

The National Guard ON GUARD

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Florida Guardsmen take on gruelling French Army Commando School

Story and Photos by SSgt. Steven Wolf

A platoon of 28 Florida Guardsmen became the first citizen-soldiers to tackle the French Army's gruelling **Commando School** near Martinique in May.

During the first phase of the training, the "Florida's First" platoon members faced a challenging obstacle course at the mountaintop fortress of Fort Desaix, all under the watchful eye of the Commando Course cadre from the French Army's 33rd Marine Regiment.

Not once, or even twice, but five times the Guardsmen went through the risky and demanding obstacles, including one effort with a fully loaded rucksack and rifle, and one at night!

More training followed, including waterborne raids from rubber rafts, hand-to-hand combat, and 8 kilometer (five mile) run with a loaded rucksack and rifle, to be completed in one hour as a platoon event, and a requirement to improvise and build a raft capable of floating the platoon using bamboo and empty 55-gallon drums.

For a final "exam" the Floridians conducted a 36-hour, 25 kilometer raid that began at night with a 2 kilometer paddle and beach landing, with the objective of knocking out a radio station and ambushing an enemy convoy.

Known to be "part time" soldiers, the conduct of the Florida platoon did not go unnoticed by the commando school cadre who often train regular army troops for other nations. The Noncommissioned Officer in charge called the Floridians "one of the best in several years."



WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE — As three of "Florida's First" platoon negotiate a water obstacle while undergoing French Army Commando training.



WHAT NOW?—SSgt. William Hicks ponders his next move in executing the demanding obstacle course at Fort Desaix.

LETTERS



Dear Editor:

I read your reprint of General Bruce Clark's "Soldier's Rights," and it made me think that Leaders should have some rights and expectations of soldiers. (Here) is my list of ten Leader Rights.

SGM Anson R. Fry
Hawaii ARNG

1. Honesty and integrity.
2. Mature and professional behavior, (being) on time for formations, to be in proper uniform and to do the job.
3. Personal interest taken in the unit and the unit's mission.
4. No to be "too" demanding (for awards, promotions and/or time off).
5. Suggestions on how "To do it better."
6. Understand that the military has only one constant — change.
7. Willingness to grow change and grow.
8. To keep current with all orders, directives and military education requirements.
9. No to stand around with hands in pockets — ask to help.
10. Be a professional soldier at all times.

SGM Fry:

"Rights"—on. Thanks for sharing your thoughts.

Ed.

"Weekend War"

Dear Editor:

Yes, I take exception to the (ABC) TV movie "Weekend War." It is the most degrading, false and inaccurate portrayal of the National Guard that I have ever seen, including such low mentality trash as "Southern Comfort" and "Rambo."

I can only hope that no real American will fall for this hogwash, and recognizes the true nature, mission, and reasons for the existence of the National Guard in peacetime and in war, and will continue to support their friends, family and neighbors who are willing to sacrifice their lives in defense of liberty.

Set the record straight. On Guard!

CPT L. Michael Bridges
Alaska ARNG

Dear Editor:

Re: "Weekend War."

... I had the pleasure of going to Honduras with the Ohio Air National Guard on a training exercise that deployed to a Honduran Air Force installation.

We were neither manipulated nor exploited by our country.

I find the program to have been very misleading to the public. It created doubts and concerns about our safety amongst my family and friends that were unwarranted.

This program in my judgment was done in poor taste and without regard to the effect it would have on family and friends of National Guard personnel.

It is a shame the producer of this film is allowed to air his personal political statement in this manner and to degrade the competence of the men and women who serve in the National Guard.

SMSgt. David C. Dixon
Ohio ANG

To CPT Bridges and SMSgt. Dixon:
Thanks for sharing your reactions.

Ed.

Labor Day



Make it safe



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*Please post to unit bulletin board or other conspicuous place; local reproduction encouraged.

'On Guard' Is 'changing'

On Guard is changing.

Its format as a series of clip sheets, or information papers for display on your unit bulletin boards will remain the same, however the contents . . . the subjects covered, the manner in which they are presented and their intent is shifting and is, in fact evident in some portions of this edition.

