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THE GEORGIA
GUARDSMAN

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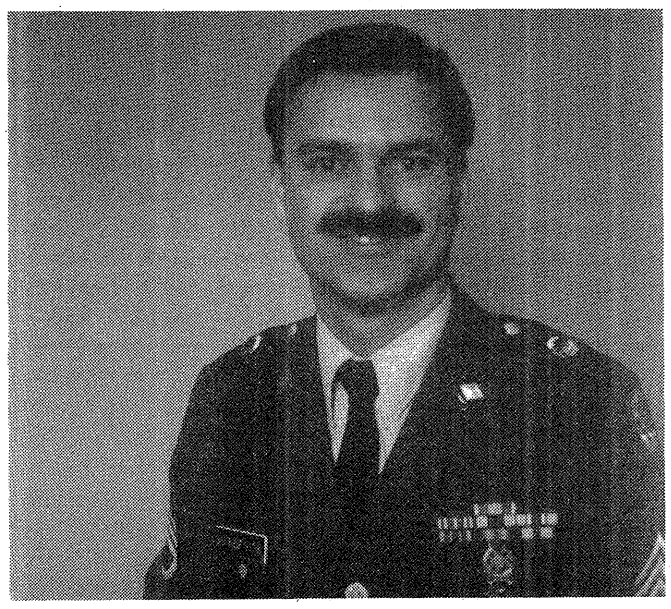
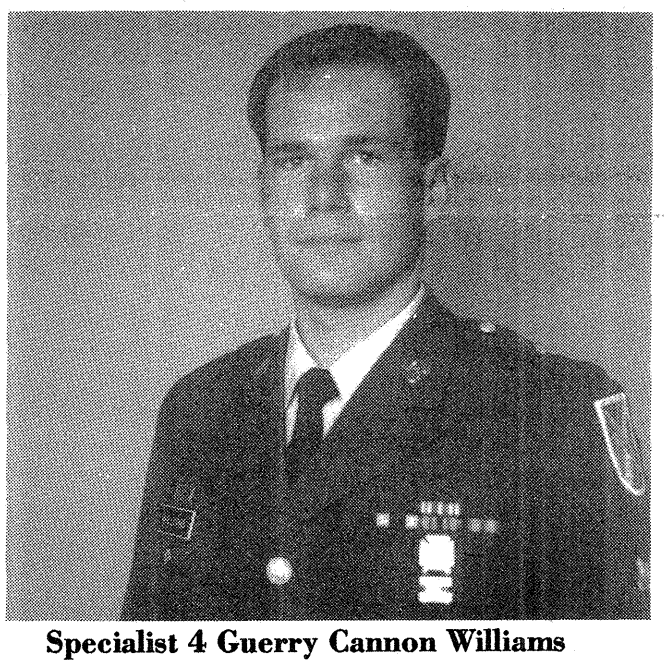


Staff Sergeant Gene F. Berbenick



Specialist 4 Guerry Cannon Williams

Berbenick, Williams earn Soldier of the Year awards

Staff Sergeant Gene F. Berbenick, 38, finance supervisor at Headquarters, State Area Command in Atlanta (STARC), Georgia Army National Guard, has been chosen as the 1988 "Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year" -- for both the Georgia Army National Guard and the Second U.S. Army.

Announcement of Berbenick's selection was made by Maj.Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, Georgia's adjutant general, and by the Second U.S. Army, Forces Command.

Berbenick was selected for the top award -- at both the state and 2nd Army levels -- for his "outstanding performance of military duties, leadership qualities and contributions to his unit and to the Georgia Army Guard."

"Competition for the distinguished award is exceptionally strong," Griffin said. "We commend Berbenick for his achievements and for earning an award which is not only a great honor for him, but also for his unit and the Georgia Guard."

Competition for the award at state level is sponsored annually by Headquarters, Forces Command, at Fort McPherson, Ga. Winners of the award at state level subsequently compete at the 2nd U.S. Army level. Eight states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands comprise the 2nd U.S. Army area.

Berbenick has served in the finance section of the Georgia Army Guard for the past five years.

"The Guard prides itself on being prepared," Berbenick said. "And, an essential part of being prepared is being concerned -- and taking steps to be certain -- that Guard members are paid correctly and on time. That affects the morale, discipline and performance of soldiers."

Berbenick said that there is a "can-do" attitude within his Guard unit. "We know that finance is an important task or mission in the support of military operations, facilities and equipment. Each of us strives for accuracy, for perfection."

Prior to joining the Georgia Guard, Berbenick served on active duty with the U.S. Army for six years. His tours of duty in military finance included assignments at Fort Lewis, Wash., and three years in Mannheim, Germany.

"Travel opportunities are one of the finest benefits for military personnel," Berbenick said. "You gain wonderful experiences and a special education when you visit different nations and learn about other cultures."

Commenting on his selection as the year's top NCO, Berbenick said that he was "thrilled and considered it an honor to represent his unit, the Georgia Army Guard and the State of Georgia."

A native of Astoria, N.Y., Berbenick holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York and a Doctor of Chiropractic from Life Chiropractic College in Marietta, Ga. He is a full time staff member of the Culpepper Chiropractic Center in Mableton, Ga.

Residents of Powder Springs, Berbenick and his wife, Barbara, have three sons, Mike, 17, Marc, 9, and Joel, 7 years of age.

Williams Honored

Specialist 4 Guerry Cannon Williams, 25, of Macon's Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), Georgia Army National Guard, has been selected as the Georgia Guard's "Soldier of the Year," reports Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, Georgia's adjutant general.

Continued on page 3

Atlanta Journal honors 3 Guardsmen

Two members of a single Georgia Army National Guard battery in Springfield are among three Guardsmen statewide selected to receive The Atlanta Journal Achievement Award.

They are Staff Sgt. Cary L. Taylor of Claxton and Pvt. Glyn C. Goldwire of Springfield, both members of Springfield's Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery. Also cited was Master Sgt. Robert C. Hipp of Watkinsville, a member of Winder's Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry (TLAT).

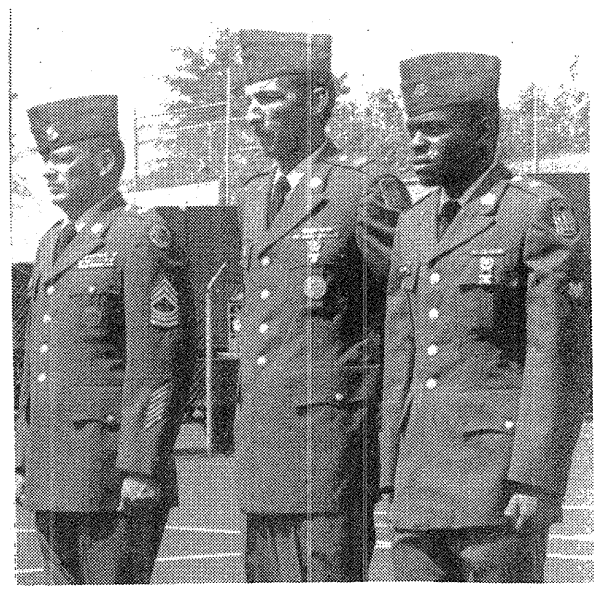
The award has been given annually for 24 years to three soldiers in the Georgia Army National Guard and three in the U.S. Army Reserve. Recipients are selected for outstanding achievement, including excellent job skills, "exemplary conduct, training attendance, leadership, loyalty, enthusiasm and instructional ability." Competition is by rank: Private first class and below, specialist four through staff sergeant, and sergeant first class and above.

Asked how one battery in Southeast Georgia produced two winners in statewide competition, Taylor and Goldwire respond with nearly identical answers. "Everybody in the unit is from around the community and we are like a family in the Guard," said Sergeant Taylor. "We know each other and we know how to work with each other."

"It's a family-type unit," said Private Goldwire, a student at Georgia Southern College in Statesboro, in a separate interview. A cannoneer on the special weapons team in the battery, Goldwire also participates in ROTC at Georgia Southern and expects eventually to serve as a commissioned officer.

Even before The Atlanta Journal Award, his leadership potential had been recognized. He was nominated as the Outstanding Soldier of Annual Training last year and "possesses the potential to become an

Continued on page 2



Army Guard winners (From left) Master Sgt. Hipp, Staff Sgt. Taylor, Pvt. Goldwire.

Insurance Plan announces new benefits

As of April 1, 1988 the Group Life Insurance Program sponsored by the Georgia National Guard Association will make effective new benefits.

The NGAGA is pleased to announce the payment of "free insurance" on claims resulting from the death of a Guardmember.

An additional 10 percent of the Guardmember's coverage will be paid to the beneficiary within 24 hours following notification to the NGAGA office. One year minimum enrollment under this group policy is required to be eligible for the 10 percent free insurance payment.

Other significant changes have been made to this policy over the past years. Last year the coverage was extended to age 70 (an addition of 5 years); and children were insured immediately upon birth (rather than at 2 weeks of age). Benefits and changes such as these can only be made and realized through continued interest and support by you, the Georgia Guardsman.

Since its beginning in October 1984, this group life insurance program has proven to be of great benefit to many Georgia Guard families.

In just over three years the plan has paid in excess of $750,000 in death claims to Georgia Guard families. If you are not presently enrolled in this program, we encourage you to do so. By enrolling you not only acquire additional insurance protection for yourself and your family, but help to make future benefits available to the many thousands of other Air and Army National Guard members and families across the state.

Guardsmen can enroll at any time either with your Unit Insurance Administrator or by contacting our office at 404-239-0422.

The premium payment is conveniently deducted automatically from your Guard pay, and you can continue this coverage after you leave the Guard. Take advantage of this opportunity through your Guard affiliation today.

Seven Reasons To Join

Seven Important Reasons You Should Join The NGAGA Group Life Insurance Program

****

1. Each Guard member may select $10,000...$15,000...or $25,000 of additional insurance coverage payable in the event of death from any cause.
2. Insure your spouse and children for $10,000 spouse/$5,000 each child; $6,000 spouse/$3,000 each child; or $4,000 spouse/$2,000 each child.
3. Monthly premium will be automatically deducted from your Guard pay.
4. You are covered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, even while you are on active duty for training and schooling.
5. Keep your same insurance coverage after you leave the Guard without having to convert by maintaining membership in the Officers or Enlisted Association.
6. Almost One Million Dollars paid to Georgia Guard members and their families in death claims since October 1984.
7. 10% Free Insurance payable within 24 hrs. on death of Guardsman (minimum 1 year enrollment).

MORE DETAILS
For Members WITHOUT Dependents

$10,000.....$3.80 per month
$15,000.....$5.70 per month
$25,000.....$8.95 per month

For Members WITH Dependents
- Add to the Above -

$4,000 spouse/$2,000 each child .....$1.50 per month
$6,000 spouse/$3,000 each child .....$2.00 per month
$10,000 spouse/$5,000 each child .....$3.00 per month

For additional information and a brochure see your Unit Insurance Administrator or contact the NGAGA office at 404-239-0422.

Journal Awards continued from page 1

influential leader in his military career," said his commander, Capt. Earl E. Lang.

