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# THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

Vol. 6 No. 4

July-September 1985

## Governor on M-1: 'I've never ridden anything like it'

By Sgt. Elliott Minor  
124th Public Affairs Detachment

Gov. Joe Frank Harris went for a dizzying ride in the Army's newest tank and sampled freeze-dried rations during a daylong visit in July with members of the Georgia Army National Guard.

Harris, his head sticking out of a hatch, was a passenger in a 61-ton Abrams tank that performed a series of high-speed maneuvers in a muddy field as National Guard officials introduced their latest weapon during a July 30 ceremony.

"I'm greatly impressed," said the governor, noting that the \$2.8 million Abrams is a lot more sophisticated than the M-48 tanks he drove years ago as a member of the Army Reserve.

"It's an amazing piece of machinery," he said. "I've never ridden in anything like it."

The governor also viewed a demonstration that pitted the Abrams against an M-60A3, the tank it is replacing. Over a quarter-mile course, the Abrams finished in about half the time of the M-60A3.

Thirty-five of the new tanks arrived at Fort Stewart's National Guard Training Center in late July and 25 more are



Governor Joe Frank Harris, a former tank crewman, takes a ride in the Guard's new M-1 Abrams tank during his recent visit to Fort Stewart.

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expected in August. Guard units in North Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia have received the tanks before some active component units.

"I think it's a credit to the state that we are one of the first selected for the new tank," Harris said. "I would imagine it's because of the very high rating that all of our units have."

Wearing a blue-striped shirt and slacks, Harris stepped off a

C-130 aircraft on the morning of his visit and was whicked off to a briefing. Later, the governor's party traveled by helicopter to remote training sites to watch artillery bombardments and infantry attacks.

At lunchtime, Harris sat on a folding camp chair and dined at a wooden field table set up in a pine grove. The lunch was hosted by the 1st Battalion of the 121st Infantry, headquartered in Dublin. The governor was joined at the table by

Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, the adjutant general, and Lt. Col. Don Davis, the battalion's commander.

The Army's new rations, Harris said, are "tastier" than the canned chow he used to eat. They come in plastic pouches containing various meat dishes, peanut butter or cheese. The pouches also have crackers and accessories like salt, sugar, coffee and toilet paper.

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## New Unit Policy affects Guard women

By CW2 Beverly Pack

A total of 68 Georgia Army National Guard units are now closed to women, according to officials of the National Guard Bureau.

In the last 15 years, the number of women in the Army National Guard has grown from 36 to nearly 23,000 in various assignments. Military occupations for women have also increased - 302 of the 351 Military Occupational Specialities (MOS) are now open, and all but 4 percent of the officer specialties are open to women.

Some units, however, have a high risk of engaging in direct combat, and federal statute prevents women from serving in these units. Most are connected with Infantry, Armor, Combat, Engineer, Cannon Field Artillery and short-range Air Defense. Combat Support units, located forward of the brigade rear boundary, are also included.

A coding system, called the Direct Combat Probability Code (DCPC), categorizes each job in the Army by probability of combat risk, with P7 the lowest and P1 the highest. The DCPC also identifies units, positions, and MOS designations closed to females.

Only P1 positions, those with the highest risk, are closed to women. The National Guard is currently using the DCPC to assign women to proper military jobs and units.

Concern for subjecting women to direct combat

situations prompted a nationwide committee of female officers and noncommissioned officers, representing each Army area, to develop the ARNG DCPC Implementation Plan. The plan includes guidance and recommendations from the Department of the Army, Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, and State Adjutants General. It also provides a gradual phase-in period which began March 1984 and will be in effect through September 30, 1987 for officers and through October 1, 1990 for enlisted members.

National Guard Bureau officials feel that this policy and the implementation plan for the Army Guard will help reduce hardships on women now in combat-designated units. These officials have taken steps to ensure a smooth transition.

Women assigned to a closed unit must select one open to females, but may remain in their current unit until Sep. 30, 1987. However, if the enlistment expires after Oct. 1, 1987 they must switch to an open unit before they extend or reenlist.

Females serving in Active Guard/Reserve and Military Technician positions that are closed have the same time frame to make a change. When open positions or units are not available, officers and enlisted members may request a transfer in grade to the US Army Reserve, Active Army, or other components of the Armed Forces.

Women who are considering career advancement

and who are assigned to closed units or positions will be counseled and assisted by commanders to select appropriate positions in open units. Those who require retraining will be given priority. And women who have served in units temporarily closed may return regardless of unit vacancies.

There will be no arbitrary forced moves prior to established dates, although women will remain deployable during the transition period, said National Guard officials. Promotions and professional development opportunities cannot be denied solely on the basis of this policy. Favorable personnel actions such as Service School selection, retention, etc., which fail to materialize as a result of this guidance are strictly prohibited, they added.

Women in the Guard are urged to become familiar with the Direct Combat Probability Code policy and its options, and to select the best option for their individual needs. Problems should be resolved through the normal chain of command.

Women in the Guard will continue to receive individual consideration and assistance in the selection of a MOS best suited for their skills, interests and career advancement.

And the Georgia Army National Guard, an organization that values the professionalism and dedicated services of women in the military, will continue to expand career opportunities and training for women as citizen soldiers.

# Slain Guardsman honored in emotional armory ceremony



Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin (l) presents Florence Mathis with a posthumous promotion to warrant officer and a Meritorious Service Medal for her late husband Bruce. (Photo by 124 Public Affairs Detachment)

It has been said that the military takes care of its own. Never was that more true than in the case of Sgt. 1st Class Philip Bruce Mathis.

Mathis, an Atlanta police officer, was killed in April while working a part-time security job at Rich's department store at Lenox Square in Atlanta. In the months since his death, Mathis has been eulogized as an exemplary policeman and family man. But he was also an outstanding Georgia Army National Guardsman.

On July 13, Mathis' unit, his wife Florence and surviving family members gathered to honor him. Mathis was posthumously promoted to warrant officer and awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard made the presentations to Mrs. Mathis during a brief, emotional ceremony at the unit armory.

The unit also sent an honor guard to Mathis' funeral and collected \$1,500 for the family.

A 16-year veteran of the Guard, Mathis was a food service supervisor in the mess section of the 151st Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion at Dobbins Air Force Base.

Mathis had completed all the requirements for promotion to warrant officer before his death, according to Chief Warrant Officer Terry Timms, unit administrator. All that stood between Mathis and promotion was an available position.

"You couldn't ask for anybody better than Bruce," Timms said. "He was always smiling and carrying on... nothing ever bothered him."

"My first reaction when I heard about the shooting was one of shock," he said. "My radio goes off about 5:15 every morning and that was about the second thing I heard. I just couldn't believe. He was always so careful."

The two men who probably knew Mathis best were Staff Sergeants Tommy Walker and Terry

Jackson. The three were "probably as close as any three in the Guard," said Walker, and had worked side by side preparing meals for more than 11 years.

Walker was one of the honorary National Guard pallbearers at Mathis' funeral and stayed with the family as the unit representative. "Bruce was liked by more people than I had ever realized," Walker said. "He was just a good person and thought a lot of his family. His little girl was special to him, and she's just like him."

"When you get together with someone once or twice a month for years, you get close to them, and suddenly they're gone," Walker said. "He was very dedicated to whatever he got involved in and he treated people fairly."

Jackson echoed Walker's feelings. "I still miss Bruce; he had been a fixture for so long," Jackson said. "Even though he outranked us, we worked with him, rather than for him. We were more brothers than co-workers."

"He didn't care what you did as long as you got the job done, to his satisfaction and the Army way," he said. "Bruce was a good man, no doubt about it."

"He loved the Guard," is how Mrs. Mathis described her late husband's military career. "Bruce would've liked to have made the Guard a full-time job. He got more involved with it than I ever thought he would, and he was very pleased that he passed the warrant officer exam."

"He wanted that more than anything," she added.

