

- page 1 - cover, flood photos & issue highlights.
- page 2 - TAG salutes Georgia Guardsmen assisting with flood relief.
- page 3 - flood Relief photos & messages from CSM Lane, CMSgt. Barber.
- page 4 to 6 - • Flood timeline & photo
• Guardsmen inoculated against diseases could contract in relief mission.
- PAGE 7 - producing clean water article, "Too much water then none."
- page 8 - photos, water purification equipment & story "One State's Guard Helping Another".
- PAGE 9 - photos. "120,000 Gallons A DAY". "Mall Becomes Oasis for Waterless Macon" (distribution)
- PAGE 10 - damage to Montezuma & Americus.
- PAGE 11 - Macon Co. welcomes 878th ENG.
- page 12 - damage to ALBANY.
- page 13 - protecting hospital in Albany.
- PAGE 14 - Guardsman rescues civilian in Albany
• For G2 ARNG Engineers, "this was our Desert Storm"
- PAGE 15 - In the Rear in Tifton, providing support with supply distribution; mechanical repair & other needed items for the GA. Guard's relief mission.
- PAGE 16 - Terrell County damage.
- PAGE 17 - Bainbridge misses brunt of flooding. Engineers, 560th, sandbag fertilizer plant.
- PAGE 18 - "Helping the Helpers"
- PAGE 19 - MP's make neighborhoods SAFE
- PAGE 20 - 148th Medical Co. - Lifeline for Lee Co.
• Guard Aviation critical to relief mission
- page 21 - Fund established for Guardsmen who lost homes in flood.
- PAGE 22 - Relief efforts by GUARD.
- PAGE 23 - political Attention to Flood/Relief.
- PAGE 24 - FLOOD FACTS/UNITS IN Flood Relief

Georgia Guard Responds Our Communities Under Water

Georgia
Guardsman

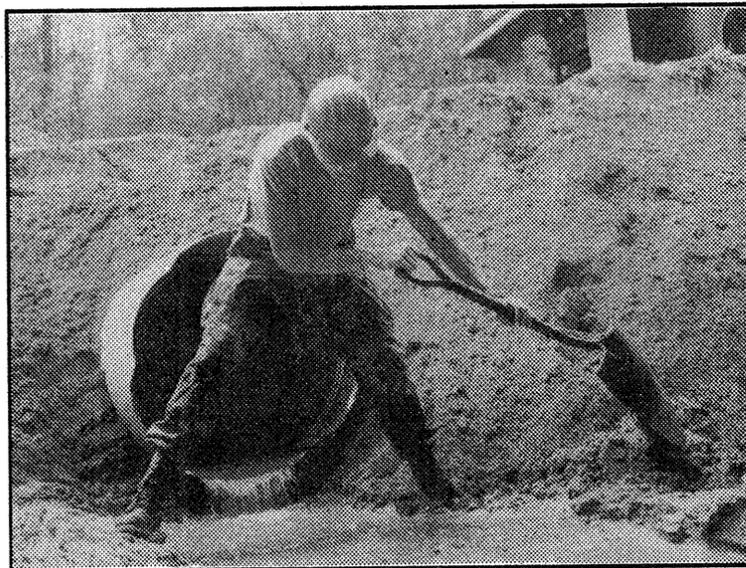
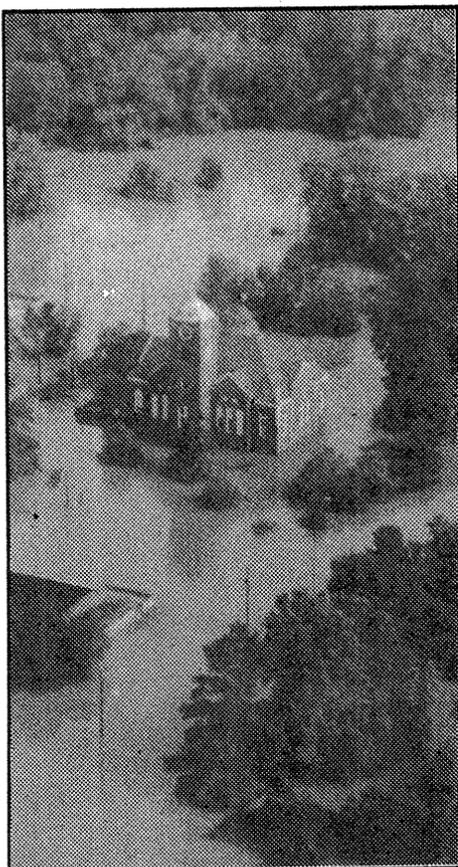
Vol. 13 No 3.
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Special Flood Issue



Photo by Spc. Rob Halner/124th MPAD

Downtown Montezuma sits under nearly 10 feet of water in early July. Flooding from the Flint River washed out bridges in the town cutting off roughly 2,000 residents for several days.



(Left) The second floor of Newton town hall stands above the flood waters as stores on the main street only have their roofs visible. (Photo by Sr. Airman Leslie Branson, 165th Communications Squadron). (Top) This soldier, a member of the 878th Engineer Bn., based in Savannah, clears a new culvert during flood recovery operations in Montezuma. (Photo by Spec. Rob Halner, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.)

● "Never more proud" of the Guard says the Adjutant General. His thoughts, **Page 2.**

● More than 21 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. A day-by-day account, starting on **Page 4.**

● Macon had too much water, then none for 18 days. Army, Air Guard provided relief. **Page 7.**

● Montezuma's downtown business district was under water for five days. Air Guard, Army Engineers aided recovery. **Page 10.**

● The nation's attention focused on Albany, where the 48th and 265th maintained task force headquarters. **Page 12.**

● Keeping front line troops supplied was the job of the 148th Support Battalion, set up in Tifton. **Page 15.**

● The feared disaster was averted at Bainbridge, but the Guard was prepared. **Page 17.**

● At least 42 guardsmen were victims of the flood. We help our own. **Page 21.**

● How did we perform? Some comments from victims and soldiers on **Page 22.** Community leaders speak their minds on **Page 23.**

● Who participated? A city-by-city tally is on **Page 24.**



Spec. Joe Castongia of Americus kisses his wife Lisa goodbye after she drops off some home cooking at the armory. Guardsmen weren't the only ones who sacrificed time and energy for the flood relief efforts — their families, too, are very important to the success of the Georgia Guard's mission. (Photo by Spec. Mike Carr, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.)

NEVER MORE PROUD

Adjutant General Salutes You For Guard's Success

The past several weeks have been some of the most incredible I've seen in my 35 year military career. And never have I been more proud of the Georgia National Guard. From Clayton County all the way to the Florida-Georgia boarder, The citizens of our state found out what we mean when we say we are "Georgian's helping Georgian's."

It is impossible to list the individuals, units and organizations who helped make our flood relief operations a success. At its peak we had more than 3,800 Georgia Air and Army National Guard members participating. A number of you suffered flood damage in your own homes, but when the call came you responded. That is the true spirit of the Georgia Guard.

I am also impressed with the speed with which this operation began. During the course of my travels around the state, I talked to some soldiers and airmen who began their day as normal by reporting to their civilian jobs. By late that afternoon, however, they were in uniform and on-site in one of the flood stricken areas, helping the local citizens.

Through it all, the support by families, employers and local communities was inspiring. I was especially impressed by the communities which the National Guard helped. In every town, through every suburb, the local residents literally rolled out the welcome mat for our Guard

members. There are countless stories of restaurants refusing to accept money for meals, of small children bringing cookies and other snacks to Guardsmen on duty, and of the local residents stopping soldiers and airmen on the sidewalk simply to offer a word of thanks and encouragement.

As we look back on "Operation Crested River" we need to remember the many unsung heroes who helped make the project a success. Not only are those that served on the front lines to be congratulated, but also those who hauled fuel, cooked meals, turned wrenches and ordered supplies. The team in the Emergency Operations Center worked around the clock from the very beginning of the operation to the end.

Even the process of paying those on state active duty was a monumental task. A joint team made up of Army and Air Guardsmen along with state employees worked countless evening and weekend hours and by the time the operation was completed more than 9,000 checks were manually processed.

Finally, I am proud of the joint effort we saw during "Crested River." In Macon, for example, the task force was commanded and controlled by an Air Guard staff, and consisted of Air Guard, Army Guard, Alabama Guard and active component forces, all working together to get the job done.

As I look back on the efforts of the past couple weeks, I can't help but think how proud I am of each and everyone of you for the contributions you made to our flood relief efforts. I salute you.



Maj. Gen. William P. Bland, Adjutant General of the Georgia National Guard, talks with troops about security operations while on state active duty.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN
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Citizens' Generosity And Appreciation Greatest Compliment To Guardsmen

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Lane
Command Sergeant Maj., GaARNG

As an Albany native, I've spent much more time in that Southwest Georgia city, split by normally low and slow Flint River. Needless to say, while a youngster I never saw Albany in anywhere near the conditions I've seen it lately.

The flooded homes seemed to easily outnumber those untouched by the Flint's record heights. Let's hope this is truly the kind of disaster that happens once every 500 years.

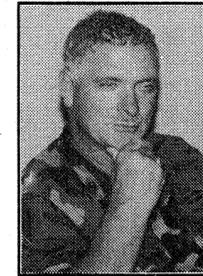
But the good news, from our perspective, is that guard troops showed once again the stuff of which they are made.

And that is some mighty good stuff.

In fact, you troops performed so well throughout the ordeal that local governments devised creative — sometimes devious — ways to keep you in town, and on the job.

And when you think about it, and set aside some of the methods used, that really amounts to a compliment to all of us.

Georgia's city fathers from Albany, Cordele, Montezuma, Americus, Bainbridge — and all the way up to Middle Georgia's Macon and Warner-Robins — earned a healthy respect for guard troops.



But perhaps the "bottom up" feedback from local citizens is the highest compliment of all.

The free show-lines, and frequent curb delivery of food from locals to our people showed the spirit. Places like Newton's Free Will Baptist Church routinely replaced our

MRE with home-cooked meals around the clock. That sort of kind cooperation and heartfelt support showed that the Flood of '94 relief effort was truly a two-way street.

Sure, those flooded out badly needed our help. But we needed help, too. And we got it.

I've never seen Albany flooded like I've seen it recently. It may take another 500 years, or 500 days. No one knows for sure.

But we know the guard will be there, and the Guard's troops will do well.

Chief Proud Of Guard's Mission And Airmen's Self-Sacrifice

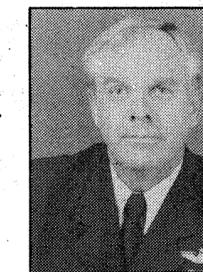
By Chief Master Sgt. Don Barber
Senior Enlisted Advisor, GaANG

It is a pleasure to continue the Chief's column and to have the opportunity to share with you my thoughts on the Air National Guard and the well-being of its members. As the new Air National Guard Chief in Georgia, I look forward to hearing from you and being your representative at the senior command level.

This is an especially appropriate time for me to acknowledge the more than 700 Air National Guardsmen whose lives were interrupted to assist fellow Georgians in what is the worst natural disaster in Georgia's history. This issue of the Georgia Guardsman chronicles the events and activities of the many individuals and units which faithfully responded to the flood victims across the state.

We must not forget, however, that many of our fellow Air Guardsmen were themselves victims, suffering from the ravages of flooded homes, destroyed property or the loss of employment because of the flood. Our thoughts are with them and their families during times of personal crisis.

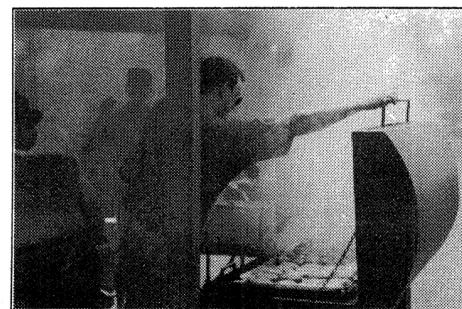
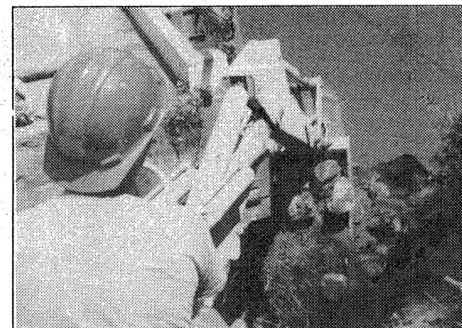
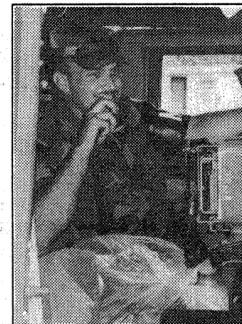
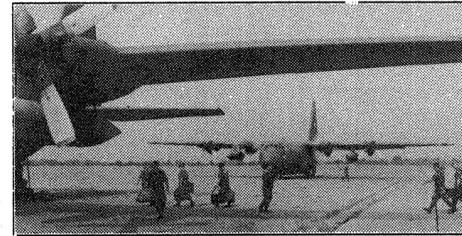
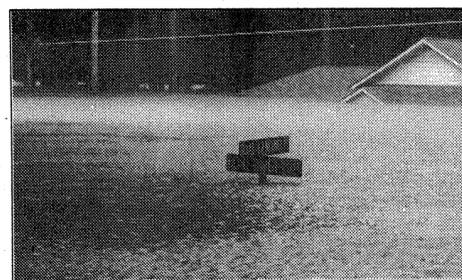
The flood of south Georgia provides us with a textbook example of the dual mission of the National Guard. As citizen soldiers, we are trained to assume a wide variety of uncommon roles such as this...from purifying water and designing a distribution system for a population of 150,000; to repairing roads, bridges and infrastructure, to supplementing the medical services for communities whose resources were tasked to the limit. In this emergency, we were prepared to perform these missions and many more.



