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# THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

VOL. 5 No. 1

JUNE - JULY 1983



**PRAYING FOR RAIN?** Actually, Sergeant Gerald Richardson, a member of Company A, 560th Engineer Battalion based in Columbus, is giving hand signals to a crane operator during the construction of a floating bridge at annual training.

## 25 new lieutenants join the ranks

The Georgia Military Institute performed its annual rite of pumping vitality into the officer ranks of the state's Army National Guard when it commissioned 25 new second lieutenants at graduation ceremonies June 3 at Fort Gordon.

Guest speaker was Maj Gen Billy M. Jones, The State Adjutant General. He congratulated the new officers and said, "To be a successful leader, you must restructure your entire life. Develop a total plan of leadership and work every day to improve it."

For the new officers, the ceremony was the culmination of more than a year of intense training and drilling on subject matter ranging from mortars to military courtesy.

The program began March 1982 with two weekend drills at GMI's home in Milledgeville. Some 69 candidates were enrolled at that point. After the two weekends came a two-week annual training period at Fort Gordon. Then came 13 more monthly drills in Milledgeville and two weeks of annual training that ended with graduation.

It's a tough, demanding program that takes a heavy toll on its participants, but the new officers seem to have emerged with a fine attitude.

Terrell Stephens of Shannon, who holds an MBA from the University of North Carolina, said the primary challenge of the program was the burden of initiative

that's placed on the participants. Stephens was named the Class Distinguished Graduate, based on his academic performance.

Said Stephens, "The instructors do a great job of telling you what you need to know, while leaving it to you to get it done. They expect you to hit the ground running. All in all, this is a great program and I highly recommend it."

Other graduates who were honored included Lawrence Terriel, named Outstanding Graduate for his ability in leadership and academics; and Donald Meyer, named graduate with Outstanding Command Ability.

Captain Stewart Rodeheaver of Forsyth, senior tactical officer for the state's OCS program, said all 25 graduates will make excellent officers.

## 214th gunners pass nuclear fire test

Statesboro's 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery has established a first for the Army. During annual training the unit passed, with flying colors, a highly demanding test of their nuclear firing capabilities.

The Statesboro artillery battalion was the first artillery battalion in the Army to

Continued on page 8

## Work begins on \$1 million armory

Construction has begun on a million dollar armory at Dobbins AFB, which, when completed will house both Georgia Army Guard fixed wing aviation companies.

Lt. Col. Bernard A. Fontaine, Guard facilities officer, said the armory is expected to be completed by the end of 1983. The building will incorporate the latest energy saving and design features. It can house up to 400 people, Fontaine said.

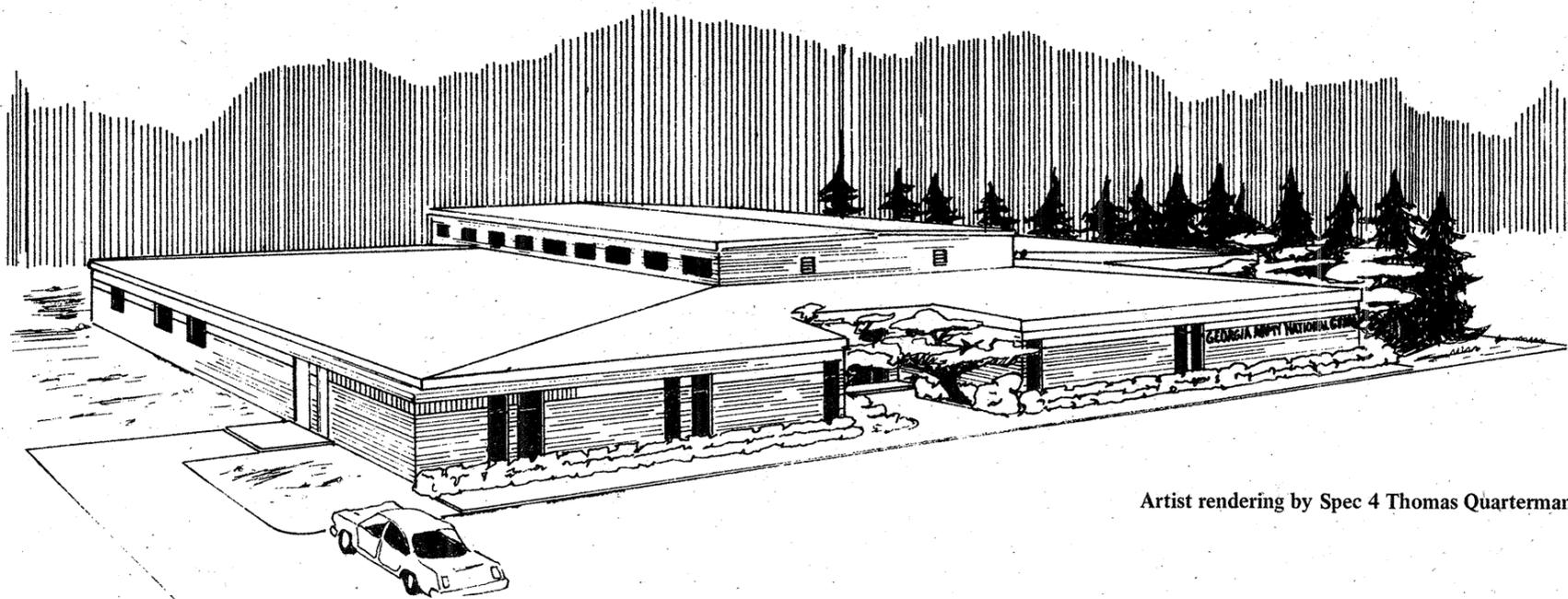
Once completed, the armory will be the third largest in the state, comprising almost 38,000 square feet.

C.I.D. Construction, of Lithonia, is building the armory.

