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THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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Getting paid accurately, on time begins with you

By H. Terry Smith

The Adjutant General is concerned that some Guard members may not be getting paid on time or receiving the correct amount of pay.

"While the number of pay complaints is very small each month, I'd like to see the day when every Guardsman is paid the correct amount and on time," Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin said.

Griffin explained that the pay process is complex but, "with teamwork all along the line, every one of our soldiers will know that they are getting what they earn when they earn it."

"It is important that each person on this team do his or her part to help assure that the military paycheck process operates smoothly and accurately," Gen. Griffin said.

Processing a single paycheck begins with the individual Guard member, then involves his or

her Guard unit, the Personnel Branch (SID-PERS) of the Georgia Department of Defense, the Military Pay Branch (MPB) of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO), finance centers at either Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., or at Fort McPherson, Ga., and of course the U.S. Postal Service.

Griffin has provided a list of things individual Guard members can do to help prevent and resolve pay problems.

He has also outlined various duties and responsibilities of Unit Administrators, First Sergeants and Unit Commanders concerning their part in the pay process.

Individual Guardsman Responsibilities

1. Be certain that you have performed your military duty in accordance with competent or-

ders and that you are entitled to pay.

2. Provide your unit with accurate personnel data such as your correct mailing address, dependency status for quarters entitlement, tax withholding statement, etc.

3. Review for accuracy your Leave and Earning Statements (LES). If you have any questions concerning your LES, consult your Unit Administrator or First Sergeant.

4. In the event of a pay problem, discuss it immediately with your Unit Administrator or first Sergeant. If the problem is not resolved within a reasonable period of time, then ask your Unit Administrator for an explanation or update. If still not satisfied, then review the problem with your Unit Commander.

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OPFOR race into action from Soviet troop mover in the desert at Fort Irwin. Rotation troops face the OPFOR in the "force on force" phase of training. (U.S. Army photo)

Georgia unit completes latest NTC rotation

By Capt. John C. Whatley
48th Brigade Public Affairs Officer

Georgia's 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry has returned from a 22-day trip to California. But there weren't any California blondes, beaches or redwoods for these men. Theirs was a training rotation at the National Training Center, an enormous training area roughly the size of Rhode Island located in the rugged Mojave Desert.

The battalion is a part of Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade, the roundout brigade to the Active Army's 24th Infantry Division. When the 24th is selected for a rotation at the NTC, it takes along one of its roundout battalions. This time it was the 2nd Battalion's turn.

The OPFOR

Facing any unit training at the NTC is the heralded Opposing Force, or OPFOR. The OPFOR consists of two Active Army battalions, the 6th Battalion (Mech), 31st Infantry ("Polar Bears") and the 1st Battalion, 73rd Armor ("Bunker Busters") which combine to form the world's biggest training aid—the OPFOR. Only half of each battalion participates for each rotation, but these two half battalions form the fictitious "32nd Guards

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170th's Cloninger earns 1984 Vandiver Trophy

Sergeant 1st Class Jerry A. Cloninger, member of Atlanta's 170th Military Police Battalion, has been awarded the S. Ernest Vandiver Trophy signifying him as the "Outstanding Georgia National Guardsman for 1984."

Cloninger received the large silver trophy from Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, the adjutant general, during a ceremony in Atlanta. The Vandiver Trophy is awarded annually to the outstanding member of the Georgia Army or Air National Guard.

The sergeant earned the award for his "high standard of performance" during annual training 1984, and for his initiative in designing programs to improve leadership qualities and efficiency of personnel actions.

A nine-year Guard veteran, Cloninger was also cited for his "untiring devotion" which set "an example to members of his section and other members" of the 170th Military Police Battalion.

When not in uniform, Cloninger is employed as a research technologist at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is responsible for the fabrication and design of laboratory equipment for scientific research.

Cloninger's awards, besides the Vandiver Trophy, include the Georgia Army National Guard Distinguished Unit Ribbon, The Georgia National Guard Service Medal and the Georgia Commendation Medal.

Cloninger and his wife Brenda reside in Smyrna.



Maj. Gen. Griffin (L) and Cloninger (R)

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Members of the 224th who have gone into Road Racing in the recent months are from left, Artis Fletcher, Dale McGriff, Albert Herrington, Beverly Olis, Mike Canas, Clarence Lattany, Buddy Tabbott, and Ray Snow.

224th has an impressive 'run'

The reported physical fitness goal set for members of St. Simons Island's 224th Combat Communications Squadron is on the surface truly impressive—to have enough qualified runners to compete 'en masse' at an upcoming road race in south Georgia!

With a new mission and a new name—the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron now assigned to the U.S. Readiness Command—the 224th has taken on the task of whipping the unit into shape with a fervor.

Drill weekends regularly find members of the 224th running en masse along the street and bike paths of old St. Simons. However, a few of the 224th's more serious runners participate in active competition throughout the south Georgia area. In races at Valdosta, Tifton, Macon, Savannah, Brunswick, Waycross and Darien, runners bearing the distinctive T-shirt of the 224th are leaving their mark.

The Sixth Annual running of the Jekyll Island 5-K Road Race began the calendar of competitive events which will involve more than 15 races and 20 miles. Master Sergeants Buddy Tabbott, Artie Fletcher, Tech. Sgt. Fred Hardin and Staff Sgt. Beverly Olis competed.

A month later on more familiar home ground at the Seventh Annual Super Dolphin Road Race at St. Simons, 224th sprinters joined with more than 1,000 other competitors for the grueling 5-K run. Led by 224th Commander Bob Sullivan, Fletcher and Tabbott, the growing numbers of running Guardsmen also included Master Sergeants M. F. Carnes, Ray Snow, Tech. Sgt. Larry Lane, Master Sgt. Albert Herrington and Airman 1st Class Clarence Lattany. Herrington broke the existing Dolphin Run record in the mile run with a time of 5:20 in the 30-39 age group. Without breaking his stride, Herrington also captured first place in the 5-K run.

Even family members of the 224th figured prominently in the St. Simons Dolphin Run with Tabbott's daughter, Brooke, and Herrington's son, Kelly, winning top trophies in their respective age groups.

Lose it, or Leave!

The Georgia National Guard has a look about it. It's a look that says we are "lean and healthy."

For the past few years the Georgia Guard has taken a good look at itself and literally trimmed the fat from its ranks. Today's Guardsmen are healthy and leaner.

When the Armed Services issued its weight standards several years ago, Maj. Gen. Joseph Griffin, the adjutant general, emphasized that "I expect all commanders to fully support the program and insure that all members of the Georgia Guard are combat ready. Physical fitness is an absolute necessity for combat readiness."