Air guardsmen established the statewide emergency communications network assuring that manpower and equipment went immediately to areas that needed them. C-130 crews flew countless missions carrying supplies from medicine to sandbags, water

buffaloes to trucks and trailers. Security police units beefed up local law enforcement and provided round-the-clock protection of for flooded homes and businesses. Three Air Guard Emergency Operations Centers went into operation within 24 hours of the first flooding and continued around-the-clock operations for weeks. Nearly the entire 202 EIS in Macon was called to state active duty to help their neighbors in middle Georgia's capitol city.

Although the staggering toll of the disaster is yet to be totaled, its devastating effects will linger for many years. I am proud that our men and women were ready to do what had to be done in this time of greatest need. I salute each of you and applaud your unselfish commitment to your fellow Georgians.



It was one of the most devastating natural disasters in state history. Some called it a 500-year-flood. For the National Guard, it was '150 miles of activity all going on at the same time,' said Maj. Gen. William P. Bland. 'I can't think of anything we would do of this magnitude again.' The full story, day-by-day.

Tuesday, July 5

In the 24 hours beginning at 7 a.m. on July 5, the City of Americus recorded 21.10 inches of rain. In Plains, hometown of former President Jimmy Carter, 24.04 inches were recorded in the two-week period ending July 13.

In that same two-week period, Macon recorded 15.27 inches, Albany 9.67 and Bainbridge, 6.02.

What caused them? Weak winds over the southeast caused Tropical Storm Alberto to stall over Georgia. The storm was headed north through Georgia on July 3 and 4, but then reversed its course and drifted south on Tuesday, July 5, because the region's steering currents were too weak to push it north.

The heavy rains wreak havoc from South Metro Atlanta southward.

Operation Crested River begins.

Wednesday, July 6

Dams break. Roads wash out. Ocmulgee and Flint River floods extend beyond 100-year flood plains. Devastation is widespread. Death toll mounts.

Six armories are opened as shelters. By the end of the day, 157 Guardsmen are on state active duty. Emergencies abound. Macon water system is inundated by floodwaters. The 48th Brigade transports 7,500 gallons of water to



These members of 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, Headquarters Company, Georgia Army National Guard work diligently sandbagging a flood-threatened hospital in Albany. (Photo by Spec. Mike Carr, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Bibb County. Seven dialysis patients are transported by the brigade. Guardsmen transport IV fluids from Eggleston Children's Hospital to a Warner Robins patient.

Thursday, July 7

Decision is made to activate the 48th Brigade headquarters to command and control the flood relief task force. The 148th Medical Company from Dobbins ARB begins medical evacuation missions and transports three critical patients from Leesburg to hospitals in Albany.

By 6 p.m., a flash flood warning is in effect for Crawford, Crisp, Dooley, Houston, Peach and Bibb Counties.

The Ocmulgee river gauge at Macon

raging waters swept away. The river crests more than 17 feet above flood stage. Portions of Baconton evacuated due to rising waters on the Flint. Dougherty County reports evacuating 11,000 people. Total Guard members on duty: 219.

Friday, July 8

Guard strength is up to 839. Record crest of 36 feet is expected today on Flint River at Montezuma. Sixty-three members of 560th Engineer Battalion dispatched to build sandbag levee. Flooding expected to knock out roads, sewage treatment plant. Fifty-nine members of 560th sent to Dawson. Record crest expected Saturday. Dam at Lake Blackshear breaches, causing 2,500 people to flee to higher ground. Guard busy assisting curfew enforcement, removing debris, evacuating residents of flood-threatened areas, distributing and filling 20,000 sandbags, and providing drinking water. Aviators search for motorists and cars swept away by floods. Alabama Army National Guard water purification unit arrives to assist in Macon. Flint and Ocmulgee continue to rise. Many small towns are completely flooded.

Saturday, July 9

Guard strength more than doubles to 1,990. The 48th Brigade Task Force, commanded by Col. Robin Hughes, is established at Darton College in Albany with a logistics base in Bainbridge and Macon. One hundred military police are moved to Montezuma to prevent looting, assist in traffic control and provide search and rescue. The 170th MP Battalion is activated, departs for Thomasville, to redeploy to Bainbridge and Albany.

Sunday, July 10

In Sumter County, one of the hardest-hit areas in Georgia, Guard engineers remove dead cattle, repair culverts and conduct search and rescue missions. "We are here to put Sumter County back together so that people can travel to and from work and can move about freely," said Capt. Hugh E. Jeffers, commander, Co. C, 878th Engineer Battalion, Lyons. The 86 members of the company divided into four or five work details. "If bridges or culverts have become impassable, we will construct temporary roads. People may not be able to travel 55 mph, but they will be able to get from one point to another," he said.

Monday, July 11

Guard strength reaches 2,877. The river crests in Albany. Bridges are out, making travel between the east and west sides of Albany impossible. Guard aviators transport critical supplies and key medical personnel across the city. Winder-based Co. B, 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation, flew public officials and supplies ranging from diapers to clothing to "care" packages into isolated areas. "The towns just look like lakes," said Lt. Lee Dickson. In Baker County, the raging Flint crested at 46 feet, 22 feet above flood stage. The guard arrived over the weekend and worked with about 50 residents Monday to load sandbags for the Baker County Health Center and Newton Baptist Church. The 2nd Battalion, 121 Infantry spreads out from Albany to Americus and Cordele to provide security and assist in flood relief activities. Task Force Lynn, commanded by Air Guard Lt. Col. Tommy Lynn, is established at Macon to manage water purification and distribution efforts.

Tuesday, July 12

In an effort to stave off a potential environmental disaster, engineers work around the clock to construct a ten-foot berm around an ammonia tank at a fertilizer plant near the Flint River in Bainbridge. Officials speculate that if water reaches the chemical, the entire city may have to be evacuated. The 560th Engineer Battalion, raised many of the berms and sandbag walls, including the Vigoro Corp.'s riverside fertilizer plant. First Sgt. James Redmon, an 18-year-veteran, is proud to be a part of the rescue effort. "You can't beat Mother Nature, but I'm hoping to cut down our losses. We're here to save lives and property — the mission is quite simple in that respect."

Water needs in Macon become critical. The active Army's 559th Quartermaster Co. joins Task Force Lynn.

Wednesday, July 13

President Clinton visits the disaster area. Air National Guard security police are moved to Albany to assist with security and prevent night looting. Engineers begin constructing floors for voting stations in six locations and emergency road repairs in Sumter County. In Bainbridge, residents get good news when they are told the river will crest lower than expected.

In Macon County, guardsmen in masks, rubber boots and gloves used pitchforks to pick up 250,000 chickens along a rural road. The chickens were from 17 chicken houses damaged in the flood. "When you load them onto the dump trucks, they turn into a gel," said Sgt. Terry Gaultney, supervisor of a guard crew assisting in the cleanup.

Thursday, July 14

Operating more than 500 vehicles, the 48th Infantry Brigade has filled some 53,500 sandbags and is producing and transporting an average of nearly 400,000 gallons of water per day. Law enforcement officials in Albany request 40 night vision devices and 6 HMMWVs for use in surveillance and security operations. As flood waters subside, looters are beginning to break into homes. Quitman County added to presidential declaration for disaster, bring the total counties to 43.

Friday, July 15

The flood crests in Bainbridge at nearly seven feet below original projections. The worst of the disaster is past. Monroe's 178th Military Police Co., working with Bainbridge law enforcement officials, deters most all looting. In Albany infantrymen from Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 121 Infantry begin conducting night and river patrols. Marietta's 265th Engineer Group, commanded by Col. Ben Grinstead, begins to assume command and control of flood relief efforts, establishing headquarters at Dougherty County Jail.

Saturday, July 16

As water recedes, engineer assessment teams begin the process of surveying flooded areas to determine the types of engineer support needed. Equipped with dump trucks, bulldozers, road graders and other heavy equipment, more combat engineers move into position to do cleanup missions.

Sunday, July 17

Security presence in Bainbridge decreases and the 178th MPs move to Albany. Search and rescue continues in Americus while engineers make emergency road repairs in Dawson. Surveillance helicopters continue to support local officials with night missions in Albany. Guard helicopters provide emergency transport of pharmacists and medicine to Newton. Shower units are set up in Albany by the Air Guard's 129th ACS. Strength reaches its peak of 3,683.

Monday, July 18

The guard moves into the clean-up phase of operations as command and control of the task force officially moves from the 48th Infantry Brigade to the 265th Engineer Group. Guard members set up temporary polling places. In Americus, tents are erected for tomorrow's primary election.

Tuesday, July 19

Election day. Guardsmen assist in setting up polling places.

The Flood of '94

One Day at a Time

Wednesday, July 20

Engineers assist with destruction of condemned public housing units in Albany, while 25 members of the Air Guard's 116th Security Police Squadron, provide armed security at food stamp distribution points in Macon.

Thursday, July 21

Two water purification units move from Bainbridge to Macon as water availability continues to be a serious problem for Bibb County.

Friday, July 22

Water purification units are producing more than 600,000 gallons per day. Engineers support includes hasty road repair and debris removal in Taylor and Crawford Counties and debris removal in Smithville. First Battalion, 214th Field Artillery returns to home station.

Saturday, July 23

Alabama National Guard moves dump trucks to Americus. Cleanup missions in Montezuma, Reynolds and Americus pass to the 878th Engineer Battalion from the 560th.

Sunday, July 24

Missions remaining include; engineers, security, water and aviation in Bainbridge; water and security in Macon; security, aviation and coffin recovery in Albany; engineers in Dawson; security and engineers in Montezuma; communications, security and water in Newton; lights and generator in Cordele; security and engineers in Americus; and security in Leesburg.

Monday, July 25

Water is restored to Macon. Alabama's 1200th Quartermaster disengages. Military police units return to Atlanta and Monroe. LRSU returns to home station. Clean-up, aviation and limited security missions remain.

Tuesday, July 26

The Air National Guard relocates a Red Cross service center. The engineers have been busy with so many projects that their tires are wearing out. Maintenance puts replacement and repair contingencies in place.

The government adds two more counties to the presidential disaster declaration bringing it up to 49.

Wednesday, July 27

The Guard flew Dr. James Quigley, veterinarian for the state responsible for accounting for animals deaths due to the flood, over the flood area in his assessment of wildlife and livestock losses.

Six guardsmen are assigned to FEMA as warehousemen.

Thursday, July 28

Mission accomplished -- the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron gets to go home. Engineer debris removal and road repair missions continue.

Friday, July 29

Armed soldiers guard food stamp distribution points. Nearly \$14,000,000 in emergency food stamps have been issued to date.

Saturday, July 30

Total counties claimed by the federal government as disaster areas increases to 52. Infrastructure damage reaches nearly \$203,000,000 and 100,000 of the nearly 400,000 acres of farmland originally flooded in early July are still submerged.

Sunday, July 31

Though the guardsmen are tired, morale is still high as they work steadfastly to accomplish their missions on time.

Friday, August 5

With mission completed Operation Crested River comes to a close and most Georgia guardsmen return home. About 30 engineers remain in Newton to complete projects.

Guardsmen Get Inoculated Against Disease During Flood Fight

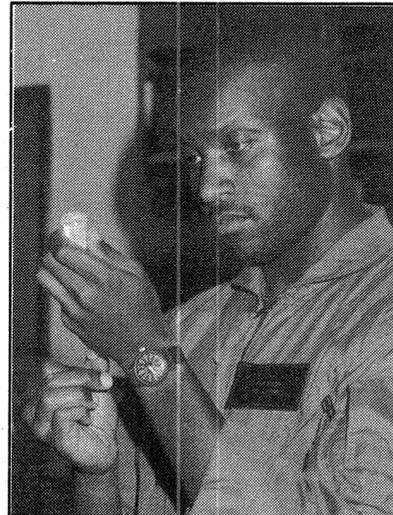
Georgia National Guardsmen on flood relief duty got a shot in the arm -- literally.

A nine-member shot team comprised of nurses and medics traveled south from Albany, inoculating guardsmen against typhoid, diphtheria, tetanus and other illnesses which guardsmen could contract in the course of their rescue efforts.

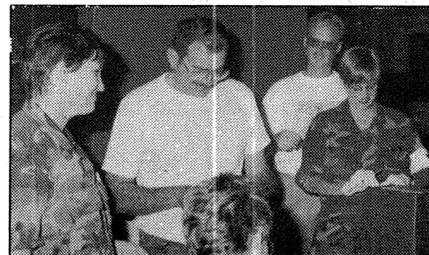
"It's part of our standard operating procedure," said Maj. Don Venn, deputy military personnel officer for the Georgia Army National Guard. "In fact, instead of giving these shots after the troops have been deployed, we're administering these inoculations as a unit is mobilized."

These shots are necessary, Venn said, because guardsmen often wade through murky, muddy water, and come in contact with dead animals, corpses, and other potential health hazards.

(Left to right) Capt. Victoria Smith, Staff Sgt. John Highsmith and Tech. Sgt. Gary Clark, 165th Airlift Group members, prepare to receive tetanus and "GG" shots from Maj. Nancy Middlebrook, Georgia Army National Guard. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Gerald Long, 165th Communications Squadron)



Sgt. Kevin Canady, Georgia Army National Guard, prepares a shot to protect deployed guardsmen from contaminated flood waters in Bainbridge.