Taylor, a 20-year Guard veteran, serves as the battery's motor sergeant. In nominating him for The Atlanta Journal Award, Capt. Lang praised his "technical knowledge in maintenance" and his "reliability and initiative in his extra efforts and immediate response to maintenance needs."

Married and the father of a three-month-old daughter, Sergeant Taylor is employed by the Union Camp Corp.

Hipp, an 18-year Guard veteran, is assigned full time to the Winder-based infantry unit as operations sergeant. Of the award, Hipp was modest. "I owe it all to the support the other Guardsmen in the unit have given me," he said.

The awards were presented in ceremonies in Atlanta by Durwood McAlister, the editorial page editor of The Journal, and by Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, Georgia's adjutant general.

2% Pay raise is approved; started Jan. 1st

WEEKEND DRILL PAY RATES
EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 1988

PAY GRADE	YEARS OF SERVICE 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS														
O-8	587.16	604.72	619.08	619.08	619.08	665.24	665.24	696.68	696.68	725.68	757.20	786.20	786.20	786.20
O-7	487.88	521.04	521.04	521.04	544.40	544.40	575.96	575.96	604.72	665.24	711.00	711.00	711.00	711.00
O-6	361.60	397.32	423.32	423.32	423.32	423.32	423.32	423.32	437.68	506.88	532.80	544.40	575.96	624.68
O-5	289.20	339.60	363.08	363.08	363.08	363.08	374.08	394.16	420.60	452.08	478.00	492.48	509.68	509.68
O-4	243.80	296.88	316.64	316.64	322.52	336.76	359.72	379.96	397.32	414.72	426.20	426.20	426.20	426.20
O-3	226.56	253.28	270.76	299.60	313.92	325.20	342.80	359.72	368.60	368.60	368.60	368.60	368.60	368.60
O-2	197.56	215.76	259.16	267.88	273.52	273.52	273.52	273.52	273.52	273.52	273.52	273.52	273.52	273.52
O-1	171.48	178.56	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76	215.76
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER														
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	299.60	313.92	325.20	342.80	359.72	374.08	374.08	374.08	374.08	374.08	374.08
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	267.88	273.52	282.16	296.88	308.20	316.64	316.64	316.64	316.64	316.64	316.64
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.76	230.48	238.96	247.60	256.24	267.88	267.88	267.88	267.88	267.88	267.88
WARRANT OFFICERS														
W-4	230.80	247.60	247.60	253.28	264.80	276.48	288.08	308.20	322.52	333.84	342.80	353.84	365.68	394.16
W-3	209.76	227.56	227.56	230.48	233.16	250.24	264.80	273.52	282.16	290.56	299.60	311.24	322.52	333.84
W-2	183.72	198.76	198.76	204.56	215.76	227.56	236.20	244.84	253.28	262.16	270.76	279.32	290.56	290.56
W-1	153.08	175.52	175.52	190.16	198.76	207.32	215.76	224.68	233.16	241.84	250.24	259.16	259.16	259.16
ENLISTED MEMBERS														
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	268.48	274.56	280.76	287.20	293.60	299.32	315.04	345.68
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.16	231.60	237.68	243.88	250.28	256.08	262.36	277.76	308.72
E-7	157.20	169.68	176.00	182.12	188.36	194.36	200.56	206.80	216.16	222.32	228.52	231.48	247.04	277.76
E-6	135.24	147.40	153.56	160.08	166.04	172.08	178.40	187.60	193.48	199.72	202.76	202.76	202.76	202.76
E-5	118.68	129.20	135.44	141.36	150.64	156.76	163.00	169.00	172.08	172.08	172.08	172.08	172.08	172.08
E-4	110.72	116.88	123.76	133.36	138.64	138.64	138.64	138.64	138.64	138.64	138.64	138.64	133.64	138.64
E-3	104.28	110.00	114.44	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96
E-2	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36	100.36
E-1 >4	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52	89.52
E-1 <4	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76	82.76

Source: Department of Defense, January 1988

Schmidt selected as first Air National Guard pilot to attend 'Fighter Weapons School' for F-15 Eagle

By Capt. Ken Baldowski
Georgia Air National Guard

Captain Steve Schmidt, 33, weapons and tactics officer for the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) at Dobbins AFB, is the first Air National Guard pilot in the nation to attend and graduate from the "Fighter Weapons School" (FWS) for the F-15 Eagle at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

Schmidt was graduated from the school on April 30.

The FWS is the most intensive fighter training school in the Air Force. Once pilots complete the four month program, they are the technical experts for their units in tactical aerial combat.

Schmidt, a 2 1/2 year veteran of the 116th TFW, was selected to be one of only five trainees in the current class of F-15 pilots at the Fighter Weapons School. Slots on the program are available to all major commands, and the competition pits the top fighter pilots in the Air Force against one another.

Minimum requirements for consideration for the fighter school begin with the candidate being an instructor pilot in the F-15 with 400-500 hours of flying time.

While Schmidt's selection to attend the Fighter Weapons School is singularly distinctive as the only ANG pilot in the program, the 116th TFW has three former graduates of the F-15 program. Captains Jess Hamilton, Steve Beck and Brad Thompson have all completed the school while on active duty assignments in the Air Force. Capt. Hamilton returned to the Fighter Weapons School as an instructor. No other Air National Guard unit in the nation can boast of this number of FWS graduates.

According to Capt. Beck who attended during the fall of 1980-81, "Fighter Weapons School is like receiving a Ph.D in fighter deployment. From sunup to sundown, it's either flying, ground school or studying."

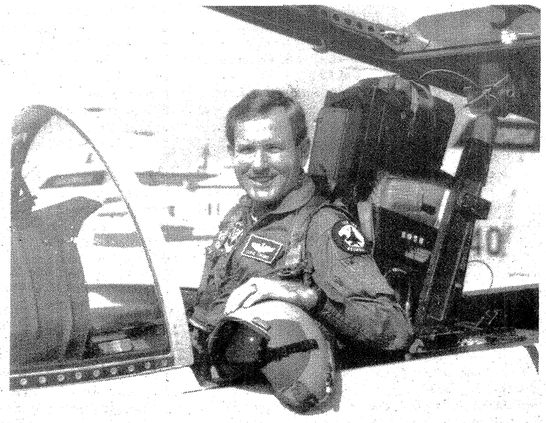
"Fighter Weapons School is similar to the Navy's 'Top Gun' school in California," said Beck, "but our philosophy for training combat pilots is quite different. The Navy sends more pilots through a much less intensive program in 'Top Gun' -- six weeks vs. four months."

"Air Force pilots at Fighter Weapons School upon graduation return to their units as technical and tactical experts in the weapons system. They assume the role of resident specialists in all aspects of fighter deployment," Beck added.

While at FWS, Schmidt was assigned an individual instructor for the four month period. He flew about three times weekly. In addition, each pilot was required to write a "thesis" on some aspects of aerial tactics and prepare a formal presentation on similar subjects.

While much of the activity at Nellis AFB is air-to-air combat simulation, pilots have the opportunity to fire live artillery at drone targets while on TDY to Tyndall AFB, Florida.

Being a combat fighter pilot is a distinction few will ever enjoy. Being chosen to participate in the world's most grueling aerial combat school is a career distinction only a few can experience. But to be the first -- in what some day will be a succession of the finest F-15 pilots in the Air National Guard -- can only be realized by one.



Captain Steve Schmidt at the controls of the F-15 Eagle.

Steve and his wife, Lois, are residents of Marietta. Lois, a native of Tulsa, Okla. is also a Captain in the Georgia Air Guard where she serves full-time at State Headquarters in Atlanta. Steve is a native of West Palm Beach, Fla.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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Guardsmen volunteer in search for missing Liberty County man

Some 27 Georgia Army Guardsmen were among 60 volunteers who participated in a search-and-rescue operation at Midway, Ga., June 7 when an elderly man was found after being lost for almost two days.

A resident of Midway, Jackson Lowe, 77, was reported missing June 5 when he did not return home after leaving about 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the Georgia Guardsmen, other volunteers included local citizens, law enforcement personnel and members of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

At 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 7 one of the Guardsmen found Lowe. He was unharmed and standing under a large tree in a densely wooded area less than a mile from his home.

Georgia Army Guardsmen who volunteered to search for Lowe included 15 members of Hinesville's 166th Maintenance Co., 10 members of Headquarters, State Area Command in Atlanta, (who were attending AT at the time), one Guardsman from the 75th Engineer Detachment at Fort Stewart and one Guardsman from Macon's Co. B., 148th Support Battalion.

Berbenick, Williams continued from pg. 1

Williams earned the award for his "outstanding military performance, leadership qualities and contributions to his unit and the Georgia Army Guard."

Having served as a combat engineer while on active duty in the U.S. Army, Williams is operations non-commissioned officer in his unit and assists in the coordination of engineer activities for the 48th Brigade.

A resident of Green Cove Springs, Fla., Williams was recently graduated from Georgia College in Milledgeville where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science.

"The military means a lot to me," Williams said. "Since I had served in the active military forces, the Veterans Education Assistance Program has made it possible for me to go to college. That's an opportunity I may not have had otherwise."

Williams explained that he joined the 48th Infantry Brigade so that he could serve as a combat engineer with duties similar to those he performed while on active duty. In the active Army for two years, he served with the 17th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

"I consider the Army Corps of Engineers to be an elite group," Williams said. "There is a lot of pride, great teamwork among the members of our Guard unit. Emphasis is continually placed on maximum efforts, efficiency, and smooth and effective communications in the 48th Brigade.

"We consider our job -- the planning and construction of bridges, roads, buildings or other facilities -- vital to the success of combat missions and often to the economy of communities or nations where military operations are conducted," Williams added.

While attending college, Williams said that the Army Guard provided him with a "great change of pace on drill weekends and at annual training. It got me away from the routine of books and studying."

"The Guard also gives me an opportunity to meet a different group of people, make new friends, and help others," he added.

Williams said he plans to pursue a career with the Federal Government. "I'd like to become an air traffic controller," he said.

"And with a background in political science, later in my career I may consider the possibility of becoming a lobbyist."

Books: U.S. Army in Vietnam

Failure to define aims, dissimilar goals mark early years

by James F. Hill

***Advice and Support, The Early Years; The U. S. Army In Vietnam*, by Ronald H. Spector, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1983 (CMH Pub 9H)**

Advice and Support, the Early Years is the first volume published by the U.S. Army Center of Military History chronicling the United States Army's involvement in Vietnam. Professor Spector's focus spans the period from World War II until late 1960.

To many, the post World War II involvement of the French in Indo-China was only a rehearsal for the later involvement of the United States in Vietnam. Spector disagrees, arguing that the French Indo-China War from 1946 to 1954 – which culminated with the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in March 1954 –and the early advisory period of the U.S. (1955-1960) were two separate periods. While he concedes that the French defeat and the early U.S. involvement led to U.S. troops being committed in South Vietnam, Spector notes that the French and the United States developed distinctly different national policies and sought dissimilar goals.