Today it looks as if the General's call has been heeded. Yet, there is more to the weight control standard than just combat readiness. Medically a man or woman who is overweight is killing himself. He or she is committing suicide with a knife and fork.

If you have a problem no one is asking that you lose the extra weight overnight. Instead, officials want Guardsmen who might carry around a few extra pounds to see a qualified physician and begin trimming down.

We've made excellent progress, but the fight is continuous and the slogan, "Lose it or Leave" still applies.



"Awards — whether presented to individuals, units, battalions or major commands — are among the military's finest and most appropriate ways to express gratitude and give recognition for outstanding achievements, services, or acts of heroism.

"The Georgia Army and Air National Guard are among the very best in the nation," Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin said. "Our strength is up, our training has been expanded and intensified, and we have achieved a high level of combat readiness.

"Therefore, I would like to see more and more of our men, women and units nominated and receive recognition for special achievements and for the outstanding job they are doing," Griffin said.

Unit commanders, supervisors and individual Guard members should become aware of the variety of awards, medals, ribbons and certificates that are available.

Any person, other than the person being recommended, having knowledge of the act, achievement, or service which may warrant an award or decoration can initiate a recommendation. Commanders or supervisors are especially encouraged to be alert for potential award candidates and should make recommendations at the time the act, achievement or service is performed.

A few of the many awards, both individual and unit, include the following:

The highest state award that can be presented an individual member of the Georgia Guard is the "Georgia Distinctive Service Medal." Followed in order of precedence are the "Georgia Medal for Valor," the "Georgia Meritorious Service Medal" and the "Georgia Commendation Medal." Other awards for individuals include the "S. Ernest Vandiver Trophy" and the "Adjutant General's Certificate of Appreciation."

Unit awards for the Army Guard include the "Army National Guard Superior Unit Award," "Eisenhower Trophy," "Milton A. Reckord Trophy," the "National Guard Bureau Award for Efficiency in Maintenance," and "Philip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service."

Air National Guard unit awards include the "Spaatz Trophy," "Air National Guard Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque," "Winston P. Wilson Trophy," "William W. Spruance Safety Award," and the "Communications and Electronics Trophy."

The Georgia Guard, noted for its excellence, is getting better and stronger. The Awards Program is the proper way to recognize our achievements.

Air Guard top sergeants convene at first conference

To enhance the professionalism of first sergeants in Air Guard units, 24 top NCOs gathered in Savannah last month for their first semi-annual conference.

Under the leadership of Brig. Gen. Ben L. Patterson, Assistant Adjutant General for Air and Brig. Gen. James R. Mercer, chief of staff, the two-day First Sergeants Conference was organized by the staff of Headquarters, GaANG.

According to Col. Claude M. Strickland, "this conference is designed to present important information about the Air National Guard to unit First Sergeants who will, in turn, disseminate the information to enlisted members in their respective units."

Briefings were presented on subjects ranging from motivation and supervisory responsibilities to issues intended to aid the Senior NCO in the administrative per-

formance of his job.

Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, the adjutant general of Georgia, presented the keynote address at the First Sergeants Conference. Acknowledging the significant role played by the Senior NCO in the military, Gen. Griffin emphasized that the future of the National Guard rests on the "character, knowledge and skills exhibited in its enlisted members".

Chief Master Sgt. Bernard E. Carbon, Air National Guard Senior Enlisted Advisor, echoed Griffin's remarks and challenged the enlisted leadership of the ANG to continue to be the "proactive" force in the military today. Carbon was the featured speaker at the Savannah conference.

Also addressing the conference were two representatives of the USAF Senior NCO Academy at Maxwell AFB, Ala.



Dobbins communications unit earns Tactical Information honor

Excellence in the highly technical arena of Air Force Communications was acknowledged recently when the 116th Communications Flight was presented the 1984 Tactical Information Systems Division's (TISD) "1984 Outstanding Communications Flight Award" for the Air National Guard.

This distinction places the 116th Communications Flight in competition for the Outstanding Reserve Forces Communications Flight Award for the Air Force Communications Command (AFCC) for Tactical Infor-

mation Systems Division.

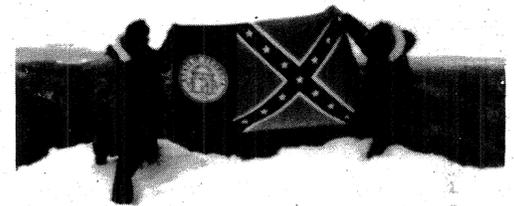
Col. Albert J. Edmonds, deputy chief of staff for Information Systems, Headquarters Tactical Air Command and commander, TISD AFCC at Langley AFB, Va., was on hand to present the distinguished award to Maj. Gene A. Blakley, commander of the Georgia unit.

The 45 men and women of the 116CF were Sited for initiative in seeking out and developing communications training programs and excellence in participating in European Air Force exercises. The 116th is the pilot unit for establishing standards and requirements for the 111 Communications Flights under the AFCC.

The personnel and equipment of the 116th are capable of deploying anywhere in the world in support of Active, Reserve or ANG units. Recently the unit deployed to Camp New Amsterdam, in the Netherlands; Baden-Soellingen in Germany; Boscom Downs, RAFB, England; Tindall AFB, Fla., Gulfport, Miss., and Savannah, Ga.



Col. Albert J. Edmonds (l), commander, Tactical Information Systems Division, Langley AFB, Va., presents the Outstanding Unit Award to Maj. Gene A. Blakley (r), commander, 116th Communications Flight.



224th at Brim Frost

Members of Georgia's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron have returned from Alaska after participating in exercise "Brim Frost 85."

The exercise, held every two years, combines active duty members, Reservists and Guardsmen in a joint readiness test.

While in Alaska, Georgians faced temperatures ranging from zero to fifty below which made installing, operating and maintaining communications equipment a test of both men and equipment.



Lt. Col. Steven Westgate Lt. Col. Scott A. Mikkelsen

Air Guard duo earn army, air school slots

Georgia Air Guardsmen have been selected to attend the Army and the Air War College during the 1985-1986 fiscal year.

Selected to attend the Air War College is Lt. Col. Steven Westgate, a senior pilot with Savannah's 165th Tactical Airlift Group. Westgate begins work at the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala., in August. His wife, Beth, is also a member of the 165th.