"Bruce was a perfectionist at anything he tried to do," she said. "The men he worked with were a group that he enjoyed very much. The Guard has stuck by us not only then, but three months later."

## In Grenada

# Engineers rebuild school

By Sgt. Elliott Minor  
124th Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the Georgia Army National Guard traveled to Grenada this spring to help give 20 schools a new lease on life.

Armed with hammers, saws and extensive building experience, guardsmen took part in a \$700,000 project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development that was aimed at rehabilitating long-neglected schools.

Guardsmen of the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Augusta, sent three squads of about 10 members each from its companies in Swainsboro, Sandersville and Lyons.

The carpenters, electricians and plumbers arrived on the island in April. By the time the last of them returned home on June 5, a total of 37 had taken part in the project.

Lt. Col. Earl C. Horan Jr., commander of the U.S. Army Support Element in Grenada, said the success of the project demonstrated how guardsmen can mobilize and perform missions far from their local armories.

"This is one of the jobs engineers can do to support civic action - to win the hearts and minds of the people," he noted. "It's a very economical way to strengthen ties between the United States and the government and people in whatever country we're working in."

Known as the spice island because of its nutmeg, cinnamon and bay leaves, Grenada is a land of towering coconut trees, lush tropical vegetation and white sand beaches highlighted by turquoise waters.

But by American standards it also is a land of extreme poverty, where one-room shacks perch on mountainsides and narrow, bone-jarring roads take the pleasure out of driving.

When the Swainsboro squad arrived at the St.

George's Roman Catholic School recently, they were appalled at the deterioration of the 21-year-old building.

The guardsmen went right to work by installing new bathroom fixtures, repairing its hazardous 220-volt electrical system and replacing rotted wooden structures.

Principal Leeberth Charles, said he appreciated the work of the Americans because "it's long overdue." Most schools on the island are affiliated with a church, but Charles said they depend on the Grenadian government for maintenance.

George Langaigne, one of 18 Grenadian workers helping to restore the school, said his government didn't have the funds for such maintenance and without U.S. aid the project would have been impossible.

The engineers were surprised to find their Grenadian counterparts using only hand tools. Although the guardsmen carried a generator and numerous electrical saws and drills to the job site, the local workers shunned such devices.

SFC Mike Hinson of Alamo, who spent four weeks in Grenada as one of the project supervisors, said the guardsmen came to the island to train and assist the Grenadians.

"The people really need it," he said. "These folks are in bad shape."

SFC Tommy Davis, the company's operations sergeant, said all the guardsmen had gained valuable experience on the island.

"Some of the men would have never had an opportunity to travel to a foreign country," he observed, adding that the mission gave the battalion an opportunity to test its procedures for moving troops and equipment rapidly to distant lands.



Spec4 Elmore Jones (l) assists a Grenadian worker in replacing a rotted beam at the St. George's Roman Catholic School.

### THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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Guardsmen Lt. Col. Tommie R. Lewis, commander of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, and Maj. William D. Evans, battalion training officer, present Governor Harris with a T-shirt to remind him of his ride in the M-1 Abrams tank.

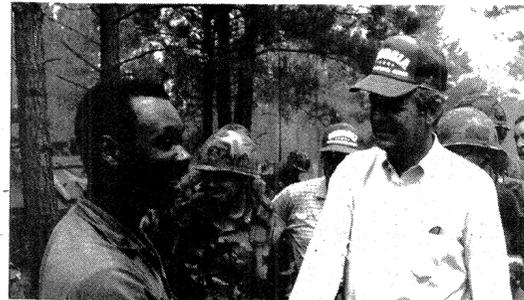


Brig. Gen. Donald Burdick (in helmet) explains a range chart to Gov. Harris.



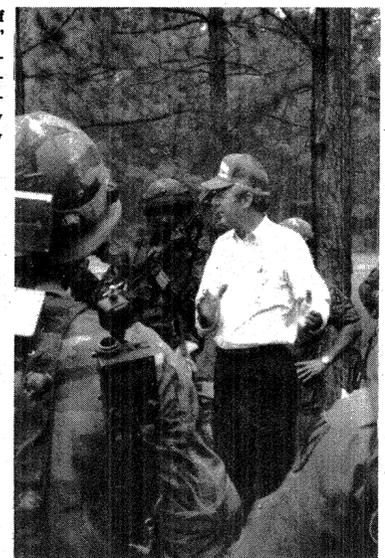
Gov. Harris commends members of Co.A, 1st battalion, 121st Infantry, after observing the guardsmen assault a position, using armored personnel carriers to cover advancing ground troops with 50-caliber machine gun fire.

# Governor Harris Visits Troops during annual training

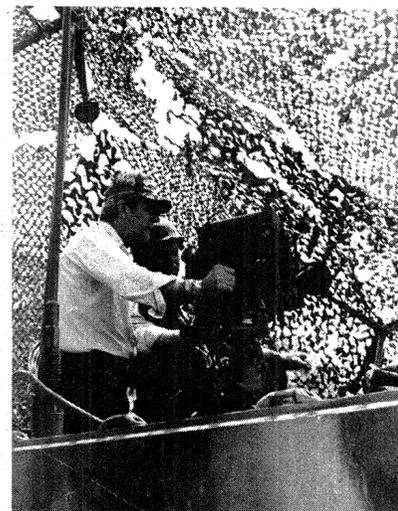


The Governor talks with members of Co. A, 1st battalion, 121st Infantry, during his brief tour of Fort Stewart.

"We're proud of each one of you," said Gov. Harris after viewing an outstanding drill exercise performed by Georgia Army guardsmen.



The Governor receives a warm welcome from members of Company A.



A member of the 1st Battalion 230th Field Artillery shows Gov. Harris how to operate the Pave-Penny aircraft laser receiver, a new ground guidance system for pinpoint aircraft bombings. The governor was then given a chance to fire the laser beam to mark a target for an Apache attack helicopter. The Governor hit his target.



MAY THE BEST TANK WIN... Governor Harris and State Rep. Joe T. Wood observe a "tank race" between the new M-1 Abrams tank and the M-60A3, the tank it is replacing.



## 2,000 Guardmembers receive benefits from Active Guard and Technicians Programs

By Karen Lehner

The Support Personnel Management Office (SPMO) of the Georgia Department of Defense plans, directs and administers personnel programs for more than 2,000 full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel in the state.

The programs affect a broad range of military professionals - from administrative support to pilots.

The two personnel programs concerning the military are the "Active Guard/Reserve Program" (AGR) and the "Technician Personnel Program."

"Both of these programs are essential to the Georgia Army and Air Guard," said Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, Georgia's adjutant general. "Because of our full time personnel, we have better training, better maintenance, better administration, and above all, a higher state of combat readiness," he added. The full time force means that "our leaders at every level can concentrate on tough, professional training" throughout every hour of every drill.

"I believe that commanders at all levels have the responsibility to make qualified members of the Guard aware of the employment opportunities in these programs," Griffin said.

"Our full time ranks as well as our part-time ranks must reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the communities in which they serve," he continued.

### Active Guard/Reserve Personnel Program

This program offers a variety of occupational specialties in both enlisted and officer ranks. Positions range from supply clerk to production recruiters to administrative officers.

To participate in the AGR Program, a person must be a member of the Georgia Army or Air National Guard and serve a three year active duty tour.

"Prerequisites vary from job to job," said Chief Warrant Officer #4 Robert Smith, Chief of SPMO's AGR Branch. He explained that Guard members must possess an appropriate Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) in applying for any AGR Air Guard position. When applying for AGR Army Guard positions, Guard members in pay grade of E-6 and above must possess the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) being announced for recruitment. Applicants who apply for positions E-5 and below are conditionally qualified for any MOS.

The AGR program provides many benefits. In addition to basic pay, members of the AGR program are entitled to other allowances. They include subsistence, quarters, clothing, and variable-housing allowances. Some positions entitle AGR members to hazardous duty pay, and proficiency pay. Members' dependents are also eligible for the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS).

