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December
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Georgia Guardisman



Photo by Spc. Jimmy Lanham/124th MPAD

Junior ROTC cadets lug a body through a mud-ridden obstacle course at Fort Stewart's Camp Eagle in August. Sponsored by the Georgia National Guard, the two-week course introduced teens to grueling military training, discipline and leadership. 'I came to Camp Eagle because I wanted to develop leadership qualities,' said 15-year-old Brandy Hicks of Augusta. 'I've learned so much more here.'

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Military beat

Downsizing: The unshakeable fact

Downsizing remains a fact of life. Key lawmakers in Congress say even deeper cuts in military personnel may be required in coming years to provide money for weapons modernization programs.

The \$1.3 trillion earmarked for defense by the Clinton administration over the next five years may be between \$40 billion and \$150 billion short of needs. One option is to delay or cancel major weapons programs, such as the Army's Comanche helicopter. Look for announcements before the 1996 defense budget is submitted to Congress in January.

Commissaries: Cuts still alive?

The threat to commissaries from budget-cutters may have abated. But don't be lulled. Higher surcharges or consolidations are still a possibility, as was recommended by the General Accounting Office of Congress. The Pentagon, however, has apparently gotten the message that the commissary system is a prized benefit of military service and it won't propose any reductions.

Woman on the move

The highest-ranking woman ever in the Army or Air National Guard was elevated to two-star rank on Sept. 23. She's Maj. Gen. Roberta Mills of the Tennessee Air National Guard, assistant to the director of the Air National Guard. In that job, she advises the director on a wide range of personnel issues.

Lane says shape up or ship out

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Lane
State Command Sergeant Major
Georgia Army National Guard

I want to first extend congratulations to three new command sergeants major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Walker is the top enlisted soldier at Troop Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Glass is at the 110th Corps Support Battalion and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Bender takes charge at the 170th Command and Control Battalion.

And once again I want to commend and thank all of the soldiers and family support personnel for their outstanding performance during the flood relief operations in July.

I also want to remind you that the National Guard Bureau's Select, Train, Promote and Assign program is scheduled to come on line Jan. 1, 1996. It is part of the total soldier concept where all upward mobility is based on military and civilian education, awards and decorations and physical fitness; along with the basics, such as time in service and grade. I would like to have the program up and running here in Georgia no later



than Jun. 30, 1995.

On the active component side in 1996, soldiers must pass the PFT prior to enrollment in all levels of NCO school. It is imperative that our NCO corps train to physical fitness standards at the unit level.

And one more thing about NCOs. We want to empower NCO down to the squad leader level. We want the NCOs back in charge...doing NCO business.

The Enlisted Association/Insurance Trust is working for us on force structure issues. It's my personal goal to have 100 percent enrollment in the state. I'm looking forward to seeing all enlisted

people at the state conference at Jekyll Island in June.

And finally speaking of enlisted soldiers...use me as needed. I'm here for the sole purpose of taking care of soldiers; and I'm the direct voice to the commander of the Army Guard and the Adjutant General on all enlisted.

Retention of our soldiers is my number one priority along with METL/Mission Essential Task List, for our go to war mission.

I want to wish everyone a happy, joyful and safe holiday season. Let's look forward to a challenging year in 1995.

Barber encourages ideas from airmen

By Chief Master Sgt. Don Barber
Senior Enlisted Advisor
Georgia Air National Guard

Operation Crested River is a tough act to follow.

More than 3,000 men and women of the Georgia National Guard received the Georgia Humanitarian Service Ribbon for their performance of duty during those adverse conditions.

I had the honor of being present when Gov. Zell Miller gave the first award to Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General, at a luncheon held at the Georgia Guard's Commanders' Conference at Robins Air Force Base in September.

The overall tempo of the meeting was very upbeat. We can all be proud of the job being accomplished by the men and women in these key leadership positions, from the AG and unit commanders to the individuals who make it happen.

The agenda at the conference reflected the need for highly trained, professional leadership dedicated to serving the nation, state and communities of Georgia.

The report of the Status of Resources and Training Systems verifies the accomplishment of many of



our mission goals and objectives.

The events surrounding Crested River confirms our achievements as well as underscores the quality of our leadership.

Follow-up and after-action reports reviewed at the conference were extremely beneficial and the implementation of lessons learned will make all our jobs easier in the future.

The past three months have been fast-paced and productive.

I have visited with every Georgia Air guard unit in the state, and will continue to do so.

The professionalism, positive attitude and enthusiasm shown by guard members from Kennesaw to Brunswick is impressive.

Your recommendations are finding their way up the chain of command and, in some cases, into implementation. Others are in the works.

Your thoughts and ideas are very important to me, so keep 'em coming.

My office will continue to be located in the field with the enlisted force.

As you see me at your units, please stop me and we'll talk. This is important to me and to the Air National Guard. Remember that the only bad ideas are those which are not shared with others.

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Flood fund comes through for guardsmen, families

By Staff Sgt. Elliot Minor
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. William Embert thought his flood problems were over when he moved to Georgia.

Last year, while on active duty at Fort Riley, Kan., his basement was inundated during the Midwest flood.

Then he moved to the Peach State with his wife and daughter and joined the Georgia Army National Guard in Albany. They hadn't even finished unpacking when the Flint River flooded in July. He estimates their loss at \$27,000.

"Flooding was the furthest thing from my mind," he said. "I lived in my house for a month and then I was forcibly relocated."

Embert is one of 60 guard members and retirees who received grants following the flood from the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation.

Col. Tom Dalton, deputy chief of staff for personnel and administration, had envisioned such a foundation since Georgia guard members were mobilized for the Persian Gulf War, and he and others were in the process of forming it when the flood occurred.

Donations started pouring in from groups and individuals throughout the country, eventually reaching about \$36,000, he said.

"All we said is, 'We need it' and it started coming in," said 1st Lt. Tanya Brinkley, the National Guard's family program coordinator in Atlanta. "I've hardly had anyone ask, 'How is this money going to be spent?' They trust."

Initially, the foundation used the money to make grants of up to \$800 to flood victims. Some victims asked for less and they received the amount requested.

"It surprised me and I appreciated it," said Spec. Roderick McKenzie, 24, of Albany, who used his \$800 to replace clothing and other possessions lost in the flood. "It touched me that in 1994 somebody would be willing to help like that."

McKenzie, a medic with Albany's 2nd Battalion, was forced out of his rented house by the flood and is still living with relatives.

The foundation's work will continue, even though the flood has dropped out of the national spotlight. Organizers are in the process of incorporating it as a tax-exempt group and they will continue soliciting donations.

"The intent of the foundation is not to sit here and wait for a disaster, but to solicit dollars on an annual basis and build the trust fund to help soldiers in need," Dalton said.

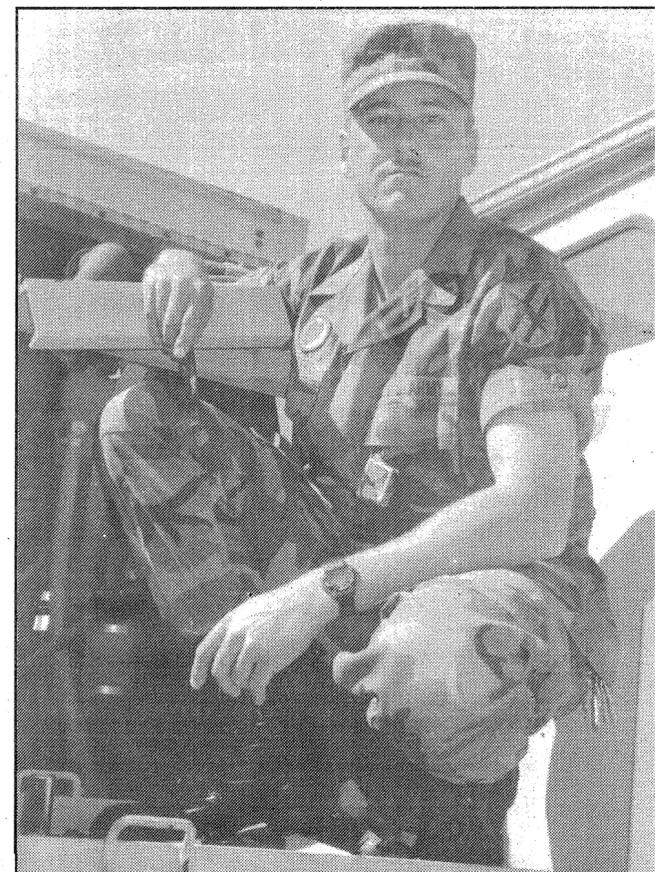
The foundation will help guard members, retirees, active duty soldiers and airmen and civilian department of defense employees who are disaster victims, or who are beset with pay, medical and family emergencies.

Grant applications must be approved by a 10-member board.

Seven victims of the October flood in Savannah recently applied for grants and the foundation is reviewing additional applications from July flood victims. Some may be able to qualify for up to \$2,000 in additional assistance, Brinkley said.

