

page 1 - cover, 2/214th deactivated; other units slated for activation in 1994; highlights of issue.

page 2 - military Beat; csm Manning & cMSGT Williams messages.

page 3 - 1Lt. Tanya Brinkley interview, family support coordinator, Kathy Justiss.

- Retention boards delayed.

- INSIDE Army Guard: 2 large encampments; better insurance; okay to stack BDU's; GANG losses; Col. Billy Steele Retires.

page 4 - MG Bland, "forging the force to meet world's problems.

page 5 - GA. guard spans globe for ANNUAL TRAINING; LOGISTICS of getting there.

page 6 - • USPFO gets what Guard needs.

- AT, who/where/when.

page 7 - • NTC INFORMATION.

- MATES at Ft. Stewart gear up for AT.

page 8/9 - Guardsmen share the season with family & friends.

page 10 - GA. GUARDS gets two C-26 twin-turbo Metroliner.

- MSGT DENA BYNUM, 116th, served tour duty on National Guard one.

- INSIDE AIR GUARD: CMSGT Edward E. Smith retires; Col. Steven Westgate deployed to Somalia; 116th FW rated excellent.

page 11 - Kids get taste of bivouac life at Catoosa Range

- Youth Challenge, new program, designed to help at-risk GA. teens.

page 12 - • Voluntary Tax Assistance Program.

- Military Pay, what is taxable.

- DRILL pay raised 3.7%

page 13 - • Calhoun ARMOR, V108, unit accepts MIAI tank.

- MIAI Abrams at a glance.

page 14 - • FOUR POSITIONS IN 48th to change (NAMES of INCOMING)

- 224th Comm SPT SPD, AIR GUARD, TOP AIR GUARD UNIT IN NATION.

- Vet/ANIMAL Hosp. Honored By Bureau.

- FORMER/CURRENT 878 ENG. CMDR.'s

- CSM William "PING" Johnson dies at 72.

page 15 - SPC Waylon Moore gets GA. Medal of Valor.

- LTC David replaced by LTC Thomas Stewart as cmdr. 1st Prov. Bn.

- NCO's finish 1st SGT's course at GMI.

- Recipients of Awards.

page 16 - PT/health

ISSUES & IDEAS

Downsizing brings unexpected benefits
— Page 2

In spite of it all, guard has good year
— Page 2

NEWS

Tax help is free; just ask for it
— Page 12

'93 drill pay: up 3.7 percent
— Page 12

Supplies, supplies: USPFO can get 'em
— Page 6

'Motor-vating' the units at Stewart
— Page 7

MILESTONES

Four key positions to change in 48th
— Page 14

224th JCSS named number one in U.S.
— Page 15

FIT TO FIGHT

Real Army PT: road march w/pack
— Page 16

2/214th Artillery to be deactivated

Army Guard faces more troop cuts

The Georgia Army National Guard will deactivate six units by September 30, 1993, part of continuing force reductions directed by the U.S. Department of Defense. These units are in addition to the nine Georgia units deactivated during the last fiscal year.

These current deactivations will result in a loss this year of 502 authorized Georgia Army National Guard personnel slots, 18 of which are full-time, out of the current authorized strength of 10,563 men and women. Last year 779 slots were lost due to deactivation.

Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General, stated, "Last year, we were able to reassign all of these soldiers to existing units in the Georgia Army Guard whose strength is below 100 percent. This new round of cuts may well result in some part-time as well as full-time personnel being discharged or retired."

"After last year's deactivations, we reassigned some units or parts of them to different armories and facilities to continue the Georgia Guard presence in all communities where they are now stationed. This latest action may require more

reassignments and consolidation of some armories," Bland added.

The units and authorized strengths involved are:

■450th Aviation Detachment, Winder — 34;

■Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2/214th Field Artillery, Statesboro — 111;

■Battery A, 2/214th Field Artillery, Savannah — 96;

■Battery B, 2/214th Field Artillery, Savannah — 96;

Maj. Gen. William P. Bland answers questions about the latest round of Army Guard troop reductions. See Page 4.

■Battery C, 2/214th Field Artillery, Springfield — 96;

■Service Battery, 2/214th Field Artillery, Savannah — 70.