Current participants in the AGR program include approximately 526 Army Guard members and 232 Air Guard members. Chief Warrant Officer Smith estimates a modest growth in the program during fiscal year 1986.

### Technician Personnel Program

This program is similar to the AGR Program with the exception that an employee does not have to be on active duty to be employed.

There are two types of employees of the Technician Program. "Excepted" employees, comprising the majority of Technician personnel, must be members of a Georgia Army or Air National Guard military unit. A "competitive" employee is a civilian employee who has civil service status with the Office of Personnel Management and is not required to be a member of the National Guard as a condition of employment.

"Qualification requirements vary depending on the position being recruited," said Capt. Jimmy Davis, chief of SPMO's Technician Branch. He explained that both white collar and blue collar positions are available within the program.

Technicians also receive special benefits. Some include life and health insurance in which the Federal Government pays fifty percent of the premium. In addition, technicians earn annual leave and sick leave on a bi-weekly basis. They are also entitled to civil service retirement and workers compensation.

Approximately 700 Army Guard members and 500 Air Guard members presently participate in the Technician Personnel Program. In addition, there are a total of 54 "competitive" employees.

Notices of job openings in both the AGR and Technician programs are distributed to all armories and units statewide and posted on unit bulletin boards.

For more information Guard members can contact the Support Personnel Management Office: the AGR Branch at (404) 656-6204, or the Technician Personnel Branch at (404) 656-6290.



Sgt. Ralph Conyers of Bainbridge lays demolition wire in preparation for detonation on a road where tanks and other tactical vehicles travel. He is performing step one in the task of exploding a crater into the middle of the road. (Photo by Toby Moore, 124th PAD)



Sgt. Johnny Clark of Colquitt stands in a road about to be blown up with shaped charges. (Photo by Toby Moore, 124th PAD)

## 560th Engineer Battalion Practices Wartime Missions

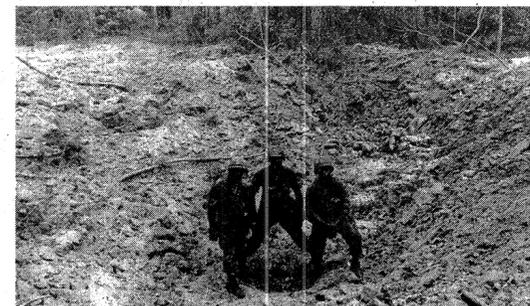
The enemy has broken through U.S. Army defenses and is on the move. The call is made to pull back, and every effort is made to slow down the encroaching force.

That's when the combat engineers come in. In wartime, the Georgia Army National Guard engineering units blow up bridges and roads, and fell trees to slow down the enemy.

While the Guard is undergoing its annual two weeks of summer training at Fort Stewart, Bainbridge and Thomasville units are practicing those techniques.

The 560th Engineering Battalion, Company D, is headquartered in Thomasville, and Detachment 1, Company D, is in Bainbridge.

In the accompanying photographs, Guardsmen with the Bainbridge unit prepare to explode a crater into a road to prevent passage by tanks and other tactical military vehicles.



A demolition crew of three Georgia Guardsmen stand in the center of a 10-foot deep crater exploded into the middle of a road previously used by tanks and other tactical vehicles. Shown left to right are Sgt. Robert Ranbeau and Sgt. Charlie D. Childs of Bainbridge, and Sp4 Ernest Ingram of Cairo. (Photo by Toby Moore, 124th PAD)

## Father's Guard career inspires son to enlist

Most fathers take their sons along to baseball games or fishing trips, but not Phillip Sullivan of Rincon. Beginning next summer, he will bring his oldest boy, Tommy, along for two weeks of annual training with the Georgia Army National Guard.

Sergeant First Class Sullivan, a member of the 2/214 Artillery Battalion, Battery C, located in Springfield, is here for his unit's yearly dose of combat skills training. Tommy, who will leave for basic training soon, went with his classmates from Effingham County High School on their senior trip.

Next year, however, father and son will be together when the unit's huge guns are taken to the backwoods for practice firing.

It was his father's National Guard career - 16 1/2 years so far - that convinced Tommy to join. And according to the elder Sullivan, the son has already been responsible for the recruiting of several young men in the area.

Because of that, Sullivan said Tommy has earned enough incentive points so that he will be automatically promoted to private first class upon completion of basic training. That will give him a leg up on his peers as his career advances,

Sullivan said.

The elder Sullivan is chief of his unit's firing battery, responsible for the eight-man crews that fire the unit's six huge 155-millimeter howitzer cannons. The big guns can propel a 96-pound projectile accurately to a target 18 kilometers distant.

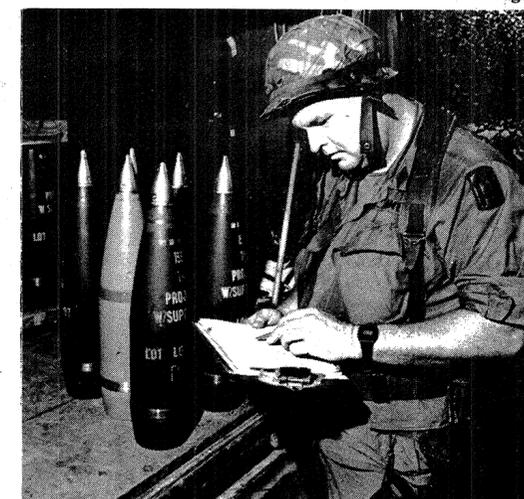
Tommy won't be assigned to his father's section, but will be with firing direction control, which tells the gunners where to point the long barrels.

Sullivan explained that while Tommy learns his trade with the battery, he will take advantage of another National Guard benefit - financial help with his anticipated college career.

"That's still up in the air," Sullivan said. "But I think he's leaning toward West Georgia College in Carrollton."

With both Sullivans in Battery C, the unit will be up to 94 men to accomplish the mission of general firepower support to other organizations.

And with sons Craig, 15, and Jeremy, 6, waiting in the wings, the unit may soon have its own National Guard version of "My Three Sons."



Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Sullivan, of Rincon, checks inventory of 155mm howitzer rounds during a firing exercise. Sullivan is a member of the 2/214 Field Artillery Battalion, Battery C, based in Springfield. (Photo by Sp4 Toby Moore, 124th PAD)

## Some people never leave home for annual training

For most Georgia Army National Guardsmen, attending annual training at Fort Stewart can be a long two weeks. First Sergeant Keith Rahn of Hinesville, however, feels right at home - because he is. He was born and lived much of his childhood on a farm that used to be where Wright Army Airfield now stands, long before anyone ever heard of Fort Stewart.

"My grandfather settled here from Austria," remembered Rahn, as he walked through the woods he used to play in as a child. "Right before World War II, the government came in and bought up all the land." His family moved just a few miles away to Flemington, but every summer he comes back to train with his unit, the 166th Maintenance Company headquartered in Hinesville. This summer, the company headquarters was bivouacked only a few hundred yards from where his home once stood.

Despite moving at an early age (he was eight at the time), Rahn vividly remembers those years. "My father used to plant a tree every time he cut one down. My brothers and I would help. Each of us had a job. Mine was to run and get a bucket of water from the spring to pour on the seedling."

"Most of us didn't mind moving too much," he recalled as he stepped into a clearing and peered across the asphalt runway to where he once lived. "My grandfather was 84 and it really affected him though."