For some time, now, we've taken a long hard look at the best way of providing information to National Guard members and helping their units get the information to their personnel and their families in a useable, reliable manner.

On Guard was originally established to be the "Vanguard" newspaper of the National Guard Bureau where it would serve to provide timely, needed information on programs coming out of NGB to the units where those programs would receive the most impact.

Several factors have limited **On Guard** in being "everything it should be."

Funding is one limitation, especially in these times of constrained resources. The fact that it is published monthly, with a longer preparation lead-time is another. The bulletin board format is another limitation.

Where does that leave **On Guard**?

As a series of information clip sheets, **On Guard** can focus on "good to know" subjects that commanders can emphasize or relate to in their own Troop Information sessions. Such topics as the need for and procedures for completing a will or a power of attorney, answers to questions such as "How does my family get paid if I am mobilized?", or "How does the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act protect my family if I'm mobilized?", or information on education, exchange and commissary benefits, or medical entitlements for Guardsmen are subjects that could be addressed in **On Guard** and passed on to your units.

We're dedicated to this "new" form of **On Guard**, but we'll keep plugging in really good stories of Guard members doing "special" things and making really super accomplishments. And, we'll keep the "Letters" column going just to be sure we're getting feedback from our efforts.



INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE — Bandmaster of the 145th Army Band, CW2 John Ryan, and 1st Sgt. Chris Westthrop talk with an Italian bandmaster.

Oklahoma's 145th Army Band 'WOWs' the Italian Alpini

by CPT James W. Fellabaum

Oklahoma "Thunderbird" Guard members from the 145th Army Band were the lead musical unit in the 61st meeting of the annual "Associazione Nazionale Alpini" for the elite Italian Alpine soldiers recently in Turin, Italy in May.

Arriving in the northern Italy town of Turin, or Torino, as it is called by the natives, the Guard musicians had barely settled in to the "caserma", or Italian military barracks on Friday evening when they learned they had a concert to perform the next evening.

Some concert!

Appearing on Italy's national television

network and performing before a crowd of almost 400,000 jammed into the piazza, or town square, the musicians "wowwed" the Italians with strains of "Oklahoma" and "The Army Song."

Then, on Sunday morning, despite a typical northern Italy drizzle, the 145th Army Band members led-off the Alpini parade winding their way through the narrow streets lined with almost a half-million enthused onlookers.

After the two and one half hour parade trek, the Guardsmen travelled to nearby Courmeyer, nestled near the majestic Alps, where the Italians train their rugged mountain troops, and where the Italian Olympic team also trains.



MUSIC FRIENDS — Sgt. Rebecca Renfro and Spec. Angela Hunter share a moment with Italian police, sometimes called "Carabinieri" following their participation in the Alpini parade in Turin.

National Guard 'National' leaders

Although no longer required by either the Department of Army or Department of Air Force, photographs suitable for posting on the unit bulletin board of its "National Guard" chain of command are often requested.

Remembering that the National Guard shares a dual role, both as a Federal Reserve force, as part of the Ready Reserve, and as a state's military, responsive to a "state" chain of command the photographs on this page and on page 5 reflect the "National-level Leaders" of the National Guard.



Ronald Reagan,
President

Frank C. Carlucci III,
Secretary of Defense



ADM William J. Crowe, Jr.
Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff



John O. Marsh, Jr.
Secretary of the Army



Edward C. Aldridge,
Secretary of the Air Force



'National-level' NG leadership

General Carl E. Vuono,
Chief of Staff,
U.S. Army



General Larry D. Welch,
Chief of Staff,
U.S. Air Force



Vice Chief, NGB

On July 15, Lt. Gen. Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Chief, National Guard Bureau announced the establishment of the position of Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau and the nomination of Maj. Gen. John B. Conaway to fill the newly created post. The Vice Chief, NGB will assist the Chief, National Guard Bureau in carrying out his statutory and regulatory duties. The creation of the new post was approved by the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Lt. Gen. Herbert R. Temple, Jr.
Chief,
National Guard Bureau



Maj. Gen. John B. Conaway
Vice Chief, NGB,



Maj. Gen. John B. Conaway
Director,
Air National Guard



Maj. Gen. Donald Burdick
Director,
Army National Guard



National Guard to support 'Stop Crop'

Lt. Gen. Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Chief, National Guard Bureau, and U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese recently announced the start of "Operation Stop Crop", the latest in an effort which has seen National Guard troops used to help law enforcement agents eradicate so-called "home-grown" marijuana plants in the U.S. and the territories.