"My primary concern is the soldiers who make up these units," said Bland. "We will reassign as many of them as possible to other units so that they will be able to continue their National Guard careers.

"I wish that this were the end, but there are plans to reduce the strength of the Georgia Army

Guard to as few as 8,500 in the next two or three years. This may also cause us to reduce the size of our headquarters in Atlanta."

The Department of Defense has stated that the following additional units of the Georgia Army Guard will be deactivated during Federal Fiscal Year 1994:

■560th Engineer Battalion, Columbus

■190th Military Police Company, Atlanta

■138th Medical Company, Atlanta

■122nd Movement Control Detachment, Atlanta

■201st Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company, Atlanta

■Company H, 122nd Infantry (LRSU), Cartersville and Summer-ville

■117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH), Atlanta

■148th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), Dobbins AFB

Far and away Training locations span U.S. & globe

As has become the trend for the Georgia Army National Guard, the 1993 training year has already shaped up to be one of wide-ranging travel. To get the type of intensive training they need, guard soldiers are being sent wherever is necessary.

This year, the 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery has sent troops to Fort Drum, N.Y., for cold weather training in preparation for an upcoming sojourn to Norway for NATO exercises. Other units are going to Germany, Iowa and Texas to practice soldier skills.

And most of the rest will have to settle for a trip in a more southerly direction, to the swamps and pine trees at Fort Stewart.

For a complete picture of who's going where, see Pages 5 through 7.

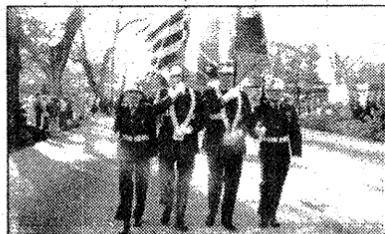
CENTERPIECE

That holiday spirit

All around the state, guard units celebrated the holiday season with family days, parties and other functions. This is nothing new, of course, and March is a bit late for Christmas stories. But the guard has a strong family and community tradition that manifests itself most at that time of year. For a taste of some of those activities, see Pages 8-9.



While Santa entertained wide-eyed children at state headquarters in Atlanta, other communities marked Christmas with parades through the town square, as did Monroe, where the 178th MP Company marched on a chilly December morn.



1993 -- The Year of Challenge and Change
The Adjutant General's vision - page 3

THE MILITARY BEAT

A new beginning?

A new administration. New priorities. American citizens began 1993 with some degree of anticipation and excitement. At the same time, the men and women of the armed forces treaded lightly into the year with an equal degree of concern.

Change for the active duty military establishment has meant "building down." But change for the guard and reserve could well mean bulking up.

"I see a change for the better," said Maj. Gen. Wayne Wagner, adjutant general of the Massachusetts Guard, to the *Army Times* recently. "I think you'll see a relative increase in the use of the Guard."

At the beginning of 1992, significant cuts in guard billets were expected nationwide. But after timely response to the spring rioting in Los Angeles, and the back-to-back hurricane disasters affecting Florida, Louisiana, Hawaii and Guam last summer, the guard has been suddenly revitalized. Across the board, 45 of the 54 U.S. states and territories activated guard members to fulfill emergency state missions in 1992.

And don't forget the Air Guard, which has been flying regular cargo missions throughout 1992 in support of United Nations troops protecting the Kurds in northern Iraq; American, British and French troops protecting the no-fly zone in southern Iraq; and Operation Restore Hope to Somalia.

The result? Only 8,000 Guard billets are expected to be lost this year.

Last year, the Pentagon had planned to cut more than 88,000 slots from the Guard and Reserve for 1993. That plan found itself blocked, in part, by none other than former U.S. Rep. Les Aspin, ex-head of the House Armed Services Committee, who has since been named Secretary of Defense in the new administration.

DNA ID testing

Law enforcement agencies have used DNA testing for years to identify suspects and witnesses in criminal investigations. And at the outset of the U.S. deployment to Somalia, samples of blood and saliva were taken from soldiers to help positively identify troops, should they be killed in action.

The military use for the DNA sampling is to be as a backup identification system should dog tags, dental records, fingerprints or other documentation prove inconclusive. All people — except identical twins — have unique DNA characteristics.