Other projects being planned or already underway include an addition to the Waycross, Ga. armory. The facility will be the first in Georgia to become a joint National Guard-Army Reserve armory, said Fontaine. "This means a

substantial savings to the taxpayer," Fontaine added.

Also the MATES at Fort Stewart will be getting a \$4 million addition which will double the number of work bays. Still in the initial design stage is a new tank wash facility at the Hinesville, Ga. post. Fontaine said the wash facility will speed up and make more efficient the cleaning of tracked vehicles. The design is based on a similar facility at Fort Polk, La.



Artist rendering by Spec 4 Thomas Quarterman

## From the Adjutant General

All Members of the Georgia Guard:

Recently several newspapers, plus television and radio stations publicized selected and misleading excerpts from a 1981 Army Audit Agency report. These news reports pictured the Georgia Army National Guard as having serious problems in readiness, which is totally false. They are a slur on every individual in the Georgia Army National Guard. You are aware of your readiness status and you know how hard you trained to attain it.

From a bus window, some of you have watched the sun rise while enduring a six hour ride to Fort Stewart on a MUTA-6. You then spent the entire weekend on field rations with little or no sleep, set up positions, fired, then moved to a new location and repeated the process. The only reward for this effort was another six hours back home on a bus, often arriving on Monday morning with only enough time to change clothes and go to work. Others have tramped or ridden the length and breadth of Fort Stewart, fighting gnats, mosquitoes, snakes, heat and fatigue all the while enduring each successive layer of dust that fell with every passing vehicle. Your families have missed you for reunions, anniversaries, holidays and other important events while you spent your time on the ranges at Fort Stewart or other training areas throughout the state. These efforts produced your unit's high readiness rating and it is your sweat and your hard work that keep it where it is.

While recognizing that we have areas that can and are being improved, our outstanding accomplishments should not be allowed to go unrecognized. To allow these reports to go unchallenged would be a disservice to all the Georgia Guardsmen who are recognized nationwide for their tremendous record. Accordingly, I am outlining some facts about the Georgia Guard to put the record straight. I am proud of the Army Guard and I know that you are. Let's let the public know the true facts.

### THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

The Georgia Guardsman is an official bi-monthly publication of the Military Division, Georgia Department of Defense, under the provisions of AR 360-81 and AFR 6-1. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of any state or federal government agency. This publication is produced by the Public Affairs Office, Georgia Department of Defense.

Circulation: 15,000

Georgia Commander-in-Chief Gov. Joe Frank Harris  
Georgia Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Billy M. Jones  
Director, Public Affairs Col. (Ret.) Harry A. Heath  
Editor B.I. Diamond  
Composition Sue Parker

Correspondence should be addressed to: Editor, The Georgia Guardsman, P.O. Box 17965, Atlanta, Ga. 30316. Phone (404) 656-6182, or Autovon 742-6182.

## Army Guard highlights

\* All units of the Georgia Army Guard have been rated combat ready since 1978 by Active Army evaluators using the same standards that are applied to the Active Army. This compares to 65 percent of all units in the Army Guard nationwide being combat ready.

\* The 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech) was the first reserve component in the Army to receive the latest model of the M60A3 tank and the M901 Improved TOW Vehicle. The Brigade qualified 68 tank crews (2 more than the 66 required) and 45 ITV crews in just two weeks of annual training in 1982, a transition which was expected to take four times that long.

\* The 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech) was the first combat arms unit in the National Guard to reorganize under the Army's Division 86 concept. This program is designed to make the nation's combat divisions better able to survive on the battlefield of the future, whether the enemy threat is conventional, nuclear or chemical warfare. It allows battlefield commanders more flexibility by alleviation of complex command and control procedures. The reorganization began in May 1983 ahead of many Active Army units.

\* Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech) became the first Army Guard unit in the nation since the Korean War to command active Army units in joint field training exercise, Bold Eagle, conducted at Eglin Air Force Base, FL, in 1981.

\* Beginning in 1979, the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, became the first such unit in the nation to qualify their tank crews in gunnery during weekend drills. This permitted them to devote their annual training to combined-arms training resulting in a significant increase in their combat readiness.

\* The 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, is the first National Guard or Reserve battalion ever selected for training at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA. During a three week period in September, the 800-man task force will take part in the toughest, most realistic opposing-force combat training the Army has ever developed.

\* The 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, was the first artillery battalion in the Army to pass a nuclear firing mission evaluation designed for reserve component units. The unit successfully completed 50 out of 51 fire missions, a rate which far surpassed the Army's 80 percent success standard. The battalion had just nine

weekend drills to prepare for this test.

**AWARDS**  
First US Army is comprised of 20 eastern states (including Georgia), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Nearly half of all the Army National Guard in the nation is in First Army. They have an awards program that recognizes excellence in training. The Georgia Army Guard has been regularly recognized under this program.

\* Georgia Army Guard placed first in overall achievement in 1977 and 1980, and was runner-up in 1979.

\* Georgia Army Guard placed first in Individual Weapons Qualification in 1977, 1978, and 1980, and was runner-up in 1979.

\* Georgia Army Guard placed first in Crew-served Weapons Qualification in 1978 and 1980, and was runner-up in 1977.

\* Georgia Army Guard placed first in Training Readiness in 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1980, and was runner-up in 1981 and 1982.

\* Georgia Army Guard placed second in Annual Training Attendance in 1977 and 1978.

\* Georgia Army Guard placed second in individual skills Qualification in 1978 and 1980.

\* Georgia Army Guard was runner-up in the Energy Conservation Award in 1979 and first place in 1980. Also in 1980, the Georgia Army Guard won first place in the Secretary of the Army's Energy Conservation Award.

\* First US Army makes annual training awards to units for excellence in training. There are 1,502 company and detachment-size units in First Army. In training year 1980, only 94 of these units received this award. Of those, 23 were awarded to units of the Georgia Army Guard - nearly 25 percent of the total awards.

In training year 1981, only 134 First Army units received this award. Of those, 42 were awarded to Georgia Army Guard units - more than 31 percent of the total awards.