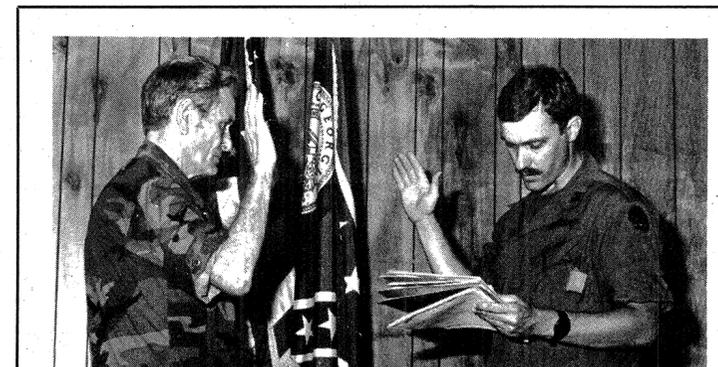
Rahn and his family weren't the only ones displaced to make way for the new, sprawling military reservation. Entire settlements like Taylors Creek and Willie were moved off. Scattered cemeteries are the only reminders of the communities that were once there.

It's only fitting that Rahn should be a member of the Georgia Army National Guard. His grandfather was a charter member of the Liberty Independent Troop of the Georgia Militia, and his father was also a member. Over the years the unit underwent a number of changes in official designation and evolved into what is now known as the 166th Maintenance Company. Even today, members of the 166th still consider themselves part of the Liberty Independent Troop.

Rahn himself has spent the last 34 years in the Georgia Guard, and the first sergeant said he plans on at least a few more. On the civilian side, he maintains close ties with the Guard - he's a full-time technician working at the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site on Fort Stewart.

Over the years, Rahn has seen a lot of water pass under the bridge. He remembers when Hinesville had only one paved street.

"It wasn't any bigger than some of the other little towns around except it was the county seat and had the courthouse," he laughed as he recalled how other things have changed, too. "When we moved off to make way for Fort Stewart, the government paid us from \$7.50 to \$11 an acre. Now, folks are getting \$25,000 for a quarter acre lot in Hinesville."



Sgt. Abraham L. Beavers of Montezuma makes it official as he raises his hand one last time. His 16-day enlistment will allow him to attend a final drill with his unit, Detachment 1, Company B, 560th Engineers, headquartered in Montezuma. (Photo by 124th PAD)

## One last drill for Sgt. Beavers

Sgt. Abraham L. Beavers of Montezuma enjoys the National Guard so much that he's staying until age 60. Not so unusual. Many Georgia Army National Guardsmen do this.

What is unusual is the fact that Beavers' final reenlistment period is for a grand total of only 16 days.

His current enlistment ends August 2, just a little more than two weeks before his birthday, when the regulations say he will have to retire. But Beavers, who has logged more than 41 years of military service, said he "didn't want to quit too early." So, the 16-day extension will allow him to attend one last drill with his unit, Detachment 1, Company B, the 560th Engineer Battalion in Montezuma.

"I just enjoy it," adds Beavers, who began his service career as a Regular Army infantryman in the Philippines during World War II. He also served several tours in Vietnam, where he repaired battle damaged aircraft.

Beavers' first Guard assignment was with a tank outfit in Montezuma. That unit consolidated with the Engineers, and then finally became part of the 560th Engineer Battalion.

"I've had a little of all of it - infantry, tanks, engineers," comments Beavers. "I've worked at most every job in this unit, except for motor sergeant and first sergeant."

The veteran Guardsman is married, a father and grandfather, and employed full-time as a civil service incoming air inspector at Warner Robins Air Force Base. He has no plans for retirement at this time.

However, since his time with the Georgia Guard is about up, he grins, somewhat wistfully. "Yep, I'm gonna miss the boys." The grin widens into a full-scale smile. "I'm only 15 miles down the road from the army."

# AT '85 in review

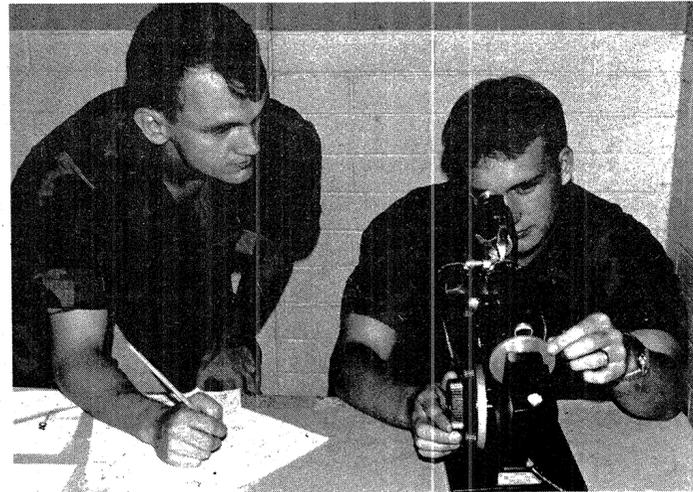


Looking like an army of aliens, members of the 178th Military Police Company of Monroe go through the decontamination station at Fort Stewart. (Photo by 124th Public Affairs Detachment)



Staff Sgt. Donald E. Webb, a member of C Battery, 1/214 Field Artillery Battalion, of Waynesboro, loads his duffle bag onto a truck in preparation for annual training.

PFC Andrew Edwards, left, and Sp4 Lance Rygmyr, of the 138th Medical Co., Atlanta, uses the unit's new lensometer to "read" eyeglasses to fashion eyepiece inserts for individual gas masks. The company hopes to prepare as many prescription gas mask lenses as possible during AT. (Photo by 124th PAD)



Wearing camouflage and make-up, Sp4 Phillip Stuart of Locust Grove prepares for movement into the woods with Headquarters Detachment, 110th Maintenance Battalion from Decatur. (Photo by Jim Driscoll, 124th PAD)



PFC Barry Balmer, of Savannah, appears intent on keeping an eye on the enemy from his foxhole during annual field maneuvers. Balmer is a member of the 2/214th Field Artillery Battalion, A Battery, based in his home town. (Photo by 124th PAD.)



Sp5 James Dukes, left, of Pembroke, and SSgt. John Purvis, of Savannah, off-load rounds and fuses to be fired in their unit's 155mm howitzer. Both men are members of the 2/214th Field Artillery Battalion, A Battery, based in Savannah. (Photo by 124th PAD.)

# Georgia Army Guardsmen 'invade' piney woods of Fort Stewart

## Maneuvers highlight successful annual training

The 4,000 Guardsmen from units throughout the state packed into two weeks of intensive training the practical combat skills they have learned during weekend drills. It is an annual tradition known as "summer camp."

"The focus of our annual training is to prepare the units to perform their missions on the battlefield in the event they are ever mobilized in a wartime situation," said Col. Ronald Winslett, deputy chief of staff for operations.

"Being in the field for two weeks, the units can conduct training and gain experience that just isn't possible to do at their hometown armories," he said.

The long, camouflaged convoys of vehicles converged on the sprawling Army reservation near Savannah June 15 and 16, and began the task of moving to the field to set up their encampments. A steady downpour from an unexpected rainstorm greeted the part-time soldiers, complicating an already complex logistical maneuver.

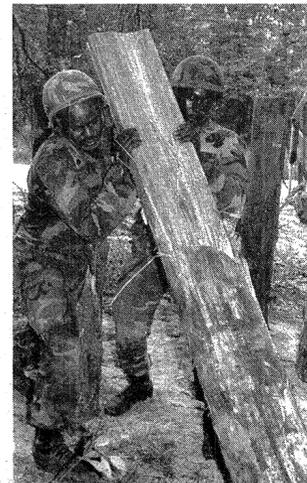
But, Mother Nature doesn't alter her schedule for wartime, so the Guardsmen donned their rain gear and proceeded. From their entrenched positions, these soldiers—wet or dry—would act



Pfc Tracy Alexander, left, issues an M-16 rifle to Sp4 Murline Agee in preparation for two weeks annual field training at Fort Stewart. Both are Atlanta residents and members of the 190th Military Police Company.

out simulated combat exercises, and be graded by observers from the Active Component.

While most Georgia Guardmembers come to Fort Stewart for their annual training assignments, many travel to other locales as well. This year units have trained at Fort Gordon, at Augusta; Fort Benning, outside Columbus; the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.; Camp Blanding, Fla.; and the Caribbean island of Grenada.