Representing the Air National Guard at the Army War College will be Lt. Col. Scott A. Mikkelsen, director of operations for the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing at Dobbins AFB, Ga. Mikkelsen will attend the Army War College located at Carlisle Barracks, Penn., beginning in August 1985.

He and wife Emily have two children and reside in Woodstock, Ga.



Tech. Sgt. Jerry P. Welsh (l) a proud father, looks on as his son, Airman Jerry P. Welsh II, is sworn in by Lt. Col. Walter C. Corish, Jr., unit commander, for Savannah's 283rd Combat Communications Squadron. Sergeant Welsh is a full-time ground radio maintenance technician. Airman Welsh is assigned to the radio relay maintenance section. (Air National Guard photo by CW4 Harry R. Prince, Jr.)

Sandler promoted to Master Sergeant; first woman E-8 in Ga. Army Guard

Anne W. Sandler of Conyers is the first woman in the Georgia Army National Guard to earn the rank of Master Sergeant, reports Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, the Adjutant General of Georgia.

"We are very proud of Sgt. Sandler and her accomplishments," Gen. Griffin said. "By working hard and continually training, she has demonstrated qualities of outstanding leadership, loyalty and dedication to both the Guard and her civilian employer."

Master Sgt. Sandler also has the distinction of being the second woman to join the Georgia Army Guard. Enlisting 12 years ago under the "Civilian Acquired Skill" program, Sandler attended basic training at Ft. McClellan, Ala., and specialized in military finance.

As a citizen-soldier with the Georgia Army Guard, Anne serves as finance chief at Headquarters, State Area Command. Her full-time occupation is staffing specialist technician with the Support Personnel Management Office in Atlanta. She began her career in 1960 as a payroll clerk with the U.S. Property & Fiscal Office.

Asked to comment on becoming the first woman E-8 in the Georgia Army Guard, Anne replied, "I'm very proud and grateful for this promotion, and I hope my advancement will be an incentive or inspiration to other women in the Guard."

Master Sgt. Sandler said she believes the future for women in the Guard is "excellent."



Anne W. Sandler of Conyers receives Master Sergeant stripes from Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, the Adjutant General of Georgia.

Air Guard honors Adams as 'Nurse of the Year'

Few would deny that Capt. Anne Adams rightly deserves the honor and recognition which was bestowed upon her recently by the Air National Guard as the "Outstanding Air National Guard Nurse of the Year."

A commitment to herself to become involved after the loss of her husband in Vietnam, and a desire to make a real contribution, were the motivating factors which pushed Anne Adams to the top of her chosen military field—nursing. Capt. Adams of the 165th TAC Hospital in Savannah was chosen from more than 500 National Guard nurses from throughout the country for the coveted honor.

"I was honestly shocked at the announcement," said Adams. "Sometimes you think that no one notices all the hard work you've tried to do... and then, this award says 'Thanks' in a very wonderful way."

Years of hard work preceded this recognition for Adams. To be considered the "Nurse of the Year," she had to submit medical and professional evaluations to the ANG for judging based on a complex point system.

Adams' skill in nursing transcends both her military and civilian careers. Following nursing school and 12 years as a surgical

nurse (most recently as Head Surgical Nurse at Savannah's Candler Hospital), Adams has taken on the administration of the eye donation program of the Georgia Lions Eye Bank in south Georgia. Through Adams' activities in the Savannah area (and activities of others like her across the state), this program provides for corneal transplants and extensive eye research. The Georgia Lions Eye Bank is the U.S. standard which other states have adopted for transplants and eye research.

Adams received the coveted "Outstanding Nurse of the Year" Award at the 91st meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons in San Diego, Calif. This is the second time an ANG Nurse of the 165th Hospital has received the award. Capt. Mary W. Wexler received the honor in 1982.

A Savannah newspaper cited Capt. Adams' accomplishments in a feature story with the headline, "Out of Despair Came Inspiration and High Honor." Because of her "indefatigable desire to serve and to make a worthwhile contribution," Capt. Adams exemplifies the finest ideals of a medical nurse... and, as well, the enviable qualities for an Air National Guardsman.



Sergeants Kristina and David Keske of the Georgia Army National Guard's HHC, 560th Engineer Battalion plot an azimuth during the Non-commissioned Officers Advanced Course being held at Rock Eagle. (Photo by 124th PAD)

Sgt. Keske & Sgt. Keske -- together so much they're 'a couple of two's'

Two bikers in battle dress breeze down the highway on matching motorcycles—that's Sergeant Keske and Sergeant Keske.

Togetherness. That's what they're into. "We're a team in the Guard and elsewhere," says Kris, the female half of the Keske team.

They met on active duty at Fort Benning. David Keske spent four years there in an Engineer slot. Kris served 3½ years in the Military Police. He left in '80. She followed in '82.

He joined the Georgia Army National Guard's Company A, 560th Engineer Battalion in Columbus. She couldn't follow because Company A, a combat engineer company, is not open to women.

She came close though. She joined Headquarters Company of the 560th. He followed. He works full time as a heavy equipment operator. She's administrative support for the Personnel Team.

He enrolled in the Georgia Army National Guard Advanced Course at Rock Eagle. She followed. Here, their instructor and fellow soldiers know them as "He Keske" and "She Keske." They're a pair — in the classroom, in their field tent, or off duty in their barracks.

From David, male half of the Keske team, "We're a couple of twos."



Capt. Anne Adams, the "Outstanding Air National Guard Nurse of the Year" for 1985, begins a routine examination on a recruit.



No margin for error during Skycranes mountain training

They look like giant three-legged mosquitoes in search of new hunting grounds.

Descending into the north Georgia mountains near Ringgold, Ga., the Skycranes of Savannah's 1160th Transportation Company approach the earth cautiously.

The flatland flyers have come to the hills for two weeks of annual training at Catoosa Range, the first National Guardsmen to do so since the horse calvary trained here prior to World War II. And, as every pilot knows, flying in the hills is quite unlike flying coastal Georgia.

"The winds act differently around the mountains," explained Maj. Ken Chestnut of Warner Robins, a pilot and the company's flight operations officer. "The tendency is to go up and over, but the winds also go around the mountains and that really affects the way the aircraft performs."

"You have a lot more turbulence," adds Chief Warrant Officer Dan Rolf of Savannah, a pilot of the unit's giant CH-54 Skycrane helicopters. "Here you can experience updrafts and downdrafts that cause something like a 5,000-foot-per-minute rate of descent. You have to react more quickly. The margin for error is nil and it taxes the aviator to perform at his peak all the time. We have to be on our toes so we don't get com-

placent."