This means that 50 percent of our units were selected for special recognition as compared with 9 percent of all units in First Army.

### TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Reserve Forces Policy Board, Office of the Secretary of Defense, recently published the following data regarding the readiness of all units of the Army National Guard nationwide for 1982. Data for the same period on the Georgia Army Guard is provided for comparison.

COMPONENT	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4
Army National Guard	17.3%	19.0%	29.0%	34.1%
GA Army National Guard	52.0%	40.0%	8.0%	0%

C1 = Combat Ready

C2 = Combat Ready with minor deficiencies

C3 = Combat Ready with major deficiencies

C4 = Not Combat Ready

NOTE: 92 percent of the Georgia units are rated C2 or better while only 36.3 percent of Guard units nationwide are C2 or better.

## Air Guard names 165th's Wexler nurse of the year

Capt. Mary Wexler examines an airman during sick call at the 165th.



By Lt. Ken Baldowski  
Public Affairs Officer  
165th Tactical Airlift Group

The Air National Guard's highest military award to a medical nurse, the Outstanding Air National Guard Nurse of the Year Award, has gone to Capt. Mary W. Wexler of Savannah's 165th Tactical Hospital.

In capturing the award for herself and the unit, Capt. Wexler distinguished herself from a field of more than 500 Air National Guard medical nurses nationwide and Puerto Rico.

Capt. Wexler was cited for her dedication to duty and her "outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership" in her position with the 165th. Her ability to identify potential problems in health care management and to implement projects capable of solving these problems was singled out for recognition by the panel surgeons and officers making the selection.

A seven year Guard veteran, the captain has earned numerous Commendation Medals and training awards. Wexler does not hesitate to say that she still enjoys the challenging

assignment of clinical health nurse at the 165th Tactical Hospital, a profession which is carried over to her civilian occupation as a clinical nurse at Candler General Hospital in Savannah. Indeed, recognizing that continuing education is essential in her chosen field of health care, Capt. Wexler is pursuing a master's degree in Arts and Sciences in the field of health care management.

Her decision to enter the Air Guard in 1975 was a natural step for Capt. Wexler since both her husband, Ed, and her brother-in-law, Allan, are veterans of the 165th. Maj. Allan Wexler works closely alongside nurse Wexler as a doctor in the 165th Clinical Hospital.

While pursuing her professional career both on duty with the 165th and at Candler General, Mary Wexler still admits her devotion to her three small girls. "Often I have to stop, and ask myself 'where am I today and what role am I to portray.'" Yet, she says that she finds few problems of the multi challenging roles of Guardsman, nurse and mother.

Asked if she maintains a deep concern for the unit's possible mobilization and the

serious impact it would have on her children, Capt. Wexler confesses that although it will always concern her, adequate planning by her and husband, Ed, has resulted in some workable alternatives for the children.

Capt. Wexler maintains the highest esteem for her professional colleagues at the 165th Clinical Hospital. She acknowledged an occasional difference in professional opinion at the hospital, but said that these differences of medical opinion serve as an effective stimulus to more in-depth diagnosis and higher quality health care for the unit.

Integrated into her complex role as a clinical nurse at the 165th, Capt. Wexler has the responsibility of the Inservice Education Coordinator. As a medical instructor in this capacity, she performs the necessary medical training and orientation required for new diagnostic techniques, new medical procedures, and updates of medical credentials required by the health care personnel. Likewise in this capability, Wexler has the unusual opportunity to help medical personnel set goals and personal objectives for further career development.

## Cork is sharp as a 'TAC'

Ask cadets at Georgia Military Institute in Milledgeville about their reaction to the first female TAC officer, and you draw blank looks.

First female? Female? Though 2nd Lt. Bobbie Cork of Smyrna, Ga. is obviously female, cadets appear surprised to hear the news.

"I don't see any differences," replied Cadet Terrell Stephens of Rome, after mulling over the question.

"She is as tough as any of the other TAC officers," said Cadet Milton Gilbert of Macon. "I don't really see any difference."

"She's very knowledgeable about the military and she knows her job real well," said Cadet Lawrence Jerriel of Metter. "She doesn't show any partiality to the two females we have here because they are female. She is just as hard-core as any of the male TAC officers."

That the cadets express surprise at being asked to cite differences is undoubtedly a measure of the acceptance of women in specialties previously dominated by males. Differences? After reflection, they cite sex-neutral differences: She is, many of the cadets agree, tougher on inspections. Is she demonstrably weaker physically? No, they agree, she makes the four-mile run with the best of them.

As a matter of fact, says her commander, Capt. Stewart Rodeheaver, the cadets initially see a female TAC and "they think, 'I am going to have it made.'"

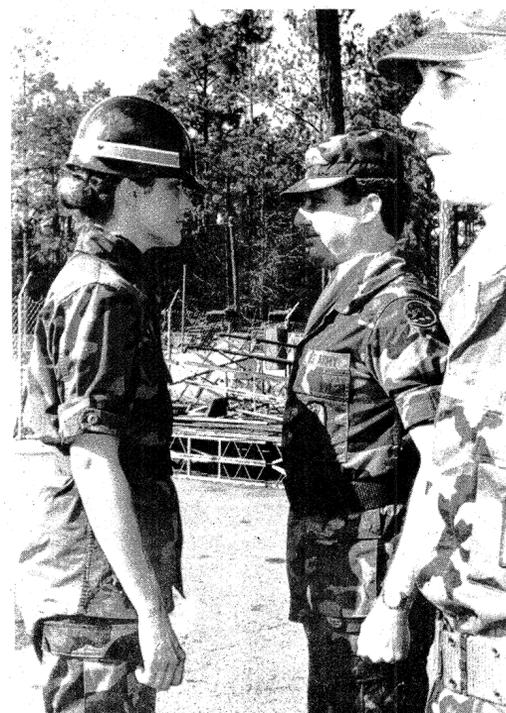
We run four miles and some of them fall out and she doesn't." From that point on, he says, their illusions about an easy training life with a female TAC officer begin to shatter.