Too much WATER Then NONE

Within two days of the crisis, units of the Georgia Air and Army National Guard, and the active Army were on the scene. The major mission was to produce clean water from the mud and silt laden river and nearby Lake Tobesofkee and manage distribution of water to a population whose taps were dry and toilets unflushable. Georgia guardsmen also provided security and assisted local law enforcement officials.

By July 7th, the river crested to a record level of 35 feet. At the height of the crisis, which many Georgians are calling the state's worst natural disaster, approximately 150,000 acres of land in Bibb County were under water, hundreds of homes had been destroyed, mail service was discontinued and three people had lost their lives. To make matters worse, assistance from volunteers and rescue personnel was hampered by the closing of segments of Interstates 75 and 16 and U.S.41, some of which were five feet under water. Specially equipped National Guard vehicles provided most of the access to the area until days later when flood waters began to recede.

More than 650 guardsmen and Army active duty personnel were involved in the effort which became known as "Task Force Macon." Lt. Col. Torjmy Lynn, Deputy Commander of Logistics at the 116th Fighter Wing commanded the task force--a vital part of the emergency team composed of Macon city officials and the local Emergency Management Director, the Georgia Forestry Service and other local emergency volunteer agencies.

"Our earliest challenge was to locate and muster enough water purification equipment to begin urgent water purification operations" says Lynn.

Also responding to the Georgia emergency was the 1200th Civil Engineering Company from the Alabama National Guard, which deployed 20 guardsmen and purification equipment to Macon within three days of the crisis. Joining in the massive water purification operation was the active duty 559th Quartermaster Battalion from Fort Stewart. The two units produced more than one million gallons of clean water per day.

The distribution of water from the Macon Coliseum to distribution sites throughout the city continued nonstop for more than 20 days. Guardsmen working 12 to 14 hour shifts made as many as 21 trips each day hauling water to distribution points. Midway through the crisis, the guard doubled the number of drivers to keep abreast of the ever-increasing demand.

Three-hundred gallon water buffaloes lined distribution points where guardsmen delivered jugs to cars and filled resident's containers like a fast food restaurant drive-through. The guardsmen told of a Macon resident who pulled up to a distribution point with his washing machine, complete with

laundry, in the back of his truck and asked for a fill up so he could finish his load.

Guardsmen assisting in the disaster relief faced many of the same problems which plagued Macon residents. Those called to state active duty in the early days of the crisis often went for more than a week without showers and clean uniforms.

According to Lynn, "the community's relationship with the men and women in the guard assisting in the relief effort was often surprising." Farmers would bring pickups filled with watermelons for the guardsmen, local fast food restaurants delivered hot food and pizza and even private citizens would bring home-baked desserts.

When the water resources of the city were completely down during this crisis guard and active-duty units provided the resources to re-established the citizenry's desperately needed basic services.

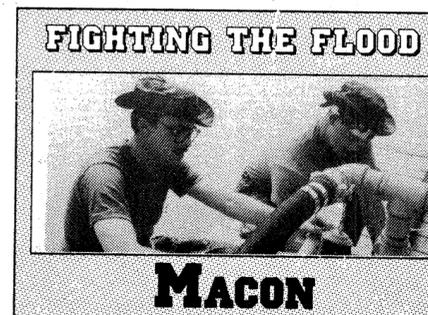


Story by Maj. Ken Baldowski, GaANG and Spec. Chris Pearson, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

For Macon, the devastating effects of Georgia's worst flood came in sinister and immediate form--no water. For almost three weeks after the flood of '94, this middle Georgia city residents measured their lives a gallon of water at a time.

Torrents of rain began falling on Independence Day weekend spoiling not only holiday celebrations, but foreboding a crisis the making. The Ocmulgee River flowing through central Macon was joined by swollen waters from rivers as far as 60 miles north. Cresting its banks at a record-setting 24 feet above flood stage, the Ocmulgee ravaged Macon's water treatment plant and bringing to a halt Macon's only clean water production capability.

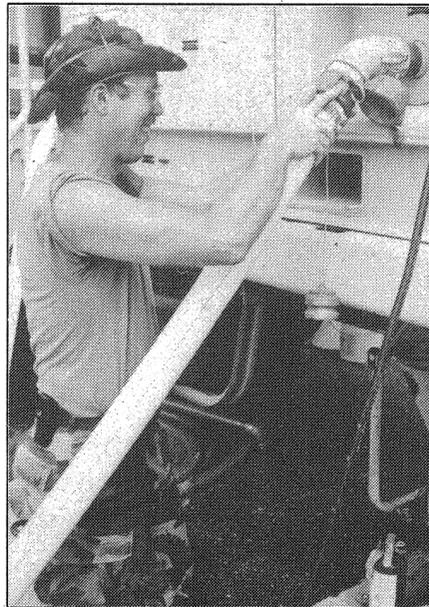
As the muddy waters of the swollen Ocmulgee River covered front porches, automobiles and roads, men, women and children made daily treks to National Guard-operated distribution points for the water they would use to bathe, cook and wash clothes. They scraped mud from kitchen floors after flood waters receded. And while a fortunate few struggled to keep their businesses open, most simply closed up shop, waited, and prayed.



The Flood of '94 -- One Day at a Time



Lt. Col. Tommy Lynn, Deputy Commander of Logistics for the 116th Fighter Wing and Macon Task Force Commander for the flood relief, surveys his area of operations from a bird's-eye view.



Master Sgt. Mitch Belanger from the 116th Civil Engineer Squadron (top right) connects an intake hose to water purification equipment.

One State's Guard Helping Another

Wetumpkans Answer The Call For Fresh Water In Macon

Story by Spec. Jimmy Lanham III, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Spec. David Materna, a water purification specialist with the 1207th Quartermaster Company from Wetumpka, Ala., was one of an elite team of guardsmen tasked with the effort of providing Macon with potable water.

The purification team set up operations on the shore of Lake Tobesofkee to begin the high-tech process of extracting drinkable water.

The process is complex and extremely thorough, utilizing an intricate system of pumps, filters and chemical additives designed to remove undesirable elements.

The teams use reverse osmosis water purification units (ROWPUs), which are basically water treatment plants on wheels. The first stage involves passing untreated lake water through a screen-type mesh filter attached to the end of the intake hose. This prevents fish and large debris from being sucked into the system.

The water then passes into the raw water pump, which sends it to the second filtering device, known as a cyclone separator, to remove sediment. From there, the water moves up the intake hose into a the vehicle housing most of the filtration system.

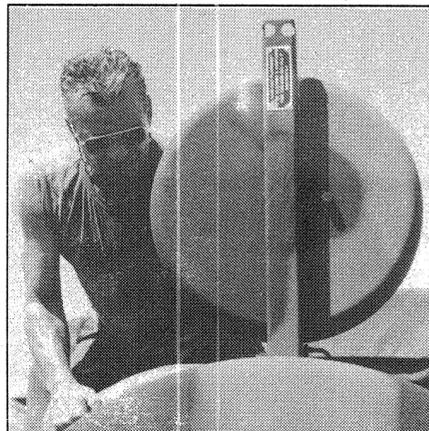
At this stage, water passes through another, finer screen filter before progressing to the media filter, which is made up of alternating layers of gravel and sand.

The water then moves through 10 four-foot-long tubular cartridge filters which contain a yarn-like material similar to that found in aquarium filters. The final stage includes passing water through a series of 12 reverse osmosis vessels, after which a specific amount of chlorine is added to eliminate harmful microorganisms.

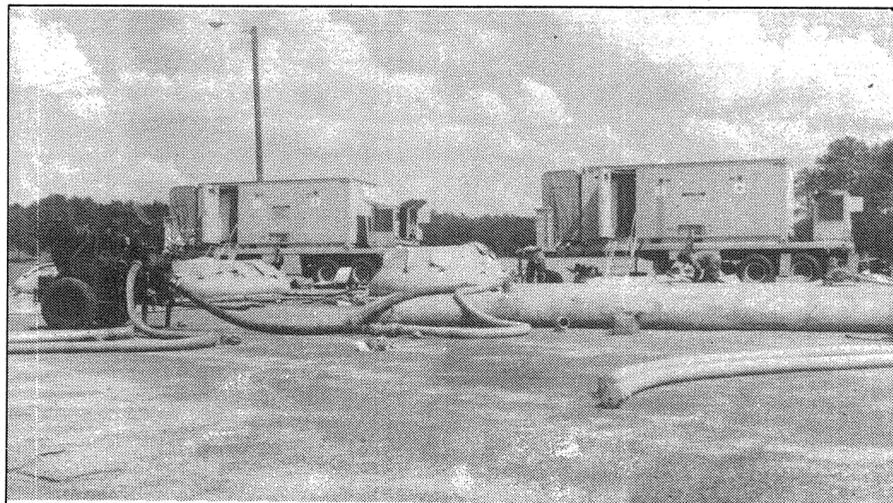
Water that has passed through the purification system and has been checked to ensure that chlorine content does not exceed 10 parts per million is considered finally safe for human consumption.

"We can provide about 3,000 gallons of potable water per hour from one ROWPU," says Materna. It's a complex process, and an important one during emergencies like this."

When we weren't soaked—we baked. (below) Members of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard worked hard in uncomfortable conditions during the flood relief effort.



Senior Airman Ben Moulern (right) and Staff Sgt. Raney Caudle check water intake hoses to purify lake water for use by the city of Macon (Air Guard photo). Members of the 1200 Quartermaster Battalion, Alabama ARNG (below) set up water purification equipment on the lake's shore. (Photo by Sgt. Scott Riegel, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Sweetening The Well; 120,000 Gallons A Day

For Captain David Shaw, business was good. And that's bad.

Shaw, commander of the Alabama Army National Guard's 1207th Quartermaster Company, was recently busy setting up water purification sites for flooded areas left without clean drinking water.

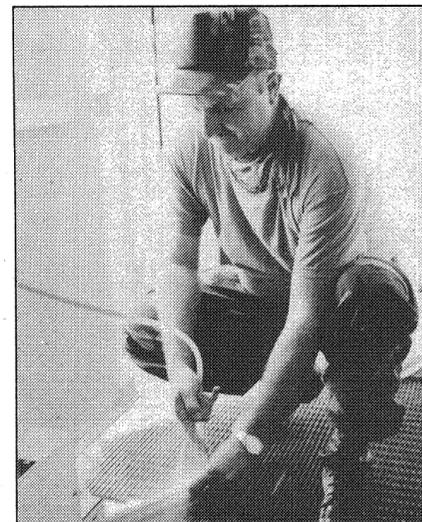
He established a site in Ozark, Ala., on July 6th, and then flew to Macon to set up another the next day. Days later, he flew to Camp Shelby, Miss., to prepare another site. His work resulted in the pumping of more than 120,000 gallons of potable water every 24 hours.

The veteran water purification expert, who has purified millions of gallons of water in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Panama, Equador, Honduras and Egypt, simply says, "I feel good about what my team and I do."

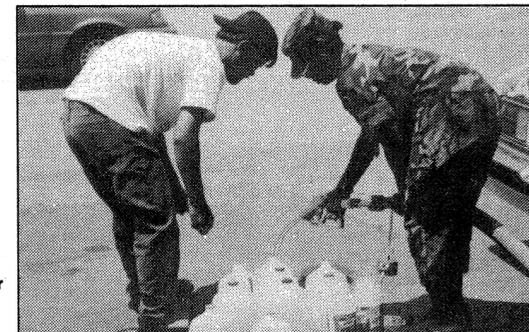
In the aftermath of the flood, the Macon site purified and pumped 60 gallons of clean drinking water per minute, with a storage capacity of 55,000 gallons.

The more water you have purified and stored, the better," said Sgt. Timothy Vickers of the 1207th. "Trucks can come in and haul away as much as 20,000 gallons in one day."

For Vickers, it was a challenge he readily accepted. When you have a whole town that is relying on you for water, it makes all your hard work worthwhile," he said.



Staff Sgt. Duane Frie, a member of the 116th Civil Engineer Squadron, keeps clean water flowing to Macon residents.



(Right) This Georgia Army National Guard soldier put in 12-hour days distributing clean water to the residents of Macon.



Mall Becomes Oasis For Waterless Macon

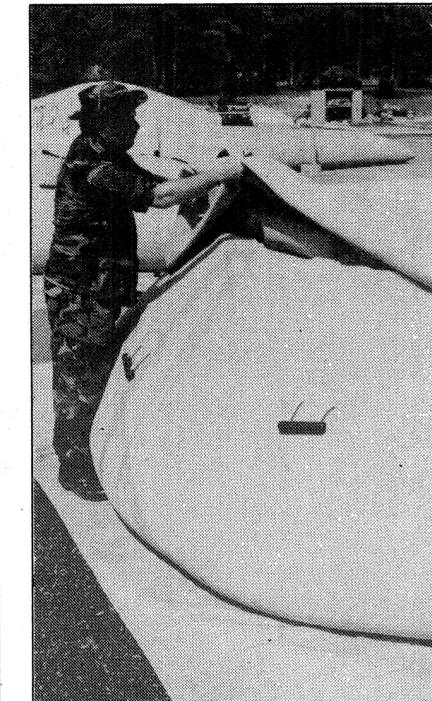
It was just three o'clock the afternoon of July 9th and already thousands of cars had passed Spec. Gary Griffin.

The four-year veteran of the 178th Military Police Company from Monroe was standing at the entrance to a local shopping mall in Macon, helping organize the water distribution efforts for local flood victims.

It's been a busy day so far," said Griffin between blowing his whistle and directing traffic. "But it really gets busy after five o'clock when everyone starts getting off work."

Temperatures reached well into the 90s during Griffin's 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. shift, but even with the heat, the traffic and the desperation for clean drinking water, tempers stayed pretty cool, he said.