"I get bombarded with calls about all kinds of emergencies," said Brinkley. "It was important to get something like this started. Everyone in the chain of command has made this thing happen."

Added Dalton: "It's absolutely fantastic. It's inspirational."



Sgt. William Embert, a guardsman assigned to Albany's Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Battalion, estimates his losses to the July flooding at \$27,000. Although he didn't have insurance to cover flood damage, Embert received a grant through Georgia's Family Assistance Program to pay for part of the damage.

Guardsmen find solace at annual training — away from flooded homes

By Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

At night they sleep in an armored personnel carrier and swat mosquitoes. But they call it "Home Sweet Home."

Their "home entertainment system" is a Sony Walkman and two miniature speakers. But they appreciate it as much as a \$500 boom box.

Their backyard is 280,000 acres of trees, firing ranges and swamp. And that suits them just fine.

They are victims of Georgia's record floods in July. They lost their homes and most of their possessions and were forced to move in with friends and relatives.

And because of a housing shortage in flood-ravaged Albany, they still didn't have a home of their own when they returned from two weeks of annual training with the Georgia Army National Guard at Fort Stewart in late July.

Spec. Roderick McKenzie and Spec. Gregory Ellis, medics with Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade, said they jumped at a chance to escape the devastation in their hometown. Nearly 9,000 homes in Albany were dam-



Spec. Roderick McKenzie, 24, practices putting an inflatable splint on the arm of Spc. Michael Young, 23 during annual training at Fort Stewart in July. McKenzie said going to annual training was a good break from flood-ravaged Albany, his hometown.

aged or destroyed. Thirty thousand residents had to flee when the Flint River, swollen by nearly two feet of rain in 24 hours from the remnants of Tropical Storm Alberto, rose more than 14 feet above flood stage.

"It's like a vacation," said McKenzie, whose home was inundated with 4 feet of water. "At least I have the privacy of the woods," said Ellis. "In Albany it was noisy and crowded. Now it's quiet and we get a little relaxation."

McKenzie and Ellis are members of Albany's 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry. They recalled their experiences during the flood in a wooded assembly area, miles from Fort Stewart's bustling main post during annual training in July.

McKenzie and Ellis were on duty as guardsmen, assisting other flood victims.

McKenzie lost everything and was forced to move in with his fiancée's family.

Ellis and his fiancée lost some of their furniture and moved into his parents' home. Ellis, his fiancée and her three children, plus the soggy possessions they were able to save, shared a bedroom.

The National Guard excused flood victims like McKenzie and Ellis from annual training, but they came anyway.

"My mama said, 'They aren't making the flood victims go. Why are you going?'" Ellis said. "I said, 'I need the vacation.'"

Georgia aviators compete in helicopter 'Olympics'

"The requirements tested skills such as hovering, maneuvering, navigation and timing. All of those are skills that we need and use in missions with the Guard."

Capt. Jeff Henderson



With the Kremlin and Red Square as a backdrop, Captain Jeff Henderson and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ralph Caraballo pitted their flying skills this summer against more than 80 of the world's best pilots at the "Olympics" of helicopter flying. When the rotor wash settled, the two Georgia Army National Guard pilots wore silver medals after the U.S. team placed second at the 8th World Helicopter Championship staged at Moscow's Tushimo Airfield.

The event, which stressed intricate maneuvers, precision flying and navigation was won by the host team from Russia. Besides the U. S. and Russia, teams — both military and civilian — from six other nations competed in this year's competition.

Henderson and Caraballo were among 12 National Guard members making up this year's U. S. Precision Helicopter Team. The team also included citizen-soldiers from Arkansas, Arizona, Idaho and Texas. To win a spot on the squad, aircrews competed in national championships held in Las Vegas earlier this year.

The five-day competition included four major contests refereed by an international panel of judges, all themselves pilots. "The requirements tested skills such as hovering, maneuvering, navigation and timing," said Henderson. "All of those are skills that we need and use in missions with the Guard. The training for this competition was invaluable." Henderson commands the seven-member Reconnaissance and Interdiction Detachment (RAID) unit which uses OH-58 observation helicopters and high tech imaging equipment to assist local law enforcement personnel in drug interdiction efforts. Caraballo is also a member of the RAID unit which is headquartered at Dobbins ARB.

In one event, helicopter crews had to suspend a

buck of water beneath their aircraft, and follow a difficult slalom course while maneuvering the buckets through a series of narrow "gates." At the end of the course they were required to set the bucket onto a table marked with a large "bullseye." It was a complex maneuver and points were deducted for missing gates, setting the bucket down off-target and for taking too much time.

Another event involved a long-range navigation problem in which crews had to plot and follow a 120-kilometer course around the city of Moscow. Along the way they were required to find key checkpoints and locate target areas onto which they dropped beanbags. The course was timed to the split-second.

"The margin of error was very narrow," explained Caraballo. "Being just a few seconds late or a couple of centimeters away from a perfect landing meant the difference between taking first place in an event and being eliminated from the competition."

While the Georgia pilots earned their way onto the team by demonstrating superior flying skills, the world-class competition demanded intense preparation. The team spent two weeks in Little Rock, Arkansas for the first phase of training and an additional two weeks in northern Germany to fine-tune their skills.



Above: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ralph Caraballo and Captain Jeff Henderson pilot their Bell Jet Long Ranger helicopter in competition at the Tushimo Airfield in Moscow while an international team of judges evaluates their flying skills. Below, Capt. Henderson affixes a large identification number beneath the Georgia team's aircraft before the opening event of the competition.

Story and photos by
Major Jim Driscoll
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Flight to Moscow an epic adventure

When Captain Jeff Henderson and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ralph Caraballo traveled to Moscow to compete in the 8th World Helicopter Championships, the competition was only part of an international experience the two pilots will remember for the rest of their lives. The two Georgia Guardsmen also had the opportunity to fly one of the team's aircraft cross-country from Germany to Moscow and back. It was an epic adventure that spanned eight days, nearly 3,000 miles and four countries.

"We had the opportunity to see parts of the former Soviet Union that very few, if any, Americans have ever seen," said Henderson.

Flying at altitudes under 1,000 feet, the pilots crossed the site of the former Berlin Wall and directly over a former Soviet MIG fighter base, still being used by the Russian Air Force.

The trip became necessary when Bell-Textron Helicopters donated the use of two Bell Jet Long Rangers for use by the U.S. Team in the competition. Based in Germany, the two helicopters had to be flown to Tushimo Airfield, the site of the championships in the northeast part of Moscow, and then returned to Baden Baden in southwest Germany.

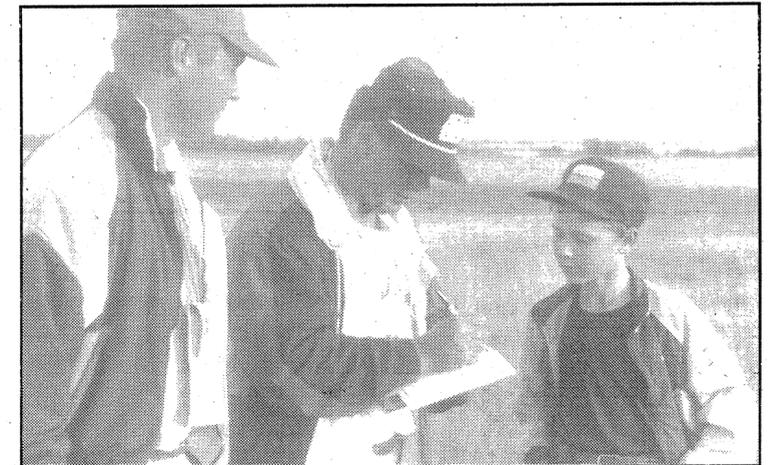
At times, the trip took on the flavor of an international touring airshow. During a portion of the journey, some 23 helicopters from five countries, including the U. S. team, flew in formation.

"When we stopped to refuel, the local residents would come out to the airfield to look at all the different helicopters," said Caraballo. The Georgia pilots gave away pins, photos and stickers to the eager children who stood in amazement at the aircraft.

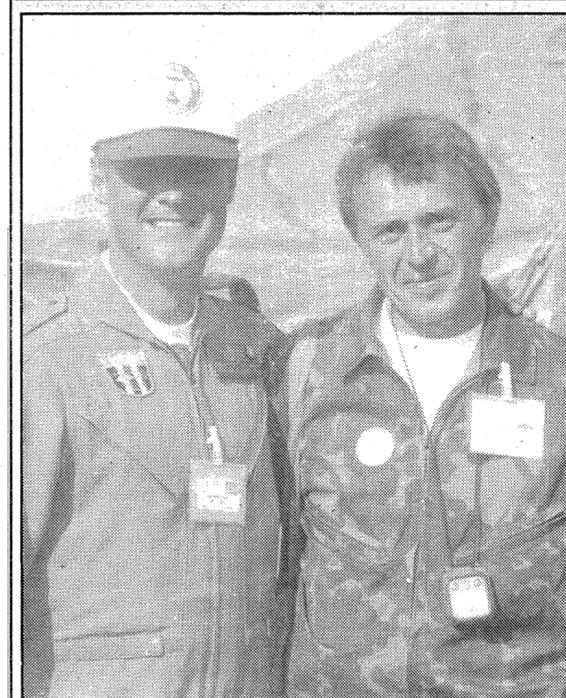
Among the overnight stays were stopovers in the Brest and Vitebsk in the former Soviet republic of Belarus, a country still struggling with independence and runaway inflation. Amenities in these emerging nations

were few. The hotel in Vitebsk, for example, in which the team stayed, was the city's most luxurious, but lacked most of the creature comforts to which westerners are accustomed.