During the next five years, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, Maryland, plans to collect DNA samples from all military members.

Compiled by Capt. Alan Fecteau
124th PA Detachment

Annual training is our final exam

By Command Sgt. Maj.
BILLY MANNING



Here are some random thoughts about what I feel is important to our soldiers, to the National Guard and to national defense:

Despite factors that could have had a negative impact on training in the Georgia Guard, such as the deactivation of some units and the shortage of funds and training dollars, we've had a pretty good year.

Annual training periods, which used to come only during the summer, now are conducted almost year round. Some units have already completed their AT periods, while others are just now preparing to go. As you all know, AT is our final exam for the training year. How well we do depends on what we put into it, both in terms of preparation and execution.

But our training wouldn't be nearly as successful if we didn't get timely support. I'd like to thank the supporters of the guard — our families and our employers — without which we could not do what we do. It's a great factor in our success, and sometimes we forget to give them their due credit.

I'd like to charge our soldiers and their units

to make the most of their training. We must do this, given the restrictions of time and money we face. Make every training event meaningful and use every minute of training, especially at IDT in unit armories.

Use your equipment wisely, as well. This cannot come at the expense of safety, however. We must practice the principles of safety and keep all our soldiers safe, so that we can send them back home in better shape than before AT.

Keep up with your schooling, both military and civilian. In most cases, it's the only way you're going to advance. It builds better leaders who will in turn train better soldiers.

Keep physically fit. This is very important. Maintain your tactical and technical proficiency. And always keep a PMA (positive mental attitude.)

I'd like to congratulate 1st Sgt. James Willie, who was selected for the Command Sergeant Major slot with the 560th Engineer Battalion.

Also, I extend my congratulations to 1st Sgt. Calvin Hipp, Master Sgt. Jeff Dawkins, and Sgt. 1st Class Terry Cosper on their recent graduation from the Army's Sergeants Major Course at Fort Bliss, Texas.

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Manning is Command Sergeant Major of the Georgia Army National Guard.

Air Guard ORI — well done!

By Chief Master Sgt.
DAVID WILLIAMS



Congratulations are in order to all units that just finished their Operational Readiness Inspection with such a high rating. It took a lot of effort from everybody working together as a team to accomplish this huge task.

Shortly after its inspection, I visited with a unit and talked with the commander at length. I asked him what he thought the contributing factors to his unit's high rating. Here are some of those factors:

- Being straightforward and honest with unit members.
- Addressing mistakes and taking immediate steps to fix them as soon as they are discovered.
- Encouraging each individual to make a commitment to excellence.
- Team training.
- Paying close attention to details.
- Integrity.

I believe all of these played a major role in our overall rating.

I would also like to congratulate airmen who attended In-Resident PME Courses and graduated. With budget cuts, the commanders had to make some tough decisions.

As for all the units that I have visited so far, I have been very impressed with the moral attitude and commitment of all the men and women in those units. I say this with conviction, as I have not only met with the people who perform the various important tasks, I have been to the workshops and talked with the supervisors, team leaders and team members.

But just because we're doing a good job doesn't mean we can let up. All of us should take a hard look around our shops and our units for ideas to cut costs on some of the things we are doing. Take some time to jot down these ideas. Then talk it over with the other people who work in your shop. Finally, write it up as a suggestion and turn it in to your supervisor for consideration.

Just like with the ORI, with everyone working together on a common goal, we can make the Air Guard a better force.

Chief Master Sgt. David Williams is Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Georgia Air National Guard.

The 'family part' of the guard

Following are excerpts of an interview with Kathy Justiss, the new volunteer coordinator for National Guard family support groups throughout the state. This interview was conducted by 1st Lt. Tanya Brinkley, the state family support officer.

Q: What does the Family Program mean to the National Guard?

A: The National Guard considers the families an important part of the National Guard — the "family part." Healthy families help a soldier remain alive in the battlefield. The purpose of the Family Program is to enhance the quality of life for the guard family. The program plays an important part in readiness and retention.

Q: How does the GFAC help the Family Program?

A: This group of volunteers and military personnel can bring the concerns, issues, ideas of the family support groups to the state level for problem-solving or research. The area representatives help individual units develop their own support groups or maintain an already existing group. The main job is to establish a working group in each unit of



1ST LT. TANYA BRINKLEY, state family support officer, talks with Kathy Justiss.

the state, and provide them with training and tools to maintain an active support group.