Overall, people are pretty grateful for what we're doing out here," said Griffin. But that's usually the case, he explained. Griffin has worked disaster relief during snow storms and after tornadoes, doing everything from protecting retail stores from looters to going door-to-door to make sure residents are safe.



(Above) Master Sgt. Willis Dorsey, 116th Civil Engineer Squadron checks the level of a water bladder.

(Left) Col. John Oldfield, 165th Airlift Group commander addresses the security police squadron prior to their departure for Macon.

Downtown DOWN UNDER



The flood so devastated downtown Montezuma that many residents wondered whether it could ever come back. For five days, the central business district was under as much as 10 feet of water.

While there were no fatalities, 60 downtown businesses and between 50 and 100 homes were severely damaged or destroyed. "Right now, it's like the day after a death in the family," said Lt. Col. Thadd Rudd, the Catholic chaplain for Headquarters Company, 265th Engineer Group in Marietta. His unit helped Montezuma clean up the muck and mud left everywhere as the water of the Flint River receded.

For Montezuma, the largest city in Macon County with a population of 4,500, the flood had come with surprising swiftness. On the morning of July 6, torrential rains caused dams near Beaver Creek to break, sending a gush of water washing through town into the Flint River.

Within hours, as the Flint rose, merchants and homeowners were fleeing neck-deep water. Guardsmen also evacuated residents from low-lying areas around town and hauled dirt to shore up bridges and patched washed-out roads.

Montezuma's devastation prompted an outpouring of kindness from all over the country. About 50-60 area Mennonites, joined by volunteers from the Mennonite communities in Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania pitched in to clean up and rebuild. Scores of volunteers, some from far away as Illinois, joined in, too.

In the short time since the flood waters began to recede, nearly 100 miles of county roads have been temporarily repaired in Macon County thanks to the efforts of the Georgia National Guard. The repairs, which included filling washouts and grading, are just part of what the guard has done to help Montezuma and the county. The combat engineers continued to help with cleanup efforts through the beginning of August.

"This has been a difficult time for the citizens of Montezuma, but everyone has been extremely supportive of the National Guard's efforts," said Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General. "Our soldiers and airmen have done a great job during the crisis and during the cleanup, but it would have been impossible without the support of the local citizens. It has been a very positive working relationship."

Death Toll at 15 Sumter Suffers Worst

By Spec. Rob Halner, 124 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

With flood water rising above the hubcaps of his car, John Hurley Jr. didn't panic. He simply jumped out of his car in the middle of the night to go look for help, leaving his 28-year-old wife, Kathy, and 2-year-old son, John III inside.

Panic set in when a rush of water swept him away as he was halfway out the car door. He went under and the current pulled him away.

"I tried to swim back, but when I came up the last thing I could see was the taillights go under," Hurley said.

The next day, on July 7, Hurley's car was found empty.

Capt. Jeff Hobaugh and 10 soldiers from the Albany-based Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, were charged with the grisly task of locating the bodies of the woman and the child.

"We got our first call at 4:30 a.m. yesterday [Wednesday morning.] We've been searching since. I'm about to give up and call this thing off. My wife's back in Albany with water about 50 feet away from the house. She's okay now, but I don't know how much longer she'll be able to stay there," Hobaugh said.

Hobaugh later managed to convince a Guard helicopter pilot at the airport to take him and a local firefighter on an aerial search — one last chance, he hoped, at finding the woman and the young boy alive.

"We need to try one more time. They could be hanging from a tree screaming for help and we wouldn't know it," Hobaugh said to the pilot.

The flight was filled with silence as Hobaugh and Americus fire Capt. Tommy Whitaker took off. Thirty minutes turned to 60. Sixty became 90. The only sound was the constant thumping of the rotor blades. The only sight was miles of brown water and dense forest.

"I don't see anything," Hobaugh said.

"Let's turn back."

After landing at the Americus airport, the south Georgia heat subsided. The sky grew dark — an all too familiar site in Americus.

"We'll just have to wait until the water goes down some," said Whitaker as the rain dripped from the bill of his baseball cap.

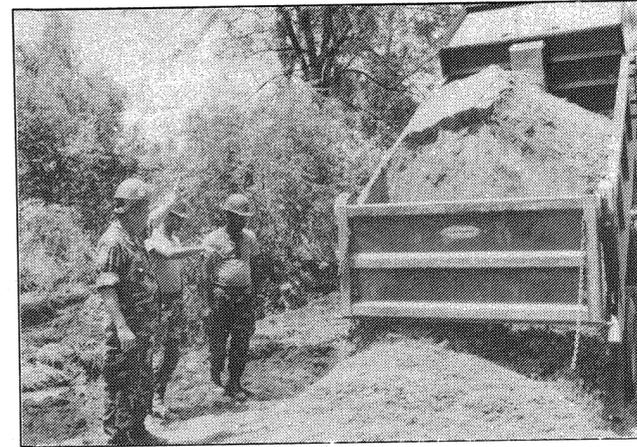
John Hurley Jr. never gave up hope that search teams would somehow find the bodies of his wife and young son. He maintained a 4-day vigil on a downstream bridge.

After the rain stopped and much of the water fell back into the Muckalee Creek and the Flint River, local rescue workers found his wife's body July 9. They found his son's body the next day, raising the death toll in Americus to 15 — the highest number of deaths attributed to the flooding in any city or county statewide.

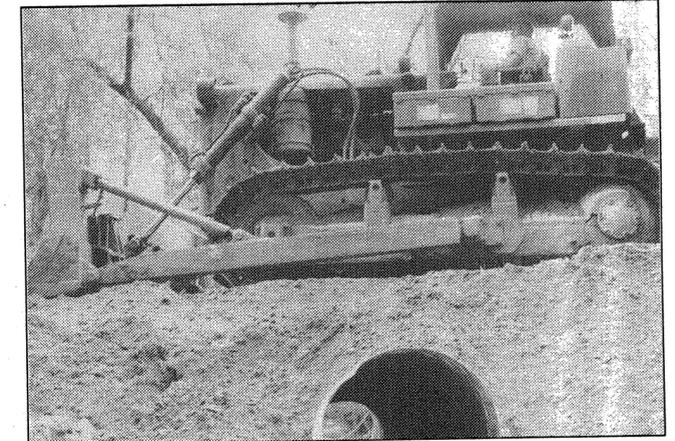
FIGHTING THE FLOOD



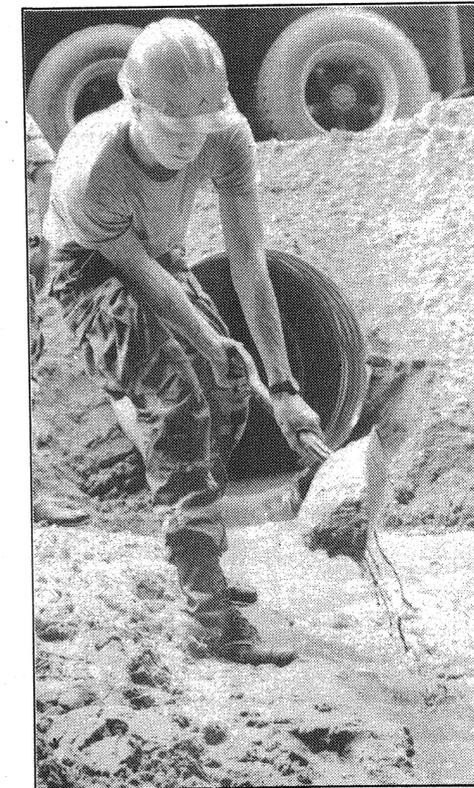
AMERICUS, MONTEZUMA



Engineers worked diligently to repair washed out roads in flood ravaged areas. These members of the 878th Engineer Battalion prepare to repair a road during flood recovery operations in Montezuma. (Photo by Spec. Chris Pearson, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.)



A soldier in the 878th Engineer Battalion bulldozes new dirt over a washed-out road during flood recovery operations in Montezuma. (Photo by Spec. Chris Pearson, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.)



This soldier, a member of the 878th Engineer Battalion, based in Savannah, clears a new culvert during flood recovery operations in Montezuma. (Photo by Spec. Rob Halner, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.)

Cold Towels And Soft Drinks Macon County Greets Engineers Warmly

Story By Spec. Chris Pearson,
124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Before the engineers arrived to repair an old dirt road on the outskirts of Montezuma, a Macon County school bus was forced to bump and slosh through a soggy pecan orchard and cotton field to deliver kids safely to summer school.

Everyone told Sgt. 1st Class Brannon Snell of the Swainsboro-based A Company, 878th Engineer Battalion, that it would take at least two days for his detachment of engineers to repair the culvert and bridge along the old road.

Snell, who supervised the projects, and eight soldiers under his command considered such an opinion a challenge.

Less than a day after starting the project, the sweaty, grinning troops surveyed the fruits of their efforts — a new bridge and culvert that would provide smooth sailing for the school bus.

"It makes all of us feel good to be helping the community because what they've been through here is just awful," he said.

Not unlike the culvert project, the past three weeks have been full of triumphs over adversity in Montezuma, beginning with the work accomplished by Detachment 1, B Company, 560th Engineer Battalion, which is based in the town of roughly 4,500 people.

"The first three days, we only got two or three hours of sleep because we were trying to save the town from the rising water," said Staff Sgt. Terry Gauntley, who supervises the unit's readiness.

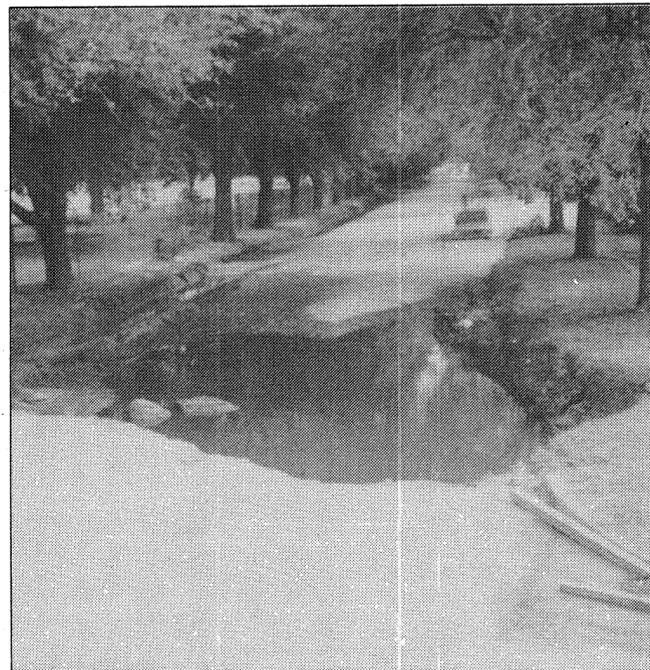
"Then, after the water went down, we stayed busy fixing roads, delivering ice and helping to clear debris from downtown." The 560th stood down after two weeks and the 878th took over on annual training status. Second Lt. Alberto Ramos of the 878th was immediately given seven projects to begin with his 22-soldier platoon. Four days later, they were nearly completed.

He attributed the group's hard work to a good attitude. "Unit morale is high, and when that's the case, missions get accomplished quickly," he said.

Members of the Air National Guard also pitched in, driving dirt-filled dump trucks and operating heavy equipment. And the 116th Security Police Squadron from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta provided round-the-clock security for the town's residents and businesses.

"We've been warmly welcomed by the townsfolk," said Master Sgt. Tom Loomis. "One particularly hot day a fellow approached us pulling a trailer. It was full of cold towels and soft drinks."

Becoming the Focus of a nation



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Monkee Caldwell, 116th Civil Eng. Squadron

since early July where they were called upon to prevent a hospital from being flooded and transport local police officers in military vehicles where flooding cut off access to many areas.

Once the Flint River crested at 42 to 43 feet, 23 feet above flood stage, the mission for the guard changed to recovery. Army engineer units made emergency repairs to roads and bridges. Water purification units worked to bring fresh water to Albany's population.

Through it all, those who were being offered a helping hand, offered theirs back to the guard in return.

1st Lt. Lee Turner, who flew missions to south Georgia to deliver baby food, water and other supplies, found that he and fellow crew members never went hungry.

Businesses in Albany such as McDonald's and Shoney's wouldn't take their money. Domino's Pizza delivered 35 pizzas to the command center.

"I don't think we paid for a single thing while we were down there," Turner said. "I put on weight."

But the realization of what a once in 500-year disaster hit the city's population. Their grief and suffering appeared in newspaper photographs and television screens throughout the country.

Where water once inundated much of the downtown area, sat sinkholes threatening to swallow up the unaware. Homeowners wearing masks lugged discolored possessions to the curb for pickup.

Frustration was high and tempers were hot. Local police made many more domestic

dispute arrests.

But despite high tension and the monumental tasks the city's residents and rescue workers faced, many refused to quit and were determined to return to the norm that the Flint River washed away.

"We're talking \$40,000 to rebuild," said Bennie Perry, who was in the hospital at the time of the flood and was unable to rescue any of his possessions.

"I don't know where it's coming from. But we got it going once; we'll do it again."

FIGHTING THE FLOOD



ALBANY

The people of Albany, a city of 80,000 in southwest Georgia, never expected being the focus of national attention.

But when the raging Flint River forced more than 24,000 to evacuate their homes, sent nearly 400 caskets floating down river and drowned five people, the attention came — in force.

Government leaders from President Clinton to U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, to Gov. Zell Miller visited the city's weary residents, promising whatever aid that was in their power to provide.