National Guard support for drug enforcement operations by lawmen is not new. It has grown from four states being involved in drug enforcement efforts in 1983, to 25 the end of 1987, and from 209 personnel who were involved in the efforts in 1983, to 1,547 who supported drug enforcement efforts in 1987. From January to the end of April 1988, 10 states had already aided law enforcement officers in drug enforcement, with 234 personnel already involved in those efforts.

The use of the military to support drug enforcement efforts has increased in recent years. For almost a century, since the end of the Civil War, the military had been tightly restricted from working with law enforcement officials against private citizens. A change in the language of the "Posse Comitatus" Act in 1981 provided guidelines for a limited use of the military to assist law enforcement officials in drug enforcement efforts.

Under those guidelines, the use of the military may be permitted under limited circumstances when:

- The mission can be performed "incidental" to training.
- The cost of the support could be "reimbursed" by the government if no training benefit was realized from the support.
- The military did not become directly involved in law enforcement work . . . the arrest, apprehension and detention of suspected law breakers.

Later, a Presidential decision resulted in a more "liberal" interpretation of "training-related" benefits, such that more missions could be considered as "incidental to training" and taken without requiring "reimbursement" by the law enforcement agencies seeking the assistance.

The structure of the program has permitted the military to help in a variety of ways, the most common being:

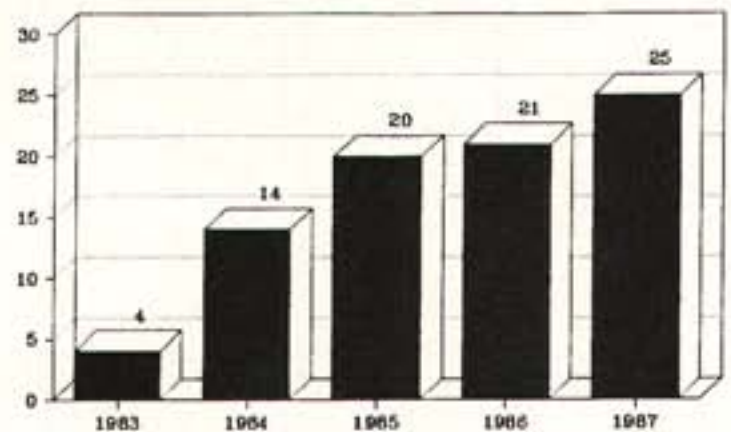
- Surveillance and reporting during training or incidental to training of suspected drug activities, especially during aerial flight.
- Loaning of equipment to help drug enforcement agents with specialized needs such as night vision devices or encryption devices to provide the lawmen with "secure" radio communications.

In FY88, more than 8,800 mandays were used to assist in drug enforcement operations, and over 2,500 flying hours were used in supporting law enforcement efforts.

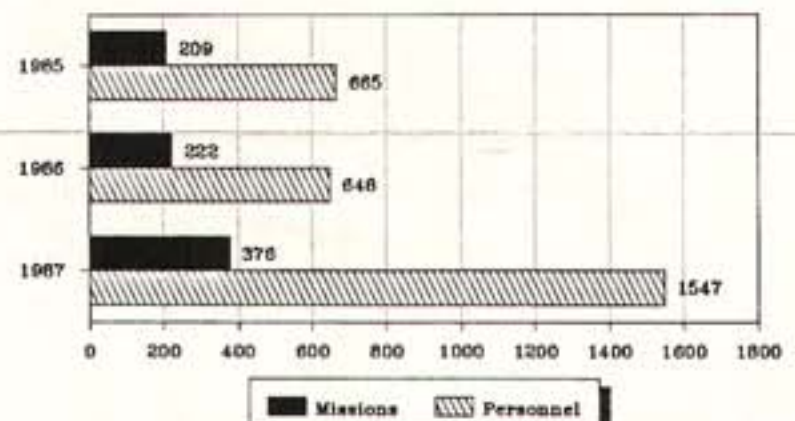
The latest effort, "Operation Stop Crop" is expected to use support from Guardsmen in a nationwide campaign by drug enforcement agencies to wipe out the proliferation of illegal marijuana crops that have sprung up across the nation in recent years.