Despite their apprehensions, most Guardsmen were delighted with the prospect of mountain training at this 1,627-acre facility leased by the State of Tennessee. "I could spend two weeks sightseeing," Major Chestnut said while piloting a Skycrane through the Blue Ridge Valley. "You ask why lawyers and architects want to serve in the National Guard? Look at this," he said, sweeping his hand over the panoramic view of mountains below. "This is your answer."

While many of the 1160th's pilots are, indeed, in unrelated fields, most are richly experienced. Many served as combat pilots in Vietnam. Others, like Chief Warrant Officer Barry Vaughn of Brunswick, are pilots in civilian life.

Vaughn patrols the coast of Georgia for the State Department of Natural Resources, mostly on law enforcement missions. "I've always liked to fly," Vaughn says. "I got my fixed-wing license at age 16, and joined the Army to get more training. I hardly ever get tired of flying."

In the mountains, pilots got plenty of flying time. During the two weeks which ended in early May, pilots spent 250 hours in the air. The first week was spent flying missions to other mountain locations, such as the U.S. Army Ranger training facility at Dhlonega. The

second week was devoted to unaided night flying, which is night flying without navigational or other lights. "The lights in the cockpit are turned down real low and the only illumination is from the moon," explained Maj. Chestnut. "It's very demanding, very stressful."

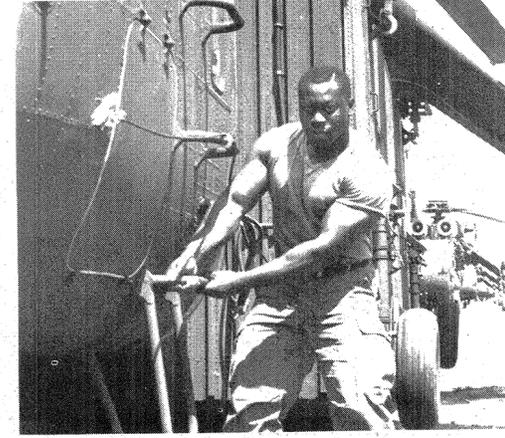
Given the unfamiliarity of the territory, Guardsmen were glad to be flying Skycranes, giant helicopters used for lifting heavy loads such as tanks, trucks or other bulky equipment. Each is capable of lifting 20,000 pounds or of carrying a pod holding 45 troops. Their size and power—each is powered by two 4,500-horsepower engines—make them far more stable in turbulent weather than lighter helicopters.

It is a gangly but special aircraft to the Guardsmen of the 1160th. While it is expected to be in the Army arsenal for decades to come, no active duty Army unit currently has the CH-54. All are assigned to the Army National Guard and fewer than a half dozen other states have these choppers assigned.

"They are beautiful aircraft," says Sergeant Larry L. Tyson of Savannah, a flight engineer. "It's a privilege to crew them. I crew it, I maintain it, and if necessary, I'd sleep with it. It's my Cadillac."



Private Jeff Webb of Dublin, a member of Savannah's 1160th Transportation Company, stands guard on the airfield where the company's Skycrane helicopters are parked at the Catoosa Range near Ringgold. Webb expects to receive orders for an Army flight school within the next 60 days. (124th PAD Photo)



PFC. Clarence Walker of Savannah can't actually lift this helicopter—but he comes a lot closer than anybody else in his unit. (124th PAD Photo)



Sgt. Marvin Roper of Monticello Ga. attends injured hand of Spec 4 Randy Middlebrooks of Monroe, Ga. during annual training. (Photo by Master Sgt. H. M. Kinney, 124th PAD)

TLATs train for wartime mission -- to 'knock out enemy tanks'!

Although it's one of the newest units in the Georgia Army Guard, the 1st Battalion, 122nd TLAT (TOW Light, Anti-Tank) is fast becoming one of the best!

Since it was organized in 1980, the TLAT has yet to miss a target in a live fire exercise." And it also has achieved the Army's highest evaluation.

The Battalion attended AT April 20 through May 4 at Ft. Stewart. TLATs have a vital mission in wartime -- to

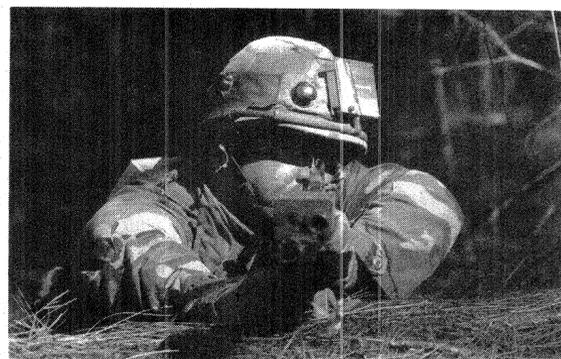
knock out enemy tanks! And that's exactly what they do.

Armed with the TOW (Tube launched, Optical tracked & Wire guided) missiles, TLAT units would be assigned to a division or corps to neutralize enemy armor.

The 1/122nd, commanded by Lt. Col. William Bricker, is comprised of units in Winder, Covington, Gainesville and Washington, Georgia.

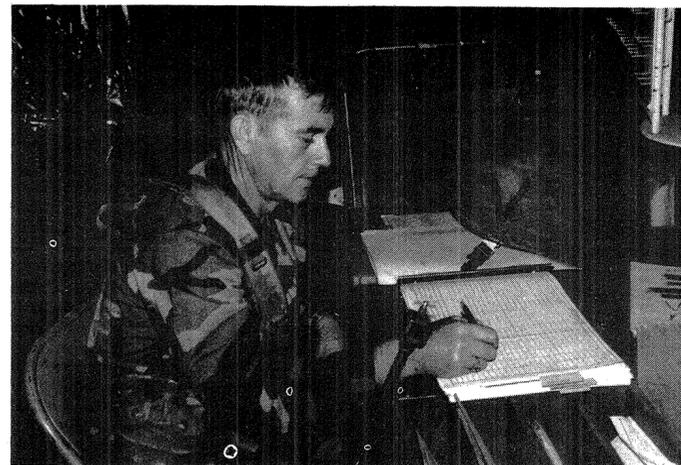


Preparing to fire TOW missiles at target during AT are, from left, Spec 4 Mark Bowles, Sgt. Anthony Brown, and Spec 4 John Prior of "A" Company 1/122 TLAT in Winder, Ga. (Photo by Master Sgt. H. M. Kinney, 124th PAD)



Staff Sgt. Terry L. Mizze of "A" Company in Winder defends his position during an exercise at Ft. Stewart. (Photo by Master Sgt. H.M. Kinney, 124th PAD)