Meals were also a challenge for the Americans who were used to pizza and hamburgers. "There is little variety from meal to meal," said Caraballo. "It was basically the same thing for breakfast, lunch and dinner; a piece of meat and either potatoes or rice."



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ralph Caraballo signs autographs for local residents during a refueling stop in western Russia



Captain Jeff Henderson shares a moment with Russian pilot and friend Georgy Plakushchy.



Captain Jeff Henderson (left) and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ralph Caraballo in Moscow's Red Square.

Standing in historic Red Square, and wearing the bright blue team uniforms of the U.S. Precision Helicopter Team, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ralph Caraballo and Captain Jeff Henderson had their picture taken in front of the landmark St. Basil's Cathedral. Their brief visit to downtown Moscow was a rare chance to see the historic sites and shop for souvenirs. While the five-day World Helicopter Championship kept the American aviators too busy to do much sightseeing, they had plenty of time getting to know pilots from other countries.

"I think the best part of the trip was developing friendships with people I'll remember the rest of my life," said Caraballo

who traded American pins and trinkets to pilots from other countries. One of his prized souvenirs was a Russian Army hat presented by one of the aviators from the Russian team.

Henderson spent a lot of time sharing stories with Russian pilot Georgy Plakushchy. Although the American spoke no Russian, and the Plakushchy knew almost no English, the two spent hours together bonded by a common threat of a love for flying.

"We struggled to understand each other as we talked of our home and families," added Henderson. On the last day of competition the American pilot met Plakushchy's wife and exchanged presents with the Russian couple. "Those are gifts I will always cherish," he said.

Guard

Inside the Air

165th prepares for readiness inspection

Every four years, Air Guard units must undergo an Operational Readiness Inspection to prove to the Air Force that they are capable of performing their wartime missions. It's one of the most challenging tests in the Air Guard.

The 165th Airlift Group in Savannah is already preparing for its ORI, scheduled for next November and will put itself through a series of Operational Readiness Exercises before then. The first was last month.

The C-130 unit deployed seven aircraft and more than 500 airmen to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., for a four-day exercise. There they were under simulated attack from mock terrorists and opposing forces. They coped with infiltrators, bomb threats, conventional and chemical weapons attacks, and starving refugees, while flying airland, air drop and troop delivery missions.

The exercise is aimed at netting the unit the coveted Outstanding rating during next year's ORI.

202nd honored

Macon Mayor Tommy Olmstead proclaimed Oct. 1 as "202nd Engineering Installation Squadron Day" during ceremonies honoring the unit for its help in distributing potable water to citizens during the flood in July. Olmstead read the proclamation and presented an award to Lt. Col. Clyde Fulton, commander of the 202nd during the unit's annual family day picnic.

Airman named teacher of the year

Sr. Master Sgt. Betty L.G. Morgan of Savannah, an intelligence specialist with the 165th Airlift Group, was named Teacher of the Year for Savannah/Chatham County School District at Hubert Middle School.

Uniform changes

The Air Force has phased out four uniform items: the blue formal dress head gear, woman's blue beret, maternity smock and the olive drab t-shirt.

Air Guard gets first woman commander

The first woman commander in the 53-year history of the Georgia Air National Guard took charge of her unit in September at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta.

As the new commander of the 166th Communications Flight, Maj. Debra Brooks of Marietta is now responsible for all ground communications, and computer and information systems used by her unit.

In remarks made at the September change-of-command ceremony, Col. John Powers, deputy commander for support, noted that Brooks has fulfilled her career ambition while turning a page in the history of the Georgia Air National Guard.

Brooks has been in the 116th since 1981, the year she was commissioned. Before she became commander, she was executive officer for the 116th Support Group.

Among awards Brooks has received are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two clusters, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

A Marietta native, Brooks holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Knoxville College and a Master of Administration Science from Central Michigan University.



After taking over the 166th Communications Flight at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in September, Maj. Debra Brooks, of Marietta, became the first woman commander in the 53-year-history of the Georgia Air National Guard.

Air guardsmen retire after combined 77 years

Two Georgia Air National Guard chief master sergeants retired recently after a combined 77 years of service.

Chief Master Sgt. Larry Cannon and Chief Master Sgt. William Ward retired from State Headquarters with military honors at Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

Cannon retired with 42 years of service in the Georgia Air Guard. Upon his retirement, he received the highest award given by the state, the prestigious Georgia Distinctive Service Medal. His most recent assignment was non-commissioned officer in charge of the joint Army and Air National

Counterdrug program.

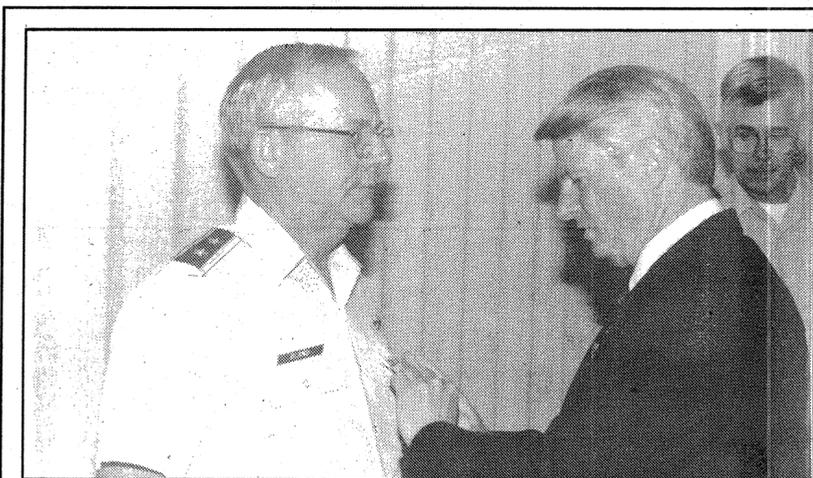
In remarks at the presentation, Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General, said that Cannon was "a leader, advisor, mentor and friend who created a legacy of true professionalism in the Georgia National Guard."

Ware, whose 35-year career spanned service in the Air force, Air Force Reserve, and the Army and Air National Guard, received the Meritorious Service Medal for his role as accounting and finance supervisor at state headquarters. He was cited for his role in his unit

receiving the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

Both airmen were promoted to the honorary rank of lieutenant colonel, aide-de-camp by Gov. Zell Miller. Each was also presented a state flag that had flown over the capitol in their honor.

Both worked full time for the military. Cannon is retired from the Department of the Army after 34 years with the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office as a management auditor. Ward is retired from Headquarters, Georgia Air National Guard, as information management programs director.



First of many

Air Force Maj. Gen. William P. Bland, Georgia's adjutant general, in September receives the first Georgia Humanitarian Service Ribbon from Gov. Zell Miller on behalf of the more than 6,000 guardsmen who served during Operation Crested River in July.

Photo by Maj. Jim Driscoll/124th MPAD

Paving a path to Rwanda

Georgia airmen bring relief to war-stricken central Africa

Scenes of hopeless, dying Rwandan refugees were played out on American television sets this summer, following three months of intense fighting between the country's Hutu government and Tutsi rebels that left an estimated 500,000 dead.

Of those who survived, at least million fled the country, including 1.2 million who sought refuge in Zaire. The United Nations mission in Rwanda said refugees were dying at the rate of 6,000 per day.

On July 22, President Clinton authorized the Joint Task Force Support Hope. The first priority was to stop the dying. Units in Europe were deployed to provide water purification at Goma, Zaire, where thousands of refugees were pouring in.

Commanders established the theater airlift hub at Entebbe, Uganda. The Air National Guard was charged with deploying six C-130s, 12 aircrews and maintenance and support personnel to support the operation. Units from the Kentucky and Tennessee Air National Guard left for Uganda in late July and early August.

Here in Georgia, the 165th Airlift Group, which has seen action in many such relief efforts, readied two C-130s for the operation, complete with four crews and 40 support personnel. The first plane deployed on Aug. 25 for 30 days.

Col. Steven Westgate, vice commander of the 165th, commanded an element of six aircraft that included weapons systems and airmen from units in Alaska, Delaware and West Virginia, which relieved the contingent from



Water buffaloes and trailers are downloaded from a C-5 at the airport in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. The supplies were used to assist in Operation Support Hope, the relief mission to the war-stricken country.

Kentucky and Tennessee.