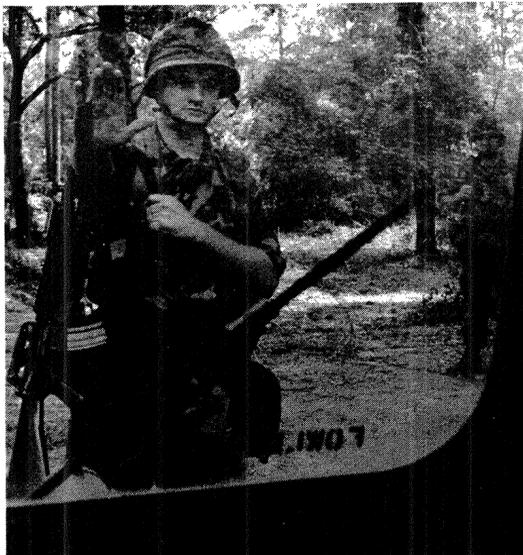


Pfc Tony Wiggins and Sp4 Joseph Griffin, both of Soperton, man a defensive position behind rolls of concertina wire. The Guardsmen are members of the 878th Engineering Battalion, Company C, headquartered in Lyons. (Photo by 124th PAD.)

Sp4 Michael Knight, of Millen, and Sp4 Danny Maye, of Vidalia, strain to place a log in the ground as part of a barrier. The pair is with the 878th Engineering Battalion, Company D, in Swainsboro. (Photo by 124th PAD.)



Pfc Melvin Adams, left, and Sp4 Michael Roth, both of Atlanta, test their equipment before moving out on maneuvers. Both men are members of the 190th Military Police Company in Atlanta.



Private Thomas Horton of Athens, a Georgia guardsman, challenges a jeep at the perimeter. His unit, the 178th Military Police Company of Monroe, participated in two weeks of rigorous annual training at Fort Stewart. (Photo by 124th PAD)

## New methods spark training interest

War games, European scenario, CAPSTONE mission, aggressors, defensive posture. These terms and many like them become second nature to the men of Monroe's 178th Military Police Company during Georgia Army National Guard annual training at Fort Stewart.

These MPs take their training seriously. For several months before the camp started, two full-time Guardsmen, SFC Tracy Smith of Monroe, and Sgt. Michael Goethals of Conyers, spent their days devising training aids that put to rest the old Army maxim of "hurry up and wait."

"We're keeping the troops busy," Smith said. "They are doing something while in the field instead of sitting in foxholes being bored."

The two training coordinators for the 178th set up situations from the soldiers manual, printed them on cards and gave them to different platoons and individual guardsmen. The MPs then act out and react to the various situations.

One situation uses a Russian-language sign designating an area contaminated with a nuclear, biological or chemical agent. When a squad comes to the sign, the men must decipher it,

cross the area using proper protective measures, and decontaminate on the other side.

Smith and Goethals also have put together other aids, such as simulated dynamite. One of the situations calls for an aggressor to cross over into an opposing force's encampment at night, plant explosives and retreat undetected. The participants on both sides are judged on how well each performs. This year the infiltrator was spotted by sophisticated night sights and captured.

Although the 178th trains with other units during the two weeks, much of their training is conducted in-house. Platoons are pitted against platoons, some as aggressors, some as defenders. Each situation is checked and evaluated by observers from within the ranks.

"We've been very surprised at how much the men learn this way," Smith said.

Much of the credit for the men's zeal for training goes to 178th's commanding officer, Capt. H. Neal Thompson, of Madison, according to Smith. "Capt. Thompson is a very strong leader," he said. "And the men react to that."

## Guardsmen urged to use caution with laser equipment

"To help prevent serious injury or even tragedy, Georgia Guardsmen are urged to exercise extreme caution when operating or handling any type of laser equipment or laser guidance systems," warned CW2 Ron Ayers, safety and occupational health manager for the Georgia Army National Guard.

In a recent accident reported by Army officials, a soldier's careless handling of a laser target designator proved that the laser's "invisible bullets" can cause serious eye injuries.

Following a training exercise, a soldier took a laser target designator to his room for temporary safekeeping since his sergeant could not find the key to the container where designators were usually stored.

Later in the day, a fellow soldier visited him in his room and picked up the designator. While examining it, he released the safeguard and pulled the trigger. He saw nothing. However, just as a second visitor en-

tered the room, the laser beam from the designator hit him.

The victim was hospitalized for a hemorrhaging right eye. The soldier was subsequently returned to restricted duty but had suffered some loss of peripheral vision because of the accident.

"A tragedy like that can be prevented," CW2 Ayers commented. "Weapons - of all kinds - must be continually handled with care."

"Laser target designators and other highly advanced equipment and weapons can be very dangerous to personnel operating them and to others as well if not handled properly and safely," Ayers added.

The Georgia Army and Air National Guard, as well as other military forces throughout the United States, are increasing their use of laser technology - especially to pinpoint targets for artillery, tank and air strike support operations.



### Building a road

Staff Sgt. Tim Fountain of Lyons, operates a motor grader as his Georgia Army National Guard unit builds a road on the Fort Stewart Army reservation. Fountain is a member of the 878th Engineering Battalion, Company C,

in Lyons. The company was undergoing its annual two weeks of summer training at Fort Stewart. (Photo by 124th Public Affairs Detachment)

## Guard family members eligible for new identification card

Family members of Army National Guard personnel are now eligible to receive "Family Member Identification Cards," the National Guard Bureau has announced.

Purpose of this card is to provide a more standardized and convenient form of identification for dependents and family members of Army Guard personnel.

The new card, DA Form 5431, is expected to speed up the identification process required at commissaries, exchanges, medical centers and other military facilities. It will also be used in conjunction with active duty orders, mobilization orders or leave and earning statements (LES).

Designed for **identification purposes only**, Family Member ID cards will not, however, entitle anyone to new benefits. They will be standardized throughout the Army National Guard and Army Reserve and will be similar in color to ED cards issued Guard members. Each one will contain a photograph and will be laminated.

To obtain the cards, Guardsmen must complete DOD Form 1172 and have it verified by their unit commander or personnel officer. Cards may be requested for all eligible family members 10 years of age or older.

Although family members are not required to obtain or use identification cards, doing so will ease the burden on both the cardholder and the Army. Individual cards will expire on the day the Guard member's term of enlistment is completed or four years after the date of issue, whichever comes first.

Initial distribution of the new cards have been delivered to the Georgia Army Guard major commands for distribution to all units.

## Bonus Programs available to members of the Georgia Army National Guard

By Karen Lehner

Guard members can receive additional cash benefits by participating in one or more of the five different bonus programs currently available to members of the Georgia Army National Guard.

Approximately 3,500 Georgia Guard members are presently enrolled in these incentive programs which include: Enlistment Cash Bonus, Student Loan Repayment Program, Retention Bonus, Affiliation Bonus, and Educational Assistance Bonus.

"Eligibility requirements and bonus payments vary within each program," said Sgt. 1st Class Don Sherrod, Incentive Coordinator. "Each bonus program must be selected and applied for at the time of enlistment or extension of an enlistment."

Sherrod said that additional information regarding the bonus programs is available at the Georgia Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) office, (404) 656-6662.

### Enlistment Cash Bonus Program

In breaking down each program, Sherrod noted that the Enlistment Cash Bonus is available to non-prior service applicants enlisting for a six or eight year period and qualifying for a critical skill or duty in a bonus unit.

To qualify for this program an individual must be a high school graduate or be within two years of graduation, score 31 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), and will hold an authorized position in a bonus unit or possess a bonus skill.

A person will not qualify for this program if he enlists for active duty or active duty training (ADT) for more than 90 days, or enlists as a permanent technician.

Participants in the enlistment program can receive either the \$2,000 Critical Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Bonus, or the \$1,500 Eligible Unit Bonus, but not both.