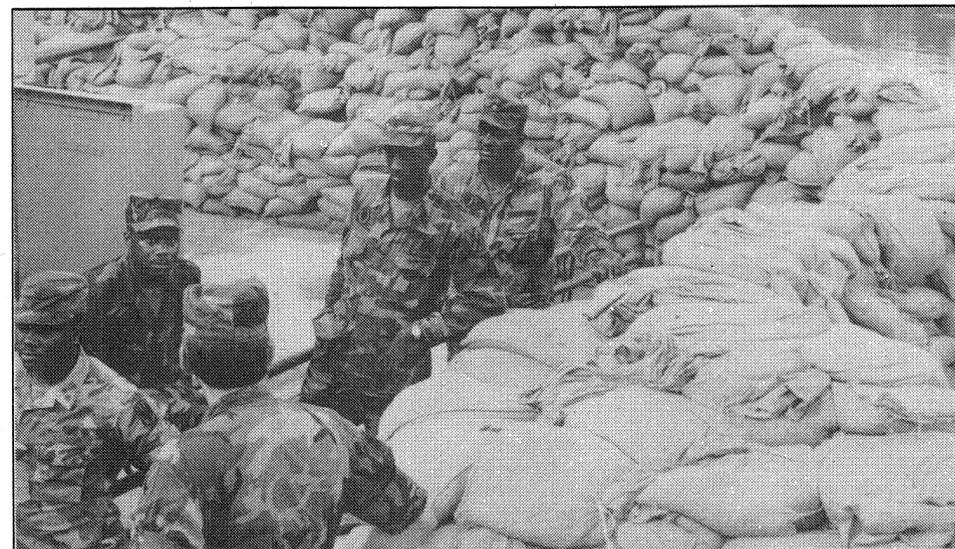
Albany emerged as the community where the magnitude of destruction from the flood of 1994 was probably the greatest and where the recovery efforts were tested the most.

Initial estimates of the damage in Albany and Dougherty County have already passed \$500 million and are still growing. More than 11,000 residents have applied for federal financial aid. More than 15,000 are receiving \$4 million in emergency food stamps.

More than 1,500 residents lived cot-to-cot in shelters. Many, who were seeking some sort of solitude, had no place to go because of the housing shortage left by the flood.

Georgia National Guard units from all over the state maintained a vigil in the city

Soldiers Help Create Island Of Mercy



Georgia National Guardsmen finish off a sandbag wall made to protect power generators at the Palmyra Medical Center in Albany on Sunday, July 10, 1994. The citizen-soldiers later provided rides for employees and patients going to and from the hospital with military vehicles. A few days later, the Flint River crested in the city and the hospital was still in operation. (Photo by Spec. Mike Carr, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.)

By Spec. Rob Hainer
124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The overflowing Flint River took everything Eric Newton owned. He watched in early July as its muddy waters swept into his Albany apartment complex and claimed his car, furniture, and clothing.

Hours later, he was called to active duty with his Georgia National Guard Unit to help keep the same thing from happening to others.

"They called me and asked me if I could come in," he said. "There was nothing else that I really could do, so I'm here."

Having nothing left but the drenched civilian clothes he was wearing, Spec. Newton caught a ride to the city's National Guard armory where he was issued new uniforms and July 9 sent with a group of roughly 150 other Guardsmen from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, to the Palmyra Medical Center.

Their mission was to build a sandbag wall to protect the hospital's patients and staff from the relentless flood waters that had already

inundated much of downtown Albany.

Tons of sand and hours later, the hospital became an island surrounded by an ocean of muddy water three feet deep. Its front doors and power generators were clear of water.

But being on an island meant the guardsmen would have to stay and provide transportation for the hospital's employees.

With Humvees and 2 1/2-ton trucks with three to four feet of clearance, only the guard had the available vehicles capable of fording the waters and debris slapping against the sandbag wall.

"Our vehicles are the only means of getting in and out," said 2nd Lt. Jeffery Fountain. "We have to keep this hospital running because we have nowhere to evacuate the patients right now."

By late July 11, the Flint River in Albany crested and the hospital's sandbag wall was still holding.



Spec. Eric Newton, of the Albany-based Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, was called to active duty just as he watched everything he owned sink below the raging waters of the Flint River. Newton wore no rank or name tags on his newly-issued uniform. (Photo by Spec. Mike Carr, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.)

Man Found Floating Face Down In Street

Guardisman Rescues Drowning Civilian

His guard job usually involves the recovery of immobilized and stranded military vehicles.

But Spec. Danny Bonner, a mechanic in the Albany-based headquarters of the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, found himself in the position of recovering a trapped fellow citizen during the early hours of the Flood of '94.

As floods swamped four-lane Slappey Blvd., a vital Albany thoroughfare, Bonner spotted an overwhelmed pedestrian floating in a pool of muddy water.

"He was face down, and we thought he wasn't alive at first," Bonner said. "I jumped out of the truck and waded over to him. I used my plastic ear plug case to pry open his mouth and give him some air."

After draining water from the man, who was also uncontrollably shaking, Bonner slowly brought the man back to his senses.

"I asked him whether he had a history of any kind of seizures, and he said he didn't. But he couldn't even tell me his name right away. I'd say it took about 30 minutes before he came around," Bonner said.

The man eventually explained to Bonner that he had been walking down Slappey when flood waters quickly surrounded him, and he soon collapsed.

The man never revealed his name to Bonner, whose Albany home remained high and dry throughout the flood.

'For The Engineers, This Was Our Desert Storm'

Assessing Damage; Repairing Basics

By Staff Sgt. Toby Moore, 124th Public Affairs Det.

In one respect, Col. Benjamin Grinstead saw the Flood of '94 through an engineer's eyes: bridges built to specifications thought to be able to withstand the worst; unregulated and uninspected dams; elevations of cities along the affected rivers; and once the damage was done, the best course of action to get south Georgia moving again.

Grinstead, a retired engineer with the state Department of Transportation, commands the 265th Engineer Group, the umbrella unit of the Georgia Army National Guard's two combat engineer battalions, the 878th and the 560th. As the floodwater receded along the Flint River and its tributaries, he was charged with the responsibility of marshaling the Army and Air Guard's task force of engineering manpower to the monumental task of helping city and county authorities make repairs.

"There are three aspects to the mission," he said. "Humanitarian, reconstruction and recovery. The guard has met the charge in its basic challenge, rescuing the folks from the flood. We as engineers do both horizontal and vertical work, and we're following the receding floodwater."

With a makeshift headquarters in the new, unopened Dougherty County jail, the engineering effort ran with the urgency of a war room. Maps with red, blue and yellow dots and borders adorned the walls of the 265th's area. Phones rang incessantly.

The priority was to assess the damage. Army and Air Guard engineers damage assessment teams were dispatched to 48 counties that had suffered some degree of damage. Terrell County, for example, just north of Albany and home to a unit of the 560th, had 33 bridges on county roads that were either washed out or impassable. Whole communities were cut off.



A Georgia National Guardsman repairs flood damage to a Dawson Road. Photo by Spec. Jimmy Lanham III, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Teams, after meeting with county road officials, reported back, giving planners at the jail raw information from which they could determine which units to dispatch and what heavy equipment they needed.

Meanwhile, engineer teams were already in action, hauling red clay to backfill severed bridges and byways.

"We're not fixing roads to a final graded condition," Grinstead said. "We're getting roads serviceable to fill basic human needs."

It was a job that would have overwhelmed county and city maintenance crews because the flood's damage was so complete, he said.

"We have put together a composite force that is tailored to the needs of the communities," Grinstead said. The force also included the Air Guard's 165th Civil Engineering Squadron from Savannah and the 116th CES from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta.

"We weren't initially called in because an engineering effort couldn't be used," he said. "At the time, we had to wait until the need arose."

Assessing the flood's rampage from an engineer's viewpoint, Grinstead said that a major factor was the failure of so many dams at private ponds and lakes.

"They had 21 inches of rain in Americus in a 24 hour period," he said, which caused several dams to break, turning a normally docile but already swollen Muckalee Creek into a torrent.

In Montezuma, he said, the spur dikes along built-up roadways along the flood plain were at fault, even though they were built to protect flooding.

"The water came through with such velocity that it broke through the spur dikes, and that caused Montezuma to flood," he said.

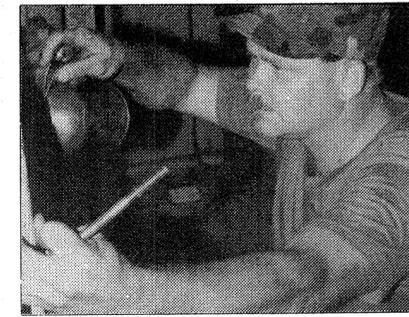
At Lake Blackshear, just north of Albany on the Flint River, an 800-foot section of its earthen dam washed away, leaving the popular recreational lake high and dry.

By the time the Flint had surged through Albany, its velocity was abated by a drop in elevation toward Newton of 25 feet. The Baker County seat still sustained heavy water damage.

Bainbridge, said Grinstead, is 56 feet in elevation below Albany, and the terrain is much flatter, which meant that the river would overrun its banks, but not crest as high as had been feared.

"This has been a learning experience," he said. "We've never experienced anything of this magnitude. . . . It was a challenge: for engineers, this was our Desert Storm."

IN THE REAR TIFTON WITH THE GEAR



A LITTLE DAB'LL DO YA--Spec. Darryl Harriman of Bravo Co., 148th Forward Support Battalion performs some preventive maintenance on a lathe before starting work at BSA Hope in Tifton.

By Spec. Mike Carr
124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

In the rear with the gear" is sometimes said in a disparaging way about supply and maintenance troops.

During the Flood of '94 the men and women of the 148th Forward Support Battalion were in fact away from the raging waters. But their mission had them transporting troops, supplies and services to guardsmen from Macon to the Florida line.

Operating out of a old textile mill in Tifton, the 148th worked around the clock. Tractor trailers from Army depots on the East Coast would arrive in the evening and the supply specialists from A Company converged on the gear like ants at a picnic, dividing up the goods for distribution to the task forces around southwest Georgia.

Bleach for field expedient water purification, truck parts, canteens and cots. Vital supplies for Georgia soldiers on the front lines of the flood relief; soldiers that the troops of A Company would probably never see.

"It's hard for the young guys," said Sgt. First Class David Montford, NCGIC of the Supply Platoon.

"They want to know why

they're on flood duty and don't see any water. They get real discouraged during the down time."

Spec. Michael Thomas of Dublin sat with his buddies who were playing cards and writing letters home. Thomas has friends who are students at Albany State College, whose campus was still under water. "It's hard for us to realize the importance of our mission," Thomas said. "We're so far in the rear."

Down in the basement of the mill, the maintenance troops of B Company were working into the evening, too.

Spec. Darryl Harriman was making a clutch aligning tool for an Army 5-ton truck. He was fabricating the part on a lathe that was already in the mill--although not operational when B Company set up shop.

"It took us a day to get the place going," Harriman said as the metal shavings flew off the steel rod that was soon to be a tool.

Morale was better for these soldiers because some of them had been to the front of maintenance and recover missions.

Sgt. David Golden was on the team that recovered a heavy duty wrecker truck that crashed through a sink hole on an Albany street. The mission was made a bit more difficult because the truck's rear axle

came to rest on a 12-inch high-pressure natural gas line.

"We had to wait while the city crews bled off gas from a seven mile stretch of pipeline," Golden said.

But they were performing a real-world mission in a different world, according to the 148th commander Lt. Col. Dennis Manning. "We normally practice this in the woods," Manning said. "This time it's in MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain), but its our wartime mission just the same.

Also working out of Brigade Support Area Hope were soldiers from the 138th Medical Co. who made sure the field medics were in place at the front and well supplied.

Augmentees from Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery and the 1148th Transportation Co., 878 Engineer Battalion helped to keep the 148th logistics machine rolling.

With the system in place, A Company commander Capt. Charles Lewis had time to reflect on the operation.

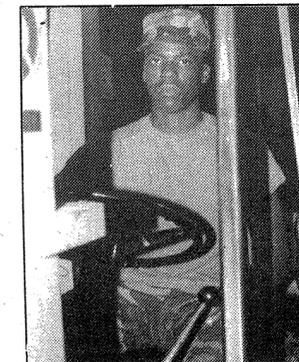
"It took us a few days to iron out the bugs; We have 100 people who joined the unit (A Company) since the re-structuring," Lewis said. "This is the first real mission that they've worked on together."



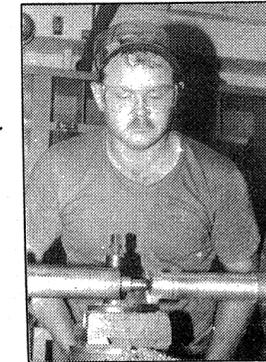
Guardsmen from the 138th Medical Company unload supplies at BSA Hope in Tifton.



IT BETTER BE RIGHT--Spec. Clifford Robinson of Macon pulls a truck part from the Maintenance Platoon parts van in Tifton during flood operations.



NIGHT SHIFT--Spec. Michael Dunn of Dublin unloads a tractor trailer full of supplies for Georgia guardsmen on flood duty.



CUSTOM MADE--Spec. Darryl Harriman of B Company, 148th Forward Support Battalion turns out a clutch aligning tool on a lathe.

'People Are Real Tickled To Have Them In Here.'

As he surveyed a missing 60-foot section of the old earthen dam that had held Veney's Mill Pond in check for many years, Charles Curtis was happy to see a convoy of five-ton guard dump trucks leaving their muddy tracks on a Terrell County road.