(Photo at Far Left) Pvt. Keith Lane of Company "E" in Washington, Ga. secures hitching on trailer. (Left photo) Spec 4 Randy Gowan of "A" Company in Winder prepares to eat a MRE (Meal-Ready-To-Eat) in the field during annual training. The "MRE" has replaced the "C" ration as the Army's battle-field food. (Photo by Master Sgt. H. M. Kinney, 124th PAD)



Sgt. 1st Class Joe Moose of Forest Park, Ga. reviews the job register at the shop office during a tactical training exercise at summer camp. He also works full time as a Guard Technical Inspector of a Combined Support Maintenance Shop. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mitch Kinney, 124th PAD)



Sgt. Thad Kelley of Griffin, Ga. (left) and Sgt. Tilman Hardy of Mableton, Ga. install a head gasket during AT. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mitch Kinney, 124th PAD)



Spec 5 Anthony Garner, of Atlanta, monitors all external and internal communications from Range Control, during summer camp for the 201st Maintenance Company. (Photo by MSG Mitch Kinney, 124th PAD)

Atlanta's 201st Maintenance Co. tests technical, Combat skills at AT

At AT this year, soldiers of the 201st Maintenance Co. (General Support) of Atlanta seized every opportunity to improve their technical capabilities as well as their combat skills.

While attending AT at Ft. Benning, the 201st participated in exercises in conjunction with the 598th Maintenance Company of Ft. Benning.

Members of the 201st are trained and qualified to service, replace and repair parts and equip-

ment including carburetors, head gaskets, brake drums, artillery parts, tank turrets, small arms, range finders and vehicles such as bulldozers and graders.

During AT, members of the 201st tested their skills in a tactical environment and in garrison.

Commenting on the training, Lt. Joe H. Pierson, unit commander, said "If you can't survive in combat, you can't fix anything anyway!"

Sgt. Billy Kelley of East Point, Ga. jacks up the front end to change the front axle assembly during a summer camp tactical problem. (Photo by MSG Mitch Kinney, 124th PAD)



Three awarded 'Ga. Medal for Valor' for saving stricken soldier

On March 10 while a soldier of Atlanta's 201st Maintenance Co. stood in line for evening chow during a field exercise, a smoke grenade ignited in his pocket.

As a result of the accident, the soldier, who was performing his Annual Training at Fort Benning, Ga., received second and third degree burns on his hands, face and chest.

The soldier thought he had secured the smoke grenade several hours earlier after an aggressor had thrown the grenade and it did not ignite. He picked it up, and using a rubber band to secure the pin, placed it in his pocket to save it for the next

aggressor attack.

Three soldiers of the 201st unit, CW2 Bernard C. Goldsmith of Douglasville, Sgt. Thad H. Kelly of Griffin and Sgt. Terry G. McDaniel of Griffin, have been awarded the Georgia Medal for Valor for their action in aiding their fellow Guardsman. This award is the second highest that can be given by the Georgia Army Guard.

While others were shocked and unsure of what to do when the soldier caught fire and began running, three fellow-soldiers caught the victim, wrestled him to the ground, extinguished the fire and took other lifesaving actions.



Part 1

Georgia's Disaster Fighting Team

By H. Terry Smith

While the men and women of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard are trained primarily to defend the state and nation in combat, a civilian organization, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), trains thousands of Georgians—to save lives and protect property from natural or man-made disasters.

GEMA is, in fact, one of the four major divisions of the Georgia Department of Defense team, and the Agency plays a crucial role in the safeguarding of the state's citizens and property.

Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, Adjutant General and head of the Georgia Department of Defense, is commander of our state's Army and Air National Guard units and also serves as director of GEMA and the Georgia Selective Service System.

"I would like to encourage all Guard members to become acquainted with the purpose, accomplishments and capabilities of GEMA and the overall concept of emergency management," Gen. Griffin said.

"Effective emergency management is important to all of us," he added. "And we are fortunate to have on our defense team an agency like GEMA, staffed with full-time professionals who see to it that plans are developed and measures taken to protect each one of us—before, during and after an emergency or disaster."

JUST WHAT IS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (EM)?

It means saving lives and protect-

ing property from natural or man-made disasters. And it most often requires the teamwork of many people and organizations. Careful planning and making the best use of available resources to offer maximum protection and immediate relief are essential elements of emergency management.

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, ice and snow storms and earthquakes are among nature's most dangerous "natural" disasters and threats.

Transportation of hazardous materials, the rapid development of modern energy sources and transportation systems and the threat of nuclear war continually increase the possibilities of "man-made" emergencies and disasters.

The threats and dangers of natural or man-made disasters will always be with us. But we can survive most of them by being adequately warned and prepared!

A wide variety of people, comprising many organizations, make up the "EM" team. GEMA and the Georgia Army and Air National Guard are vital to effective "EM" operations.

THE "VOLUNTEERS" IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Though there are about 200 full-time paid employees in Emergency Management/Civil Defense organizations throughout Georgia, the lifeblood of the state's emergency disaster "fighting force" is a team of more than 25,000 "volunteers."

These dedicated men and women—folks from all walks of life—know just what to do when disasters or emergencies strike. Under the direction of local

authorities in communities where they live, they make "Emergency Management" work as a team effort.

Called upon in an emergency, these volunteers join forces to assist full-time paid emergency services personnel, such as policemen, firemen, medical technicians, welfare workers, engineers and rescue specialists. In some communities, volunteers are the heart of an entire emergency service organization—such as the "Volunteer Fire Department."

Remember that full-time emergency service personnel are the experts and specialists in their respective fields. Coordinating these professionals, their organizations and "volunteers" to work as a single team in coping with an emergency or disaster is the main task of Emergency Management/Civil Defense organizations.

THE EM ORGANIZATION

The four basic functions of emergency management in coping with disasters are mitigation (to lessen the effect of), preparedness, response and recovery. These require careful planning, training and coordination.

To best accomplish these functions and to teach others how to implement them, individually and as a team, EM/CD agencies were established as early as 1950. Early on, most agencies were called Civil Defense and had the main job of helping citizens prepare for a nuclear attack.

Today, however, many CD agencies in Georgia have changed their name to "Emergency Management"

to better reflect their expanded role in handling all types of emergencies. Presently there are more than 90 qualified EM/CD organizations throughout Georgia.

THE STATE'S "CENTRAL NERVE CENTER"

Headquartered in Atlanta, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency is the state's primary "centralized" source of assistance, training and direction for all EM/CD agencies in Georgia.