The shattering is complete when male cadets discover that a female TAC can "open her mouth and scream at them as well as a man," Cork said.

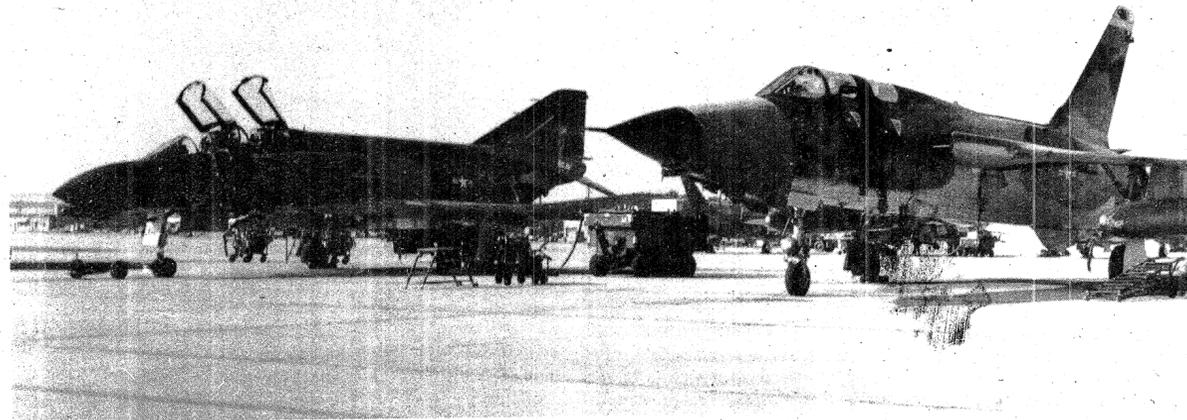
The most difficult obstacle to overcome, she said, was in getting male cadets to open up and discuss problems. "A lot of guys were willing to come to male officers with problems, and counseling is an important part of the job. Many of the guys were more reluctant to come to me with a problem than with the men. It is a challenge, therefore, to make them realize that I am receptive and to make them feel comfortable enough to come to me with their problems."

Despite the regimen and long hours—the mornings start at 5 and the nights frequently run to 11—Cork finds the experience rewarding, especially, she says, seeing cadets progress. "What I like is seeing them at the beginning and at the end and realizing that I had something to do with making them the way they are," she said.

A native of Atlanta, Cork became interested in the National Guard while living in Washington State. She attended officer candidate school and served in the Guard there before being transferred by her company back to Atlanta.



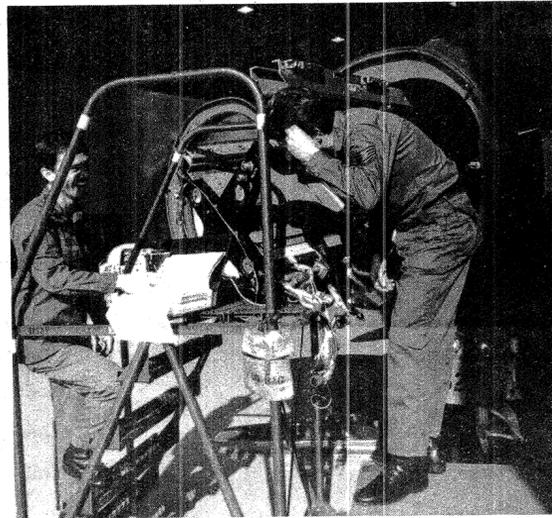
2nd Lt Bobbie Cork of Smyrna, a TAC officer at Georgia Military Institute inspects Cadet Bryan Simpson of Union City, a member of Co A, 151st Military Intelligence Bn. Awaiting inspection is Cadet Lawrence Jerriel of Metter, a member of Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery.



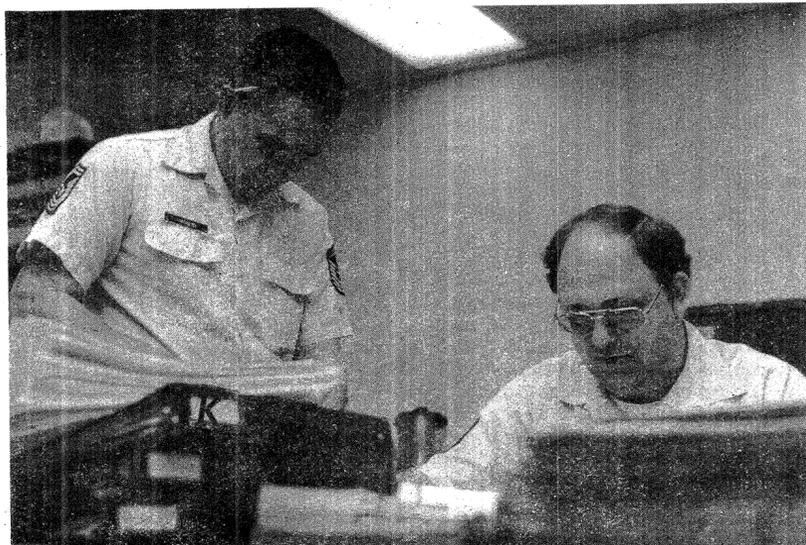
An F-4 Phantom sits alongside an F-105G



When an aircraft changes so does training equipment, including a simulator. Here a member of the 116th packs away the F-105G flight simulator.



Members of the 116th Maintenance Squadron lookover a new operations manual while inspecting an F-4.