Persons qualifying for a critical MOS skill can receive a \$2,000 bonus with an initial payment of \$1,000 and two "anniversary" payments of \$500 upon satisfactory completion of the second and fourth years of service.

Individuals joining eligible bonus units can receive a \$1,500 cash bonus. This bonus is broken up into an initial payment of \$750 and two "anniversary" payments of \$375 awarded upon the satisfactory com-

pletion of the second and fourth years of service.

To receive bonus payments, unit members must first complete their training-Initial Active Duty Training (IADT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Members may then submit bonus payment requests to the SRIP office.

"The SRIP office monitors all payment requests, but actual bonus payments are initiated at the unit level," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Beverly Pack, Incentive Manager.

About 90 days before a bonus is due, a notation appears on the service member's Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), Pack said. Bonuses are included with the unit drill check and members should be aware that there is a two month delay in receiving the bonus, once the unit submits the payment request to the SRIP office.

### Student Loan Repayment Program

Another bonus program is the Student Loan Repayment Program which provides repayment of outstanding eligible Federal student loans. These loans include: Guaranteed Student Loans, Federally Insured Student Loans, PLUS/ALAS Loans, and National Direct Student Loans.

Eligibility requirements are the same as the enlistment bonus except applicants must score 50 or higher on the ASVAB. In addition, a service member must fill a Table of Equipment (TOE) vacancy (cannot be excess). Also, prior service members must extend or reenlist for three or six years in order to qualify.

This bonus program pays 15 percent of the amount borrowed plus interest per year or \$500, whichever is greater, to the institution which granted the loan.

Extending or reenlisting qualifies Georgia Guard members for the Retention Bonus Program. This bonus provides cash awards for personnel who extend or immediately reenlist in either a critical skill or bonus unit. This program is available only to current Army National Guard (ARNG) members.

Qualified applicants can receive cash payments of \$900 or \$1,800 according to the total number of years service based upon the member's current scheduled Expiration Term of Service (ETS).

Members with less than six years of service may extend or immediately reenlist up to three months before ETS (or expiration of selected reserve obligation) for a period of six years and receive an \$1,800 bonus.

Persons who have at least six years, but no more than "exactly eight years of service," may extend or immediately reenlist up to 90 days prior to their ETS for three to five years and receive \$900 for a three year bonus, or receive \$1,800 for a six year bonus.

Members with more than eight, but no more than "exactly nine years" service may extend or immediately reenlist up to three months before ETS for at least three years and receive a \$900 bonus.

If members have more than nine years of service they may extend or immediately reenlist up to three months before ETS for only the Student Loan Repayment Program.

For each bonus, there is an initial payment of one-half the total bonus followed by \$150 "anniversary" payments at the end of each year of satisfactory service of the bonus term (three or six years).

### Affiliation Bonus Program

Active duty personnel separated from the Regular Army who elect to serve in the National Guard for the remainder of their Military Service Obligation (MSO) can qualify for an Affiliation Bonus.

This bonus is awarded by all ARNG units in all skills to qualified individuals. Participants in this program receive \$25 a month for each remaining month of their MSO.

Members with 18 months or less of service remaining at the time of enlistment in the National Guard receive the entire amount on the effective date of affiliation.

Persons with more than 18 months, receive one-half of the total amount on the date of the affiliation and one-half on the fifth "anniversary" of the date upon which their military service obligation started.

### Educational Assistance Bonus Program

The Educational Assistance Bonus Program has recently been discontinued; however, persons who were accepted for this program prior to July 1, 1985, will still earn the entitlement to this incentive.

This program pays a maximum \$1,000 in any 12-month period or \$4,000 over a six year period. Participants are entitled to a one-time conversion option which allows them to change from the Educational Assistance Program to the Enlistment Bonus Program and vice versa.

## Air Guard digs in for Quick Force

By Maj. Stuart Lange  
Public Affairs Officer  
129th Tactical Control Squadron

Realistic training was the watchword as 48 members of Kennesaw's 129th Tactical Control Flight, Georgia Air National Guard deployed to Gila Bend, Ariz. for their 1985 Annual Field Training.

The unit, commanded by Lt. Col. Larry Davis, provided critical radar control for aircraft involved in the Quick Force 85-3 exercise.

The 129th departed Dobbins AFB utilizing a C-130 Hercules and the Air Force's massive C-5A Galaxy to transport nearly 70 tons of equip-

ment. Landing at Luke AFB, near Phoenix, the unit convoyed the radar, communications equipment, and generators required for its work through the Sonora Desert to the field site at Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field. Upon arrival at Gila Bend, the equipment was positioned, connected, calibrated and tested in order to ensure optimum performance.

The exercise scenario was designed to acquaint Air Force components with desert operations. Sorties were flown by a variety of aircraft including B-52 and F-111 bombers, A-7, A-10, and F-4 attack aircraft, F-15 and F-16 fighters, KC-135 and KC-10 tankers, and the E-3A AWACS. The role of the 129th was to provide radar control to the aircraft simulating "enemy" fighters - primarily Air Force F-5s from Williams AFB, Ariz. and Navy F-14s from Miramar NAS, Calif. In addition to directing fighter aircraft for intercepts, the 129th controllers handled numerous refueling rendezvous and coordinated the safe recovery of an F-111 experiencing mechanical problems.

According to Lt. Col. Davis, the field training was marked by realistic and intense training under field conditions. Davis praised the support provided by the airlift crews, the personnel stationed at Gila Bend, and the flight's parent unit, the 129th Tactical Control Squadron. "Most important," Davis stated, "was the outstanding teamwork and esprit de corps shown by all unit members which enabled us to accomplish our mission in an outstanding manner." His remarks were echoed by an anonymous Navy pilot who praised the control he received as "the best I've ever seen."



Equipment being off-loaded at Luke AFB.

## Governor \_\_\_\_\_ from page 1

But the Abrams was a highlight of the day.

With only his head showing above the loader's hatch, the governor whizzed by at speeds up to 32 m.p.h. and once disappeared in a smoke screen emitted by the tank.

"Your hotdoggers will enjoy that one," he told an officer after the ride.

Powered by a 1,500-h.p. turbine engine and armed with a 105-mm main gun, it is regarded as the world's most advanced tank. A sophisticated gyro-stabilizer holds its main gun on target while traveling over the roughest terrain and an advanced suspension system gives it the plush ride of a limousine.

Brig. Gen. Donald Burdick, assistant adjutant general, said the Pentagon's decision to issue the M-1 in Georgia represents a vote of confidence for the 48th Infantry Brigade.

One of its subordinate units, the 1st Battalion of the 108th Armor, is slated to receive the new tanks. The 108th, headquartered in Calhoun, has elements in Rome, Dalton, Cedartown, Douglasville and Canton.

The 48th, headquartered in Macon, is a roundout brigade for Fort Stewart's 24th Infantry Division. If the 24th were ever deployed in combat, the 48th likely would be activated to join the division.

General Griffin described the 48th as a crack outfit that has demonstrated it is capable of using the finest equipment the Army can provide. He said it was an honor for the brigade to receive the tanks.

Guardsmen training at Fort Stewart spend most of their time in the field, where they are plagued by gnats, hot weather and almost daily rain showers. Harris, the Guard's commander-in-chief, said he makes the annual trip to show his appreciation for their efforts.

"It's not easy coming out of an air-conditioned office and being plopped in the middle of the woods," he said of the guardsmen, citing good leadership and dedication as reasons for their success.



Drivers from the 165th wasted no time in test-driving the new tanks. Training is expected to take two years, but Guardsmen are scheduled to fire the tank's weapons for the first time next summer.

## 35 tanks delivered to Training Center

# M-1 Abrams comes to Georgia

By MAJ James Wooten  
124th Public Affairs Detachment

The world's most advanced tank, the M-1 Abrams, has rolled off rail cars at Fort Stewart, Ga., for delivery to the Georgia Army National Guard.