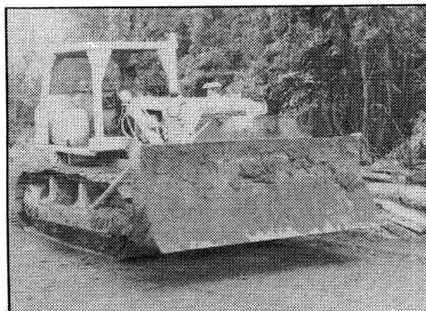
Curtis, warden at the Terrell County Correctional Institution, was part of a local contingent helping the guard damage assessment teams find the damaged byways and engineers do the job of fixing the broken roads, culverts and bridges.

Curtis said that his community had 34 bridges on county roads alone that were rendered impassable by the flood. The bridge just below the dam at Veney's Mill Pond near the town of Parrot was but one. Guard engineers had just finished repairing one of the county's most crucial links the day before tackling this one.

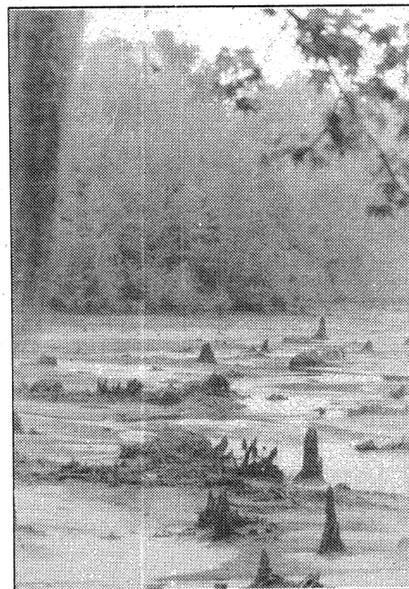
He helped the effort by renting a civilian tracked hoe for the guardsmen to use on the job. "These guys have been working hard — seven days a week, 10 to 14 hours a day," he said.

"People are real tickled to have them in here," Curtis said, adding that the community earlier had been upset to be told that the local engineer unit would be inactivated.

"Terrell County has a real positive attitude about the guard," he said.

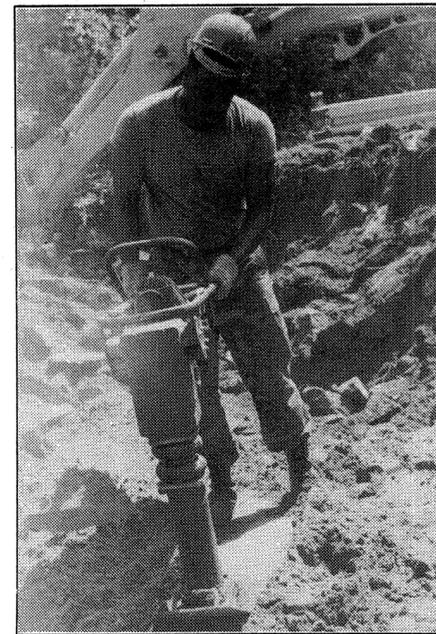


A bulldozer operator with the engineers levels backfill along the county road sliced by a broken earthen dam. (Photos by Spec. Jimmy Lanham, 124th Public Affairs Det.)



What was once Veney's Mill Pond near Parrott became a muddy bottom after its 400-foot-long dam was washed out by floodwaters.

Terrell's Toll: 34 Bridges Left Impassable 14-Hour Days Get County's Essential Roads Usable Again



WORST FEARS AVOIDED

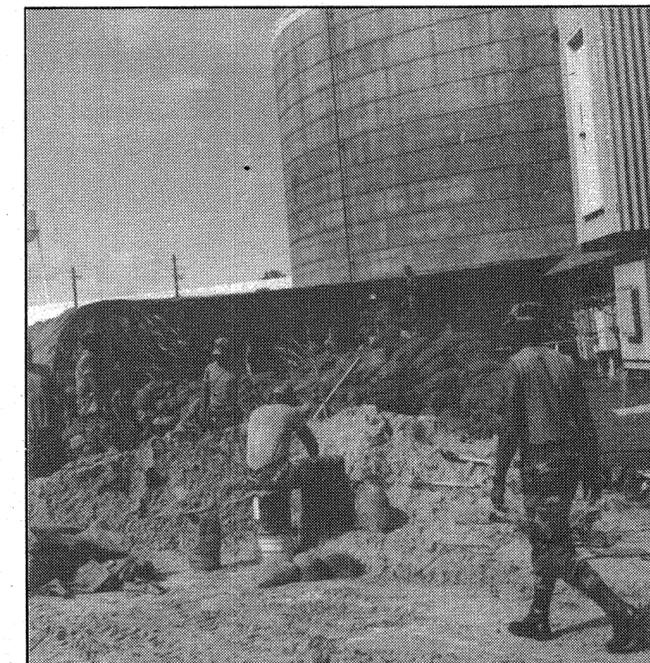
For Bainbridge, it was the anticipation. Each day, the residents of the south Georgia city of 10,000 heard or saw reports of the floods that claimed homes and lives upriver.

They knew their turn would be coming. Emergency officials in Bainbridge, however, believed the most imminent threat facing the town was the possibility of flood waters damaging tanks at the Vigoro Industries fertilizer plant, spewing dangerous levels of toxic ammonia into the air.

Leaving their families to cope alone with the oncoming disaster, members of Bainbridge-based Detachment 1, Company D, 560th Engineer Battalion, set out to protect the plant that sits only 300 yards from the river's banks and prevent the poison from leaking into the air above their hometown.

For three days, from July 9 until July 12, roughly 80 soldiers in the unit worked around the clock to build a berm and sandbag wall around the plant, said D Company 1st Sgt. James Redmon.

By the second day, exhaustion began to seep into the



These members of Company A, 560th Engineer Battalion, built a sandbag wall to protect the Vigoro fertilizer plant from the flood. If the waters had damaged the tank, it could have released toxic fumes into the air. (Bainbridge Post-Searchlight photo)

troops' morale. Redmon said they then divided into three shifts so the work could continue. And while they continued to work, the flood waters continued to rise. "We knew the flood was coming, and all we were doing was manual labor. But our morale stayed high. We didn't stop. We were working to save our hometown," Redmon said.

The flooding, however, didn't hit the town as expected. It only rose up five feet against the 15-foot sandbag wall and embankment. The brunt of the flooding was relieved by a creek running to a reservoir upstream, Redmon said.

"We thought the flooding would be much worse," he said, "because we didn't calculate that reservoir in."

The Flint crested at about 38 feet — well above flood stage of 25 feet, but well below the predicted 45 feet. The record, 40.9 feet, was set on Jan. 24, 1925.

The people of Bainbridge breathed a sigh of relief. While the floodwater would be weeks in receding, the disaster averted at Bainbridge marked the end of the worst flooding.

"A lot of people in Bainbridge today are thankful for their good fortune," said Mayor Bill Reynolds. "They realize a lot of other people here were not so lucky."

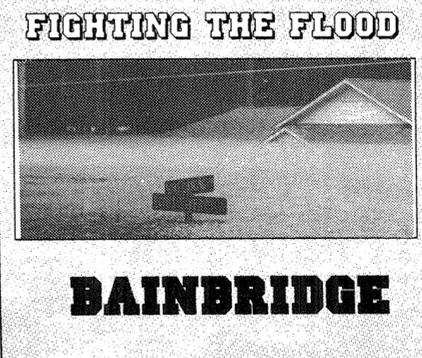
Still, the flood damaged roughly 300 homes and several businesses. It was several weeks before many flooded home were free of water.

And as the flooding hit the town, members of the Air National Guard were there to provide relief and security.

More than 100 airmen with the 165th Airlift Group, based in Savannah, deployed to the area to provide for public safety and security. Also, nine airmen with 165th Services Flight, based in Savannah, deployed to the area where they helped cook meals for the Red Cross, preparing an average of 1,000 meals a day.

Up river in Newton, National Guard troops and local officials managed the flood crisis from a tent city of canvas Army tents. There they oversaw rescue operations for evacuees sent from their homes by the flood. Officials estimated that nearly 85 percent of the town's roughly 250 homes were under water at one point.

Said Staff Sgt. Levi Gaines, an Army National Guardsman from Waycross: "I've been in the National Guard for 19 years," said the Desert Storm veteran, "and I've never seen a mess like this."



BAINBRIDGE



(Left) View of the Flint River and flooded Bainbridge. (Photo by Sr. Airman Leslie Branson, 165th Comm. Squadron. (below, left) The Red Cross provided much needed refreshments for these members of the 165th Airlift Group (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gerald Long, 165th Comm. Squadron) (below, right) These family support group members organized a fundraiser to benefit flooded-out guard families. They are (left to right) Sandi Milotte, council member, Master Sgt. Bob McGanty, 82nd Maint. Company, and Kathy Justiss, state volunteer coordinator. (Photo by 1st Lt. Tanya Brinkley, Family Support Officer)



Story by Spec. Mike Carr, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When members of the Georgia National Guard deployed to south Georgia assist flood-stricken communities, they often found the communities offering their own helping hand back to the guardsmen.

Eddie Williams, a staffer at the Thomas Area Mental Health Facility in Bainbridge, personifies the warmth and cooperation found across the southern half of the state after the floods of '94.

When the 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment arrived in Bainbridge, the 178th and 190th Military Police Companies were already in place augmenting local law enforcement. D Company of the 560th Engineer Battalion had recently finished construction a dike around the Vigoro Industries ammonia tank.

The 124th's main mission was to serve as a liaison between local and national media and guard units on the scene.

The sun was setting when the 124th finally caught up with the network news crews. The satellite trucks just

happened to be staged in the mental health facility parking lot. The close proximity to a flooded riverside park gave the TV reporters a dramatic background during their broadcasts.

As a storage shed and a dirt-floored greenhouse were being considered for use as a press center, MPs from the

Helping the Helpers

178th said they had a phone number for a man who worked in the mental health building, Eddie Williams.

Within 20 minutes, Williams was handing the keys for the building to the 124th. The unit left the shack with a fire ant hill and moved into an air-conditioned building with three phone lines, a fax, a copier and a computer.



That night the media in Bainbridge were given the phone numbers and location of the facility. By sunrise, news organizations from the around the nation were calling to find about the guard's various missions.

Williams was quick not to take full credit for his generosity. He pointed out that others were involved in allowing the guard to use the building.

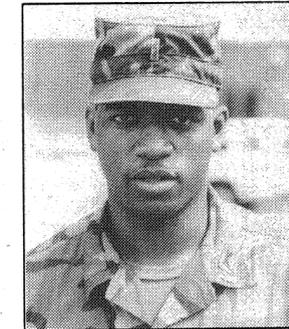
"When I called my superiors there was no question if the guard could use the building. It was just 'What could we do to help,'" Williams said.

Many others in Bainbridge and elsewhere did make the guard's mission a little easier to perform. The owner of the local truck stop provided 10,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel for Guard and other emergency vehicles. One fast-food restaurant gave free lunches to soldiers and a local newspaper processed official guard film and allowed the use of their darkroom.

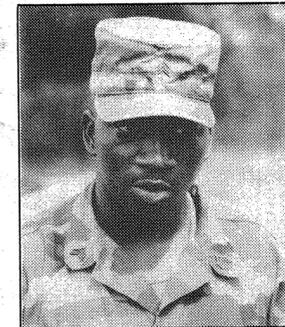
But to many of the MPs standing 12-hour security posts in 90-degree, it was Eddie Williams who was there lending a helping hand and letting them fill their water jugs with ice cold water.



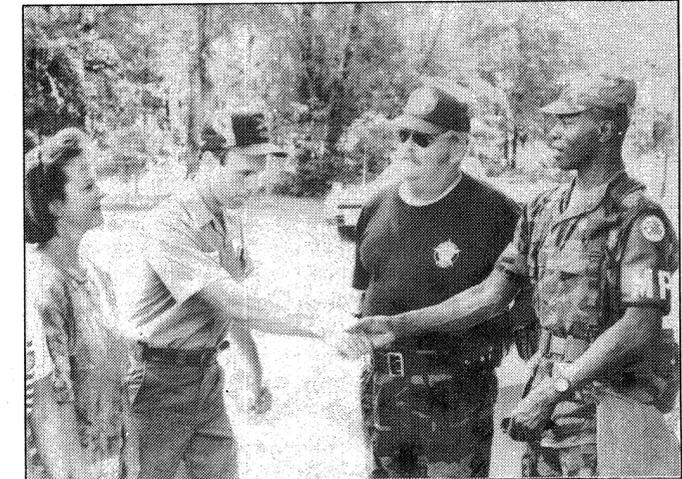
Sgt. John Wieck of Carrollton, a member of the 190th MP Co.—
"People treated us like they were happy to have us. They brought us drinks and food. At times it was boring, but we got a lot of it. We had a real mission and something to accomplish."



Second Lt. Edward Sanders of College Park, a member of the 190th MP Co. —
"We spent eight days in Bainbridge and 10 days in Albany protecting lives and property and assisting the local police."



Sgt. Gregory Fisher of Griffin, a member of the 190th MP Co.—
"We did a lot of good things down there helping people out. What I will remember most of all was the people. After having experienced so much, they were still calm and there were no bad attitudes."



Lynn and Kenny Stavely, residents of the River-Oaks subdivision in Bainbridge, thank Sgt. Earl Miles, of the 190th MP Company, and Deputy Travis Day, Decatur County Sheriff's Office, for keeping their neighborhood safe from looters. (Photo by Spec. Mike Carr, 124th Public Affairs Detachment)

PEACE OF MIND MPs Make Neighborhoods Safe, Less Tempting For Likely Looters

Story by Spec. Mike Carr, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

In the good ol' days looters were shot on sight. But in today's politically correct climate most citizens don't expect guardsmen to take aim on someone who is carrying a television set that doesn't belong to him.

So it was understandable that residents of Decatur County who were displaced by the rising waters of the Flint River were worried about the security of their belongings, homes and neighborhoods.