Billy J. Clack, GEMA's executive director, is responsible for the agency's day-to-day operations and manages a full-time staff of more than 30 persons. Agency affairs are divided into three main functions—Operations, Planning, and Standards and Assistance.

Vital to the strength of GEMA's preparedness and capabilities, the agency's communications center in Atlanta is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Equipped with a variety of electronic equipment, the center is continually in touch with EM/CD agencies throughout Georgia and receives teletype messages from nine major weather forecast offices.

Additional warning capabilities at the communications center include the National Warning System (NAWAS), a hard-line message receiving circuit which has 62 receiving stations throughout Georgia.

The center is also equipped with direct circuits for emergency notification to and from Plant Hatch and the Plant Farley nuclear power generating facilities. These direct line "communications channels" are activated in the event of an "incident" or accident at either of these facilities.

THE STATE "EOC"

During threats or actual emergencies or disasters requiring special coordination, GEMA activates its "situation room" type of facility—the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Located at GEMA's underground headquarters in Atlanta, the state EOC becomes the focal point for all emergency communications, coordination and assistance statewide.

Activation of the state EOC is usually ordered during such emergencies as extreme weather conditions, hazardous material spills or other potentially dangerous events.

THE GUARD AND EOC OPERATIONS

Should the type, size or impact potential of an emergency or accident require National Guard assistance, key military personnel of the Guard would jointly assist by directing and coordinating Guard operations with GEMA and other government officials at the state EOC.

On the other hand, the National Guard is responsible for state EOC activation if events dictate. For example, a civil disturbance incident would place the Guard in charge with GEMA and other state agencies in support.

(to be cont. See Part II in next issue.)

Governor signs legislation affecting Selective Service

Five pieces of legislation affecting operation of the Georgia Department of Defense were passed by the 1985 General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Joe Frank Harris. Most significantly affected were the Selective Service System and the Air National Guard facility on St. Simons Island.

Under law, effective July 1, 1985, the Georgia Department of Public Safety must furnish to the Selective Service System, upon request, "compilations of names, addresses, license numbers, and dates of birth of licensees or applicants for licenses."

Prior to the passage of the law, the Selective Service System was barred from obtaining such lists from the public safety agency. The lists will be used to locate persons who may have overlooked registering with the Selective Service System.

All men born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 are required to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their eighteenth birthday.

In another action, the legislature approved an exchange of property owned by the state in return for a lease for property owned by Glynn County in southeast Georgia. Under the agreement, the Air Guard facility on St. Simons Island currently occupied by the 224th Combat Communications Squadron, Georgia Air Guard, will be turned over to Glynn County, while the unit will relocate to a new facility on the mainland near the Glynco Jetport.

Guard officials said the move will enable the Guard unit "to better serve the citizens of the area by having ready access to an operational runway and facilities better suited to the mission of the 224th."

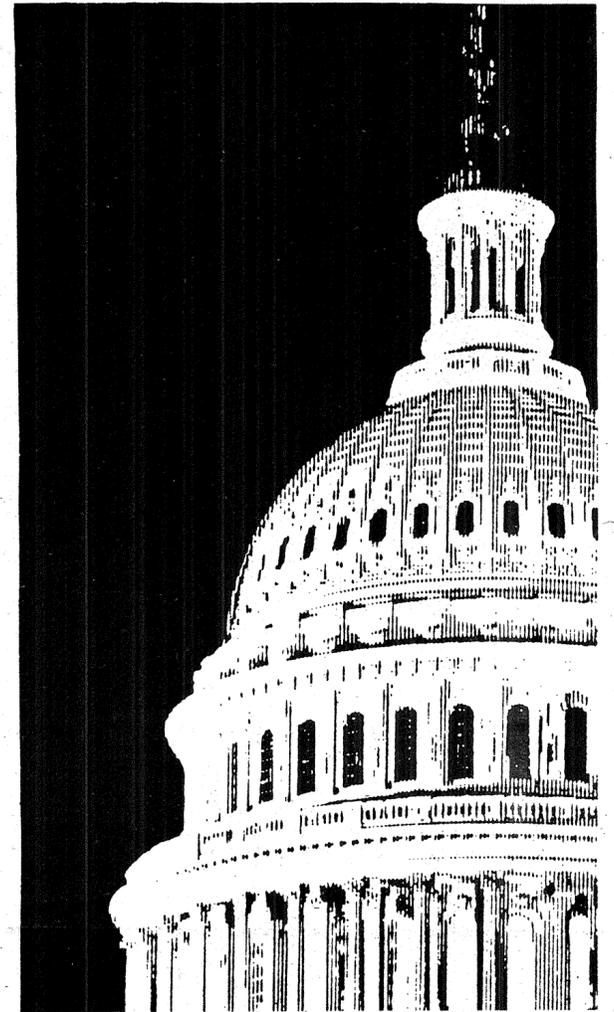
A date for the relocation has not been scheduled. Glynn County is expected to use the St. Simons facility for county offices to better provide services for residents there.

Two other pieces of legislation concerned the change of titles for the Georgia State Guard and a top official of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA).

The State Guard, an organization which would replace the National Guard if its 15,000 men and women were mobilized, will now be known as the Georgia State Defense Force. The force, under the command of Brig. Gen. (Ret.) John Gillette, is currently in the formative stages.

The Assembly also approved a change of title for the deputy director of GEMA to "executive director."

A fifth piece of legislation authorized the Georgia Departments of Defense and Veterans Service to design and strike a Georgia Medal of Honor. The award will commemorate and honor "the past, present, and future military men and women" of Georgia. It will be displayed at the Capitol rotunda in Atlanta, and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.



New 'G.I.' bill starts

Mom and Dad, are you concerned about how your son or daughter is going to pay for college? Did Uncle Sam pay for your education through the G.I. Bill? Now there's a way for young men and women to earn a college education or technical training while serving their community, state and country in the National Guard. Starting July 1, all qualified members of the Army and Air National Guard will be eligible for education benefits worth up to \$5,040.

Called the "New G.I. Bill," the federal program is for active and reserve component military members. Guard members are included in the act that grants money for college.

The Veterans' Administration will operate the program that will pay the money monthly, directly to the Guard member.

To earn the benefit, a person must join the National Guard and meet certain minimum qualifications. A recipient must be a high school graduate (or equivalent) prior to the end of initial active duty training. A person must serve at least 180 days in the National Guard, including initial active duty. And, a member must have at least six years of service remaining in the National Guard after July 1, 1985. Finally, a person must be enrolled in a VA-approved institution.