The shipment of 35 of the Abrams tanks represents the first of a total of 60 that will eventually replace the M-60A3 tanks now being used by the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, headquartered in Calhoun. The battalion also has units in Rome, Dalton, Cedartown, Douglasville and Canton.

"When we pulled into the motor pool and saw it for the first time, somebody said 'it looks like half the tank was left on the assembly line,'" said Lt. Ben Cheek of Smyrna, a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor in Cedartown.

"That's because," said Sgt. Henry D. Patterson of Calhoun, a member of D Company in Canton, "it's a low-profile tank. It won't make a big target for the enemy on the battlefield."

He added, "I like the design of it."

The M-1 represents the state-of-the-art in tank design. Low-slung, the Abrams is powered by a 1,500-horsepower turbine engine that powers the 61-ton vehicle across hard-surfaced roads and rough terrain at speeds faster than any other tank, according to Maj. Jess Minix, M-1 project officer for the Georgia Army National Guard. The gyro-stabilized gunnery system and the thicker, new generation armor plating are other improvements that make the Abrams tank the world's most sophisticated.

"It's super," said Cheek. "The men are really looking forward to working with it. I like the looks of it, but am more impressed with its speed and firing stability."

"The men are excited about getting it," said Lt. Gary Davis of Atlanta, a member of Cedartown's Company B. "I like what I see. If it does everything they say it can do, it's something."

Upon arrival at Fort Stewart from the General

Dynamics factory in Warren, Mich., where automated production lines manufacture the M-1 Abrams tanks at the rate of 30 per day, they were off-loaded by guardsmen from the 165th Supply Company in Savannah.

One by one, drivers from the 165th checked out the new tanks' serial numbers and drove the tanks off flat-rail cars to Evans Field near Fort Stewart. "We are excited about this mission," said Capt. Paul Wynn of Savannah, commander of the 165th. "In a wartime environment, we would be in a corps rear area receiving, checking and reissuing large items of equipment like these tanks. Our people have to be able on short notice to learn to drive anything."

Arriving with the first shipment was Capt. Keith Ezell of the Army's Tank Automotive Command, who will supervise training of Georgia Army National Guardsmen as they become familiar with the new tanks. Training is expected to take two years, but the guardsmen are scheduled to fire the tank's weapons for the first time next summer.



Low-profile tank won't make a big target for enemy on battlefield.

LEAN, MEAN FIGHTING MACHINES...M-1 Abrams tanks waiting to be off-loaded by members of the 165th Supply Company, Savannah, Georgia Army National Guard, and delivered to the National Guard Training Center at Fort Stewart.

(Photo by 124th Public Affairs Detachment, GaARNG)



# Guard's top sergeant stresses professionalism

By Sgt. Elliott Minor  
124th Public Affairs Detachment

Billy Manning, the state command sergeant major, climbed out of a jeep and walked over to a young guardsman trying to cool off in the shade of a tall pine tree.

Pumping the man's hand, Manning chatted briefly and asked him how he was enjoying summer camp at Fort Stewart.

The command sergeant major then disappeared into a building where he was to take part in a promotion ceremony with Brig. Gen. Kenneth McDaniel, commander of the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech).

As the highest ranking enlisted man in the Georgia Army National Guard, Manning is a father figure - a kind of guardsman's guru - who enjoys being with the troops, even if it means enduring gnats and thunderstorms. Whether he's at his desk or visiting with troops in offices or training areas, Manning is treated with a degree of respect usually reserved for top evangelists and some University of Georgia football coaches.

"One of my goals is to try to meet every guardsman ... and let him know he has someone who cares for him," said the soft-spoken Manning, 49. "Caring for soldiers is a sergeant's business. Without the soldiers, we're out of business."

A Leesburg native, Manning has 31 years of military service, most of it with the National Guard. He has been a full-time member of the Guard since 1961, serving as an operations sergeant and sergeant major with the 121st Infantry in Albany.

To become a command sergeant major, he had to be approved by an Army board that meets once a year.

After reviewing his entire military career, the board decided in 1979 that Manning had what it takes to wear the distinctive insignia of a command sergeant major. He was appointed to the Georgia Guard's top enlisted post in April, 1984.

"The highest honor an enlisted man can receive is to be appointed by the command sergeant majors' board," said Manning, who is responsible for the welfare and rigid screening of candidates for higher posts.

He believes the relocation and expansion of the Georgia Military Institute, the Guard's training center for officers and sergeants, will provide new training opportunities. The school is being moved from Milledgeville to Macon, a central location that will facilitate travel from various parts of the state.

"I think when you are technically and tactically proficient, morale is better and you're able to do a better job," he explained. "The better trained and better equipped soldier is going to do the best job in protecting our way of life."

Manning's leadership philosophy is heavily influenced by his many years of military training. He believes guardsmen should take every opportunity to improve their skills, they should always perform professionally to the best of their ability and set a good example that others can follow.

"Leadership should be by example," he observed. "Accept the responsibility for the rank worn on your collar."

As a key figure in the Georgia Guard, Manning travels extensively, both within the state and without. He recently returned from a visit to Louisiana, where he briefed officials in that state on the challenges



CSM Billy Manning: "Caring for soldiers is sergeant's business. Without the soldier, we're out of business."

facing them at the Army's National Training Center in California. In August, he will travel to Portland, Ore., to represent the state at a conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard.

When he's not visiting with guardsmen or traveling, Manning tries to spend weekends in Leesburg. Manning and his wife, Patricia, have three daughters, two living at home.

"They kid me about being a sergeant major at home," he joked. "And I kid her (his wife) about being a general."

## 116th TFW deploys to Europe for 'Coronet Meteor'

# Retention saves money, preserves readiness

By Sgt. Elliott Minor  
124th Public Affairs Detachment

A corps of salesmen came to camp this summer with enough plastic flags to launch a used car lot. But instead of horsepower, they focused their pitch on the power of benefits available to members of the National Guard.

Sgt. Maj. Larry Bowman, 58, the Georgia Army National Guard's senior retention NCO, says benefits have never been better - things like tuition assistance, low-cost life insurance and free travel on military aircraft.

Guardsmen can qualify for up to \$800 in educational assistance per year, a new G.I. Bill that pays up to \$140 per month and reenlistment bonuses in most units.

Bowman and six other NCO's, under the command of Maj. Wendall McMillan, are responsible for retaining qualified people in the Georgia Guard. Working out of six area offices, the NCO's train unit retention sergeants and attempt to resolve family or employment problems stemming from Guard service.

"We want that employer to know the guardsman is protecting his family and his business," said Bowman, noting that the more than 11,000 members of the Georgia Guard make a significant economic contribution to local economies.

McMillan's staff has prepared a book for guardsmen that explains the benefits package in detail and, upon request, his specialists will visit units to discuss the package with members and their families.

"We encourage wives to attend these sessions," Bowman said. "That gives them an understanding of the benefits and entitlements and the importance of their spouse's contribution to the national defense."

The retention effort has paid off handsomely, according to Bowman, noting that Georgia's retention rate

is 74.5 percent for the first three-quarters of 1985, exceeding the National Guard Bureau's minimums of 63 percent for first-term enlistees and 66 percent for "career" guardsmen.

The state retention staff urges unit retention NCO's to complete reenlistment procedures before coming to summer camp, but McMillan's specialists can help out if a guardsman continues to have lingering doubts upon his arrival at Fort Stewart.

This year, team members have suspended triangular red, white and blue flags to mark an area where they will host a cookout and movies. The activities will be held on the night of Aug. 2, when troops return from the field for two days. On Aug. 3, two buses will take Guard members to Savannah for a day at the beach.

Bowman, who has 27 years of military service, attributes Georgia's high retention rate to quality training, leadership, outstanding benefits and the camaraderie derived from Guard membership.

"I believe our guardsmen today are the best we've ever had," he said. "They're better trained, they have better equipment and we have a more important role in the total (Army) mission."