In FY87, more than 1 million marijuana plants were eradicated through drug enforcement programs which used National Guard support. The same efforts saw lawmen seize more than 5,000 pounds of cocaine with the assessed value of the eradicated marijuana plants and the cocaine at over \$1.3 billion.

Drug Enforcement Support States Involved in Missions

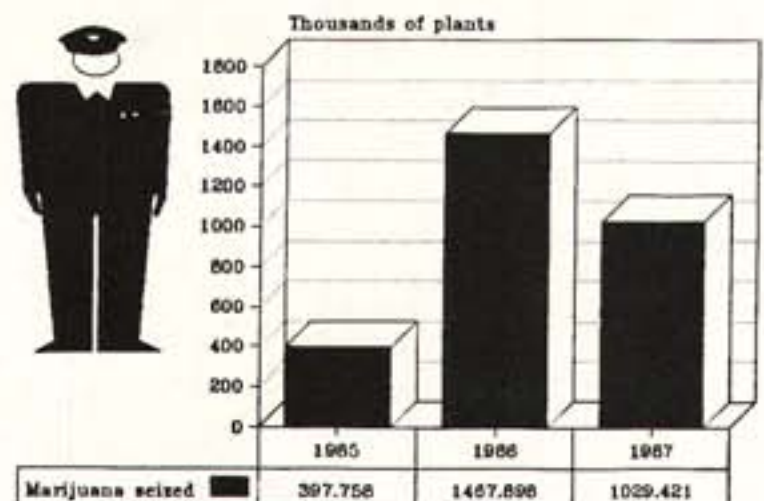


Drug Enforcement Support Total Missions and Personnel



(Data not available for FY82-84)

Marijuana Seizures





BASE RESPONSE — Capt. Jon Morrow charts a course during "battle" under remotized BASE conditions at a Las Vegas armory, while Lt. Col. Karl Ritterby commander, 1st Battalion, 221st Armor looks on.

1/221 Armor takes on 'Remote' BASE training

by Sgt. Terry Conder

The 1st Battalion, 221st Armor, headquartered in Las Vegas, "deployed" to a strategic location in Germany recently to test its ability to sustain combat readiness in an unfamiliar environment, without ever leaving the state!

"It costs a lot of money to put a battalion in the field. Tankers would rather lay out the equipment and do it for real, but the funds are not available," said Lt. Col. Rick Pierce from the I Corps Battle Simulation Center in Ft. Lewis, Wash. So, in the past, armor battalion staffs have travelled to Ft. Lewis to test their command skills against a computer "war game" called Battalion Automated Simulation Exercise (BASE). But now Guardsmen don't even have to travel to Ft. Lewis to "train in Germany". They can experience

the challenges of an overseas deployment right in their home town.

"We're making history," said Pierce, "the I Corps Battle Simulation Center at Ft. Lewis is the premier war scenario center in the world. This exercise in Las Vegas is the first time we have ever conducted BASE from a remote location," he said.

BASE costs hundreds of thousands of dollars less than field training exercises. By "going" into remote locations, BASE will save an additional \$10,000 per exercise.

"We're validating the system right now, we're going to be able to go remote anywhere, even to field training sites like Yakima and Camp Roberts," said Pierce.

President Reagan speaks on behalf of Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve.



"There are more than a million men and women serving America in the National Guard and Reserve. They're a vital part of our nation's defense.

"Duty with the Guard and Reserve is demanding. It requires members to take time off from their regular jobs and takes them away from their families for military training.

"Therefore, I extend the thanks of the nation to those of you who support the Guard and Reserve. Without the backing of employers and families, we could not maintain these essential volunteer forces.