In addition to the task force's main mission of helping the starving refugees, the U.S. had another goal, to ferry equipment, supplies, personnel and support services to American soldiers and airmen in the forward area.

The 165th flew missions into Goma, Kigali, Rwanda (the capital); and Nairobi and Mombassa, Kenya, completing more than 200 flying hours in 168 sorties. Group aircraft carried more than 600 passengers throughout the theater and moved nearly 900 tons of cargo.

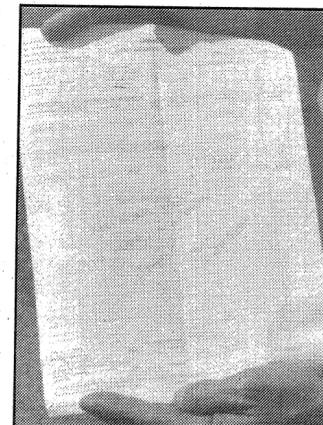
During the 30 days of deployment, airmen delivered more than 2,400 tons of food, water, blankets, tarpaulins, cooking utensils and medical supplies.

This mission of mercy was successful, according to the UN. The High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that the U.S. airlift reduced refugee deaths to fewer than 500 per day. The military also established a civilian-run radio station in Kigali to keep Rwandan citizens informed about their situation, and to let them know when it had become safe to begin returning to their homes.

U.S. and U.N. military personnel trained civilians to load and off-load aircraft and how to operate their airport. By the time the mission ended, commercial air traffic had begun to use the airport.

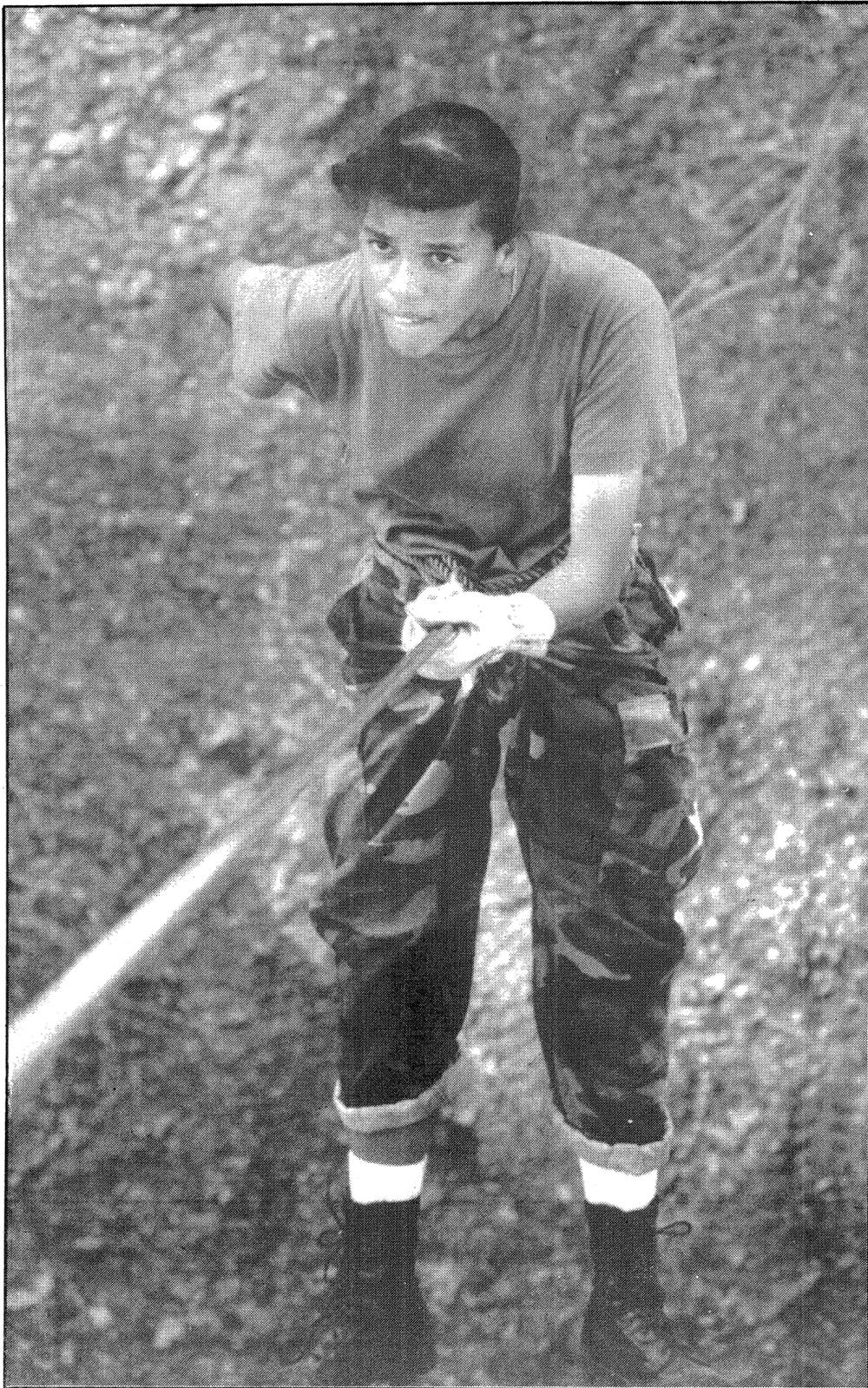
One key element of the joint military-civilian operation was to avoid "mission creep," and not let other tasks interfere with the major mission, for which the Somalia operation was roundly criticized.

The 165th flew the last mission of Operation Support Hope on Sept. 28 after delivering two pallets of cookware.



FAR LEFT: Under the watchful eyes of U.S. military personnel, Ugandan workers unload relief supplies bound for relief camps at the airport in Entebbe, Uganda.

LEFT: Airport officials at Kigali, Rwanda, display the United Nations High Commission for Relief load manifest for the last round of relief supplies delivered by a Georgia Air National Guard C-130.



A junior ROTC cadet slides down a rappelling tower at Camp Eagle at Fort Stewart in July

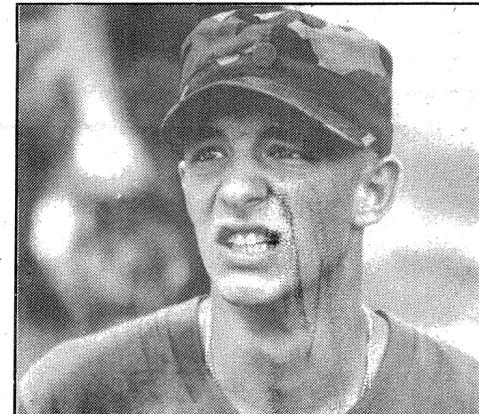
Photos by Spc. Jimmy Lanham/124th MPAD



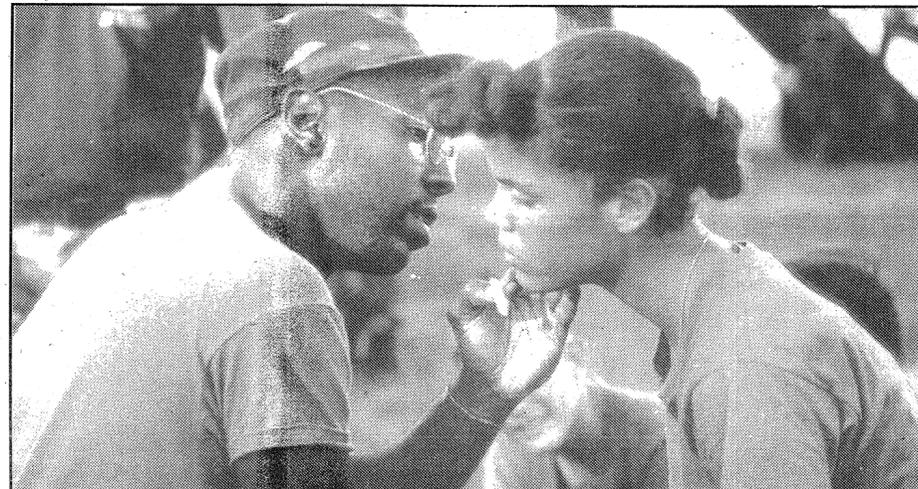
A cadet pulls herself down a one-rope bridge erected between two trees. The task measures problem solving and endurance.



A cadet carries a full 5-gallon water jug through an obstacle course. The course measured the cadets ability to solve problems and work together



The strain of the strenuous two-week Camp Eagle shows on the face of a junior ROTC cadet.



Cadets learn how to apply camouflage during training at Fort Stewart's Camp Eagle. The two-week camp introduced cadets to a variety of military training techniques.

JROTC cadets invade

CAMP EAGLE

By Spc. Christopher H. Pearson
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The summer of 1994 will be remembered fondly for a long time by several dozen members of the Georgia Army National Guard and more than 500 high school students who traveled from as far away as the Virgin Islands to attend the first JROTC Camp Eagle at Fort Stewart.

For two weeks in August, the guardsmen spent their annual training period working as cadre members during the camp, which was held at the National Guard Training Center's Youth Challenge site. They served as counselors, trainers, mentors and friends to the teenage cadets, many of whom had never been away from home.

