloo (Hawaii training area)."

Ajima — Guardian Angel

Amid the roaring tanks, rushing jeeps, marching soldiers, streaking jets and attacking helicopters was Ajima. "Ajima" roughly translates into "senior lady." Ajima was Kim Chun Ja, a Korean woman who combined the kindness of a grandmother, the guts of Rambo and the business acumen of Lee Iaccoca. Ajima was Alpha Company's shopping center, providing troopers with saimin, a portable stove, or whatever was needed. Her inventory included candy, soda, kim chee, mandoo and coffee. And wherever Alpha was, there was Ajima. After a week a special bond formed between Ajima and the Hawaii Guardsmen. Although a shrewd business woman, many Guard members received free coffee, ramen, and in one case, the "Guardian Angel" even gave a freezing Hawaii soldier a colorful Korean blanket.

Although demanding, the troops realized that the Team Spirit field training realism is greater than anything else they had experienced. "It's (Korea) an experience. I'll stay (in the Guard) until my body falls apart. My wife doesn't like me being away, but she realizes the pay is good," said SP4 Jerry Segurita of Molokai. A five-year-veteran of the Guard, Segurita added, "Aloha, we miss you — we miss the warm weather."



Ajima provides hot soup to Hawaii Guardsmen (l. to r.) Sgt. David Leialoha, SP4 Steven Yonamine and Pvt. 2 Peter K. Mahoe. (All photos by SSgt. Stephen M. Lum)



Establishing a defensive position are (l. to r.) Sgt. Mario Valmoja, SP4 Edmund Pasucal and SSgt. Terry Onishi.

Runners qualify in Lincoln for All-Guard team

SSgt. Ronald Bradrick
111th P.A.D., Nebraska ARNG

SP4 Rudy Robinson, 31, of Washington, D.C., won the 5th National Guard Marathon Trials with a record performance of 2 hours, 28 minutes and 44 seconds (2:28:44), and the best ever finish of second overall in the Lincoln, Neb., Marathon.

Robinson, a combat medic with the 115th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH), District of Columbia Army National Guard, was faster than 400 Guard runners and outdistanced all but one of the 1,537 marathon runners. His time is the top Guard performance to date, beating Rick Clear of Warrensburg, Mo., who ran it in 2:31:33 in 1985.

National Guard members accounted for seven out of the top 12 finishers in the warm and windy Lincoln Marathon. SP4 Michael Zeigle, a Wisconsin Army Guardsman from Sterling, Ill., took third place overall and was second of the Guard runners with a time of 2:31:19. And SP4 Reinaldo Zayas, of Coama, Puerto Rico, finished fourth (third Guardsman) overall with a time of 2:31:52.

In the Women's Division, a time of 3:09:13 put

SP4 Sandra Jensen, 38, an Arizona Army Guard woman from Phoenix, 12 minutes ahead of second place finisher, 1st Lt. Margaret Wilkins of Pawtucket, R.I., who ended at 3:32:38.

Last year's winner, Sgt. Dixie Kulp of Harrisburg, Pa., crossed the line next in 3:33:07, just a second ahead of the 1986 winner, Capt. Shirley Schmitt Alvaro of Honolulu, Hawaii.

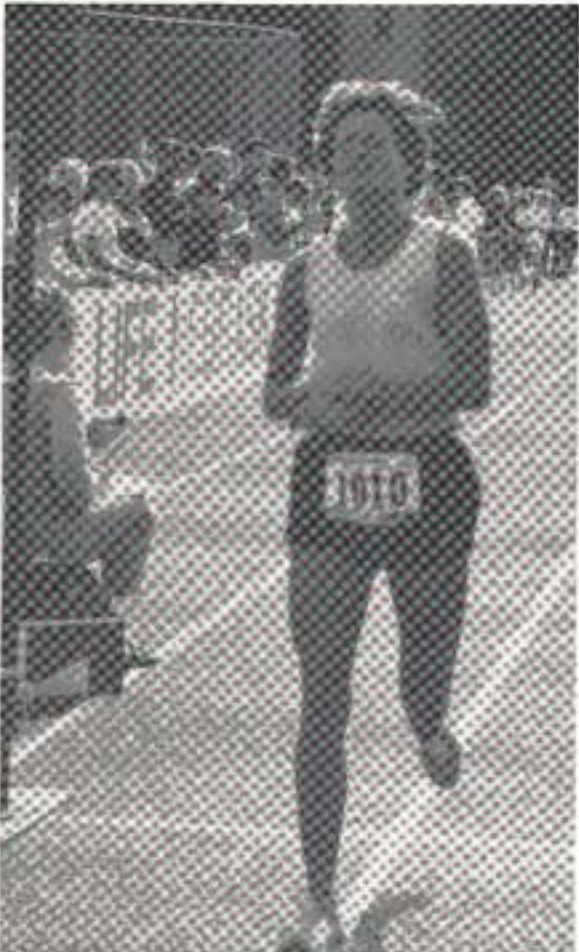
The Puerto Rico trio of Zayas, Sgt. Victor Cuevas and Sgt. Saul Serrano blew out the team competition as the three finished among the top 15 runners. The Wisconsin and Indiana teams finished second and third respectively.