In this very detailed and researched volume, Spector contends that the history of Vietnam after World War II until the end of the Eisenhower administration, can be classified into two periods – French and American.

In the first period, writes Spector, the French were fighting to maintain their pre-World II colonial empire. For that reason, France felt justified in using combat forces to disrupt and destroy the emerging nationalistic movement in both the northern and southern regions of Vietnam. By 1954, however, France had suffered not only embarrassingly on the battlefield, but had also failed politically to crush the nationalism of her Asian colony. Consequently, France was more than willing to abandon her colonial ambitions in 1954 when the Geneva Accord split Vietnam into north and south. In fact the Accord, along with France's withdrawal set the stage for a period of American involvement.

According to Spector this second period found American leaders striving to help the South Vietnamese armed forces acquire the necessary strength and ability to defend its nation against internal and external enemies without the aid of large numbers of U.S. or other allied ground forces. Both periods, writes Spector, ended in failure.

The reasons for the American failure are still being assessed, yet some causes have already emerged. These include a failure to clearly define U.S. military aims in Vietnam. There was also a failure to clearly understand difficulties which forced the French from Vietnam and this deficiency ultimately led to poor strategic planning and thinking.

Indeed, while many ranking individuals in Washington believed that Communist subversion was a greater threat to South Vietnam than an actual, overt invasion from the North, U.S. training and advisory efforts were diverted towards the latter. The U.S. advisory mission in South Vietnam became one of preparing the country's armed forces to resist an invasion from the North. The possibility of counterinsurgency, was not considered a major factor in readying the South Vietnamese simply because it was, at the time, not one of this nation's major military concepts. Moreover, as America was fighting a more conventional war in Korea during this same period, U.S. military staffs in Vietnam were guided much by experiences there.

Spector demonstrates the inadequacy of American planning by reviewing the two-pronged thrust to strengthen South Vietnam's fighting forces. On the one hand were attempts by the State Department and other agencies to train local Civil Guard and Self-Defense Forces for local hamlets and area protection while, on the other, the U.S. Advisory Group was charged with training the Vietnamese Army for conventional warfare against an outside threat. The result of this training approach was bureaucratic infighting, delays in shipping necessary equipment and distinct personality clashes between the U.S. bureaucracy and the U.S. Military.

Consequently, when in the later advisory years, the Vietnamese Army was required to be directly committed against the Communist insurgents it was not prepared or trained for that mission. Moreover, the Vietnamese Army's indifferent performance as a unified fighting force, even after several years of U.S. support and training, is now attributed to two factors. First was the inherent weaknesses of the Vietnamese Army as an institution. American advisors could never grasp that the "American Way" was not the "Asian Way" when it came to military forces. In the Vietnamese Army all senior officers owed their rank and positions of responsibility to the political system of the country, not the military system. The political system allowed incompetent, but politically reliable officers to be promoted ahead of the rank and file, even though many of the "rank and file" officers had served in the regular French Army and the French Foreign Legion.

Secondly, the Vietnamese soldier did not have a feeling of national pride, motivation or patriotism. His personal feelings were more attuned to his hamlet and his area rather than the National Government in Saigon. Added to this was the inadequate technical ability of the Vietnamese combat soldier, who more than likely, was a recent draftee who had never received any complete training cycle. In fact, the Vietnamese Army level of proficiency was so low in combat skills, even at the squad and platoon levels, the question of specialized training in such areas as guerrilla warfare was irrelevant.

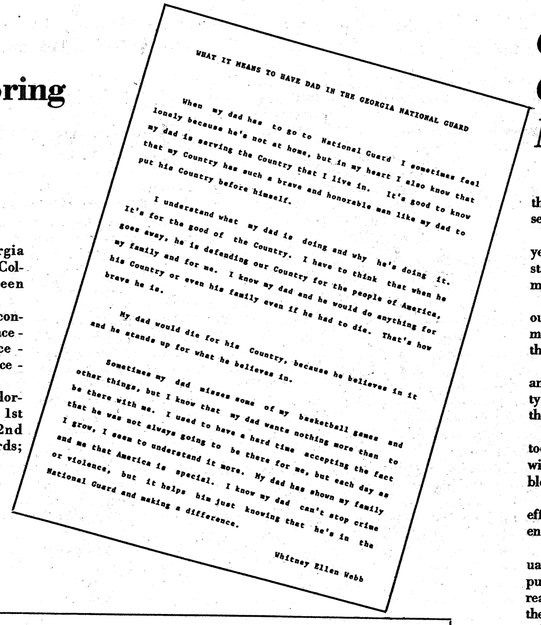
Continued on page 10

Essay, coloring contest winners announced

Winners of the Georgia National Guard Essay and Coloring Contest have been announced.

In the 10 to 18 year old contest the winners are: 1st Place - Whitney Webb; 2nd Place - Micah Crews; and 3rd Place - Sam Edwards.

In the 5 to 9 year old coloring contest the winners are: 1st Place - Leslie Strange; 2nd Place - Mary Kate Edwards; and 3rd Place - Amy Crews.



WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE DAD IN THE GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

When my dad has to go to National Guard I sometimes feel lonely because he's not at home, but in my heart I also know that my dad is serving the Country that I live in. It's good to know that my Country has such a brave and honorable man like my dad to put his Country before himself.

I understand what my dad is doing and why he's doing it. It's for the good of the Country. I have to think that when he goes away, he is defending our Country for the people of America, my family and for me. I know my dad and he would do anything for his Country or even his family even if he had to die. That's how brave he is.

My dad would die for his Country, because he believes in it and he stands up for what he believes in.

Sometimes my dad misses some of my basketball games and other things, but I know that my dad wants nothing more than to be there with me. I used to have a hard time accepting the fact that he was not always going to be there for me, but each day as I grow, I seem to understand it more. My dad has shown my family and me that America is special. I know my dad can't stop crime or violence, but it helps him just knowing that he's in the National Guard and making a difference.

Whitney Ellen Webb

You won't notice any difference, but your country will.

The five minutes you spend registering with Selective Service at the post office won't change you.

But it *will* make a difference to your country. So when you turn 18, register with Selective Service. *It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.*

A public service message of this publication and Selective Service System.

Col. Allen earns Georgia's top Military award

Col. Lawrence L. Allen, a Thomaston physician who serves as the Georgia Army National Guard's staff surgeon, has been presented the state's highest military award for service.

Allen, who has practiced family medicine in Thomaston for 25 years, was presented the Georgia Distinctive Service Medal by the state's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, in ceremonies in Atlanta on March 18.

He was selected to receive the award for exceptionally meritorious service while implementing and supervising AIDS testing for more than 11,000 soldiers last year. The medal is given to no more than five individuals per year.

"It was a tremendous undertaking to test 11,000 Guardsmen, and to conduct the testing in such a way as to insure confidentiality of results for every one of those," said Col. Paul H. Jossey Jr., the deputy chief of staff for personnel.

For soldiers whose initial testing returned positive, "Col. Allen took time off from his civilian job, sometimes without pay" to meet with them privately, discuss the findings, and draw a second blood sample for retesting, Colonel Jossey noted.

"This was all a total unknown," Col. Allen says of the first-ever effort last year to test every Guardsman in Georgia for the presence of the AIDS virus.

"It was like sailing a great uncharted ocean. Informing individuals of positive test results was not something that I would have put on anybody else, because we had no idea how anybody might react and, too, there was some personal risk involved in handling the second blood sample."

He drove or was flown to the hometown armory of every Guardsman who initially tested positive to discuss the findings privately.

The reaction from individuals notified was much the same as the reaction of patients told of a terminal illness, the colonel said: Initial rejection, hostility, anger and acceptance. Some

Continued on page 10

Second oldest unit in the Georgia Army Guard

166th Maintenance Company celebrates 200th Anniversary

By Sgt. Elliott Minor
124th Public Affairs Detachment

Hinesville's 166th Maintenance Company, second oldest unit in the Georgia Army National Guard, celebrated its 200th anniversary on May 14 with a parade, an open house and a ceremony honoring former members.

"I'm proud to see it look as good as it did today," said Capt. Jim Niksch, who joined the 166th as an enlisted man in 1978 and now serves as its commander.

Members of the 166th kicked off the festivities by trooping the colors for visitors seated in a reviewing stand.

Among the guests were past commanders of the 166th and Col. Fred Shaver, commander of the Army Guard's 118th Field Artillery Brigade in Savannah.

Afterwards, about 34 members, including a color guard, marched in a parade signaling the start of a two-day festival in Hinesville.

Known as the "Liberty County Salutes America Parade," the event has been held for the past six years to "promote patriotism and foster understanding between the civilian community and the soldiers at nearby Fort Stewart."

Also featured in the parade was the Georgia Army National Guard's 116th Army Band from Atlanta.

Popular Attractions At Open House

Later, during an open house at the Hinesville armory, dozens of visitors dined on ham and peas in the mess hall and made the rounds of military equipment displays, including the new M-1 Abrams tank and the Bradley fighting vehicle.

An M-60 machine gun loaded with blanks proved a popular attraction.

"I've shot guns before, but never more than one bullet at a time," said Lisa Smith after firing a loud burst from the machine gun.

"It is a thrill to me," said Alice Hines of Glennville, wife of Guardsman Arthur Hines. "Firing this weapon is easy," she added. "I thought it would kick."

First Sgt. Keith Rahn, whose father and grandfather also served in the Hinesville Guard unit, said members donated a lot of extra time to insure the success of the celebration.

"It's a joyous occasion," he added.

A Proud History

Dick Cohan, 61, a retired Guardsman who serves as the unit's historian, said the original Hinesville unit was formed officially on Sept. 12, 1788. It has been known by a variety of names, such as the St. Johns Rangers, the Liberty Independent Troop and the Liberty Dragoons.

The Hinesville soldiers remained cavalrymen through the 1940s, except for a short time during World War I. During this period the unit became Company B of the Field Signal Battalion, said Cohan, the unit commanding officer from 1962 until 1964.

Through the 1950s, the unit's mission changed several times until it was designated an ordnance company. Now its 298 members, including a detachment in nearby Glennville, are responsible for repairing a wide range of Army equipment, from radios to tanks, said Rahn.

The Hinesville unit was founded two years after the state's oldest unit, the Chatham Artillery of Savannah, was organized. Hinesville Guardsmen have been mobilized for nearly every war since the unit was founded, including both world wars and the Korean conflict.

A 'Cohesive' Unit

"We're . . . cohesive. I think it's because a lot of these people have grown up together," said Niksch. "They've worked and lived together. We care about each other."

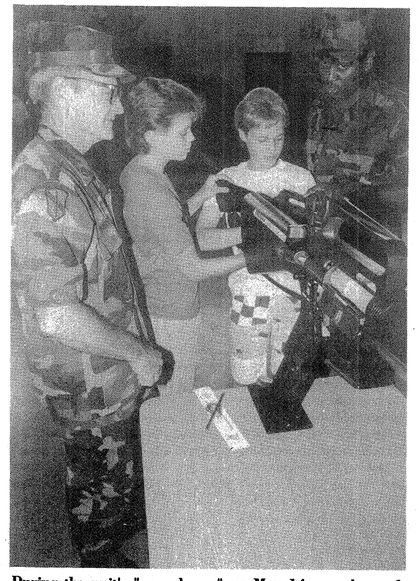
"This celebration has made the young fellows . . . conscious of the heritage this unit enjoys," added Niksch. "If you have roots and a proud heritage, I think it motivates you to do a better job."