"The purpose of Camp Eagle was three-fold," explained Maj. Al Jacobs, state recruiting and retention operations officer. "Our goals were to teach the cadets how to be better citizens and, at the same time, expose them to a little of the discipline of military life. Equally as important was integrating the National Guard recruiters into the camp as instructors so we could maximize exposure of the guard to the kids."

Two week-long camp cycles, each with about 260 cadets, were held while Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade was in the

field during annual training. The guardsmen selected for Camp Eagle were matched up with retired members of the Army who now serve in JROTC cadre positions in public high schools throughout the southeast and the Virgin Islands.

Throughout the week of camp, cadets got a taste of Army life, beginning with 5 a.m. wake-ups followed by physical training and a hearty breakfast in the dining facility. The rest of the day was filled with adventure training which included land navigation, rappelling, constructing one-rope bridges, running through the obstacle course and drown proofing. The cadets also received life skills classes covering subjects such as hands-on math and science lessons and how to fill out a job application and successfully attend an interview.

Although 1994 was the first time Georgia had ever hosted Camp Eagle, the jury returned a very quick verdict.

"I came to Camp Eagle because I wanted to develop leadership qualities," said 15-year-old Brandy Hicks of Augusta. "I've learned so much more here."

Michael Cross, 15, of Savannah, agreed.

"I've learned leadership skills, discipline and teamwork," he said. "I've also made many new friends at Camp Eagle. I'm disappointed that it was over so quickly."

Despite heroics, 560th to deactivate

My primary concern is for the soldiers who make up these units. We will do everything we can to reassign as many soldiers as possible into other units so that they will be able to continue their National Guard careers."

Maj. Gen. William P. Bland, Jr.
The Adjutant General

By Spc. Rob Hainer
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

If Pentagon cuts to the Georgia National Guard go through as planned, the same Army engineer units who in July saved Bainbridge from the raging Flint River will not be around for the next disaster.

The Pentagon announced in June — before floods swept south Georgia in July — that the Georgia National Guard's 560th Engineer Battalion would be deactivated in September, 1996 as part of a series of nationwide cuts.

The battalion of more than 700 guardsmen is spread among seven cities in south Georgia, including towns damaged by the flood such as Montezuma, Bainbridge and Dawson. Engineers in the units were among the first activated to help in flood relief efforts.

They sandbagged in Montezuma and built a dike and sandbag wall in Bainbridge, preventing the Flint from rushing a fertilizing plant and causing tons of toxic ammonia to spew into the air. After the floodwater subsided, engineers stayed to rebuild bridges and roads in Dawson, Montezuma and Albany.

State Rep. Lynmore James of Montezuma said Guard activity proved the worth of keeping the town's unit intact.

Had it not been for the National Guard, "going through what we've gone through, I don't think we'd have our head above water, even today," he said.

Losing an armory in Montezuma would cost the city of 5,000 residents roughly \$383,000 spent yearly there by guardsmen on duty. In Columbus, more than \$2 million would be lost.

Major General William P. Bland, Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General, said that the Georgia National Guard is looking at every possibility to realign other units into southwest Georgia in order to lessen the impact of the deactivation. "The National Guard is a community-based defense force and we are committed to maintaining a statewide presence. We will be exploring options to reassign some of the other units in the state to fill the armories left vacant by the loss of the 560th Engineer Battalion.

"My primary concern is for the soldiers who make up these units," Bland added. "We will do everything we can to reassign as many soldiers as possible into other units so that they will be able to continue their National Guard careers."

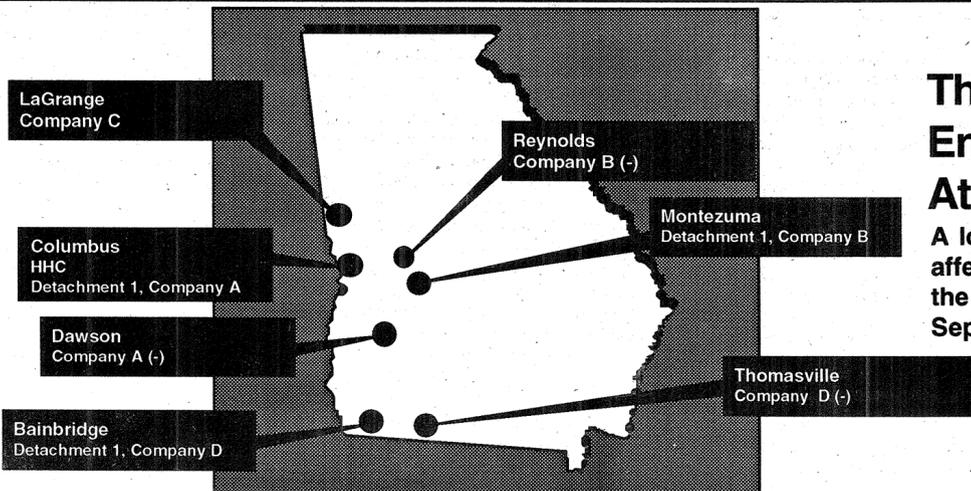
Despite losing one engineer battalion, Bland said, the Georgia Guard should be able to handle future disasters with two other engineer battalions still in its inventory.



A guardsman with Dawson-based Company A, 560th Engineer Battalion, uses an excavator to move rocks under a flood-damaged bridge in July. Because of a Pentagon plan to cut the 560th, Dawson along with six other south Georgia cities, will lose a National Guard unit.

The 560th Engineer Battalion At A Glance

A look at the cities and units affected by the deactivation of the 560th Engineer Battalion in September, 1996



Threatened with losing their Guard unit, Dawson residents rally their support



(Above) Guardsmen with Dawson-based Company A, 560th Engineer Battalion, stand in formation outside the Dawson Armory. The unit is slated to deactivate in 1996. (Below) Gary Young, manager of Dawson's Piggly-Wiggly supermarket, and Charlotte Bair, a customer service representative. Young has been a strong supporter of the Dawson unit.

By Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DAWSON — Residents of this southwest Georgia farming town have a long history of supporting their country and the military.

They have had a local military unit since 1891 with the founding of the 4th Regiment, Georgia Volunteers. They show their appreciation for their part-time citizen soldiers during an annual military appreciation day.

Now, because of military downsizing, Dawson will lose its Army National Guard unit, Company A, 560th Engineer Battalion. The unit played a key role in repairing roads and bridges following the July flood, Georgia's worst natural disaster.

Deactivation plans were announced in June when the Defense Department announced a series of National Guard cutbacks, including the 560th Engineer Battalion. The 560th is headquartered in Columbus and has about 730 members. Besides Dawson and Columbus, they drill at armories in Montezuma, Reynolds, LaGrange, Thomasville and Bainbridge.

The deactivation is expected to take place in September, 1996.

Maj. Gen. William P. Bland, Georgia's adjutant general, has said the guard will try to reassign the engineers so they can continue their military careers. A task force has also been set up to examine every option to keep as many armories as open as possible. Its goal is to ensure the Georgia National Guard maintains a statewide presence. The realignment plan will be announced after the first of the year.

Company A, along with the rest of the battalion, is a proud combat engineer unit that, if sent to war, would clear minefields, build bridges and fight like infantrymen with M-16 rifles, grenades

and machine guns.

Its members were only about 25 miles from the Iraqi border when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August, 1991, setting the stage for Operation Desert Storm.

"We were the closest U.S. unit to Iraq, but all we had were picks and shovels," one member said.

Some supporters questioned the need to eliminate a unit with such a distinguished record. News that the company was on a Defense Department deactivation list had promoted a letter writing campaign to Gov. Zell Miller, Georgia's two U.S. senators, state lawmakers and top National Guard officials. Residents hoped their letters would call attention to the importance of the National Guard to their town.

"Personally I think we're cutting way too much," said Mike Brennan, as he chipped paint from the 97-year-old Greek Revival mansion he is restoring. "I think the best deterrent of aggression is to have a good force you can call on. If we didn't have the National Guard ... it would take too long to put troops in the field to fight a war."

Gary Young, manager of the Dawson Piggly-Wiggly store, has three employees in the Dawson unit and has been a strong supporter. He has donated soft drinks and snacks for youth programs hosted by the unit.

Dawson Mayor Robert Albritten said that losing the local unit and closing the armory would be a setback for his town of 6,000. It also would hurt guardsmen who had hoped to serve at least 20 years and qualify for military retirement, he said.

"That's like losing an industry," he said. "It would have an economic impact on our community."

Dawson is located in the heart of Georgia's peanut belt. Its major industries include a peanut butter factory, a poultry processing plant and a plant that makes rubber automotive parts.



The 560th's economic impact is estimated at about \$500,000 a year. The mayor said he agrees with that estimate.

Guard paychecks buy groceries, furniture and help make house and car payments.

"We appreciate those who protect the stars and stripes," he said. "You always have to have a strong military to protect that which you have won over the years. I do not favor strong military cuts."