Q: What can a family support group do for the soldier?

A: Provide education to the families about the mission of the unit, benefits, family care, etc. Most of all, the groups build friendship among those who share a common bond and make them feel their importance. If soldiers feel at ease and that their families are in good hands upon mobilizing, they can focus on their jobs.

Q: What can a family support group do for the commander?

A: Evaluate the families and help provide a family atmosphere in the unit. Hold family activities that help them understand the importance of the guardmember's job and unit mission. Help with retention. Become an asset to the commander, not a liability.

Q: Is there training provided for volunteers?

A: Yes. Each area representative will help in training and workshops are held in each area annually.

Retention boards being delayed

Retention boards are out — for the time being, at least.

But officers and NCOs with more than 20 years of service shouldn't become complacent. The delay is only temporary.

Boards scheduled for 1993 are delayed because of language in the National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed last October.

That act authorizes

transition benefits for some members of the selected reserve, says Lt. Col. (P) James A. Bruno, the Georgia Army Guard's military personnel officer.

One provision of that act prohibits the involuntary separation of Guardsmen until regulations establishing the benefits are drafted. Retention boards, therefore, cannot involuntarily retire Guardsmen until the benefit changes are

established. That is expected to be later this year.

There are some exceptions, though. Bruno explains them:

- Individuals can be discharged at their request, for unsatisfactory participation or performance, or for cause — failing to meet weight standards, for example.

- Failing to accept another position which does not require a reduction in grade and is within commuting distance.

1993 — The year of challenge and change

This year the U.S. military establishment faces its most significant changes in modern times. The world is a very different place than it was just two years ago. Governments that have been our foes since the end of World War II are no more. The world's new trouble spots have not yet been defined.

Whatever happens, our armed forces will be different. We will be smaller and better-equipped. More demands will be made on us to reach and maintain a higher state of combat readiness than ever before.

So 1993 will be a year of great challenges. With these challenges will come change. The professional soldiers and airmen in our ranks will meet these challenges and grow because of them.

Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr.,
The Adjutant General,
Reflecting on the National Guard's future

INSIDE
The Army Guard

The big camps

The two big encampments this year will fall in April and July. About 5,755 Guardsmen will be at Fort Stewart during the last two weeks of April, with 4,000 scheduled to train the last two weeks of July. On April 17, 62 company-sized units will descend on Fort Stewart.

By now, annual training for the year is well underway. The 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery has been to Ft. Drum, N.Y., while its Battery C has trained in Norway.

Better insurance

Don't wait too long to take advantage of a bill passed last year improving insurance coverage for guardsmen to a maximum of \$200,000. The deadline is March 31. Cost for the additional insurance is 80-cents per \$10,000 per month.

Hold the starch

Now it's okay to starch BDUs. Army Regulation 670-1 has been revised removing the prohibition. Now it's up to you.

The losses continue

The Georgia Army Guard suffered 435 losses through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1993. Why? Uncertainty about the impact of downsizing on units and individuals is apparently causing a lot of guardsmen to opt out. In the 48th Brigade, for example, 89 E-6s elected to retire during the quarter.

Why do people abandon military life? A just-completed survey of active-duty losses revealed the following: More than half leave at the completion of service obligations, 12.8 percent retire, 7.3 are separated for medical reasons, including a failure to meet weight and body-fat standards, while 16.7 percent failed to meet minimum behavior or performance standards. The rest left for a variety of reasons, including pregnancy, parenthood and hardship.

All in all, the active duty military turns over a third of the force every year.

A friend in need

Col. Billy Steele, the head of the State Selective Service system, who retired earlier this year after 33 years in the Georgia Guard, reflected on the experience.

"It's such a great honor," he said, "to serve your country and wear this uniform and make the kinds of friends you have all across Georgia. It would be hard for my car to break down anywhere in Georgia and not get fixed by a friend" from the Guard.

Well said. Colonel Steele says he's not hard to find in Eastman. Visit anytime. Once a family, always family.