Sgt. Charles Turner, a National Guard mechanic, said he enjoyed carrying a handmade replica of the Liberty Independent Troop guidon in the parade.

When he's not turning a wrench, Turner puts his artistic talents to work at the armory. A drawing and a design featuring the unit's motto, "Come and Take It," were on display during the open house.

"It makes you want to stand proud," Turner said of the festivities.

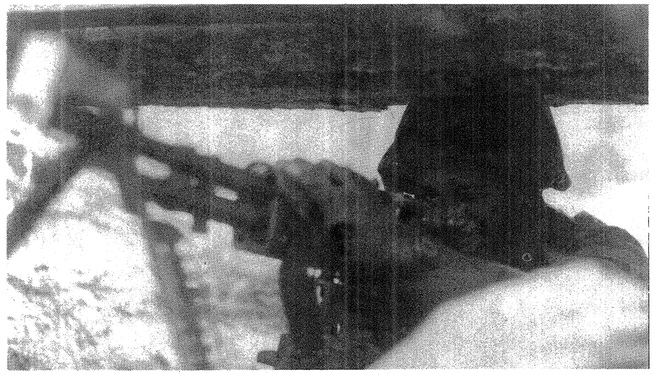
A color guard of the 166th Maintenance Company marches during the unit's bicentennial celebration.



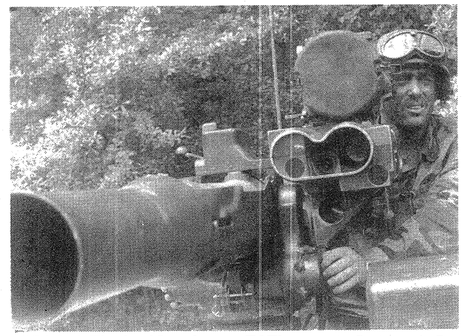
During the unit's "open house" on May 14, members of the 166th Maintenance Company discuss operations of the M-16 rifle with two young visitors from Conway, S.C. Shown (From Left) are Sgt. 1st Class Elie Whitley; Warren Bennett, 13, and his brother Brandon, 12, and Sgt. Kenneth Blash.

Members of the 166th Maintenance Company in Hinesville march in a "Liberty County Salute to America" parade on May 14. The unit is the second oldest in the Georgia Army National Guard. It was officially founded in 1788 as a cavalry unit.

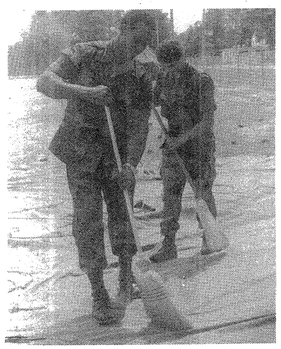
'2,000 +' Guardsmen train at Ft. Stewart



SGT Jimmy Ellison of Covington, member of the Georgia Army Guard's Co. B, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry, looks across an open field for an impending tank attack. (Photo by Capt. Tom Phillips, 124th Public Affairs Detach.)



PFC Jack Woods of Jonesboro, a TOW gunner in Covington's Co B, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry, scans the horizon for enemy tanks. (Photo by 124th PAD)



SGT Ulysses Griffin of Pembroke and PFC Aaron Hill, both members of Savannah's 165th Supply Co, sweep down a tent prior to storage.

SGT Charles Turner and PV2 Ronald Clifton of the 166th Maintenance Company, repair an all-terrain vehicle during annual training.

SSG Alan Heusel of Conyers, a member of Covington's Co B, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry strings a concertina-wire barrier across the road at Ft. Stewart.

By Sgt. Elliott Minor
124th Public Affairs Detachment

Spec. 4 Edward Bulger may not get a chance to bathe regularly when he goes to the field with the Georgia Army National Guard, but he learns a lot.

Bulger, one of 2,200 Guard members who engaged in annual training at Fort Stewart, said being a TOW missile gunner is a lot different from his civilian job with an Athens window blind company.

An infantryman in E Company, 122nd Infantry Battalion (TLAT) in Washington, Ga., Bulger is trained to knock out enemy tanks with a wire-guided missile mounted on the top of his desert-tan Hummer, a new high-mobility vehicle that is replacing the venerable jeep.

"You don't get to take a bath for 11 days and you don't get much sleep," said the 21-year-old Guardsman. "You learn a good bit about what you're supposed to do in case something happens."

The Guard members, representing units scattered throughout most of Georgia, arrived at Fort Stewart on April 16 and returned home on the 30th.

A day after their arrival, they bid farewell to soft beds, fast food and other signs of civilization. With their belongings stuffed into jeeps, trucks and other vehicles, they traveled by convoy to training areas scattered throughout the military reservation.

Some took part in combat exercises, others set up repair shops in tents beneath pine trees, while others were on hand to treat sick and injured Guardsmen.

All the troops are members of two major commands within the Georgia Guard-Troop Command, headquartered in Decatur, and the 118th Field Artillery Brigade, headquartered in Savannah.

"This is our opportunity to get that intense two weeks of training that we've got to have," said Gen. John L. Blandford, commander of Troop Command.

Blandford, a Chamblee attorney who has been promoted to brigadier general, said annual training usually is the only time of the year when all of a Guard unit's personnel and equipment are assembled in one place.

"It's the most important time of the year," he added. "I urge them (commanders) to take maximum advantage of it. When they get back, they ought to have a real good assessment of the readiness of their units."

Col. Fred Shaver, the 118th's commander, said annual training (AT) is a highlight of the Guard's training. Some of the brigade activities will continue around the clock for 11 days.

"When you come to AT, you put it all together," said Shaver, an assistant school superintendent in Bulloch County.

Sgt. Jody Powell, a cook from Atlanta, said he didn't mind getting up at 3 a.m. Sunday to begin preparing a breakfast of grits, scrambled eggs and bacon for hundreds of troops who ate at one of the Guard's mess halls.

"If a soldier doesn't eat, he gets mad as H-E-L-L," said Powell, careful to spell out a word he considered sensitive.

Sgt. Johnny Kimbrough, 39, of Jesup, said he was looking forward to his 11 days in the field.

Kimbrough, a mechanic with G Company, 244th Aviation Battalion in Savannah, said the skills he learns in the Guard help him as a maintenance man at the Jacksonville (Fla.) Naval Air Station.

Kimbrough's unit has helicopters resembling giant mosquitoes that lift vehicles and heavy containers full of supplies. But when it comes to mosquitoes, Kimbrough worries about the real thing.

He brought a supply of insect repellent to ward off mosquitoes and gnats.

1st Lt. Ira Lindy Jr. of Statesboro said annual training "is tough but rewarding."

Lindy, a member of Battery A, 214th Field Artillery in Savannah, said the troops often sleep under the stars when they get a break.

"You go wide open and you have shift work," he said. "You have to take some time off and catch a few winks."

Other units at camp are the 165th Supply Company of Savannah; the 166th Maintenance Company of Hinesville; the 110th Maintenance Battalion of Decatur; the 1177th Transportation Company of Macon; the 448th Ordnance Detachment of Decatur; the 170th MP Battalion of Atlanta; the 138th Medical Company of Atlanta and the 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry, headquartered in Winder.

MP's train among Georgia Pines

By Sgt. Toby Moore
124th PAD

They get gassed, ambushed, rained on and thrown in the slammer -- all in the name of education.

Their diploma is a green Army paycheck; their graduation robes are dirty fatigues.

But members of Monroe's 178th Military Police Company, who come here each year for two weeks of Georgia Army National Guard training, take the hardships in stride. For them, the intensive regimen builds esprit de corps and keeps them combat ready.

This year, for example, severe thunderstorms swept across the military reservation in the wee hours on their third night in the field, dumping more than an inch of rain on the sleeping troops. But before the lingering drizzle gave way to sunshine at mid-morning, the MP's were well into the day's training.

"Some of the troops got a little wet," said Capt. Neal Thompson, commander of the MP unit. "But we were prepared."

Sgt. First Class Tracy Smith, of Monroe, the unit's training non-commissioned officer (NCO), said this year's camp bore a weighty training docket. "We've got the NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) training; we'll simulate capturing prisoners of war, and we'll give a dismounted (walking) patrolling class," he said. "We'll have both instructional and hands-on training on all of these."

In the past, MPs had a mission built on garrison law enforcement and rear area security, according to the unit's operations NCO, Sgt. First Class Bob Reynolds, of Monroe. But modern MP units are required to be more akin to the infantry than policemen, hence the need for intensified training in soldier skills, he explained.

In fact, 25 members of the 178th MP Co. have already completed a specialized battle skills course that covers two weeks at Camp Robinson, Ark., Reynolds said.

Not far from the unit's bivouac area, along a rutted logging road through a thick stand of young pine trees, an otherworldly looking group of Guardsmen practiced the finer points of identifying and crossing a contaminated area. Dressed head to foot in protective garments, including gas mask and ungainly gloves and boots, the MPs learned to function in an environment of deadly gas or nuclear contamination.

"We have a requirement to be in MOPP IV (the highest level of protection against an NBC agent, includes full protective suit, mask and gloves) for four hours," said Sergeant Carlo Bradshaw, of Athens, the unit's NBC NCO.

Bradshaw leads his classes through a variety of drills and teaches them to react to different gasses and nuclear agents, including markings of contaminated areas.

"We have very realistic training," Bradshaw said. "We used real harmless gas to make sure their gas masks work properly."

Sergeant Mark Saxon, of Watkinsville, is assistant training non-commissioned officer for the 178th. During this annual training period, he was responsible for teaching patrolling techniques.

"The mission dictates the method of patrol," said Saxon, adding that his troops will practice different ways of moving on foot along an unfamiliar roadway or trail, including bridge reconnaissance.

"We'll also do a day compass course of 1,500 meters right through a swamp. I call it the 'death course', " he said. "And we'll run a compass course at night and do a night road march."

Although it's not technically law enforcement, the MPs run a jail of sorts. Sergeant T. J. Little, of Eatonton, is in charge of in-processing EPW (enemy prisoners of war) captured during the battle exercises.

"We bring them in, fingerprint them, get all the vital information we can, tag them, and take them to a holding area for transport back to a permanent facility," he said.

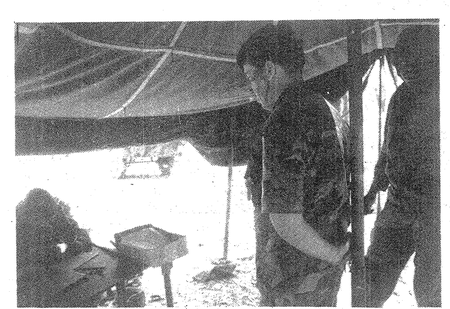
The holding compound, which often is nothing more than a strip of rope or cloth stretched around four trees, forming a boundary, is not a maximum-security facility in the traditional sense.