For the 13 road deputies of the Decatur Sheriff's Office it was a Herculean task that was made possible with additional muscle from the 178th and 190th Military Police Companies of the Georgia Army National Guard.

One subdivision was evacuated, security check points manned by MPs were set up to control access to the areas.

Worried homeowners wanting to check on their homes found that even with a photo ID and a sob story, MPs like Sgt. Earl Miles of the 190th stood fast and never wavered from his mission...no one would enter the subdivisions until civilian law enforcement officials verified their identities and addresses.

In some cases entry was denied because of safety factors and the residents were sometimes reluctant to accept that they were being told they couldn't check on their homes by someone they've known all their lives.

"Even though I'm a deputy, some of the folks want to argue when I say they couldn't go into the areas," said Deputy Travis Day. "But when these fellas (Miles) say no, the people accept it."

For Miles it was a humbling experience to witness the aftermath of the Flint's fury and to find that the people who had lost so much were willing to give back so quickly.

"I hate to see what has happened to their homes."

And those people were quick to realize that the inconvenience of having to be cleared to enter their own homes meant that potential looters would go elsewhere...the Georgia Guard was on duty.

"These fellas and the sheriff's office give us peace of mind," said Kenny Stavely, a River-Oaks resident. "They wouldn't let us in until the deputies identified us," his wife Lynn added, "We're so grateful that they watched over our homes."

Incidents of looting in the Bainbridge-Decatur county area were practically non-existent during the flood according to the sheriff's office.

"These MPs have been a godsend," said Day. "They are appreciated more than they can ever know."

148th Medical Company – Lifeline for Lee County

By Maj. James Driscoll
124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Under normal circumstances Keith Long and his staff of eight emergency medical technicians have little trouble attending to the emergency needs of the 26,000 citizens of Lee County. Although the county doesn't have its own hospital, two major medical centers are just a short drive to the south of Albany. But when the flood waters hit southwest Georgia and the Kinchafoonee Creek overflowed its banks, Leesburg was suddenly cut off from the rest of the world. There was simply no way to get critically ill patients to the hospital.

For Long and the residents of Lee County, help came from above. On Thursday, July 6, just hours after the bridge to Albany was closed, he and other local officials stood in the parking lot of the county's new high school and watched a UH-1 MEDEVAC helicopter, with a huge red cross painted on its nose, settle down to the pavement. The Georgia National Guard's 148th Air Ambulance Company had come to the rescue.

For pilots Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gary Horowitz and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Wagner, along with crew chief Staff Sgt. Tim Rickard, and Sgt. Steven Hebblethwaite, the crew's medic, this mission was more

than just a chance to use the specialized aviation and medical skills they had been developing—it was an opportunity to use those skills to help save lives.

The helicopter crew arrived just in time. Local EMTs had just received a 911 call and were responding to a heart attack case. Moments later the ambulance pulled into the school parking lot and transferred the elderly victim to a green litter. Wearing O.D. green flight helmets while the rotor blades turned, the flight crew swiftly secured the patient on board the chopper and then lifted off for the short flight over the flooded area to the Phoebe Putney Medical Center in Albany.

During the flight the patient was in the able hands of Sgt. Hablethwaite. An eight-year military veteran, the medic once served in the Pentagon medical clinic, including a tour in the White House where he helped care for Presidents Reagan and Bush.

By the time the afternoon was over, the crew made two more emergency flights to the hospital. On both occasions local police stopped traffic on a four-lane highway to allow the helicopter to land.

Headquartered at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, the 148th Air Ambulance Company transported a total of 36 critically ill patients and more than 130 ambulatory patients during the two-week flood relief operation. Crews also transported nurses, doctors and key medical supplies to and from areas isolated by the flood waters.



CW4 Gary Horowitz and CW2 Timothy Wagner, of the 148th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) Georgia Army National Guard, prepare for take off after boarding a critically ill patient into their UH-1 helicopter. The unit performed dozens of rescue missions in support of flood relief operations.

Guard Hovered Over Flooded Towns

Aviation Critical To Successful Rescue And Relief Efforts

Story by Maj. Jim Driscoll
124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

To travel from Macon to Albany usually takes about an hour by car or truck. But when the flood waters hit central and southwest Georgia, the trip took at least five hours, depending on the route. And some cities were completely inaccessible. When that happened, local officials looked to the Georgia National Guard for help. In addition to flying critically ill patients to hospitals from isolated areas (see accompany article), Georgia Guard aircraft were placed into service performing a wide variety of other vital missions.

In Albany, for example, the OH-58 observation helicopters flown by the RAID unit from Dobbins Air Force Base, assisted authorities in search and rescue missions. Later the members of the RAID unit worked with local law enforcement officers to protect property from looters. Using the high-tech imaging equipment that is normally employed to fight Georgia's war on drugs, the RAID pilots were able to fly over the downtown streets of Albany and watch for potential problems.

Also in Albany, when the flooding Flint River closed down all three bridges, passage from the east side of the river to the west became impossible. The only way to travel to the other side of the city by land was to detour hundreds of miles. The Georgia National Guard employed its CH-47 Chinook helicopters to run regular morning and afternoon shuttles to transport nurses, doctors and other key personnel for the relief efforts.

The Georgia Air National Guard also played a key role in the relief efforts. Early in the operation it became apparent that the supply of sandbags on hand was not nearly enough to meet the demands of the rising waters. Within hours, a C-130 aircraft of the 165th Airlift Group in Savannah was on its way to Pennsylvania on an emergency mission. That afternoon it returned with more than 64,000 sandbags.

Because of the distances involved in the emergency, air assets were essential to transport critical equipment. Food, cots, medical supplies, repair parts and other items were flown between destinations, saving countless precious hours of delivery time. At the small municipal airport just north of Bainbridge, pallets of bottled water were loaded onto waiting Army Guard helicopters and Air Guard C-130s for the trip to Newton where the supply of drinking water had been destroyed.

Air travel was also the only way to get a quick, realistic assessment of the total flood damage. Guard helicopters were used to transport local, state and federal emergency officials as they surveyed the flood ravaged landscape and developed relief plans. In addition to Governor Zell Miller and Senators Sam Nunn and Paul Coverdell, Georgia Guard helicopters also transported federal officials including Togo West, Secretary of the Army, and Henry Cisneros, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Fund Set Up for Guardsmen Who Lost Homes in the Flood

The Georgia National Guard Insurance Trust, officer and enlisted associations join forces with Family Support groups to raise funds to 'help our own.'

By Spec. Rob Hainer
124th Public Affairs Detachment

ATLANTA — While stationed at Fort Riley, Kans., in 1993, Sgt. William Embert and his family escaped the worst of what people in the Midwest dubbed the "500 Year Flood."

Then, the floodwaters of the Missouri River only managed to seep into his basement sparing his belongings.

But this year, the Flint River wasn't so kind to the Albany resident and guardsman who is a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, based in Albany.

"When I got out of the [active] Army and moved here from the Midwest, I never expected to get flooded," he said.

"I guess I was wrong."

The flood came in the span of 24 hours, Embert said. In the early afternoon of July 6, the state police came by to shut off gas and power mains. At about 4 a.m. on July 7, fire crews roamed the roads of his neighborhood, demanding the residents evacuate.

Embert, along with his family, moved to his in-laws home. They had no time to move any of their belongings from the home they rented, except for a few essential items.

Then the river came.

"My house was seven feet under water," Embert said. "I couldn't believe it."

The next day, he put on his uniform and went to work at the Palmyra Medical Center in Albany where a group of soldiers hoped to build a sandbag wall that would keep floodwaters at bay. The effort worked; the hospital stayed open.

"There was nothing he could do at home," said Embert's wife, Sue. "I'm glad he was able to go out and help someone else."

The Emberts returned to their home after the river crested and the floodwaters subsided. There, they found next to nothing salvageable. Most of their possessions were destroyed — except for one important item.

"I don't know how, but the TV still works. We only had to clean it up a little," Embert said.

The Emberts were able to recover some clothing also. The rest is ruined, and the Emberts' insurance won't pay for the damage.

"We have renters' insurance," said Mrs. Embert. "But it doesn't cover floods — everything else but floods."

At press time, 42 Georgia guardsmen are facing the same fate. Most have yet to assess their damages. Some have lost homes and property ranging in value from \$3,000 to \$50,000. One has lost a family member.

In Atlanta, 1st Lt. Tanya Brinkley is coordinating a relief fund to help "fill in the gaps" not covered by other emergency agencies such as the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

To date, Brinkley has managed to raise more than \$3,000 towards a goal of \$20,000 locally. She's hoping contributions will pour in when units throughout the state begin taking up donations.

"Our only problem right now is getting guardsmen to apply for assistance. Some of them see people who are much more worse off and decide they don't need help," she said.

Also, other guard units in states such as Massachusetts, Iowa and Wisconsin are pledging to begin similar programs to help Georgia guardsmen.

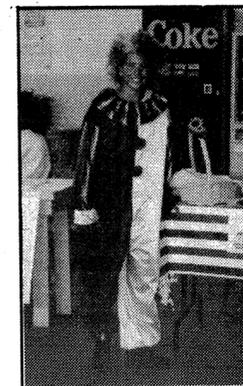
"We've faced this ourselves last year, and we know how hard a flood can hit a guard family," said Col. Charles Chabot of the Iowa National Guard.

"We're going to do as much as possible to help guard families."

Massachusetts has set up a program named "Operation Peachtree." According to Maj. Deborah Rich, family support officer with the Massachusetts Guard, the fund drive's goal is to collect at least \$18,000 for displaced Georgia guardsmen. The state raised money for Iowa guardsmen last year.

A funding drive is the only means to help guardsmen in an emergency, Rich said. Unlike active duty soldiers, she said, guardsmen can't turn to the Army Emergency Relief program for assistance.

"When you are helping the community, who's helping you?" she said. "We need to help ourselves."



Candace Knowlton, niece of Capt. Craig Knowlton, "clowned around" at the unit's family support fundraiser. (below) The National Guard Association of Georgia, the Enlisted National Guard Association of Georgia and the Insurance Trust jointly contributed \$20,000 towards helping flooded out guardsmen. Pictured, Brig. Gen. Virlyn Slaton (ret.), Executive Director of the Insurance Trust, presents the check to Kathy Justiss, of the Family Support Foundation.



For more information about donating to Georgia National Guard Flood Victims, contact 1st Lt. Brinkley at:

404-624-6565

or mail your contribution to the
Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation
935 East Confederate Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30316.

Please make checks payable to the
Georgia National Guard
Family Support Foundation.

Family Support Volunteers Come through for Flooded Comrades

When more than 4,000 Georgia guardsmen deployed to flood-stricken south Georgia in early July, they brought everything they needed. But they left one thing behind — their families.

Volunteers with Family Support Groups throughout the state filled that hole by serving as family liaisons. Their sole focus was ensuring that guard families, especially those affected by the flood, were taken care of.

Eight family assistance centers were opened throughout the state in Atlanta, Albany, Americus, Bainbridge, Cordele, Hawkinsville, Macon and Montezuma. The centers were manned by state recruiting and retention soldiers and family assistance volunteers.

Their mission was to:

— Gather facts on guard family losses and needs in the flood zone.

— Provide a soldier and family locator service for soldiers who were activated prior to being evacuated or relocated away from the impact area.

— Provide financial relief by establishing an emergency relief fund.

In Toccoa, the 82nd Maintenance Company and family assistance volunteers held an open house to raise the community's awareness to their mission and to raise money for flood victims. Red Cross also conducted a blood drive.

"We wanted to help our own soldiers who were affected by this flood," said Capt. Craig Knowlton, commander of the 82nd.

The event raised more than \$600 to go towards a fund for families of guardsmen who have been affected by the flood.

"This unit understands the meaning of 'the guard is family,'" said 1st Lt. Tanya Brinkley, state family program coordinator. "This is a group of soldiers who care enough about their families, their community and the National Guard to host an event to bring them all together. I hope that each unit in the state will extend the same generosity toward our guardsmen affected by the flood."

Helping Hand:

'We couldn't have survived without them. They were our lifeline,' – Macon Mayor Tommy Olmstead

Editor's note -- This story appeared in a special section of the Sunday, July 31, 1994 issue which recognized those who came to flood victims' aid.

Story by Hollis R. Towns
staff writer

The Atlanta Journal/The Atlanta Constitution

In Americus, the Georgia Air National Guard worked feverishly to temporarily repair washed-out roads so medical supplies and victims could reach a local hospital.

In Macon, the Army National Guard staffed water stations and delivered hundreds of thousands of gallons of water to residents whose service had been knocked out by raging flood waters.

In Bainbridge, the Air National Guard cooked for the Red Cross, preparing an average of 1,000 meals a day to feed the homeless and relief workers.

For victims of Georgia's worst natural disaster, the state National Guard represented the difference between life and death. For dozens of communities affected by the floods, the guard was the helping hand most desperately needed.

"We couldn't have survived without them," Macon Mayor Tommy Olmstead said. "They were our lifeline."

In the largest mobilization for a natural disaster in the state's history, nearly 4,000 members of the Georgia National Guard were dispatched to flood ravaged areas on assignments that ranged from guarding bridges to guarding food stamps. It was a mission that many made without consideration for their own safety.

"When I look back at some of the things we did, it scares the crap out of me," said Sgt. 1st. Class Jimmy Jordan of the Army National Guard in Americus. "But the adrenaline was pumping; we had a mission. We were

trying to help people who needed our help."

Sgt. 1st. Class Terry Cosper of the Army National Guard and a partner, Sgt. 1st. Class Steve Turley, risked their lives and twice drove a Humvee through shoulder-high water across a washed-out Albany bridge to transport two pregnant women in labor to a hospital.