Compiled by Ga. Army National
Guard Public Affairs Office

Forging the force to meet today's world problems

Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General, granted the following interview to the Georgia Guardsman to discuss where the Georgia National Guard is today and where he sees it going in the next few years.

Q: General Bland, you stated that you wanted this interview to be titled, 1993 — Year of Challenge and Change. Why?

A: During this year, 1993, we will see more challenges and more changes in the Georgia Army and Air National Guard than at any time since the National Guard was re-established following World War II. Every man and woman in the Georgia Guard will be tested to the limits of his or her professional ability. The force will get smaller but it will become more professional.

Q: You have just announced deactivation of eight units of the Georgia Army Guard. Last year we had similar cuts. What is behind these reductions?

A: The entire U.S. military is a casualty of the end of the Cold War. The collapse of the Soviet Union eliminated the threat of our enemy of more than 45 years and the need for the massive military forces of the U.S. and its allies. While we still have potential enemies and trouble spots in the world, they present an entirely different threat. This means that our military forces must be changed to meet today's problems.

Q: Who decides which units will go and which will stay?

A: The Department of Defense in Washington is responsible for designing a force that will meet our nation's needs and provide the security that we and our allies need. When a particular type of unit is no longer needed in this force structure, it is deactivated.

Q: What will happen to the units to be deactivated? What will happen to their soldiers?

A: When a unit is deactivated, its colors are retired. The soldiers in that unit will be reassigned to vacancies that exist in other units in Georgia. If there are no vacancies, or if the soldier chooses not to transfer, he or she will be discharged or retired if eligible. This applies to traditional Guardsmen as well as full-time soldiers.

We were very successful in the first round of deactivations. We were able to place everyone who wished to continue with the Guard.

I'm not certain about the deactivations that we announced in January. We may have to separate people from the Guard.

Q: Will these unit deactivations affect other units?

A: Yes. Our authorized strength in the Georgia Army Guard has been cut by a little less than 20 percent.

GUARDSMAN



Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr.

Our support units were designed to take care of a larger force. This means that we will consolidate elements of our maintenance force — if there is no unit in an area, there is no need for a maintenance shop, for example.

Our headquarters in Atlanta was designed to take care of a larger force, also. With fewer soldiers in the force, it stands to reason that we will be cutting our headquarters. I should add that the Atlanta headquarters has, over the years, assumed many of the responsibilities of units in the field. These responsibilities will be transferred back to the units, meaning that we will need fewer people in Atlanta.

Q: Will any armories and facilities be closed?

A: Again, we have armories and facilities throughout the state to accommodate a force of 11,500. Even with the larger force, many of these armories are under-utilized.

In this period of tight economic times and significantly reduced state and federal budgets, we are evaluating each Army Guard armory and facility in the state to determine which ones we can use with the smaller force.

We are also looking at the possibility of establishing regional training centers that will be home for a number of units. That would mean that an armory would be used 3-4 weekends each month instead of just one. When we establish these regional training centers, they will be located so that the commuting distance for soldiers will not be significantly increased.

By concentrating units in larger training centers, we will also concentrate the full-time force. This will mean that each soldier has more help available to him.

Q: How small will the Georgia Army Guard get?

A: Nobody knows at this time. The leadership in Washington is studying this along with the Congress. The Georgia Army Guard could possibly shrink to as few as 8,500 if the worst case occurs.

You should note that Georgia is not the only state being cut. All states are losing strength authorizations.

Q: Is the Georgia Air Guard being cut back?

A: There have been no cuts in the Georgia Air Guard to this point. However, the Air Force is still under-

going major reorganization. The Air Guard may have some units redesigned with different missions and equipment. There is a possibility that Air Guard units may lose some aircraft, or that units may be relocated.

Q: As the Army Guard gets smaller, do you see any other changes?

A: The National Guard will become a smaller, more mobile force in the years to come. The demands on units and soldiers will be even greater than it is today. That means that we will be able to retain only those soldiers who are well trained and professional.

Every soldier must keep up with his or her professional and civilian education. Every soldier must be physically and mentally fit all of the time.

I also see us getting more involved in today's management technology. We have computers all over the state but, unfortunately, too many of them are used only as electronic typewriters. They should be used to communicate and conduct our day-to-day business more efficiently.