But when the prisoners are told "Do not cross this line," and there are several soldiers with M-16s watching their every move, it may as well be Alcatraz.

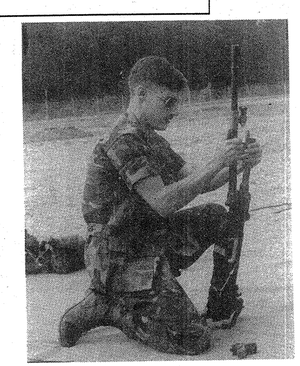
Story layout and design by Delores Thomas

Portraying an escaped prisoner of war, Spec 4 Joe Berryman, of Watkinsville, is frisked by Sgt. Joe Bennett, of Madison, while another member of the 178th MP Co. stands guard. (Photo by Toby Moore, 124th PAD)

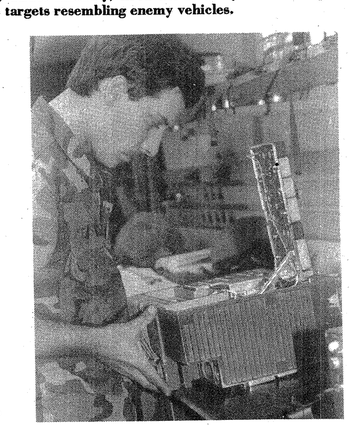
Under the supervision of Army evaluators members of the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, fired the Bradley's machine gun at silhouette targets resembling enemy vehicles.



Spec 4 Joe Berryman of Watkinsville, portrays a captured enemy prisoner undergoing the MPs processing system.



Spec 4 James Wolpert, a member of the Scout Platoon, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, practices the disassembly and assembly of the M-140-C machine gun. (Photo by Capt. Tom Phillips, 124th PAD)



PFC James Easterling of Clayton repairs a radio during training. Easterling is a member of the 166th Maintenance Co.

Winder welcomes new unit

"The good thing about a new unit, other than being difficult to start 'from scratch,' is that you don't have any predetermined notions about how you're suppose to run the unit. You can build your unit the way the unit members want it to be," explains Capt. Bill Blonshine, commander of Winder's B Company, 244th Assault Aviation Battalion, Georgia Army National Guard.

"From scratch" is the best phrase to describe where the Georgia Guard started in October 1985 in preparation for activating Winder's 244th Assault Aviation Battalion within the state. That preparation was culminated by a highly successful Open House and Family Day during the company's November 1987 drill.

For most Guardsmen, their unit seems to have just "always been there." But for the 119 Georgia Guardsmen of the new Winder unit, the job of serving in the National Guard includes bringing to life on October 1, 1986 an assigned "unit-designator" name and number, an aviation support facility, and 23 UH-1 Huey helicopters.

Compared with the 255-year history of the Georgia Army National Guard, B Company, 244th Assault Aviation Battalion, is an apprentice unit serving side-by-side with the total-Army force. The unit proudly celebrated its first birthday on Oct. 1, 1987.

Although the unit is just beginning its journey into the pages of U.S. military history, its members are not the least bit beginners. "A tremendous amount of experience," is the description Blonshine gives of his unit's staff. "We draw from the good experiences of the people who have served in many other units."

It is that expertise which helps this new unit blend its aviation support role with the other combat units of the Georgia Guard. The need to support combat-heavy units is what led the Georgia Guard to seek an aviation unit for the State of Georgia.

Even though the first members of the unit are the first to "serve" in that unit, the conception of the unit was the responsibility of an entirely different staff at a higher command level. It involved every Headquarters Staff Officer in the Georgia Army National Guard, and included the Adjutant General, the Governor, the National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Army, and many Georgia communities.

The first step is the Concept Plan: The Georgia Army National Guard requested any aviation assets that the National Guard Bureau had available in October 1985. The request was based on units available on the Force Structure List, which lists all of the types of units available to the Guard in all states. B Company, 244th Assault Aviation Battalion was on the list at that time.

The Concept Plan also includes information gathered by periodic surveys of Georgia counties, cities, and towns, at the request of the Adjutant General. Those surveys show which communities have an interest in the establishment of a National Guard unit. Local interest and support are factors in determining where a unit will be located; another factor is geographical.

The second step is the Staffing Study: This study is done to determine the most appropriate location for the new unit. This involves gathering current data on local economic conditions, employment, age of the population, and various other statistical data which impacts the selection process.

The third step is a Stationing Plan: This plan is another staff study, which includes input from each of the following Headquarters Staff Officers: G-1 Personnel & Administration, G-3 Operations and Training, State Maintenance Officer, G-4 Logistics Officer, and the State Recruiting and Retention Officer. Also included are the State Personnel Management Officer, State Comptroller, State Facilities Maintenance Officer, State Army Aviation Officer, and the Readiness Management Officer.

The fourth and final of the principal steps is Training and Administration: This is the hiring of full-time personnel and setting up drill dates. Recruiting personnel for a new unit begins once the Guard requests a unit from the National Guard Bureau's Force Structure List.

Using the information received from all of the staff officers, the Readiness Management Officer narrows down the choices of locations to the most eligible. Based on these recommendations, the Adjutant General then decides at which location the unit will be established and then submits his recommendation to the Governor for his approval.

Once the location has been selected and the facility built or designated, the unit must then become federally recognized. Federal recognition is the authorization to organize the unit in the state. As soon as a facility is built or designated, the Senior Army Advisor for the Georgia Guard confirms that the fulfillment of specific requirements are met, such as: adequate storage, security (vaults), and that the manning of the unit at that time is 10 percent officer and 25 percent enlisted personnel.

Since another unit had already been located in Winder, which operates OV-1 Mohawk twin-engine turbo-prop surveillance aircraft, there was already an aviation support facility available, as well as a community willing to host a Guard unit. The Mohawk unit was moved to Dobbins AFB, where the 151st Military Intelligence Battalion (AE) is located, and the 244th moved in.

So, at this point -- Oct. 1, 1986 -- the Georgia Guard finally had its new aviation unit in Winder, with only a few minor adjustments to be made. One of which was the conversion of the existing facility to properly house the new unit and its aircraft. The State Facilities Maintenance Officer, Lt. Col. Bernard Fontaine had this responsibility.

Lt. Col. Fontaine's mission was to change the aviation support facility from housing 10 OV-1 Mohawks (fixed-wing) to being able to accommodate 23 UH-1 Hueys (rotary-wing) aircraft. The most critical problem was the availability of space for helicopter pads needed to park the helicopters.

Mohawks require at least 60 feet of space per aircraft, while Hueys need 120 feet of allowance for a taxiing lane, a parking apron and tie-down pads. The UH-60 Black Hawk, the Huey's successor, requires about 140 feet of space, an amount which was allowed at the Winder facili-

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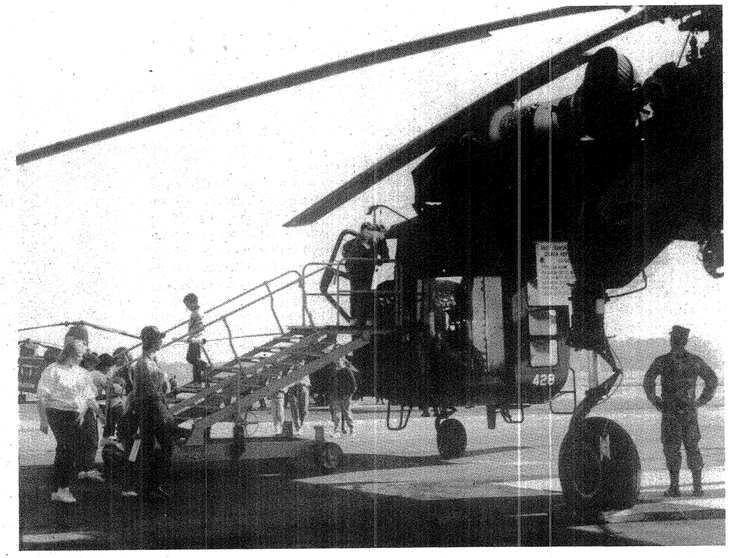
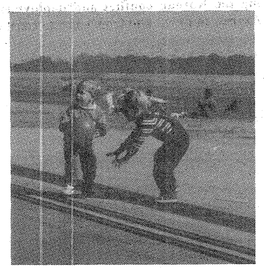


Open House attendees get a close-up view of a CH-54 Skycrane Helicopter flown up from Savannah by Co. G, 244th Aviation Battalion.



(At left) Children look over the control panel of a UH-1 Huey during the Open House. (Below) Unit members' children enjoy the festivities during the Family Day at Winder.

Story and Photos by Cadet Capt. Susan Kae Davis

Georgia Air Guard 'Memorial Stone' dedicated at Normandy Museum

Brig. Gen. Ben Patterson makes dedication in France

As a memorial to the men of the Georgia Air National Guard's 353rd Fighter Group who fought at the Battle of Normandy in 1944, a Granite stone with the seal of the State of Georgia and an inscription has been placed in the "U.S. Memorial Garden" at the Battle of Normandy Memorial Museum in Caen, France.

The Georgia memorial was presented and dedicated by Brig. Gen. Ben L. Patterson, Georgia's assistant adjutant general-Air, during a Normandy Battlefields Tour and dedication ceremony held May 1-5 in Normandy, France. The 353rd Fighter Group is now the Georgia Guard's 116th Tactical Fighter Wing and the 158th Tactical Airlift Squadron.

Patterson was one of more than 40 members of the American Delegation -- comprised principally of adjutant generals or their staff members -- who made the trip. Memorial stones bearing various inscriptions from each of the 50 states will be placed in the museum's "Garden of Remembrance."

Considered the greatest land battle in history, the Battle of Normandy lasted 76 days, involved 12 nations, more than 3 million soldiers and resulted directly in the eventual liberation of Europe from the Germans.

Georgia's Granite "Memorial Stone" is uncrated at Normandy Museum.

Serves Georgia Air Guard for 37 years

Prince's retirement marks the close of an era for the State of Georgia

Chief Warrant Officer Four Harry R. Prince Jr. is the last and final Air National Guard Warrant Officer to serve in the Georgia Air National Guard and the Air Force Communications Command.

He retired as the second to last Warrant Officer in the United States Air National Guard.

His career began in October 1950 and concluded December 1987. Prince's entire 37 years of service was devoted to the Georgia Air National Guard.

His career included an 18 month activation during the Korean conflict and deployments to the Azores, to Egypt and from coast to coast within the United States. Prince's reputation as a thorough and knowledgeable communicator is well known throughout the Air Force and the National Guard communication electronic career field. His professionalism, dedication and leadership have been an inspiration to all those around.

The Air Force Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Prince by Brig. Gen. James R. Mercer during the retirement ceremony on January 9. A reception followed for guests.

CWO4 Harry R. Prince Jr.