The military tradition perpetuated by Company A dates back to Aug. 17, 1891, when the 4th Regiment, Georgia Volunteers was organized. It was called to active duty for the Spanish-American War. Later, Dawson hosted a succession of units until the 1970s when the 560th was formed.

Dawson guardsmen moved into their brick armory — paid for in part by local contributions — in 1956.

During Company A's annual family appreciation day in December, the unit honors retirees and businesses that have

supported guardsmen. Company A also donates canned foods for needy families and makes a contribution to the Terrell-Lee County Mental Retardation Center.

"The armory is quite involved in the community," said Capt. Darren Tola, the company commander. "The community support has been outstanding. Dawson is one of the best locations I've seen for a unit because of community support."

Tola's soldiers say they are willing to retrain, if necessary, to remain in the guard.

"I would prefer to stay in the engineers," said Staff Sgt. Jesse Peters, a 21-year veteran. "I'm already trained in that field."

Staff Sgt. Hilton Brandful, an 18-year veteran, said the deactivation is like breaking up a family. "A lot of us have been together a long time," he said. "We've been on two ODTs [overseas deployments] and lots of missions."

Teens make a timely turnaround by taking on **YOUTH CHALLENGE**

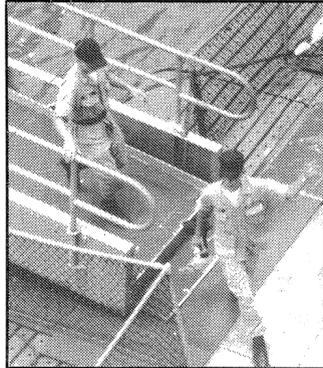
By Spc. Chris Pearson
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

July 30th was a typical summer day in Georgia, with temperatures in the 90s and the deep blue sky blemished only by puffy white clouds. For 125 members of the Georgia Army National Guard's Youth Challenge Program and more than 1,000 family members and friends, however, it was a day to be remembered and cherished. It was the day the graduates received their General Equivalency Diploma (GED) for which they had worked harder than ever before in their lives.

The Youth Challenge Program, established last year at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Stewart, provide an option for high-school dropouts to earn a GED and learn life skills in the structured environment of an Army post.

The program is run by the Georgia Guard and offers fall and spring cycles, each of which accommodates up to 175 male and female students from all over Georgia during the 22-week course. There is no cost to join the program. In fact, students receive weekly cash allowances and a \$2,700 educational stipend when they complete the course. There is a waiting list to enroll.

The class that graduated in July was the program's second, and of the 125 students enrolled, all received GED certificates, a success rate that few high schools ever match, according to Maj. Frank Williams, director of the program.



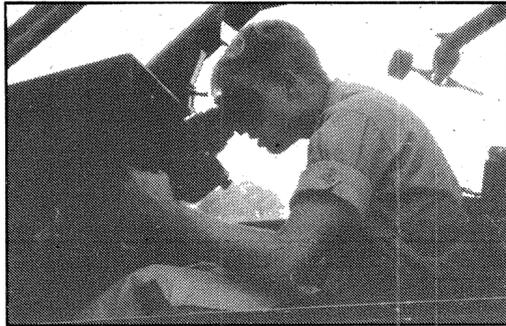
Youth Challenge students board the USS Yorktown during an outing in Charleston, S.C.

"I'm real proud of these kids," Williams said. "It's a tough way to spend 22 weeks, but they really showed us what they're made of."

The Youth Challenge Program is designed to give students solid, structured academics and instill in them a sense of personal and civic responsibility and pride in their accomplishments.

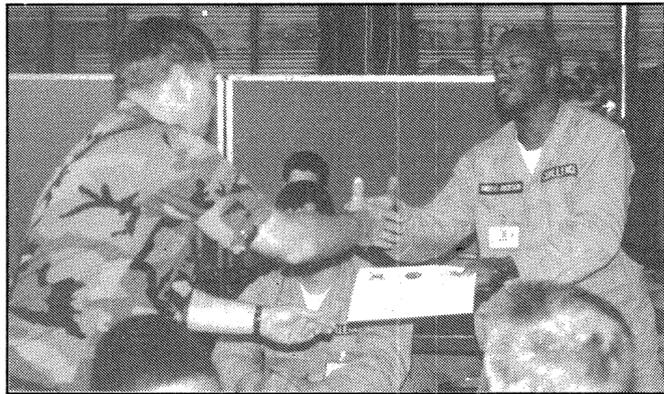
Each class is broken into five platoons which are taught and supervised by a staff of 33 cadre and counselors.

In addition to basic subjects like math, science and social studies, students learn as how to use credit wisely, the importance of good hygiene and physical fitness. Students also learn work skills,



Submitted photos

A Youth Challenge student gets hands-on experience aboard an aircraft at Fort Stewart.



After 22 weeks of intense Army structure and training, a Youth Challenge student receives his certificate of training.

receiving practical hands-on experience in a variety of trades and professions.

The final aspect of the program provides students with limited instruction in military-oriented tasks such as drill and ceremony, rappelling, land navigation and first aid.

"Some of our graduates have gone

on to college, and about 30 have joined the Armed Forces," said 1st Lt. Tim Ohlhaber, Program Counselor and Recruiter. "The important thing is that they have proven to themselves, and to the world, that they are achievers. And with their newfound knowledge and self-discipline, they can become productive members of society."

Various scholarships available to Georgia guardsmen

By Spc. Chris Pearson
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Georgia Army National Guardsmen interested in receiving a college education have two excellent opportunities — scholarships to North Georgia College in Dahlonega and Georgia Military College in Milledgeville.

According to Maj. William A. Jacobs, state recruiting and retention operations officer, up to 66 scholarships are awarded annually to qualified guardsmen by the Georgia State Legislature. Applicants must meet the minimum standards of the Georgia Army National Guard, pass an Army Physical Fitness Test, achieve a minimum SAT score and possess a certain high school grade point average. Students can apply for both scholarships.

The four-year North Georgia

"This school will provide the opportunity for the soldier to develop strong study skills and growth as a leader which will benefit the soldier and the Georgia Army National Guard."

Captain David Bill
director of admissions, at Georgia Military College

College scholarship has been available for about 10 years and covers tuition, room, board, books and fees. Applicants must achieve a minimum of 900 on the SAT and have a 3.0 grade point average. Upon completion of basic training and AIT, the recipient is also eligible for the GI Bill. After graduation and commissioning as a second lieutenant, scholarship recipients must serve four years as a National Guard officer.

"North Georgia College has been extremely successful in providing high-quality junior officers to the Army National Guard," said Maj. Cuyler McKnight, executive officer of the school's ROTC program. "In 1990, the

college was named the top ROTC unit in the country — mainly due to the cadets who came to us through the scholarship program."

Georgia Military College has recently begun offering a two-year State Service Scholarship which covers all applicable fees, books, tuition, room, board and uniform deposit. Applicants must achieve a minimum SAT score of 800 or ACT score of 18, possess a high school GPA of 2.5 and be recommended by their local state representative. They cannot have earned any college credits previously.

Scholarship recipients must perform four years of enlisted service and are

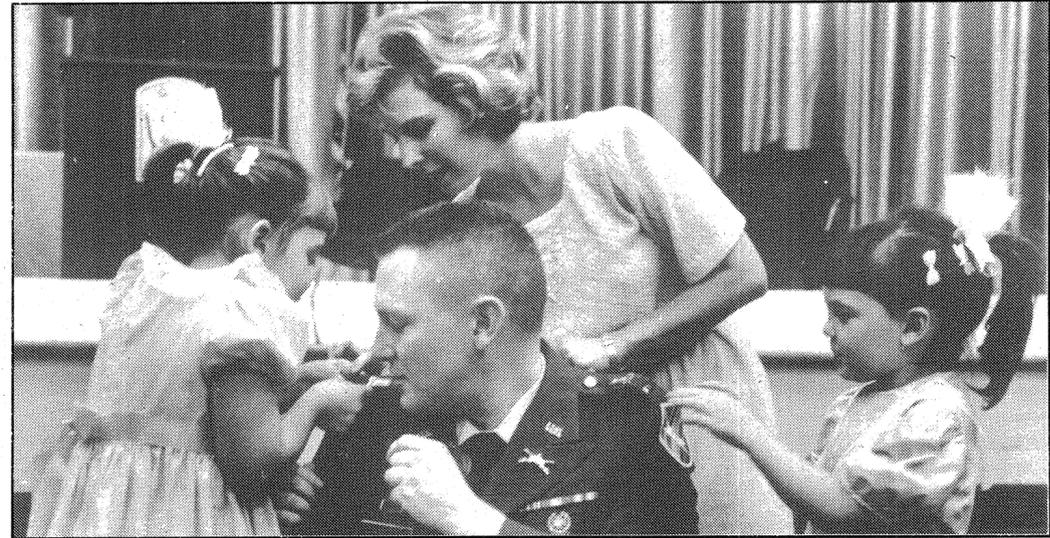
eligible to continue their military education at any four-year college offering senior ROTC instruction leading to a commission and bachelors degree.