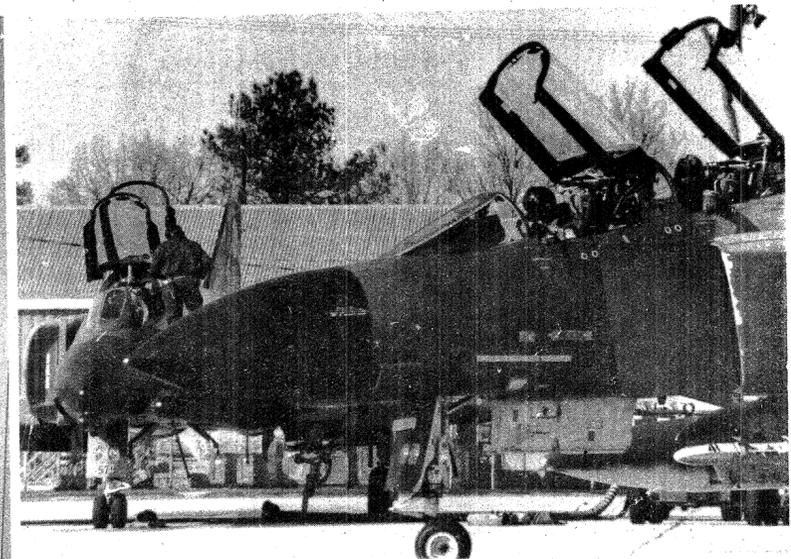
Conversion means paperwork for the 116th's personnel and finance branches.

**Gone with the 'Thud' is the Wild Weasel mission . . . . aircrews will now fly fighter-ground support missions**

**ANG photos by Betsy Winn**



When the Wing converts to new aircraft, spare parts for one plane have to be exchanged for the other. A sometime perplexing problem.



An F-4 Phantom prepares to taxi, while in the background a technician reads another Phantom.

# 116th switches to Phantoms

By Sgt. Kenneth B. Lackey  
Public Affairs Office  
116th Tactical Fighter Wing

It seems that just when the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing gets really comfortable with its aircraft and mission, both change. This year is no exception as the Wing upgrades its aircraft from the F-105G Thunderchief to the F-4 Phantom II jet.

Along with the change in aircraft — the obvious change — comes a new mission. Gone with the "Thud" is the Wild Weasel mission which was to search out and destroy enemy missile sites. Following the conversion, aircrews of the 116th will fly fighter-ground support missions.

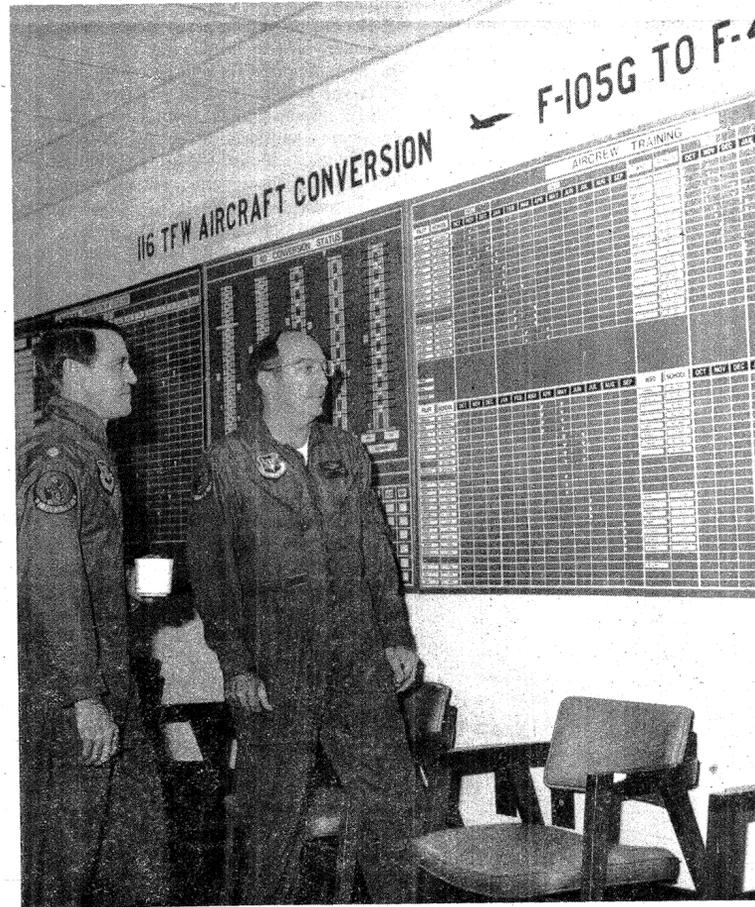
A host of other changes are also under way at Dobbins AFB, Ga., home of the Wing. Support units — from the 116th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron (CAMS) to the Combat Support Squadron (CSS) — will be involved in a phased training program throughout the conversion period which is expected to last well into 1983.

Conversion means learning new maintenance procedures, revising armament procedures, changing parts supply, replanning for mobilization and much more. Aircrews are already training on the Phantom and learning their new mission at various bases across the nation. Ground repairmen are schooling at Dobbins with the aircraft they will keep ready to fly. Special emphasis is being put on foreign object damage (FOD) as the Phantom's powerful engines act as super-vacuum cleaners and are especially FOD-prone.

The Phantom is a two-seat supersonic jet. Its aircrew consists of a pilot in the front cockpit and a backseat weapons systems operator (WSO). The craft is an all-weather tactical fighter-bomber which can carry an array of armaments including general purpose bombs, and Sparrow and Sidewinder missiles. In addition the Phantom II has a center-line 20mm Vulcan rapid-fire cannon.

The Phantom's twin jets are capable of propelling the craft at speeds in excess of 1,600 miles per hour. The jet has an operational ceiling above 60,000 feet.

A conversion requires hard work, and teamwork. The Wing has the team and it knows how to work. Soon it will have the F-4D Phantom II in Georgia's skies.



Looking over the Wing's conversion status chart is Lt. Col. Bob Bigrigg, advisor to the 116th during its F-105 days and Lt. Col. Don Jackson, who is overseeing the F-4 conversion.