University's 'Military Effective Writing' course includes evaluation of Guardmember's military career for college credit

As a result of a recent agreement between the National Guard Bureau's Professional Education Center (NGPEC) and Vincennes (Indiana) University, it is now possible for members of the National Guard to have "his or her entire military career evaluated for college credit," reports Col. Paul H. Jossey Jr., chief of personnel, Georgia Army Guard.

"This also includes the evaluation for college credit of all past NGPEC courses taken.

In order to take advantage of this new opportunity, members of the Georgia Army Guard should understand the following information and guidelines:

1. When a soldier goes to NGPEC, he or she must enroll in the specified course entitled "Military Effective Writing." This course is offered to every NGPEC student.

2. Tuition for the course will be covered at the appropriate percentage (75 - 90% based on rank) by the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) Funds.

3. When students enroll in "Military Effective Writing," they are automatically enrolled in Vincennes University.

4. Vincennes will then evaluate the soldier's entire military career for college credit.

5. The results of the evaluation will be indicated in a report, and a transcript showing courses which qualified for college credit will be issued to the student/soldier.

6. Upon their return to their respective home stations, Guardmembers should then take the transcript to his or her college or university.

In most cases, local colleges or universities will transfer all or part of the credit given for the courses by Vincennes University.

One of numerous PEC courses offered at Vincennes University, "Military Effective Writing" teaches techniques that make writing easier and more effective. Students also learn "Mind Mapping" -- a tool that helps writers "get started, keep going and stay organized."

Georgia Guardmembers who are interested in obtaining more information on this new program and a list of military courses offered at Vincennes University, contact your unit commander or telephone Capt. Don Venn, Education Services Officer for the Georgia Army Guard at (404) 624-6629 (Commercial); or toll-free at 1-800-282-4222.

244th Aviation Assault BN continued from page 8

ty. Therefore, there will be no need to change the taxiing lane again when the unit eventually receives the UH-60s.

With the initial aircraft, the Huey, due to be received from Guard Bureau one year from the date requested, there was not enough time to go through the necessary channels to receive the funds needed to change the facility. The entire project was estimated to cost approximately $1.5 million. Any request of more than $100,000 has congressional limitations. Therefore, when a state requests federal funds which exceed $100,000 from Congress, it is a process which can take at least a year -- more time than the Georgia Guard had to prepare for the receipt of the helicopters. So, Fontaine decided to make use of the state's resources to avoid the wait and to save money.

With the cost of the materials needed to complete the project budgeted down to less than $100,000, labor was the only need left. And, that need was satisfied by the manpower provided by the engineers of the 878th Engineer Battalion of the 265th Engineer Group of Marietta. By providing the labor to make the necessary changes to the facility, the engineers were in turn provided a useful training project. "The engineers gained the opportunity to train in one of their essential tasks, which is building airfields," said Fontaine.

It took 18 months to complete the airfield, which is 300 by 600 feet. Chief Warrant Officer Howard Green, foreman of the Organizational Shop No. 8 in Winder (which is located next to the aviation support facility), made it all possible by going beyond the call of duty in supporting the Ad Hoc Engineer Task Force, according to Fontaine.

The job that the engineers performed also benefited the Barrow County airport by excavating a hill at the end of their runway. The hill had impaired vision on landing approaches. The soil from the hill was used to fill a ravine to make a level land area on which to build the airfield and tie-down pads at the Aviation Support Facility.

With the new unit finally established and operational in the Georgia Guard, the members of B Company, 244th Assault Battalion began training for a possible deployment with the 244th Aviation Battalion -- their "wartime contingency" parent unit located in the Louisiana National Guard. On a daily basis, the company serves the Georgia Guard under the control of the 151st Military Intelligence Battalion for administration command and control.

Pilots of B Company, 244th Assault Aviation Battalion have assisted in combating forest fires across Georgia's countryside. Forest fires which erupted in November 1987 gave the pilots and crew members an opportunity to perform that vital part of their mission.

The December 1987 Cuban prisoner uprisings at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary also provided this new Georgia Guard unit a chance to show its aviation support capabilities by dumping water on fires ignited by the rioting detainees. These are examples of how the members of B Company, 244th Aviation Assault Battalion are now prepared to serve the citizens of the State of Georgia and aid other Guard units in assisting Armed Forces in a quest of maintaining world peace.

Cadet Capt. Susan Kae Davis (the former Susan Kae Hale) will receive her commission as a second lieutenant in the Georgia Guard on June 17, 1988.

Commissaries will accept only DA Form 5431 beginning Oct. 1

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 1, 1988, the only acceptable form of identification for Army Reserve Component family members entering military commissaries will be possession of a valid DA Form 5431 -- Army Guard/Reserve Family Member ID Card.

This change in policy regarding acceptable identification for entrance into commissaries will be reflected in a revised Army Regulations 30-19 -- expected to be published and in the field by July 1988.

All unit and detachment commanders are asked to implement the program to ensure that all eligible Guard family members are issued a DA Form 5431 Family Member ID card prior to Oct. 1.

If you need additional information on this matter, contact Kim Hill, family program coordinator, at (404) 624-6618.

Tech Sgt John Foutes has his blood pressure checked during the Squadron's 2nd Annual Blood Drive.

2nd Annual Blood Drive

Earlier this year the men and women of the 117th Tactical Control Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard turned out in record numbers as part of the squadron's second annual blood drive for the South Atlantic Region.

The squadron exceeded its projected goal collecting over sixty units during the five hour drive. This drive is part of the unit's continuing efforts to show support for both the civilian and military community.

Lt. Col. Wallace Moody, a Jesup businessman is the commander of the Savannah unit which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Catoosa Training Center has colorful history

RINGGOLD, Ga. -- The Catoosa Training Center has served The United States for more than 80 years.

Because of its location on Georgia's northern border just four miles from the Tennessee line, this training area is used by National Guard, Reserve and regular Army troops from all over the Southeast.

The Facility has a colorful history. The Fighting 6th Cavalry was the first military unit to use the site; it trained here in 1906. Buildings were constructed ten years later and the center took on the look of a more permanent training site.

During the early part of World War II the Women's Army Corps occupied the facilities. Later in the war German prisoners of war were kept here.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Tom Swearingen, who manages the facility, the training area was under the operational control of the Georgia National Guard from 1945 through 1960, when the Tennessee National Guard took control.

Soldiers training here can fire individual weapons up to a 50 caliber machine gun on the many firing ranges.

Tanks, such as those used by the Georgia Guard's First Battalion, 108th Armor of Calhoun, can maneuver along the 20 miles of roads and trails.

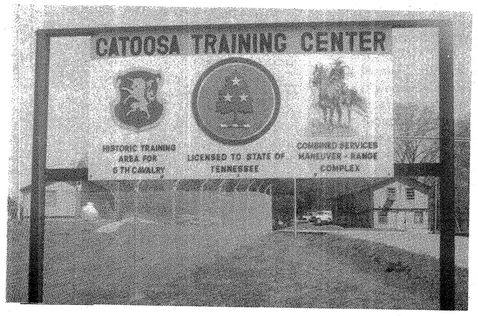
The Infantry can practice patrolling techniques in the wooded acres which comprise over 50 percent of the nearly 17,000-acre area.

Swearingen said this site can accommodate one battalion of Infantry, Armor or Combat Service Support units for training.

The Catoosa Training Center had its busiest year in 1987 and is used almost continuously by Georgia and Tennessee National Guard troops.

The facility includes two dining halls and barracks for over 400 troops. It employs 12 people to keep things ready for visiting troops.

With its colorful history and convenient location, The Catoosa Training Center should continue to be an important part of the Army's training for years to come.



Hinesville chefs gear up for cooking competition

By Sgt. Elliott Minor
124th Public Affairs Detachment

HINESVILLE, Ga. -- Cooks in the 166th Maintenance Company are gearing up to represent the state in an important test of their culinary skills.

In the fall, the Hinesville Guardsmen will go apron to apron against other cooks from throughout the Southeast in the Philip A. Connelly awards program.

For those who fry chicken and bake cookies, the Connelly competition is the equivalent of the National League playoffs -- a place where cooks can hash out their differences.

Georgia has never been able to get past the 2nd Army competition, which includes cooks from the active Army, the Army Reserve and the National Guard. They are judged on their ability to feed troops in the field under adverse conditions that could occur in wartime.

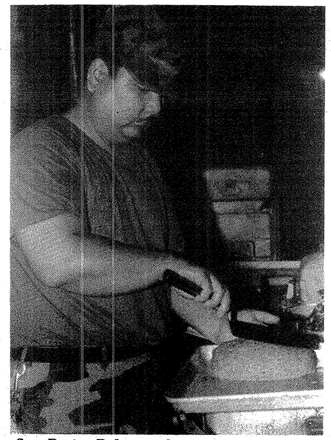
For the last few years, the state has been ably represented by the 82nd Maintenance Company of Toccoa, which won second place in 1986 and finished third last year.

Cooks who can dish out a winning performance in the 2nd Army competition, move on to the finals.

The selection of the 166th by Georgia National Guard officials means its food service operation is considered the best in the state, said Sgt. Maj. Tyndall McMillan, a food service supervisor from Atlanta.

"They'll be judged on the entire scope of their field service operations," McMillan observed during an interview at Fort Stewart, where more than 2,000 Guard members are taking part in annual training.

"We feel very proud about being selected," said Chief Warrant Officer Lawrence Lee, the 166th's food service officer. "It means you're the best in the state."



Sgt. Darius Delacruz shapes meat loaf at a field kitchen. Darius is a member of the 166th Maintenance Co.

Sgt. Darius Delacruz, one of the 166th's premier cooks, said the Connelly awards program is a real test of a unit's ability to set up a dining facility in the field and serve high quality food. Judges consider all aspects of food service, including cooking, sanitation, the physical layout of the dining facility and the quality of its service, he noted.

"It's a real test of a mess hall, its personnel and how they operate in the field," he said while frying chicken breasts in a vat of boiling oil. "It'll show how we work together."

Book continued from page 4

Yet, considering the small amount of men and resources that this nation provided its U.S. Advisory Group in Vietnam, and the many limitations placed on that group by the State Department, the accomplishments from 1955 to 1960 are remarkable. This small cadre took a weak, demoralized, divided and disorganized army and completely reorganized the Army from the French to the American System. The Group was able to establish a viable school and training system and the introduction of a more solid chain of command, with less political influence.

However, this book only enforces what the Joint Chiefs of Staff warned the Secretary of State when we took the mission from the French -- "that strong and stable governments and societies are necessary to support the creation of strong armies." This Vietnam never had.

The book is not for the casual reader. It is a most effective publication as far as documenting the actions and events leading up to the commitment of U.S. Armed Forces to the fighting in Vietnam. Detailed research was done not only in American, but also French and Vietnamese official records. They bring to light many events and activities which have not been discussed elsewhere. Also personal interviews with senior State Department officials, members of the CIA, and other Federal agencies, as well as the U.S. and French armed forces reveal new insights on how the United States became entangled in a country halfway around the world. Additional research was done in private collections and memorabilia of individuals who had a role in the decisions that were made. Any true student of the War in Vietnam interested in a reasoned, balanced and well researched account of how and why the United States fought in such a small, insignificant country should have a copy on their bookshelf.