While eligibility for the program begins July 1, Guard members who enlist prior to July 1, 1985, and most current members, may also be eligible for benefits under the new program.

For example, a person may join the National Guard starting at age 17, usually for a six-year

obligation to serve with a unit. The enlistment process and initial active duty (basic training and a military skill school) typically takes four months or longer. Once the person finishes high school and passes the 180-day milestone of total National Guard time served, the member may apply for the educational benefit.

However, on or after July 1, 1985, current Guard members must reenlist, extend or otherwise agree to serve enough additional time to make a total of six years to qualify.

The maximum benefit for a full-time student is \$140 per month for 36 months—\$5,040 total. Students attending three-quarter time receive \$105 monthly and half-time students receive \$70. They may begin participating in the program after only six months of service. A person may use the benefit for 10 years from the first day of entitlement, or until separation from the National Guard, whichever comes first.

Regular pay and benefits for attending monthly training and two weeks of annual training continue, including any other state or federal programs open to the individual, such as the bonus program.

National Guard recruiting and retention officials located throughout Georgia have complete details on this program and other benefits. For more information call the Georgia Army National Guard recruiting office at 1-800-282-4222 or the Georgia Air National Guard recruiter at (404) 429-4606 or (912) 964-1941.

165th deploys in 'Volant Oak' exercise

By Capt. Ken Baldowski
Public Affairs Office
Georgia Air National Guard

America's strategic interest in Latin America is focused almost paradoxically on a lush, almost pristine environment of the tiny Central American nation of Panama within whose borders lies what experts term "the most valuable piece of real estate in the world!"

Through the massive Miraflores locks of the Panama Canal passes three-fourths of the free world's trade between East and West—trade which is essential to both developing and more highly developed countries. "He who controls the Panama Canal rests at the pressure point of the world's commerce," or so goes the often quoted description of the Canal Zone.

"Defendable at all costs" best describes the American resolve in the region. Political and military leaders alike in both Washington and at Howard AFB in Panama, headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command which oversees the security of the region, echo this resolve.

The security of the area and its vital resource is entrusted to the men and the equipment of America's reserve forces. Air National Guardsmen of Georgia have regularly done their part in maintaining the security of the region and Guardsmen and equipment of the 165 TAG were again deployed to Panama during Christmas to train in the finely-tuned tactical airlift exercise known as "Volant Oak." Air Guard airlift units rotate with Air Reserve units to provide continuous airlift support for "Volant Oak."

Six C-130s of the 165 TAG and more than one hundred men and women over a two week period were deployed to Panama. This was the fifth training mission in Panama for the 165th, and its first holiday deployment.

The continuing tactical airlift requirements of "Volant Oak" provide 165th aircrews with actual experience in a variety of airlift missions particular to "Volant Oak." Included were theater airlift responsibilities calling for the transport of cargo and personnel throughout Central and South America; tactical airlift where cargo and troops are airdropped into the

canal in support of immediate canal defense operations; search and rescue missions; disaster relief and the evacuation of U.S. nationals from troubled Latin American areas when needed.

Past Panama deployments offered the Savannah Guardsmen a mixed fare of assignments from ocean searches for missing ships, to airlifting of aid to flood victims in Peru, to administering aid programs following massive earthquakes in Columbia.

Panama is one of only two locations where ANG units are committed to year-round "real world" tactical airlift operations. This exercise is vital as a training opportunity for pilots and air crews. Guardsmen of the 165th have always been recognized for their proficiency and technical expertise in the demands of this unique mission.

So real are the inherent dangers of the "Volant Oak" mission that as the aircraft of the 165th returned to Savannah, late news reports from Panama noted that an Air Force Reserve C-130 en route to Honduras had crashed in the sea off the coast of Honduras, killing the crew and sixteen passengers.

NTC

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Motorized Rifle Regiment", a Soviet fighting force.

Units face the OPFOR in the "force on force" phase of NTC training. All combatants and vehicles are equipped with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) training devices. MILES uses a laser/laser receiver system to register whether a round from a rifle or tank has "killed" its target. Weapons' lasers have the same effective range as the weapon they represent and can "kill" the same sort of target they could in reality. Thus the M-16 rifle cannot kill a tank, nor can a tank kill at 20-mile ranges.

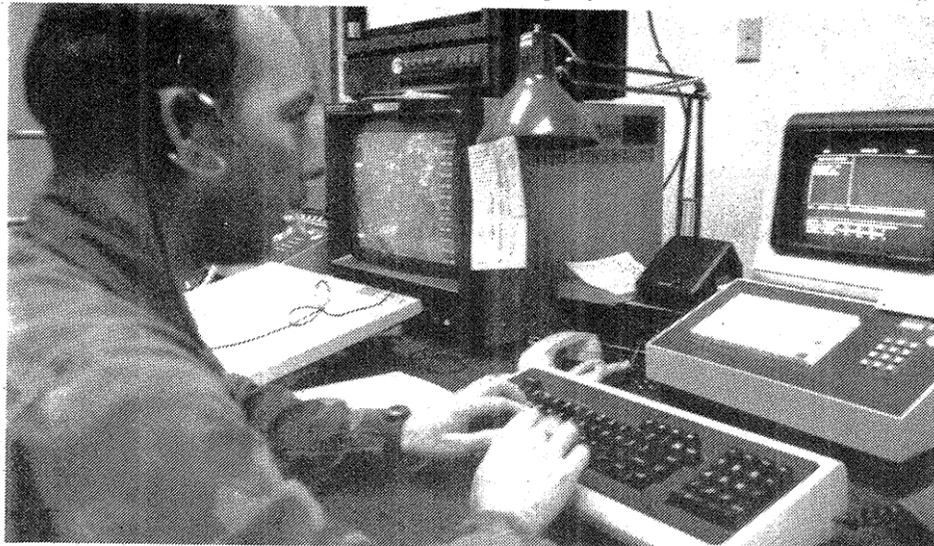
The OPFOR maintains proficiency in Soviet tactical doctrine which it uses while battling units. The OPFOR's purpose is to train visiting units for war by showing precise Soviet doctrine, not necessarily just to win.

But win they usually do. "If we had it as good as the OPFOR," grumbled Sgt. Johnny Browning of Company A, "we'd win all the time, too." First of all, they know the terrain because they train on it constantly. Secondly, they are thoroughly indoctrinated and are virtual experts at fighting as a Soviet unit would.