Q: Will there be any changes in Guard missions?

A: The National Guard will get more deeply involved in community actions. In our state role, we have historically been used during emergencies by the governor. This role will probably be increased. National Guard soldiers make ideal role models for problem areas in our cities and towns. Our troops are trained to act as well-disciplined teams. They will make good examples for young children who live in environments of lawlessness and drugs. The presence of our soldiers and airmen will have a positive effect on these youngsters. And, it makes no difference if the soldiers are infantrymen, clerical personnel, medics or whatever. They are soldiers.

Q: Will these changes affect training?

A: Absolutely. It already has. Training in the Georgia Army Guard is undergoing radical changes. We learned many lessons from Operation Desert Storm and the studies that have been conducted since then.

In the past, the theme of training was "Bigger is Better." That meant that we tried to train at the battalion, brigade or division level.

This is no longer the case. Our training theme now is "Smaller is

More Professional and Better." We will be training at the squad and platoon level. Our concentration will be on each soldier mastering basic skills. Every soldier will be qualified with his individual weapon. Every combat vehicle crew will be qualified on all gunnery tables as a crew.

Every leader at the lower levels — squad leaders, vehicle commanders, platoon sergeants and platoon leaders will be the focus of our training. We will devote our entire training effort to training sergeants and lieutenants to do sergeants' and lieutenants' work.

You get good companies and battalions only if you have professional squads and platoons.

Q: Other than the obvious professional skills, is there anything else that our leadership should concentrate on?

A: A professional soldier — a leader — must be of the highest moral character. He or she must be moral and ethical. He or she must place their soldiers above themselves, because if there are no soldiers, who is there to be lead?

A leader must seek responsibility. He or she must have the initiative to look for innovative ways to make the unit even more professional and combat ready.

Q: Are there any benefits available to those soldiers, either traditional guardsmen or full-time soldiers, who must leave the guard before completing enough time for retirement?

A: The Army National Guard Combat Readiness Reform Act of 1992 provides for benefits for National Guard soldiers who are forced out prior to completing 20 years service. The specific benefits include early retirement, separation pay and use of the Montgomery GI Bill.

The implementing regulations for these benefits will be submitted to the Senate and House Committees on Armed Services by the first of April for approval. As soon as this happens, we will make sure that all of our soldiers and airmen are informed about them without delay.

I would like to close this interview with a few observations. The majority of our airmen and soldiers are professional, dedicated and innovative. In many cases, we have stifled their talents in favor of doing things the way they have always been done.

In today's National Guard, we must encourage innovation and experimentation. We must allow our men and women to make honest mistakes and correct them.

Above all, we must motivate all of our personnel to strive towards a Georgia National Guard that is the best in the nation.

Ga. guard spans the globe for annual training

Artillery to Norway; others head to Iowa, Texas and Germany

This year's annual training calendar combines familiar Georgia Guard missions with some new twists. In addition to the more routine AT periods served at Fort Stewart, some Georgia Guard units will venture to more non-traditional locations.

This month, for example, members of Waynesboro's Battery C, 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery will be conducting annual training in the Norwegian countryside.

Part of a large NATO Composite Force conducting cold-weather training in northern Norway, the artillery will represent the only Army unit at this joint exercise.

"They have a unique mission," said Col. William T. Nesbitt, deputy chief of staff for operations. "And they'll be taking the actual positions they'd take were they to be deployed to that region."

The Norway exercise, developed during the Cold War to repel a potential Soviet advance via a northern ice cap route, remains a significant NATO event. The primary NATO allies involved include the United States, Canada, Norway and Germany.

Unlike prior deployments to Norway by the 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, members of the Elberton-headquartered unit will be deploying with their own equipment.

"They'll be conducting a live fire for three days with the German and Norwegian forces," explained Maj. Tim Romine, overseas deployment training manager. "Then, they'll move into a combination command post exercise and field training exercise including everybody."

Also deploying to Europe will be members of Forest Park's 277th Maintenance Company. The unit is to deploy to Germany with only their tool boxes.

"They'll just fall in on the equipment that's there, and needs to be fixed," Romine said.