James F. Hill, Chief of Planning for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, is an occasional contributor to The Guardsman. In this review he writes from personal experience based on his three combat tours in Vietnam during the 1963-69 time frame. His duties while in Vietnam included assignment with the Joint General Staff of the Vietnamese military forces; interim G-3 of the U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam; Aviation Officer for U.S. Army, Vietnam; S-3, and later, Deputy Commander of the 12th Aviation Group. His last assignment in 1969 was in a TDY status, where he was involved in responsibilities throughout Southeast Asia that directly impacted on the total U.S. effort.

Allen continued from page 4

wept. Others demanded to know who or what caused the positive test result.

Whatever the questions, Allen tried patiently to respond. "I didn't hurry them," he said. "I gave them a chance to talk, to ask questions, whatever they felt like doing."

"I have been a physician for 28 years. I deal with death and disease every day, so I tried to respond in a professional and supportive manner. But it drained me. It tore me up, which is why I chose to do it rather than assigning the responsibility to a less-experienced physician. It took a lot of psychic energy out of me to do this, because I had nothing much to offer. I couldn't say 'go to Emory Clinic and take the miracle cure."

Guardsmen whose retesting indicated the presence of the AIDS virus were released from service. "We had to do that because of the nature of military service," said the colonel. "We are each other's bloodbank in time of war."

In awarding the medal, Gen. Griffin praised Allen for "his superb planning ability, initiative and selfless devotion to duty" which had "contributed materially to the success" of the AIDS testing program.

A veteran of more than 20 years of military service, the colonel is a graduate of Valdosta State College and the Medical College of Georgia. He has practiced in Thomaston since 1963.

Prior to assuming duties as state surgeon for the Army National Guard in 1985, he served as surgeon of the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech) in Macon, and as company commander of the 348th Medical Company.

The colonel and his wife, Zona, have four children and four grandchildren.

Lane makes 'All-Guard Marathon Team'

Georgia Guardsmen compete well in 5th annual 'NGB Marathon Trials'

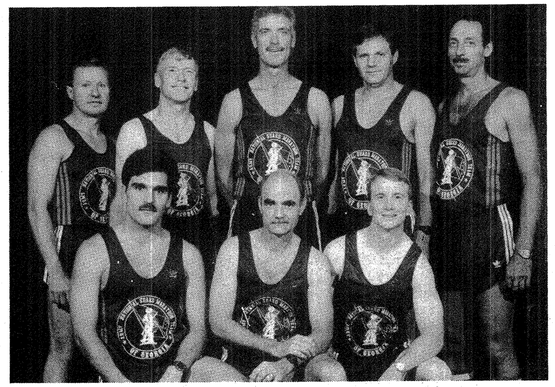
The Georgia Army Guard sent eight well-conditioned athletes to compete -- and to represent Georgia -- in the 1988 National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials held May 1 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Approximately 400 members of the Army & Air National Guard ran in the race this year. There were runners representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and for the first time, the National Guard Bureau.

A major reason the NGB marathon trials are held annually is to select a 51-member "All-Guard Marathon Team." This select group of athletes will represent the National Guard Bureau at a variety of military services running events scheduled throughout the year. These include the Marine Corps Marathon in Pensacola, Fla. and the Army's Infantry Marathon at Fort Benning.

1SG John Lane, 40, of the Georgia Army Guard's Co. G, 244th Aviation unit in Savannah, qualified for the "All-Guard Marathon Team" by finishing in the top 16 of the "Masters Team" (men 40 and over). Lane's finishing time was 3:04:28 which placed him in the 14th spot.

Other members of the Georgia Guard Team were LTC Robert Widhalm of HQS, STARC; MAJ Thomas Fricks of HQS, STARC; MAJ Jess Minix of HQS, STARC; CPT Dean Barten of Co G, 244th AVN; 2LT Brian Wilkinson of the 178th MP Co; CW2 Stan Hammond of HQS, STARC; and SFC Tom Yarbrough of HHC, 560th Engineering Battalion.



Members of the Georgia Guard's 1988 "Marathon Team" include (Front row from left) CPT Dean Barten, CW2 Stan Hammond, and 2LT Brian Wilkinson; (Second row from left) MAJ Jess Minix, SFC Tom Yarbrough, 1SG John Lane, MAJ Thomas Fricks, and LTC Bob Widhalm.

A thrilling moment for the Georgia team, First Sergeant John Lane crosses the finish line and captures a place on the highly-competitive "All-Guard Marathon Team."

"We were very pleased with our team's overall performance," commented Lane, team captain for the Georgia Marathon team.

In addition to Lane earning a place on the coveted "All-Guard Marathon Team," other members of the Georgia team excelled in individual accomplishments.

Barten was the fastest runner on the Georgia team. He finished the race with a time of 2 hours, 59 minutes and 24 seconds.

Yarbrough placed second in his age division of 50-54, and Barten placed fifth in his age division of 25-29.

This year's top National Guard runner at the trials was Specialist 4 Rudy Robinson, 31, of Washington, D.C. A combat medic with the District of Columbia Guard's 115th Medical Hospital, Robinson beat all 400 other Guard runners with a finishing time of 2:28:44.

Robinson also outdistanced all but one of the event's runners. The total number of runners at the trials -- which included civilians -- was 1,537 competitors.

In team competition, Puerto Rico won first place with a combined time of 7:47:56. The Wisconsin team captured second place with 8:12:09 and Indiana's team placed third with 8:16:18.

Awards in the Georgia Army Guard . . .

S. Ernest Vandiver Trophy
(for period Sep 1, 1986 to Aug 31 1987)
MAJ Rodney G. Alsup, Hq., 151st Military Intelligence Battalion, Marietta

The Georgia Distinctive Service Medal
COL Lawrence L. Allen, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta
MAJ William K. Woods, Hq., 170th Military Police Battalion, Atlanta
CW4 Fred H. Ward, Hq., Troop Command, Decatur
CSM Rodney J. Harville, HHB, 118th Field Artillery Brigade, Savannah

The Good Conduct Medal
SFC Marvin C. Clinton, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta
SFC Jeff Dawkins, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta
SFC Benjamin B. Livesay, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta

The Georgia Meritorious Service Medal
CW4 Leland A. Bell, Hq., Troop Command, Decatur

The United States Army Meritorious Service Medal
SFC Charlie F. Pritchett, Co. C, 148th FSB, Macon

The Georgia Commendation Medal
WO1 Nancy C. Anderson, Troop Command, Decatur
SFC James L. Glisson, Btry C., 1/214th FA, Hartwell
SFC Johnny S. Palmer, Btry B, 1/214th FA, Thomson
SFC Grover P. Martin Jr., 166th Maint Co (-), Hinesville
SSG Thomas L. Morrison, Btry A, 1/214th FA, Hartwell
SGT Ricky R. Moore, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta
SGT Albert H. Myers-Carreras, 166th Maint Co (-), Hinesville
SGT Leotis Palmer, 166th Maint Co (-), Hinesville
SGT Leo J. Roberts Jr., 166th Maint Co (-), Hinesville
SGT Ray S. Gordon, 166th Maint Co (-), Hinesville
SP4 William S. Scaggs Jr., 166th Maint Co (-), Hinesville
PFC Terry Roberts, 116th Maint Co (-), Hinesville
Leslie L. Lowe, Legislative Budget Office, Atlanta

Army Achievement Medal
SFC Phyllis A. Moreno, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta
SSG Jacqualine D. Arnold, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta
SGT Kelly D. Mealor, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta

The Army Commendation Medal
SFC Arthur V. Weldon Jr., Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta
SGT Robert L. Edge, Hq., Ga STARC, Atlanta

'An award that also reflects on unit members'

Alsup earns S. Ernest Vandiver Trophy

By Sgt. Toby Moore
124th Public Affairs Detachment

An Atlanta Army National Guard member has received one of the most prestigious awards given to Georgia military reservists.

Maj. Rodney Alsup, training officer for the 151st Military Intelligence Battalion, was recently awarded the S. Ernest Vandiver Trophy during ceremonies at Dobbins AFB.

Alsup was cited for his work in "coordinating operations between his unit, the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Narcotic Border Interdiction Service in a drug suppression mission supervised by the vice president's office."

Also, as battalion training officer, he has helped his unit meet or surpass its training requirements during its two-week annual training period.

Named for a former governor and adjutant general of Georgia, the Vandiver Trophy is presented annually to an outstanding member, officer or enlisted, of the state's Army or Air National Guard.

Nominees are evaluated on outstanding achievement "beyond their normal military duties, contribution to the effectiveness of their units, leadership, additional duty performance and civilian and civic activities."

"This award is given to an individual member of the organization, but it reflects on each and every person in the unit," said Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, Georgia's Adjutant General. "I am very proud of this unit and this individual."

Alsup, a 22-year veteran of the National Guard, is an assistant professor of accounting in the College of Business Administration at Georgia State University. Part of his work includes teaching Vietnam veterans how to start their own business, for the Georgia Vietnam Veteran Leadership Program.

A native of Milton, Ky., Alsup holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Eastern Kentucky University and a doctorate from the University of Kentucky. He has been assigned to the 151st Military Intelligence Battalion for five years. The unit uses OV-1 Mohawk aircraft for its mission of aerial surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Maj. Rodney Alsup, left, is presented the S. Ernest Vandiver Trophy for 1987 by Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, (c) the Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. William K. McDaniel, Assistant Adjutant General -- Georgia Army Guard. (Photo by Sp4 Jerry DeAvila, 124th Public Affairs Detachment)

Skycranes, infantry team up at '88 AT

By Sgt. Toby Moore
124th PAD

"So that's what it looks like from the ground," said a CH-54 Skycrane helicopter pilot as he looked at photographs of his airplane from underneath during a slingload operation.

The gangly helicopter, which has been described as everything from a mosquito hawk to a pterodactyl, was an integral part of an infantry-aviation tactical operation during Georgia Army National Guard annual training at Ft. Stewart.

Using the aircraft's namesake capability, the aviators of Savannah's Company G, 244th Aviation Battalion, spent many hours in the air during their two week training period. They flew in support of the 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry (TLAT), headquartered in Winder, lifting men and equipment to various points spread across the large military reservation near Savannah.

For the foot-soldiers and for the flyers, it was exciting training. For most, it was their first time. Capt. Reinhold Maestas, commanding officer of the aviation company, said that the slingload operation marked the first time his flyers and crew members had flown in support of a unit under simulated battle conditions.

The Skycrane pilots flew their ungainly looking aircraft to remote parts of the reservation where they hoisted the infantry's new "Hummers" or HMMWV (the Army's new all-terrain vehicle that will replace the jeep) as part of the exercise between the Guard and regular Army infantrymen.

The operation is tricky for both flight and ground crews. While the CH-54 hovers overhead beating the air around it to hurricane force, a two-man crew in the strangely calm eye of the storm atop the Hummer prepares a four-point sling to be hooked to the chopper's hoist. Inside the airplane, a crewman inside a plexiglass bubble lowers the hoist to the ground crew, or as they call themselves, "Happy Hookers."