"This school will provide the opportunity for the soldier to develop strong study skills and growth as a leader which will benefit the soldier and the Georgia Army National Guard," said Captain David Bill, the school's director of admissions.

Applications for both scholarships can be made through high school guidance counselors. North Georgia College applications are due Jan. 1, 1995, after which qualified applicants will appear before a board of selectors. Scholarship recipients are announced by March 1.

Applications for the State Service Scholarship are due Feb. 1, 1995 and selection interviews will be held later that month. Announcements will be made by April 1.

'Try and try and try'



Photos by Sgt. Fred Baker/124th MPAD

2nd Lt. Bill Baily gets help pinning on his new gold lieutenant bars from his wife, Angela, oldest daughter, Carolyn, left, and her younger sister, Sissy. Baily graduated from Georgia's officer candidate school in August after a year of grueling leadership courses and field training.

A year in training teaches OCS grads dedication, leadership

By Sgt. Fred Baker
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Nineteen officers graduated from Officer Candidate School during the ceremonies held at the Georgia Military Institute in Macon, August 6.

No big deal really. Unless of course you consider that the class began over a year ago with 76 candidates. Only one out of every four students that started the program managed to make it to graduation day, surviving a 16-month curriculum of emotional, physical and psychological stress.

"This is the hardest way to get a commission there is," said Capt. Paul Schmutzler, the senior TAC officer for the course. "And that's why the majority quit."

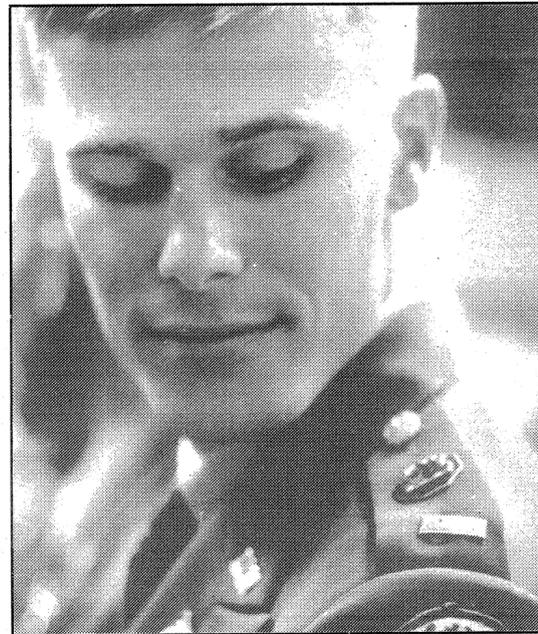
TAC stands for Teach, Advise and Council. That's pretty mild sounding considering what the students actually go through.

"We put these students through as much stress as we can in a controlled situation," said Schmutzler. "Every drill the candidates have to take a PT test. They suffer from sleep deprivation and physical exhaustion, and are forced to make decisions and stick to them."

"Then they basically have 28 days to sit at home and decide whether or not they want to come back."

Three out of four said "no."

"You've got to have a strong will to succeed," said the newly 2nd Lt. Elton Brown. "Right from the beginning everything is hectic and you begin to second guess yourself. It also takes a lot of time during the month to prepare for the drills."



"If you're not totally dedicated, you won't make it," agreed 2nd Lt. Bryan Doker. "You have to refocus your whole energy to come down here on the weekends and make it."

But the commitment was worth it to Doker and his classmates, in exchange for what he said was "a life-changing experience."

During the first annual training candidates are taught land navigation and

2nd Lt. David Venn inspects his new brass shortly after graduating from OCS at the Georgia Military Institute in Macon on Aug. 6.

'This is the hardest way to get a commission there is. And that's why the majority quit.'

Capt. Paul Schmutzler
OCS instructor

candidate must complete the course with an overall average of 90 percent or better.

But it was a little rough getting together at first for Class Number 33.

"This class took a lot longer to 'gel' than most," said Schmutzler. "But once they did, they became more of a family than a class."

Second Lt. Kimberly Gore, the only woman graduate in the class, offered some advice for up and coming candidates.

"Don't stop running, and don't give up. Try and try and try."

The graduates were: 2nd Lts. William Bailey, Frank Baird, Cecil Barden, James Branton, Elton Brown, John Church, Bryan Doker, Jacques Eckles, Tarine Fairman Sr., Anthony Fournier, Kimberly Gore, Paul Hammes, James Hyndman Jr., Michael Lipper, Artie Maxwell Jr., Michael McCall, John Mendoza, Anthony Poole, and David Venn.

Hammes was named Distinguished Honor Graduate and the recipient of the Ericson Trophy.

1994 Atlanta Journal Achievement Awards

Three guardsmen receive prestigious annual award

The 1994 Atlanta Journal and Constitution Awards for outstanding Georgia Army National Guardsmen and Army Reservists were announced during a ceremony at Fort Gillem in September

These annual awards are presented annually to six enlisted soldiers, three each from guard and reserve units in Georgia.

Soldiers are nominated for the awards based on several criteria, including outstanding attendance at drill, loyalty, eagerness and enthusiasm.

Jim Wooten, editorial page editor of the Atlanta Journal, made the presentations.



Award recipients with Gen. Thomas McCullough, left, are, left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Bruce, Staff Sgt. Gregory Roper and Pfc. Phillip Snow.

GUARD SOLDIER OF THE YEAR (private 1 through private first class)

Down at the 178th Military Police Company in Monroe, many of the soldiers were friends with each other before they ever thought about joining the guard.

That's the way it was Pfc. Phillip Snow. A guardsman since January 1993, Snow had wanted to become a military policeman like some of his high school buddies in the 178th.

But he almost didn't take the oath of enlistment. His recruiter informed him that he was 3/4 of an inch too short to meet the 5-foot, 8-inch height requirement to be an MP.

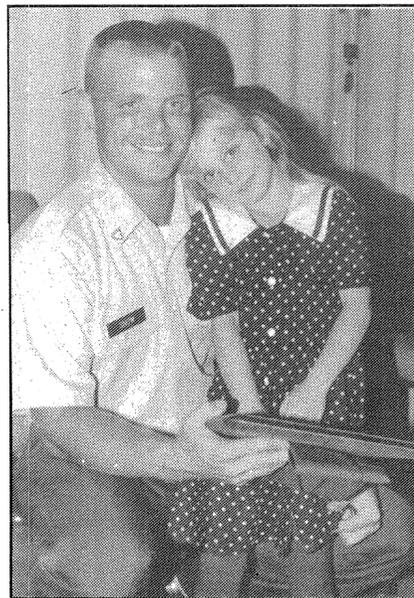
When Snow told him that it was the 178th or nothing, the recruiter did some digging and found that the Monroe MPs needed a supply specialist. Since then, Snow has helped to ensure that the "combat cops" of the 178th have the right gear for their mission.

During the flood relief operations in July, Snow was on the front lines with the 178th. He frequently stood watch with his buddies at security check points in Macon, Albany and Thomas county.

"I've never seen so many people work together," said Snow about his fellow soldiers in the 178th. "There was never any complaining."

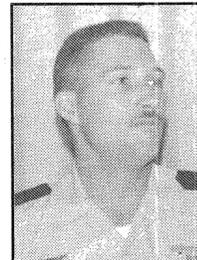
But helping fellow Georgians is nothing new to Snow. The 22-year old from Monroe drives a brick truck in his civilian job and in his spare time he coaches a football team and works with a local youth group.

When he does things for himself Snow likes to dance, play softball, hunt and fish.



Pfc. Phillip Snow, of 178th Military Police Company, poses with his sister, Victoria, 4.

GUARD SOLDIER OF THE YEAR (specialist through staff sergeant)



Staff Sgt. Gregory Loper

When Staff Sgt. Gregory M. Loper joined Service Battery of 118th Field Artillery in Brunswick after 10 years with the 82d Airborne Division, he may have thought he "wasn't in Kansas anymore."

But the airborne trooper made the transition to a Guard "leg" unit, and the battery is a better organization because of it, according to its commander Capt. Frazier L. Pope.

"I wish we had more troops like him," said Pope.

"He's an on-site example for the younger soldiers." Loper wears Canadian jump wings and is a graduate of Canadian Recondo school.

In addition to drilling monthly with the 118th, Loper, 33, works full time with the Counter Drug Program on the Governor's Strike Force. While the possible dangers of that duty are not lost on Loper's wife Lisa, she supports him in his work. "I think it's great," she said. "But I pray angels around him when he goes."

The Lopers have six children, ages 4 through 12 and one is due in January.

In his spare time, Loper likes to build furniture and, when he wants to go fishing, is never lacking a buddy. "He's a real motivator with the kids," said Lisa.

GUARD SOLDIER OF THE YEAR (sergeant first class through sergeant major)

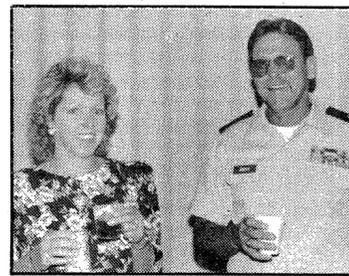
When a tornado devastated downtown Monroe a few years ago, a Georgia Guardsman was on the scene before the governor even thought to call out the troops.