"The security of our nation depends on a strong Guard and Reserve. And, a strong Guard and Reserve depends on us."

Join the President in supporting the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. Protect their future while they protect yours.

For information on how you can support the National Guard and Reserve, write Employer Support, Arlington, Virginia 22209.



HEALING HANDS — Tech. Sgt. Deborah Fredette's tender manner relieves some of Mariber Cerrato's apprehension while Fredette treats the Honduran girl during Annual Training at the U.S. medical clinic at Palmerola Air Base, Honduras. Fredette is a member of the 182nd Tactical Air Support Group, Illinois Air National Guard. (Photo by Spec. 4 Calvin Ford, Massachusetts Army National Guard)



STRESS-LESS — Rhode Island Army Guard Sgt. Elias Diaz keeps himself "stress-free" as he works on a vehicle during Annual Training.

Rhode Island Guardsman Beats stress; Guard helps

Story photo by Capt. John P. Leistritz

Three years ago, Elias Diaz was the hard-working owner of an auto repair and sales business, a six-year Navy veteran, with no thought of joining the Guard or Reserve. Running his business and helping his wife raise three children was enough to keep him busy.

In fact, it was keeping him so busy that his health was in danger. Stress was taking its toll in the form of high blood pressure, enough so, that, at the age of 42, "Eli" Diaz heard a doctor tell him he ought to retire.

"My first reaction was 'no way' ", he says. "I had one daughter in college and two more coming along; how could I afford to retire?"

Finally, Eli decided he'd had enough.

So in the interest of picking up a few extra dollars, Eli Diaz began looking into joining a Guard or Reserve unit.

Someone suggested the MP's, and he figured 'why not — I've always wanted to be a cop'.

Unfortunately, he was too short to be a military policeman. But, he wasn't too short—and was exceptionally qualified—to be a member of the motor section of the Rhode Island Army National Guard's

1111th MP Company, when he joined as a Sp4.

Diaz was promoted recently to sergeant, and now heads the unit's five-person motor section, with responsibility for 40 vehicles.

He enjoys the Army National Guard, he says, because it's so different from the Navy. But that's not the only reason. "I like the fact that the Guard has a role in assisting the civilian population," Diaz says.

"What's more, I have a lot of experience in repairing and maintaining motor vehicles, and being a part of the Guard gives me a chance to contribute by sharing that experience."

Asked whether there's any advice he'd offer to someone else wrestling with a stress problem, Diaz had a quick response.

"You have to change your life. You have to learn to control your emotions, by yourself if you can, with the help of a counselor if you can't," he asserts. "Otherwise, life will get the better of you."

Eli Diaz still takes his own blood pressure every day. He doesn't plan on life getting the better of him.

Army Guard Fitness ordered

Maj. Gen. Donald Burdick, Director, Army National Guard has issued new guidance concerning Physical Fitness Training (PFT) for all Army Guard members calling for all full time AGR soldiers in both Title 10 and Title 32 programs to take part in PFT at least three times each week, and for commanders to incorporate "appropriate amounts and types of PFT into IDT (drill periods) and other training periods."

The new guidance aligns the Army Guard with Department of the Army Regulation calling for "All personnel in the Active Army, ARNG and USAR" to take part in either "collective or individual physical fitness training programs year-round," and for fulltime Guardsmen to "conduct regularly scheduled" vigorous physical fitness programs during the unit's normal duty day.

Burdick's memo establishing the revised policy calls for PFT to be conducted "during regularly scheduled duty hours of the normal duty day as specified by the State Adjutant General."

AIDS Test Phase II Set for ARNG

Pending the award of a nationwide contract for laboratory services, the Army Guard has announced that in August it will begin the second phase of screening for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which is linked to the disease AIDS.

The testing is intended to meet Army requirements for screening the force for HIV every two years and the Army Guard goal is to screen 100 percent of the assigned strength within every state every two years.

In announcing this phase of the program, Army Guard Director Maj. Gen. Donald Burdick stressed "It is essential that priority at all command levels be given to HIV screening to determine the incidence of this disease and to minimize the impact on unit readiness."