## Command Sergeant Major Logue plans to make the rounds

Command Sergeant Major Dempsey Logue of Savannah, the former CSM of Savannah's 118th Field Artillery Brigade, was recently selected as the Command Sergeant Major for the entire Georgia Army National Guard. In the following interview with a member of the 124th Public Affairs Detachment, CSM Logue discusses his philosophy and his views on the job to be done.

For him, serving in the Georgia Guard is, as the song goes, a family tradition. His grandfather was First Sergeant of Savannah's Irish Jasper Greens. His father followed in an artillery unit with the old horse-drawn howitzers. And, his brother is now First Sergeant of HHB, 118th FA. And, his son and nephew are also members of the 118th.

Q: You've just been appointed the state's command sergeant major. What sorts of things will you be doing? Will you first take some time and visit the units around the state?

A: Well, that's what the primary job of the state command sergeant major is: to keep the Adjutant General and his staff informed as to the status of the enlisted corps, and the status of their training and morale. The only way we have of knowing that is to visit units as often as possible and the best time to visit them is at annual training when they're all down here together. Otherwise geography gets to be a problem. They're spread out all over the state.

Q: So you made your initial visits during the time the units were at summer camp?

A: That's correct.

Q: What about other times;

A: During IDT periods as opposed to annual training; Yes, we hope to do that, too. Some of our drills are going to have to be in Atlanta at the headquarters just for communication purposes, to find out what is going on in the state, and to have time to brief the Adjutant General. But we really need to get out and get around the state and talk with the command sergeants majors of the subordinate units

to pass on to them the things that we now deem to be important, or current.

Q: Have you had a chance to meet most of them?

A: I thought I knew most of them. But since I've been in the job, I've come to find out that I knew many of them by face and name but didn't really know what their job was and what unit they were affiliated with. So really the first two drills have been more organizational-type drill periods for me, to learn my way around, who does what, where certain people are located, how to find them.

Q: What is the Adjutant General expecting from you as the Command Sergeant Major?

A: The most important thing is to continue to increase the professionalism in the enlisted corps. That's the big thing now in the Army, to instill pride in the NCO corps and a sense of professionalism, and we sure want to continue to do that. It's definitely taking place. It's happening. We can see the day-to-day changes, and we don't want to have any let-down at all.

**"If you tell the troops what's expected of them. . . what your mission is, they'll function."**

Q: How will you go about doing that?

A: Well, just keep them abreast of what's expected to them, to make sure that NCOs and enlisted people do the NCO's business and not have officers doing their jobs for them and this has been the case in the past. This is a theme that was picked up in the regular Army several years ago. And, of course, under the One Army concept, we are working under the same goals. I think we have improved the status of the enlisted corps and the NCO corps in the Georgia Army National Guard. It's pretty evident that we've got some doggone fine key NCOs in this state, but we don't want to have any letdown at all.

We want to keep a firm hand on that aspect of the NCO corps, to see that they continue to improve and to increase their professionalism.

Q: What are examples that come to mind of officers doing NCO's jobs?

A: The training and the welfare of the enlisted corps should be in the hands of the NCOs and not in the hands of officers. Officers set the policy and the enlisted corps implements it. All too many times in the past it has not been that way. It was left up to the Officer corps not only to set and establish policy but to implement policy because the NCO corps was not doing what it should be doing. We just want to make sure that NCOs are taking care of NCO business.

Then we have this thing now where the regular Army is putting emphasis on a more perfect Army: A more perfectly trained Army, a more perfectly disciplined Army and all of those kinds of things. That flows over into the National Guard and we want to make sure that we're doing our part to make a more perfect total Army. We've got to work at it. It won't happen unless we work at it and make subordinate NCOs aware of what our goals are.

Q: Command sergeants major traditionally talk about instilling professionalism in the NCO corps. That seems to be a never-ending battle. Do you have any ideas of different approaches? What will be your approach?

A: The reason it is a never-ending battle is because you keep turning over personnel. You have junior NCOs who become senior NCOs who have to constantly be reminded of their responsibilities. I don't have any real unique approach other than to just keep the whole idea of NCO responsibility, NCO development uppermost in the minds of the subordinate command sergeants major of the state and the first sergeants of separate companies and to exercise this chain of command.

Q: In what area is most of your time needed? Training? Discipline? Appearance of soldiers?

A: I wouldn't say any one particular area. We've got plenty of people working in training and I wouldn't think that would be one of my primary responsibilities, although to see that the NCO corps does what they're supposed to do in training subordinate soldiers is certainly one of my responsibilities.

I guess my primary responsibility as the state command sergeant major is to inform the Adjutant General and his staff as to the status of the enlisted corps so that he can initiate through the chain of command whatever actions he feels are necessary to correct any weaknesses as far as training, welfare, morale are concerned.

Q: Are there any changes forthcoming that you see?

A: No, not really. The policies are pretty well established. It's just a matter of making sure they're implemented.

Q: What is the status of soldiers' morale in the Georgia Army Guard?

A: The morale, in general, is excellent, with some exceptions. Some units have exceptionally high morale. I visited two days with the 165th Supply Co. when



Georgia's new Command Sergeant Major Dempsey Logue.

## The sergeant is a preacher

Sergeant First Class Eddie Rape is a foot-soldier for the Lord and a combat engineer for the Georgia Army National Guard.

He used to be a foot-soldier for Uncle Sam, too. He served two tours for a total of 31 months in Vietnam and, in all, had 11 years in the infantry.

A preacher with a Combat Infantryman's Badge — that's the Reverend Doctor Eddie Rape, a platoon sergeant with Company A, 560th Engineers and pastor of the Cascade Hills Baptist Church, both in Columbus. And, during summer camp, the sergeant was guest tent revival evangelist at Hinesville's Victory Baptist Church.