The winner in this year's Master's Division was Capt. Gary Seney of Boise, Idaho. His time of 2:47:22 placed him ahead of the second place finisher, Maj. Douglas Woodsmall of Yorba Linda, Calif., who ran the 26.2 mile course in 2:48:15. Shirley Alvaro was the Women's Masters winner.

The top 25 male finishers, top 15 masters and top 10 female finishers qualified for the All-Guard Marathon Team. That team will represent the National Guard at the Marine Corps Marathon in November, the Navy Marathon in December and the Army's Infantry Marathon in March.



SP4 Rudy Robinson



SP4 Sandy Jensen

'shorttakes'

MacArthur Award Winners

Four company grade Army Guard officers were presented the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership award in ceremonies at the Pentagon in May.

The 1987 award recipients included **1st Lt. Kimberly D. Devilbiss**, Oregon; **Capt. Joel D. Cusker**, Montana; **Capt. Leonard H. Carsley**, Pennsylvania; and **Capt. Steven A. Sloan**, North Carolina.

The award is presented to a lieutenant or captain who demonstrates the ideals of "duty, honor and country" for which MacArthur stood. Its purpose is to promote, sustain and recognize effective junior officer leadership in the Army. Company-grade officers of the Army National Guard are eligible for the award and each state may nominate one lieutenant or captain for consideration.

Delaware Guard Magazine Award

The "Delaware National Guard" magazine, or "DNG", won first place in the authorized magazine category of the First Army Public Affairs Award program held recently in Columbia, Md. Magazines, newspapers, radio broadcasts, photo essays, speeches, community relations projects and video programs comprised the other categories for judging.

\$29 million Contract

Aeronautical Systems Division awarded a \$29 million contract in March to Fairchild Aircraft Corporation of San Antonio, Texas, for six National Guard operations support turboprop aircraft for the National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C.

The ASD Source Selection Evaluation committee completed the evaluation in a record

time of 114 days from the day the Request for Proposals was issued.

Pilots from the 4959th Test Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and from the Air National Guard, participated in an operational flying demonstration and evaluation as part of the source selection process.

All six aircraft are scheduled to be delivered within 15 months beginning with the first in March 1989 and with delivery of the remainder by June 1989. The contract provided for an option to purchase an additional seven aircraft at a cost of \$23 million.

Direct deposit speeds Air Guard checks

Most Air Guard members would like to have their Guard pay as soon after a training period as possible. The way to do it is through Direct Deposit.

The Air Force Accounting and Finance Center in Denver has encouraged Air Reserve Force (Air Guard and Reserve) members to use Direct Deposit for the past several years and there has been a slight increase in Direct Deposit. However, there are still a large number of checks — 118,000 — being mailed from the Center each month. Postal cost-cutting measures may cause a delay in receiving these checks in the future.

Just as the military, the Post Office is faced with a reduced budget and is reducing stamping mail. This may cause you to receive your check later than in the past.

Think about the advantages of Direct Deposit. It provides the quickest and most efficient method for receiving your pay. And, in the event of mobilization, it could be personally vital to you. Visit your payroll office today for additional information and the form needed to get started in Direct Deposit.

Lawrenz returns from (Saudi) Arabia

Joyce S. Duenow

Everyone dreams about faraway places and hopes to someday experience another culture.

For Alaska Air National Guard Chaplain (Maj.) Dick Lawrenz, that dream became reality when he spent December through February in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As the installation chaplain Lawrenz provided counseling services to military personnel stationed at five Saudi locations. And like so many foreign countries, the names roll off the tongue like honey. Names such as Riyadh, King Abdul Aziz at Dhahran, Rasim and Omar.

Saudi Arabia is a country as different from the United States as any. "The Saudis are warm, likable people," says Lawrenz. "Very honest, very trusting." Owners of souks (stores) allow shoppers to take an item home, such as a carpet or watch, for a trial period. If the customer is satisfied, the shopper pays later, or returns the item.