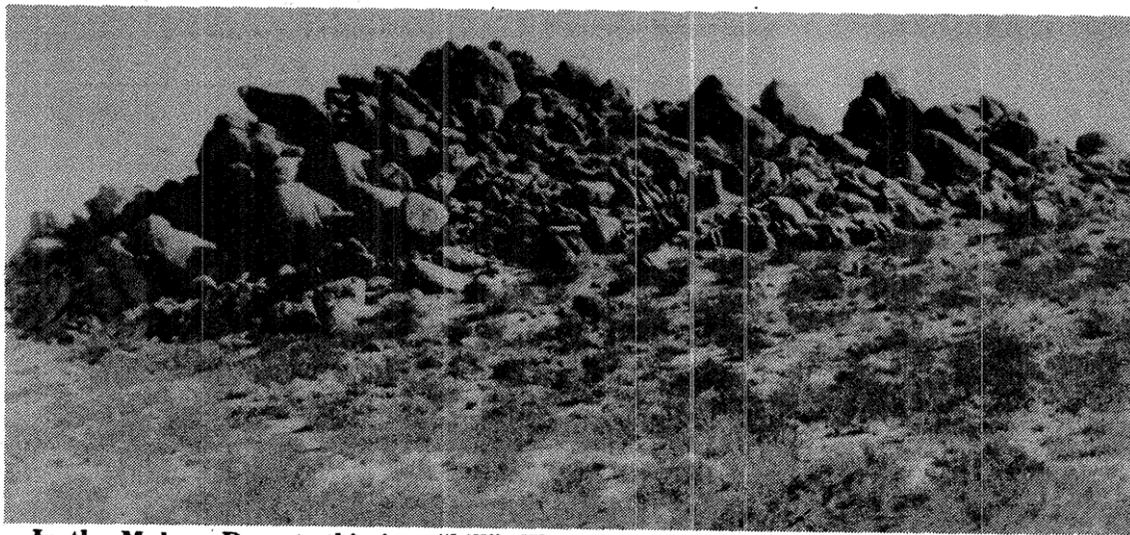
"They have the advantage over us," said Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Pierce, a full-time Guardsman from Company A. "They know what they're doing." "They know the terrain," said Staff Sgt. Jones O. Thomas, a farmer when he's not with Company D. "That makes them hard to beat."

"I'm in awe of how they can coordinate their attacks," said Lt. John Paulk of Company D. "We have problems with our coordinated attacks. I certainly admire their organization."

Any advantage the OPFOR initially has, though, evaporates after the first few days as rotational units become acclimated. Since the NTC is a learning experience, visiting units learn quickly. It's no fun to constantly lose. "Even the OPFOR can be beaten," said a confident Spec 4 James Robertson of Company C.



The "Star Wars Room" where technicians monitor each unit in the "force on force" phase. On the color monitor you can see a computer-generated battle scenario of what is actually happening on the ground at Fort Irwin. (U.S. Army photo)



In the Mojave Desert, this is a "hill". These rocks, seen from approximately a mile away, are jeep-sized and larger. (48th Brigade photo by Capt John C. Whatley)

The OPFOR's home is Fort Irwin, a vast expanse of high desert (almost 4000 feet high) where "hills" are piles of boulders and "trees" are 3-foot high creosote bushes. On a good day you can see some 30 miles or more in the field. Hardly a good spot to be in with OPFOR vehicles on the prowl.

"No one who's never been here before knows what to expect," said Pierce. "The terrain's rugged and tough to drive." But Robertson of Company C had been stationed at Fort Bliss, "so I knew what to expect. Bliss is much like this. It's rough driving in it."

"I expected more sand," said Pvt 2 Kevin Brantley, who installs satellite dishes away from the Guard. "I thought it'd be thinner sand; this is like rocks." His buddy from Company D, Pvt 2 James Taylor said it was "just rocks and sand." Thomas found it "hard navigating. It's real hard on

movement to contact. There's a lot of dead space out here."

Live Fire

The second phase of training at the NTC is the "live fire" phase where a unit uses live ammunition against "moving" targets. Instead of the OPFOR as an enemy, the enemy at the live fire range is a highly sophisticated computer that has been programmed with a battle scenario. It operates more than 500 target mechanisms strategically placed at points on the battlefield that replicate two Soviet motorized rifle battalions.

The targets here are capable of indicating whether they have been hit by live fire or not. Better still, they can "move" about the battlefield (really a simulation using several pop-up targets which appear to move toward the viewer) and can shoot back using simulated fire.



Sp4 Darrel Spencer, Sp4 Mack Seckinger, Sgt. Woodrow Haynes and Sgt. Edward Emanuel of Valdosta's Company A relax in the shade of their APC between battles at the NTC. Emanuel (far right) is still wearing his MILES harness. (48th Brigade photo by SFC Jim Conner)

Pay

from page 1

5. Keep pay complaints in Guard channels. This will result in faster and better service to you. All problems concerning drill pay or bonuses must be dealt with promptly in order to be paid on the next regular drill check.

Unit Administrators' Responsibilities

1. Respond immediately to all pay problems and complaints.

2. Follow through to see that pay problems are resolved as soon as possible.

3. Keep Guardsmen regularly informed of the status of their pay problems.

4. Review all Leave and Earning Statements (LES) immediately upon receipt and promptly distribute them to appropriate personnel. Report on a monthly basis any errors or problems regarding these documents or other pay-related problems.

5. When asked, or at other times when appropriate, provide Guardsmen with explanations pertaining to their LES data or other financial

information.

6. Respond to all pay complaints and in a polite and helpful manner—without regard to the source of the complaint.

7. If a pay problem is not resolved within a reasonable period of time, either you or your Unit Commander should directly contact supervisory or management personnel at the USPFO. This can often help speed up the process of resolving a pay problem.

First Sergeants' Responsibilities

1. Assist all unit members in resolving their individual pay problems. This includes handling complaints, answering questions, and keeping unit personnel informed of pay policies, procedures and changes, as well as the progress or status of problems being handled.

2. When appropriate, assist your Unit Commander or Unit Administrator in resolving various pay problems.

Commanders' Responsibilities

1. Payment of soldiers is a command responsibility of all unit and Detachment Commanders.

2. See that quick and responsible action is taken to resolve all pay problems.

3. Ensure that Unit Administrators are doing their job well in processing drill attendance data, pay problems and documents, and pay related information.

In summary, Gen. Griffin said, "I again want to emphasize our concern for the welfare of every Guardsman. And we are eager to work with each of you in preventing and resolving pay problems."

Griffin added that "If all Guardsmen do their part as responsible team members of the military pay process, then we can all look forward to continually receiving paychecks that are accurate and on time."