"We weren't worried about the water," Cosper said. "And we didn't do anything special. We just went and got those ladies and took them to the hospital."

Prentist Henderson didn't think he was doing anything out of the ordinary, either. The Decatur man, who is with the Air National Guard at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, left his job at the post office to help.

For 2 1/2 weeks, he became a member of the "water buffaloes" — men who drove tankers to water-starved Macon neighborhoods. People know his face in such places as Murphy Homes, a government-housing community on the city's south side.

"He's the water man," said Taquanta Lewis, 7, who was filling a five-gallon jug with water last week. "He brought us water so we can cook and wash off."

Henderson, 38, said helping deliver water is his way of giving back to the community.

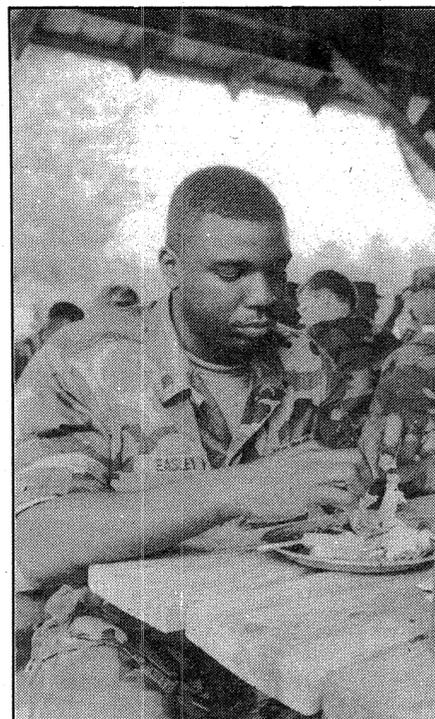
"It makes you feel good knowing you're doing something to help people," he said. "These people depend on us."

As the floodwaters recede and the units begin to pull out, many communities in South Georgia are beginning the long process of rebuilding. Guard units in Americus are helping to take down roadblocks that they helped erect a month before.

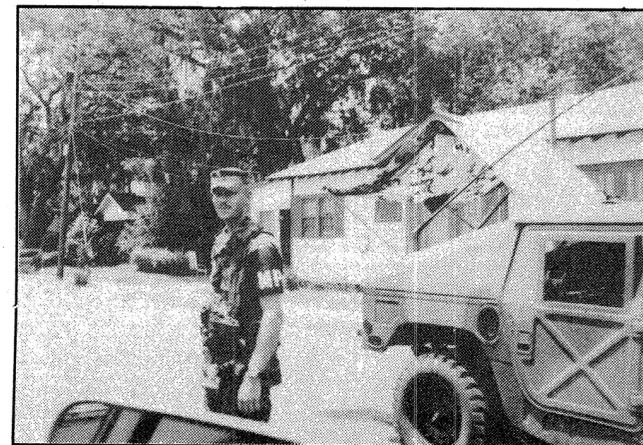
And in Albany they are helping residents return to homes they earlier had helped evacuate.

"This really has been a total community and military team effort," said Lt. Col. Tom Lynn, commander of the Macon Task Force. "It's been a true example of neighbors helping neighbors."

(Left) The extent of the flood damage amazed even these experienced Guard engineers. Storms flooded more than 1,000 miles of roads and damaged hundreds of bridges. Georgia National Guard engineers worked steadfastly to repair as much of the infrastructure as possible. (Photo by Spec. Jay Kinnaman, 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.) (Below) Army Guard military police and Air Guard security police put in many long hours while helping local law enforcement on patrols and security, and assisting in search and rescue missions. (Georgia Air National Guard photo)



Spec. Lawrence Easley of A Company, 148th Forward Support Battalion located in Dublin, takes a well earned break to enjoy a meal courtesy of the Georgia Agrirama in Tifton. Although he serves his state active duty without complaint, "I miss my family and look forward to seeing them in August." (Photo by Spec. Stuart Huggins, HHC 1/121st Infantry)



Guard and Flooded Communities the Center of Political Attention

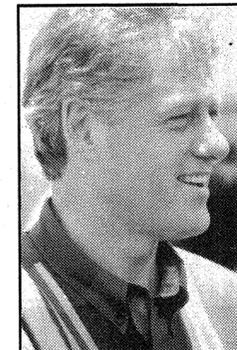
Story by Capt. Al Fecteau
Public Affairs Officer
48th Infantry Brigade.

Soon after high water came high-ranking, national, public officials to flood-ravaged Albany.

And those asking the most pointed questions to federal emergency relief managers, and United States senators, did not include media-members, or even members of the overwhelmed public.

Instead, local city councilors and county commissioners, themselves truly on the front lines of this struggle, peppered Washington reps with repeated inquires and pleas.

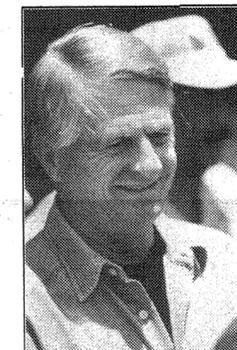
But between breaths, the local officials took time to praise the efforts of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard.



President Bill Clinton

'The National Guard has just been tremendous from the very beginning, as you always are. Anytime there's a disaster that hits this stte, anytime you're needed, you're always there. Sometimes we almost take you for granted, but we know that without you we'd be in serious, serious trouble in this state. You've come through again in a magnificent way. I salute you and take my hat off to you.'

– Gov. Zell Miller



Governor Zell Miller

"We could not operate without the guard," said George Ort, a Dougherty County commissioner, while he waited for Sen. Sam Nunn's Albany arrival. "We've saved many lives that would not have been saved, had we not had your help."

Fellow commissioner George Brown echoed Ort's sentiments, stating that he was sure he "could speak for all residents of my district when I say we are very appreciative of the Guard's being here."

With local government services strapped, guard manpower and equipment helped local officials manage efforts to get things back to normal after the flood. Even under ideal conditions, local police and sheriff departments are not likely to be equipped with helicopters and military-style vehicles any time soon.

"One thing that's helped us keep looting down has been your helicopter that flies all night long," Ort explained.

Guard choppers were also used to ferry hospital patients from East Albany, over the closed bridges, to the two area hospitals located on the west side.

"You can't get to the hospitals quicker from the east side, than from the west side, because of the helicopter service you've provided us," Ort continued.

Members of the Marietta-based 148th Medical Company regularly flew the back-and-forth routes as Albany's three main bridges remained closed for days after the Flint River's excessive crest passed through the city.

Yes, Washington, D.C., is a long way from here. And in times like these, the nation's capitol can appear to be even more distant.

But it comforted local officials that the Georgia Guard quickly responded to give much-needed support before the federal aid became available.

Some of the Many VIPs Who Visited the Flood Areas

• President Bill Clinton

Declared 52 counties disaster areas, making them eligible for federal aid.

• Governor Zell Miller

He activated nearly one-third of the Georgia National Guard.

• Senator Sam Nunn

Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and one of the Guard's strongest supporters.

• Senator Paul Coverdell

He was instrumental in seeing that activated Guardsmen had a chance to vote in the primary.

• Deborah Lee

Deputy Secretary for Reserve Affairs, assessed the Guard's involvement and activation in support of flood relief.



Medics Credit PT For Few Sick Calls

Though the "Flood of '94" claimed thousands of acres of land in southwest Georgia setting records for high water levels and sheer destruction, there was

one record low statistic that Georgia National Guard soldiers can point to with justifiable pride.

Almost nobody called in sick.

Of the nearly 4,000 guard members responding to the call to aid flood victims in southwest Georgia, only 35 reported to sick call more than two weeks into the effort.

"Most of the troops here are in good shape," said Sgt. Thomas Stallworth, of Atlanta's 138th Medical Company. "A few reported in to us because of chest congestion or foot problems. Beyond that, everybody seems to be holding up real well."

Stallworth, a Lithonia resident, attributed the low sick call rate in part to

the guard's physical training program.

"The fitness program we have to complete appears to be paying dividends," Stallworth said. "We've just had very few problems with how the troops would hold up under the hot weather."

And with a reduced effort needed to treat troops, the medics could devote more attention to the needs of communities.

FLOOD FACTS

- 2.3 million gallons of bottled water distributed
- 4.8 million gallons of water produced by water purification units
- 98 water trailers manned at 62 sites
- 3.1 million gallons of water distributed by water trailers
- More than 1,000 hours of aircraft time flown
- 38 emergency patients and 146 ambulatory patients transported by MEDEVAC helicopters to hospitals
- Nearly 300 pieces of heavy engineering equipment used in cleanup efforts.
- Hundreds of miles of road temporarily repaired.
- More than 154,000 meals served
- In excess of 1 million vehicle miles driven
- Peak strength: 3,683 National Guardsmen on July 18, 1994 — nearly one-third of Georgia's force.
- In excess of \$6,000,000 in state active duty pay issued
- The flood forced 35,000 to evacuate
- 5,000 stayed in shelters and 1,000 remained there as of July 29
- 400,000 acres of crops flooded, 100,000 remained underwater at the end of July
- 52 counties cited as disaster areas by the presidential disaster declaration
- Infrastructure damage in excess of \$203,000,000
- \$14,000,000 issued in emergency food stamps
- \$14,000,000 loaned through the Small Business Administration
- More than 1,000 miles of roads flooded

City-By-City Breakdown Of Units Participating In Flood Relief

Albany (Dougherty) Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry	Macon (Bibb) HQ, 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized)
Americus (Sumter) Co. C, 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry	Co. C, 148th Forward Support Bn. 202nd Engineer Squadron
Atlanta (Fulton) 124th Mobile Public Affairs Det. 118th Personnel Services Co. 170th Command and Control Bn. 190th Military Police Co. 138th Medical Co. 277th Maintenance Co. (DS)	Marietta (Cobb) HQ, 265th Engineer Group
Augusta (Richmond) Headquarters, 878th Engineer Bn. 1148th Transportation Co.	Marietta (Dobbins AFB) HQ, 151st Medical Bn. (EVAC) (Provisional) 148th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance) 151st Medical Co., (HCAA) (Provisional) 116th Fighter Wing
Bainbridge (Decatur) Detachment 1, Co. D, 560th Engineer Bn.	Metter (Candler) Det. 1, Company C, 878th Engineer Bn.
Barnesville (Lamar) 1177th Transportation Co.	Monroe (Walton) 178th Military Police Co.
Baxley (Appling) Service Co., 648th Engineer Bn.	Montezuma (Macon) Detachment 1, Co. B, 560th Engineer Bn.
Brunswick (Glynn) 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron 165th Air Control Party Flight	Moultrie (Colquitt) Det. 1, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry
Columbus (Muscogee) Headquarters, 560th Engineer Bn. Det. 1, Co. A, 560th Engineer Bn.	Newnan (Coweta) Co. H, 121st Infantry
Cordele (Crisp) Co. B(-), 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry	Perry (Houston) Det. 1, Co. D, 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry
Dawson (Terrell) Co. A(-), 560th Engineer Bn.	Reynolds (Taylor) Co. B(-), 560th Engineer Bn.
Decatur (DeKalb) Headquarters, Troop Command HQ, 110th Maintenance Bn.	Sandersville (Washington) Co. B, 878th Engineer Bn.
Douglas (Coffee) Co. C, 648th Engineer Bn.	Savannah (Chatham) 165th Supply Co. Co. G, 244th Aviation 165th Airlift Group 283rd Combat Communications Squadron
Dublin (Laurens) Co. A, 148th Forward Support Bn.	117th Air Control Squadron Combat Readiness Training Center
Eastman (Dodge) Co. D(-), 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry	Sparta (Hancock) Det., Co. A, 148th Forward Support Bn.
Elberton (Elbert) Headquarters, 1st Bn., 214th Field Artillery	Statesboro (Bulloch) HQ, 648th Engineer Bn. Co. A, 648th Engineer Bn.
Fitzgerald (Ben Hill) Co. E, 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry	Swainsboro (Emanuel) Co. A, 878th Engineer Bn.
Forsyth (Monroe) HQ, 148th Forward Support Bn.	Thomasville (Thomas) Co. D(-), 560th Engineer Bn.
Glennville (Tattall) Det. 1, Co. B, 148th, Forward Support Bn.	Thomson (McDuffie) Battery B, 1st Bn., 214th Field Artillery
Hartwell (Hart) Battery A, 1st Bn., 214th Field Artillery	Tifton (Tift) Det. 1, Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry
Hawkinsville (Pulaski) Det. 1, Headquarters, 48th Infantry Bde (Mech) Det. 1, Company D, 1st Bn., 121st Infantry	Toccoa (Stephens) 82nd Maintenance Co. (-)
Hinesville (Liberty) Co. B(-), 148th Forward Support Bn.	Valdosta (Lowndes) Co. A, 2nd Bn., 121st Infantry
Jackson (Butts) 166th Maintenance Co. (-)	Washington (Wilkes) Service Battery, 1st Bn., 214th Field Artillery
Kennesaw (Cobb) 118th Air Control Squadron 129th Air Control Squadron	Waycross (Ware) Co. B, 648th Engineer Bn.
LaGrange (Troup) Company C, 560th Engineer Bn.	Waynesboro (Burke) Battery C, 1st Bn., 214th Field Artillery
Lavonia (Franklin) Detachment 1, 82nd Maintenance Co.	Winder (Barrow) 449th Aviation Detachment Det. 1, HQ Co., 244th Aviation Det. 1, Co. D, 244th Aviation
Louisville (Jefferson) Det. 1, Co. B, 878th Engineer Bn.	
Lyons (Toombs) Company C, 878th Engineer Bn.	