Noting that it costs about \$30,000 to train and equip a guardsman during the first year of his enlistment, Bowman said it makes good sense to keep members year after year.

"We have a big investment in young soldiers," said Bowman. "We have to look out for their future and our investment."

"Primary reasons for dropping out are job conflicts, family pressures and commuting distances," he said, adding that pay surprisingly is not a major factor.

"People join the guard for training and camaraderie," Bowman said. "I think good training and good leadership are the main reasons people stay."



# Georgia's Disaster Fighting Team

In Part I of this story, published in the last issue of *The Georgia Guardsman*, emphasis was placed on the role of GEMA (the Georgia Emergency Management Agency) as a major division of the Georgia Department of Defense. The article also explained how the agency responds to disasters, and in certain emergencies, how the Georgia Guard and GEMA work hand-in-hand.

The article defined "Emergency Management" (EM) as "saving lives and protecting property from natural or man-made disasters." And the numerous and essential contributions of EM "volunteers" were highlighted.

Part II provides additional facts about the people and equipment of GEMA and the National Guard and how these organizations work together to fight emergencies and disasters of all kinds.

By H. Terry Smith

A major objective in Emergency Management: to respond effectively and contain emergencies or disasters at the "local" level!

However, some emergencies are so unusual, or of such magnitude, that special equipment is required, and both military and civilian personnel must respond as a team -- at local, state and Federal levels.

## GEMA'S FIELD COORDINATORS

To further strengthen its effectiveness and outreach, GEMA has divided Georgia into six districts or operational areas, staffed with full-time Field Coordinators.

These professionals travel extensively within their respective areas to provide assistance and guidance to local EM/CD Directors, government officials, and supporting organizations. They are continuously on call, and first on the scene to represent the state in an emergency.

## LOCAL DIRECTORS

Selected and nominated by local government officials and appointed by the Governor, local Directors are located in Georgia counties which have qualified EM/CD organizations. These are the men and women who know how to handle hazards of all kinds that could threaten their communities.

And in the event of an emergency or disaster, a local Director coordinates -- to function as a team -- all emergency service organizations and personnel needed to get the job done quickly and efficiently.

## TRAINING -- VITAL AND ONGOING

Training is vital to GEMA's overall functions. EM personnel statewide, including local government officials (mayors, city council members and others), have the opportunity to attend a variety of classes and workshops.

A broad range of subjects are taught including "Emergency Planning," "Leadership and Influence," and "National Security." Also, workshops are conducted on "Emergency Shelter Operations and Management," "Floodplain Management" and "Tornado Preparedness."

## LOCAL TRAINING ALSO CONDUCTED

In addition to GEMA's classroom training in Atlanta, local Directors schedule training within their respective communities. Targeted primarily at firemen, law enforcement and local rescue-and-service personnel, these courses include "First Aid," "CPR," "Rescue Specialist Training," "Handling Hazardous Materials in Transportation Emergencies" and "Crash Victim Extrication."

## MOBILE COMMAND POST

GEMA has the flexibility of coordinating response and recovery operations from just about any location in Georgia through the use of a Mobile Command Post. This self-contained bus is equipped with a set of radios capable of networking with the National Guard, state agencies and can tie into local telephone systems.

## GEORGIA'S "HOST" AND "RISK" AREAS

Crisis Relocation Plans involve evacuating, moving or relocating people from dangerous "risk" areas -- areas especially susceptible to nuclear attack, hurricanes and other threats -- to safer locations called "host" areas. Host areas are usually communities or counties adjacent to risk areas.

## HANDLING DISASTERS AT LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS

The common goal and philosophy of all persons or organizations in Emergency Management is to respond effectively and contain, if possible, an emergency at the "local" level.



GEMA's Field Coordinators, full-time professionals in Emergency Management, each travel between 25,000 and 30,000 miles annually to provide assistance and guidance (in emergency-related affairs) to local CD/EM Directors, government officials and supporting organizations. Shown, from left, are Jack Scott, of Gainesville; Neil Holton, of Macon; Jack Hutto, of Alma; George Adams, of Moultrie; Frank Brent, of Atlanta; Gene Autry, of Rome; and Billy J. Clack, executive director of GEMA.

For example: a large fire breaks out at an office complex. The emergency requires a response of most all fire-fighting units, emergency medical personnel and others in emergency services within that particular community.

However, no "outside" help from adjoining towns, counties, from GEMA or other organizations outside of the area would be necessary to successfully cope with the emergency. In summary, the disaster is handled "locally."

There are, however, many disasters or emergencies which require specialized resources and personnel far beyond that which local authorities can provide.

## HELP FROM THE STATE LEVEL

Help from the State level in dealing with disasters and emergencies is often required -- involving not only GEMA but also other state agencies including the Environmental Protection Division of DNR, the departments of Human Resources and Transportation and the Georgia State Patrol.

Some threats or emergencies -- especially severe weather conditions or hazardous chemical spills -- can require a massive team effort on the part of many emergency service organizations. Response and recovery operations may even require the assistance of National Guard units and Federal agencies as well.

## RESPONSE AT ALL LEVELS FOLLOWS SOUTH GEORGIA TORNADO

An example of teamwork involving local, State and Federal response to a disaster occurred last May. Following a severe tornado outbreak affecting six South Georgia counties, local authorities and EM personnel quickly responded to the needs of many families whose homes were destroyed.

The Georgia Air National Guard provided air support to transport the Adjutant General, GEMA staff members and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives to visit and survey disaster areas to assess the impact.

After damage assessments, a Presidential Emergency Declaration was announced concerning temporary housing in the counties affected. Disaster Housing Assistance Centers were opened in several counties by GEMA and other state agency personnel. Temporary housing including mobile homes, rental and home-repair financial assistance were provided by FEMA to citizens whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged.

## GEMA AND THE GUARD WORKING TOGETHER

On many occasions the men and women of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard have worked hand-in-hand to ably assist GEMA and others in response and recovery operations. And the Guard has

frequently provided special equipment needed to combat special emergencies.

On the other hand, GEMA and other emergency service organizations and personnel have provided assistance and equipment to the National Guard.

In the destructive aftermath of powerful hurricanes or tornadoes, or during and after flooding, members of the Guard have generously assisted emergency disaster personnel in debris clearance, patrol and security operations, and restoration of normal services to the public.

## THE GUARD PROVIDES MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT

During and after paralyzing ice and snow storms, the Guard has provided not only the manpower to assist emergency service operations but also much needed equipment such as search lights, special tools, generators and four-wheel drive vehicles. These vehicles, essential in many rescue operations, serve to transport personnel in critical professions such as nurses, doctors and nursing home employees to and from work.

## ARMORIES PROVIDE SHELTER

During extreme cold weather conditions, National Guard armories have been opened as supplementary winter shelters for stranded citizens and persons forced to leave their homes due to loss of heat or utilities. Armories have also temporarily housed an "overflow" of evacuees following hurricanes or floods.

## AIR SUPPORT GIVES QUICK RESPONSE CAPABILITY

In times of special emergencies, GEMA and local EM/CD agencies can rely on the Guard to provide certain types of aircraft and flight personnel. This gives Emergency Management the ability to respond quickly to any emergency, anywhere in the state.

Use of fixed and rotary winged aircraft -- to survey flooded cities or communities, to assist in search and rescue operations or to transport clothing, food, fuel, medications and other critical supplies during emergency situations -- has given EM authorities a superior flexibility to conduct life-saving missions.

## ELECTRIC GENERATORS -- A PORTABLE ENERGY SOURCE

Power outages in some communities have periodically created the need for gasoline-powered electric generators -- equipment maintained at specific units or facilities of the Guard.

Providing a supplementary electrical power source until normal service is restored, these machines have been made available to EM/CD agencies for use at hospitals, nursing homes, farm facilities, and on a few occasions, to support the water distribution system of entire communities.

(see story's conclusion in Part III, next issue)