They are trusting with good reason. The punishment for theft, as well as adultery, is carried out on their holy day, called "Saudi Sunday," each Friday. There, on holy day in "chop-chop square," thieves and adulterers face immediate punishment — loss of a hand or a head. Lawrenz heard of five beheadings during his two-month stay.

For Saudis, Islam is more than a religion. It is a way of life, encompassing the judicial system. There is no separation between church and state. The Arabic word for Islam means peace, submission and obedience. A Moslem is one who has perfectly surrendered as a follower of Muhammed, said Lawrenz.

The lives of Saudi women particularly differ greatly from their American counterparts. Marriages are arranged. There is no dating in Saudi Arabia. Unmarried men and women must not travel together. Women must wear black, head-to-toe cloaks, called abayas, and cover their faces with black veils. They must carry their marriage license whenever they go out in public.

Men kiss each other, hug each other and hold hands in public. They may have up to four wives. They can divorce any wife by saying three times, in public, "I divorce thee." There are no cinemas of public amusements in Saudi Arabia, says Lawrenz.

The chaplain first studied the Islamic faith before going to Saudi Arabia and hoped to learn more from the Moslems themselves.

"Moslems come down very hard on Christianity," said Lawrenz. "They don't believe our faith should allow alcoholism and adultery," both of which are forbidden there. "The Moslems think that because we have alcoholism and adultery in our country, it is the fault of our religion. They don't understand that it is our freedom as people, not our faith, that allows these things," he said.

Lawrenz found himself becoming more patriotic as he examined the other culture. "It was a real

eye-opener," he said. "The Saudis have much to be proud of — so many beautiful sights. (But) it's a very restricted culture in that they don't allow tourists." Mecca, the Islamic holy city, is forbidden to all non-Islamics.

U.S. military personnel stationed in the country serve as advisors at the Saudis request. Eight years ago, when the war between Iraq and Iran broke out, the Saudis wanted to prevent the war from spreading to their country.

If Saudi Arabia were to side with either country during the conflict, it would probably be Iraq, says Lawrenz. Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini is considered an unholy competitor of the Saudi leader.

Chaplains from throughout the U.S. volunteer for this temporary duty. Lawrenz left Anchorage in mid-December, missing Christmas with his own family. "It was hard to be away from Sharon and my children," says Lawrenz, "but we both learned from the experience."

The trip was very ego-satisfying for Lawrenz. "I was doing something I've never done before. I was thrown to the wolves and I had to see if I could sink or swim."

"Chief of Belief"

Since Islam is the only authorized religion of Saudi Arabia, Lawrenz was the only Christian military chaplain in the kingdom. When he was not allowed to wear his military chaplain's cross, he resorted to a phrase on his name tag, "Chief of Belief," to let American troops know his military position.

The schedule for "Chief of Belief" included six worship services (on Friday and Sunday), four Bible study groups, counseling sessions and "cookie runs," visiting troops. The chaplain earned praise from the base commander who felt that Lawrenz had put together a fine program that met the needs of the military personnel. Lawrenz ministered to personnel at five Air Force and Army stations during his two-month stay.



Maj. Dick Lawrenz

Former POW joins Colorado Army Guard

A Vietnam veteran who was once a prisoner of war recently returned to military service through his enlistment in the Colorado Army National Guard. Within days of his enlistment he learned he is authorized the new Prisoner of War medal, just recently authorized by Congress.

SSgt. Michael P. Fischer took his oath of office from Colorado's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. John L. France, in a ceremony at the state headquarters in Denver. The sergeant has been assigned to Headquarters, State Area Command in Denver, as a traffic management supervisor.

Fischer first served in the military as an air cargo specialist in the U.S. Air Force in 1967. Before his tour of duty ended in December 1970, he had attained the rank of technical sergeant, had become the air cargo supervisor, served a tour in Vietnam where he was captured and held prisoner for just over three months before being liberated by Australian forces, and had truly earned the awards and decorations bestowed on him by his peers.

Those awards include the Silver Star, Distinguished Service medal, Air Medal, Bronze Star and Purple Heart, in addition to his new POW Medal.

Fischer lives in Aurora, Colo., with his wife, Gina, and two daughters.



EX-POW — SSgt Michael P. Fischer takes his oath of enlistment into the Colorado Army National Guard as his wife, Gina, looks on. Fischer, a former Vietnam prisoner of war, received his oath from State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. John L. France, following a 17-year break in service. (Photo by Barbara Atwell, CO NG)