The dust had barely settled when Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Bruce hit the ground running behind the twister to help his neighbors in the aftermath.

Bruce is the motor sergeant for the 178th MP Company in Monroe; his wife Bonnie feels that his enthusiasm and eagerness is probably why he is one of this year's Atlanta Journal and Constitution Award recipients. "He is very much a military man," Bonnie

said. Bonnie is a former member of the 178th, she was a platoon clerk when the couple met. They have two children, Tammy and Michael.

Bruce, a former Marine has been with the Georgia Guard for nearly 19 years; he plans to retire in February 1996. He works as a heating and air-conditioning technician in Athens. He likes to hunt and fish. His advice to younger troops is as simple and direct as Bruce himself - "Go to school," he said.



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Bruce and his wife, Bonnie, take refreshments after the ceremony.



Submitted photo

Guardsmen up for the Peachtree Road Race

Above, Air National Guardsmen and their family members from Atlanta area units pose for a photo before the annual running of the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta in August.

Thousands hit nation's capital to compete in Army Ten-Miler and Marine Corps Marathon

Nearly 24,000 runners pounded Washington streets and roads in consecutive weekend running events sponsored by the Marine Corps and the Army.

About 16,000 runners — half on their first marathon — battled morning long drizzle and slick roads at the 19th Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 23. A week earlier, nearly 8,000 athletes competed in the 10th Army Ten-Miler.

Both events started and finished in Arlington, Va., wit race routes taking runners across Potomac River bridges in the nation's capital.

In the Marine Corps Marathon, Mexican army Sgt. Graciano Gonzales grabbed the top spot, winning the race in 2:22:51. The Mexico City native became the third Mexican in four years to win the men's marathon and the fourth consecutive foreign-born winner.

Finishing second was Army Spc. Gordon Sanders, a legal specialist from Fort Campbell, Ky. Sanders, runner-up at the Army Ten-Miler a week earlier, crossed the finish line in 2:25:06 — two minutes, 15 seconds behind Gonzalez. He beat third place Bob Schwelm of Bryn Mawr, Pa., by 31 seconds. Fourth went to Ginge Gough of Great Britain, who ran a 2:27:56. Mark Hoon of Bethesda, Md., finished fifth with 2:28:12.

Susan Malloy won the women's title in her first marathon attempt with 2:39:34. That time not gave the Charlottesville, Va., runner the 1994 crown, but also a spot in the 1996 women's U.S.

Olympic trials Feb. 10, 1996, in Columbia, S.C.

Air Force Capt. Callie Malloy, not related to the women's winner, finished second with a time of 2:49:46. Assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, she also qualified for the trials, 14 seconds under the 2:50 Olympic qualifying time. The officer also finished second in the Army Ten-Miler a week earlier.

Kim Markland of Dayton, Ohio, ran a 2:53:22 in finishing third. Mary Knight's 2:55:04 gave the Tampa, Fla., resident fourth place. Kathleen Sealer of Rochester, N.Y., finished fifth with 2:55:09.

A pair of Washington-area runners captured top spots at the Army Ten-Miler, held Oct. 16. Peter of Arlington won the men's open competition, while Bonnie Bernard-Lopez of Bethesda captured the women's top honor.

Weilenman completed the 10-mile circuit in 48:33, breaking the course record of 48:49 set in 1991. Weilenman beat sanders by 1:02 in winning his first Ten-Miler championship.

Taking third was Army Spc. Samuel A. Bobbitt of Fort Benning, who finished at 50:45. Spc. Jason Hayes of Fort Carson, Colo., crossed the line six seconds behind Bobbitt for fourth. Pfc. Paul Butterfield of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, finished fifth.

Barnard-Lopez's 56:59 was nearly 90 seconds ahead of Callie Malloy. Leslie Willis of Virginia Beach, Va., finished third at 58:31, followed by Kim McLaughlin of Reston, Va., and Lori Robertson of Fort Lee, Va.

Fitness tips

Going to buy a pair of running shoes can be an overwhelming experience...pairs and pairs of brightly colored shoes that sport exotic names and endorsements from famous athletes.

By Lt. Col. Laura B. Strange
chief nurse, Georgia Army National Guard

With the wide range of price, the question arises, "How do I know what shoes to buy?"

Here's some advise to follow when shopping for running shoes from the folks at Phidippides in Ansley Mall.

- * Be prepared to spend some time when shopping for shoes; don't go in if you are in a rush.
- * Don't take a friend's advice about what shoes to buy; what may be a good shoe for him may not be a good shoe for you.

- * Bring your current running shoes or athletic shoes and and running socks with you.

- * The salesperson should ask you about and check for such things as foot width, foot type (floppy or rigid) and motion tendencies of your foot; actually he should be able to get much of this information from looking at your current shoes.

- * The fit should be comfortable—snug but not tight—a little play in the forefoot is OK—when standing, allow about a thumb's width between your toes and the end of the shoe.

- * You should be allowed to go out on the pavement and run to see how the shoes feel—in addition, the salesperson should watch you run to observe your actual running/foot mechanics.

- * As a rule, try on at least a couple of different models as a comparison.

- * Don't write off a shoe company because of their models didn't work for you.

- * Never let cosmetics or the physical appearance of the shoe be a factor in your decision.

THE UNSUNG HEROES

People behind the scenes keep everything running smooth so the National Guard can train

By Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A team of 55 civilian employees contribute immensely to the comfort and cleanliness of the thousands of Army reservists and National Guard members who train at Fort Stewart every year.

They provide the clean sheets and fresh towels at the National Guard Training Center. They pamper guests with small, fragrant bars of Safeguard soap. They place two plastic drinking cups on the towel at the foot of each bed.

They unstop the drains. They fix the televisions, so baseball fans can watch the Atlanta Braves. And they keep the air conditioners humming, so the troops don't lose their cool.

They're the unsung heroes -- the people whose skill and dedication may be overlooked, unless the roof starts leaking or the taps run dry.

"They're genuinely concerned about serving the troops that train here," said Maj. Kenny Lee, a civil engineer who supervises the NGTC's maintenance program. "They're a wonderful group to



Housekeepers Dona Chavis, left, and Ollie Mock make a bed at the National Guard Training Center. A team of 55 civilian employees helps keep the center running.

work with."

His crew includes plumbers, carpenters, electricians, refrigeration and heating specialists, sheet metal workers and landscapers. The training center staff also includes typists, secretaries, supply clerks, pest killers and housekeepers.

"To a person, they really do take pride in this place," said Lee.

Between 22,000 and 24,000 Guard members and reservists visit the training center each year. Troops from Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and Kentucky come regularly to the training center and it has

had visitors from as far away as Nebraska and New York.

The 743-acre center has 634 buildings and can accommodate up to 12,000 troops, an occupancy level that was almost reached when it became a staging area for troops headed to the Middle East for Operation Desert Storm and for some who stayed behind to help run Fort Stewart.

People like housekeeping manager Doris Chavis, plumber Paul DiNitto, janitor Alice Hines and sheetmetal worker Mike Smiley make good things happen at the training center.



Mike Smiley removes a wooden support at a construction site. Smiley helped build latrines for the Youth Challenge program.

Guardsmen cook up 'the Mess,' ready for competition

By Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor
124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Back home in Valdosta, Bobby Rice sells insurance and Ronald Arnold does landscaping.

But deep in the woods of Fort Stewart, a 280,000 acre Army post near Savannah, Rice and Arnold supervise 23 Georgia Army National Guard cooks who feed 500 combat soldiers three times a day. They are members of the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, which has units in Valdosta, Albany, Moultrie, Cordele, Perry and Hawkinsville.

This year, the 2nd Battalion cooks are trying to reach the Superbowl of Army cuisine. They will compete with all the other cooks in their brigade for a chance to advance a step further in Army



cooking competition. They're judged on cleanliness, food storage, food quality and many other aspects of cooking.

If they survive five years of preliminary competition and a final cook-off, they could win a trophy as

the Army's top food service operation.

"We're going to win. We have a good attitude. Everybody's working well together and morale is high," said Sgt. 1st Class Rice, the battalion's top mess sergeant.

Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Rice, left, and Sgt. Ronald Arnold, both of Valdosta, check canned hams during annual training at Fort Stewart in July.

Rice and Sgt. Arnold, his chief deputy, are the overseers of two mobile kitchen trailers -- the latest in Army chow know-how. The trailers pop up and voila, a stainless empire. There are stainless workbenches, stainless sinks and stainless ladles and spatulas. The kitchen sits about five feet off the ground and has netting to keep insects out.

The kitchens have raised walkways so the cooks can serve troops directly. But at Fort Stewart, where the troops train in several locations, the food is often trucked to them in insulated containers.

The cooks have to get up before daybreak to prepare breakfast and by the time they tidy up, it's just about sundown.