Aren't preachers supposed to be chaplains? Not necessarily, said SFC Rape. "I believe the Lord would have me to stay an enlisted man because I have an expertise that would be lost" if he accepted a commission as an Army Guard chaplain. "Besides, I get to preach to these guys anyway. I preach every Sunday when we're drilling and I work with them every day. I believe they open up to me more because I am one of them. I'm completely content right where I am."

Rape had not completed his seminary work, but knew he had been called to preach, when he enlisted in the Army in 1966. During his 31 months in Viet Nam, from 1967-69 and from 1970-71, he served as a platoon sergeant advising the South Vietnamese with Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, a recon platoon sergeant with the 101st Airborne Division,

and as a platoon sergeant with the 1st Cav.

"I didn't find any conscientious objection between being a preacher and serving in the infantry. God's very plain on what we call murder and the taking of life in the defense of one's country. There is a definite distinction between taking life in combat and murder. Not to have served my country in the military would have made me a hypocrite."

Though he did not, of course, have a church while on active duty, SFC Rape knew that "God wanted me to go back into the pastorate. I just didn't know when.

While at Ft. Benning in 1977, Rape was called to preach part-time at Calvary Baptist Church in Dawson. The congregation asked him to stay. He left the infantry, joined the Army National Guard's combat engineers, and remained Calvary's full-time preacher for five years.

He later moved to Cascade Hills in Columbus and has accepted the pastorate at First Baptist Church in Wayland, Missouri. When he moves there, he will remain in the National Guard. He has already found a slot in the Iowa National Guard's combat engineers.

While attending summer camp at Fort Stewart, SFC Rape also found time to preach a tent revival in nearby Hinesville. "I preached a couple of times," he said. "It may have been in BDU's if I didn't finish my Guard work on time. My primary duty is to the troops."



Platoon Sergeant Eddie Rape, a member of the Georgia Army Guard's Company A, 560th Engineers, leads both a congregation and a platoon in Columbus, Ga.

## CSM Logue believes in more NCO training

they were making their annual training. Morale in that unit is exceptionally high. It's refreshing to see. There are other units that don't have that. But, generally speaking, throughout the Georgia Guard I think morale is good both among the senior enlisted corps and junior NCOs and enlisted people.

Q: What is the difference between a unit that has good morale and one that does not?

A: When I go into a unit and there are indications that morale is not good, I can tell you without question that there needs to be a change in commanders. This is on the company or battery level, and that flows right on through to battalion level. Oftentimes you can have a weak commander and if your NCO corps is strong enough, the unit still will enjoy good morale. But when you have a combination of the two — a weak commander and weak NCOs — then you're going to have a poor unit, not only in morale but in training and other areas as well. Generally, it rests right square on the shoulders of the commander.

Q: One of the strengths of the Guard as opposed to the regular Army is the experience of the senior NCO corps. Many of them have 30 to 40 years experience and will be moving out in the next five to 10 years. How do you make certain they are training their replacements?

A: This is probably the biggest problem that we had in the NCO corps in the Georgia Army Guard and I'm sure it was true in the other states, as well. In the

Georgia Army Guard, many of our senior NCOs are technicians and they look at their National Guard TO&E position as just a carry-over from their full-time occupation. Their technical job they did extremely well; they were technically proficient. But they were not doing the broad NCO job well. They were not training subordinates. They were not being an NCO in the full sense of the word, just being technically proficient. So now we want to concentrate on not only having them be technically proficient. We got caught up in this thing many years ago where we failed to train the young troop to be an NCO. Now we have throughout the Army an NCO development program and give it command emphasis on the unit level, we will be a lot better off 10 years down the road than we are with our junior NCOs at this point in time. Q: So you're confident it will be possible to make the junior NCOs who are coming along now as proficient as the people they

**"The most important thing is to continue to increase the professionalism in the enlisted corps."**

will be replacing and to make certain that there is opportunity for advancement so they don't get discouraged?

A: That's right. We don't want to have a period of time where we have an ineffective NCO corps because they weren't properly trained. We need to have continuity in the training of NCOs. And I think if we do

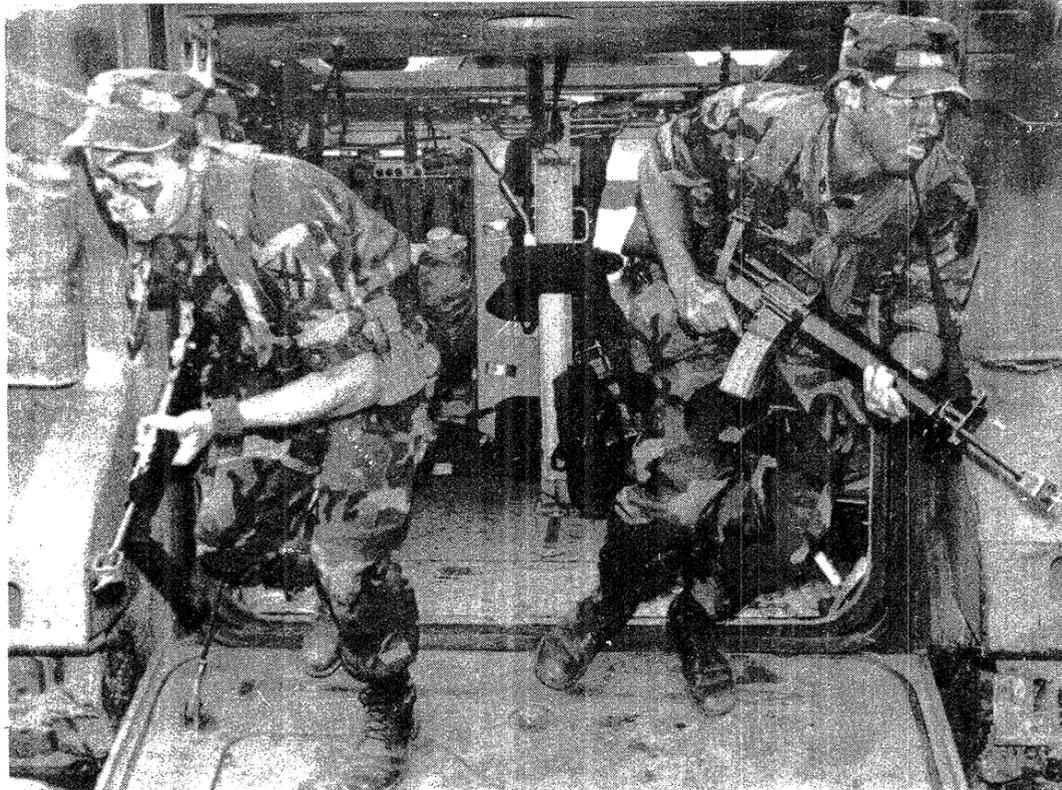
it the way that it's laid on in the Army, if we carry that on over into the Guard with the NCO development program, we'll be able to accomplish this. Another thing that's going to help us out tremendously is the NCO's schools. These guys are doing a fine job in the NCO's schools. They're giving us some tremendous training. But, when the young NCOs get back to the unit, oftentimes all the things they learn, they don't have an opportunity to implement because they get back in the old rut of the commander trying to do everything and the first sergeant trying to do everything instead of having subordinates or lower echelon NCOs assume some responsibility. Give them the responsibility. Let them make the mistakes that they are going to make in the training process and as a result you come up with a better NCO at a younger age.