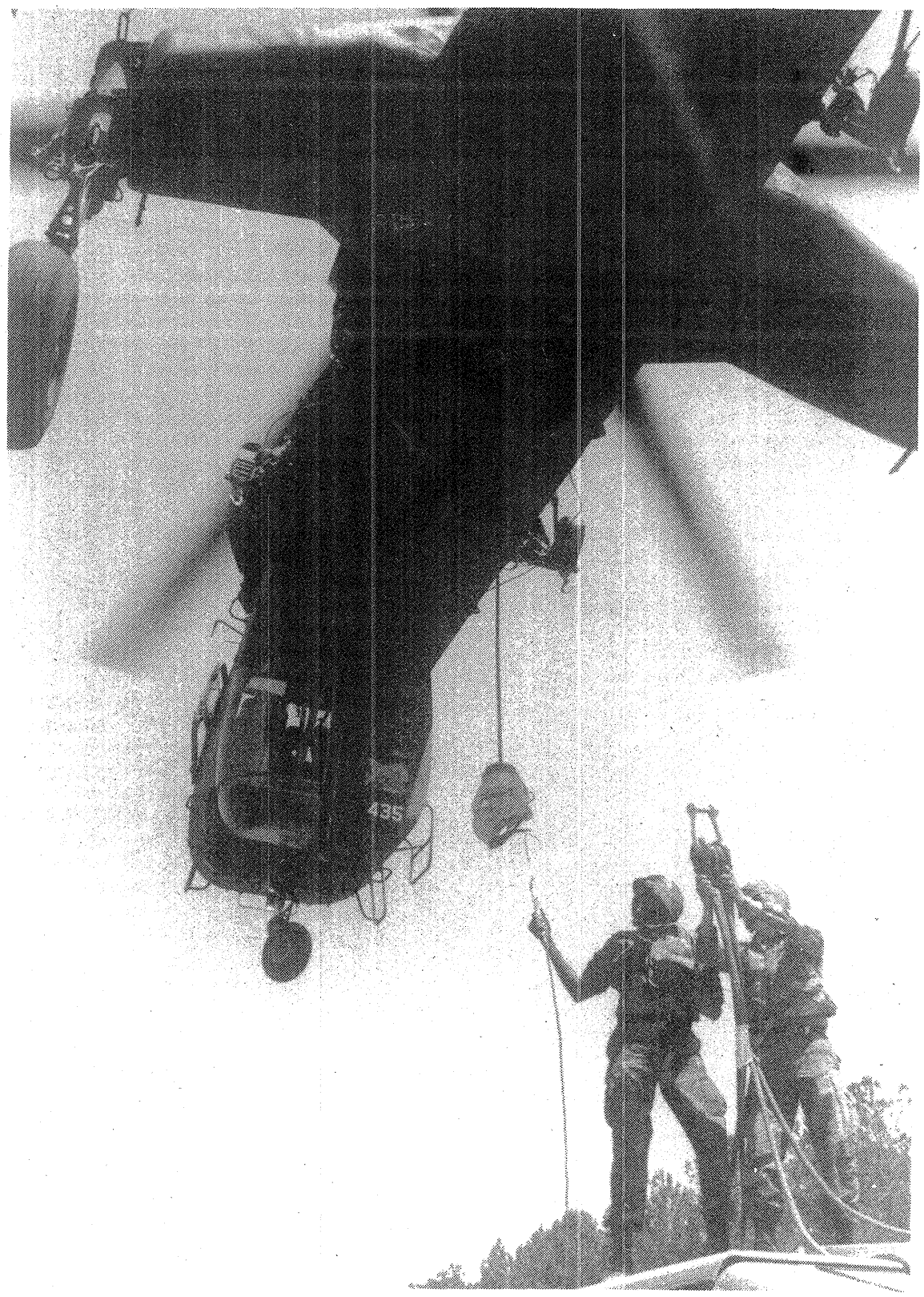
Once the connection is made, the hookers rush clear and the pilots fly away over the pines and cypress swamps to another point with their 7,000-pound cargo.

In another case, the chopper picks up a crew pod, which can hold up to 35 men, and takes it to a fighting position.

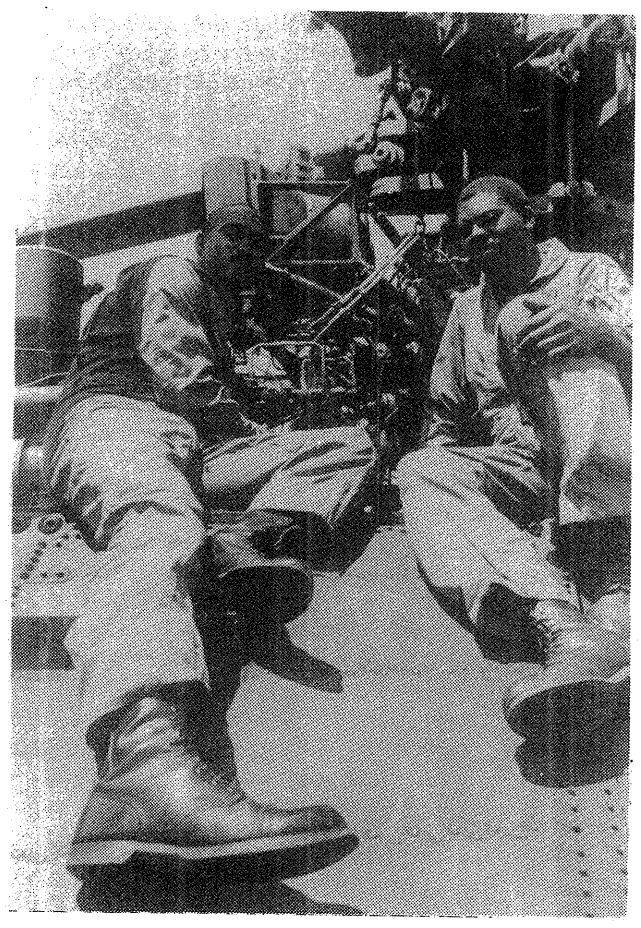
"We brought 122 men to annual training -- 17 pilots," Maestas said. "The first six days we flew 183 hours in support of the infantry units. Our pilots were each flying seven hours a day. And flying one of those things is like driving a diesel truck . . ."

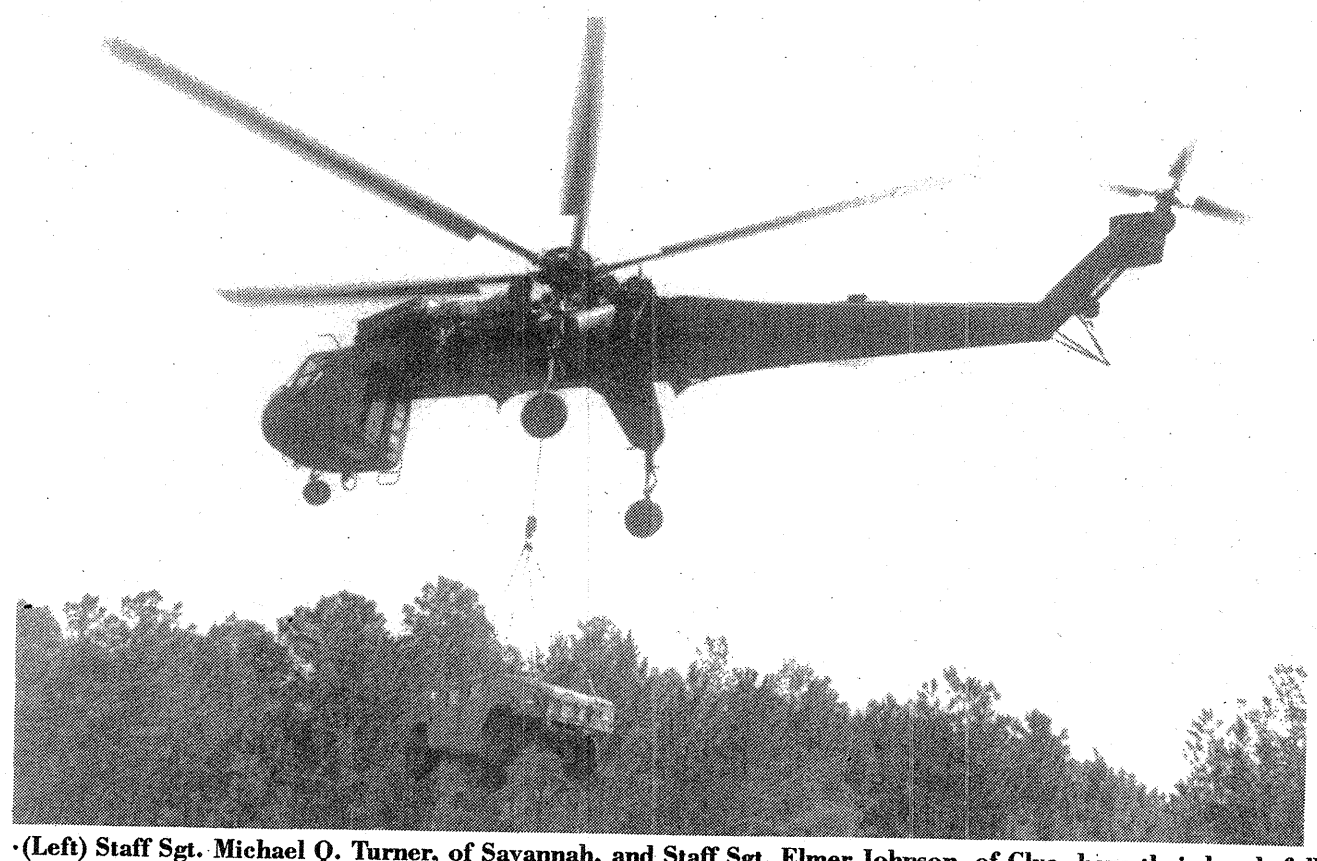
Maestas said that the extensive flying time was tough on men and machines -- maintenance crews hustled to keep the workhorse helicopters airworthy. But the pilots, 65 percent of whom are Vietnam combat veterans, are kept sharp by the cooperative mission.

G Company, formerly the 1160th Transportation Company, is headquartered at Hunter Army Airfield near Savannah. The 244th's other company, which flies the UH-1, or "Huey", helicopter, is based at the Winder airport.



With a huge Skycrane hovering only a few feet overhead, Sgt. Louis Harper of Atlanta and Sgt. John Hulett of Nicholson, "ground" a hoist (to discharge static electricity) and prepare for a hookup.





(Left) Staff Sgt. Michael Q. Turner, of Savannah, and Staff Sgt. Elmer Johnson, of Clyo, have their hands full with maintenance on the complex engine of the CH-54 Skycrane during annual training at Ft. Stewart. (Above) A Skycrane lifts a Hummer off the ground. (Photos by Sgt. Toby Moore, 124th Public Affairs Detachment)