Q: Since you've seen just about all the jobs in the artillery, what do you consider to be the best job in the Army National Guard?

A: Command sergeant major, without doubt.

Q: Why is that?

A: Well, you're really in a position where you can see the big picture. I like it up here because I can see what's happening throughout the Georgia Army Guard, not just from a narrower point of view as a field artilleryman. I enjoyed it there very much, but a CSM spot is a good spot to be in, no matter where you are.



It's annual training time again, as Sergeant Wiley Fowler (left) and Staff Sergeant Richard Holder charge out of their APC. Both attended camp at Fort Stewart in June with Troop E, 348th Cavalry. For a complete roundup of this year's annual training, see the next issue of The Georgia Guardsman. (Photo by MSG Mitch Kinney)

## 108th tankers try desert warfare

A battalion of the Georgia Army National Guard will establish another first this fall when it goes to the Army's National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, California.

The 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, headquartered at Calhoun, will be the first National Guard or Reserve battalion ever selected for this training. They will deploy as part of the Active Army's 24th Infantry Division from Fort Stewart on September 5th and return on September 25th.

While at the NTC, they will take part in the toughest, most realistic combat training against an opposing force that the Army has ever developed. The opposing force uses Soviet tactics and equipment.

The battalion will spend 14 consecutive days in the desert conducting round-the-clock operations. They will also take part in a live-fire exercise.

This is not a test. It is an opportunity for the unit to evaluate its go-to-war skills under the most demanding environment.

The 108th Armor is part of Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade — a roundout unit of the 24th Infantry Division. If the division is mobilized, the 48th will go with them as their third brigade.

Accompanying the battalion will be Battery A, 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery, from Brunswick; personnel from the 348th Medical Company and the 48th Military Police Platoon in Macon; and a team from the 648th Maintenance Company in Jackson, for a total of about 900 troops.

LTC Al Holland, the battalion commander said, "The men of the 108th are the finest combat troops in the Army National Guard nationwide."

## 214th passes nuclear firing test

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pass a nuclear firing mission evaluation designed for reserve component units.

The test involved moving the battalion into the field at Fort Stewart, Ga., and successfully completing nuclear fire missions against very demanding time and accuracy standards. The unit successfully completed 50 out of 51 fire missions, a rate which

far surpassed the Army's 80 percent success expectation. The 65-hour-long test involved night movements under the strictest of tactical standards.

The battalion began training for the mission in October 1982, according to Lt. Col. Elton Hinson, the battalion commander.

## Knowing your benefits can mean dollars when you leave the Guard

By Sp4 Chuck Tritt  
196 Public Affairs Detachment  
Ohio National Guard

Not many part-time jobs provide retirement benefits, but the National Guard does. Guard retirement provides benefits ranging from retirement pay to overseas international space-available flights.

To be eligible for any of these benefits however, you must have served 20 "satisfactory" years of federal military service and be over 60 years old.

An important feature of Guard retirement is medical care. This program has two parts, care at military facilities and care at civilian facilities.

Care at military facilities (these include more than 100 uniformed service hospitals and numerous clinics throughout the U.S.) is provided on a space available basis. If there is no room at the military facility, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) takes over. Under this cost sharing program, the government generally pays 75 percent of the charges for physicians and medical facilities.

In military facilities a variety of benefits

are available. These benefits include hospitalization; outpatient treatment and services; prescription drugs, immunizations; diagnostic tests and X-rays; artificial limbs; loan of durable equipment, such as wheelchairs, orthopedic braces, except orthopedic footwear; and many others. However, a few things are not authorized, including custodial care and dental care for dependents.

There is no charge under this program for any outpatient care or hospitalization for retired enlisted members. However, there is a small charge for hospitalization for dependents and retired officers and warrant officers.

If you live within 40 miles of a uniformed services hospital, and if you or your dependent require nonemergency inpatient care, you must find out if the care is available through a military facility. If the care is not available at the military facility, you must obtain a non-availability statement (DD Form 1251) or CHAMPUS will not share the cost of the care. This rule does not apply if you live more than 40 miles from a military facility or for outpatient or emergency care.



Little and his wife, Gayle

## Enlisted group elects Little as president

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert H. Little of Troop Command was recently elected to a two year term as president of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia.

The purpose of the organization is to influence legislation that would be beneficial to National Guard personnel, both on a federal and state level.

Little said following his election that he would be an active president, and began his term with a vigorous recruiting drive for the association.

For more information on the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia, or to join, contact Little at Troop Command headquarters or EANGGA, Post Office Box 6234, Macon, GA 31208.