Another Forest Park unit, the 201st Maintenance Company, is set to deploy to Camp Dodge, Iowa, for similar training. On a regular basis, the 201st deploys to Camp Dodge as one of a series of units rotating there assigned to maintain equipment used to conduct National Guard training.

Winder's Company B, 244th Aviation Battalion will fly to Fort Hood, Texas, for annual training. The Winder chopper pilots are to support the local active Army armored division assigned to Fort Hood.

Beyond that, the Fort Stewart's piney woods will provide the backdrop for the vast majority of Georgia Guard Annual Training for 1993. Members of the 48th Infantry Brigade will once again dominate the landscape at the largest military reservation east of the Mississippi River. Brigade units are scheduled to appear at Fort Stewart in either of two periods, in April and July.



SGT. THOMAS WHITFIELD of Waynesboro installs a cable spool in the back of a truck for easy access. (Photo by Spec. Johnny R. Cain, 124th PAD)



THERE WILL BE no dusty Fort Stewart trails for the 1st Battalion of the 214th Field Artillery this year because they are going to Norway for Winter training. (Photo by Sgt. Mark Owens, 124th PAD)

GETTING THERE

Logistics presents its own challenge

Getting from point A to point B.

That's the logistics challenge. And in 1993, Georgia Army National Guard units will train around the country and across the ocean. Being there will be twice the fun. But getting there will be twice the challenge.

"We planned this year's logistics more than a year ago," said Maj. Tim Romine, training specialist and overseas deployment training manager. "It's a continuous process mapped out very well in advance."

This month, members of Waynesboro's Battery C, 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, will face training and logistics challenges as they deploy to northern Norway with a NATO Composite Force.

The Waynesboro gunners will tote their own gear — six howitzers, several ammo carriers and cargo tankers, along with various-sized trucks.

To get it there, the unit is using one the Navy's newest equipment carriers — so-called "ro-ro" ships, from a Marine Corps installation at Cherry Point, N.C. The term "ro-ro" refers to roll on, roll off.

When shipping by sea, time can be saved by avoiding reliance upon slow and



SGT. JIM GATLIFF of Waynesboro installs a heating cable into a vehicle as the unit prepares for winter training. (Photo by Spec. Johnny R. Cain, 124th PAD)

heavy crane equipment to on-load and off-load vehicles and equipment at port. And according to Romine, "ro-ro" ships also "go-go" a little faster in the water.

Battery C has conducted cold-weather training in Norway previously, but never with its own equipment.

"That will be a new challenge for them," Romine said. "But we have a very detailed logistics plan for them to go by, and we're hoping for the best."

Ironically, this may be the last time members of the 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, headquartered in Elberton, deploy to Europe with organic gear.



SGT. 1ST CLASS Carl Bargeron of Hartwell hands equipment to Sgt. 1st Class Carl Jerrell to put on the truck as they get ready for winter training. (Photo by Spec. Johnny R. Cain, 124th PAD)

Guns and butter

What National Guard units need, USPFO can get for them

By Sgt. MARK OWENS
124th PA Detachment

As thousands of Georgia Army National Guard members prepare for annual training, most take for granted that they have vehicles to drive, uniforms to wear, food to eat and ammunition for their weapons.

These items don't just magically appear whenever they are needed, however. Making sure that the force has the supplies it needs is

there, he said.

"On expendable items like clothes, we have a lot more business just before AT," he said. "We always try to provide the opportunity for units to come to our warehouse and do a walk-through when they can't wait for our monthly delivery."

Hobbs explained that a contingent from USPFO goes to all AT encampments to keep the units well-supplied. "This way we can go out on the local economy and

Fort Stewart," Hobbs said.

"We always try to stay in close contact with the units prior to camp to make sure they are ready," he said. "We try to make it as easy as possible on the units."

With more and more units training out of state, the USPFO has had to learn to deal with outside agencies.

"We have to coordinate with the director of logistics at the post where they are training and line up support and provide funds to pay for the support," said Hobbs.

"It's a little bit harder since we're so familiar with the people at Fort Stewart, but we get it lined up so that when the unit arrives they will have everything they need and can start their training immediately without having to wait for something."

Overseas training calls for early planning. USPFO must make sure deploying units have any special equipment they'll need to perform their missions.

The 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, for example, trains in Norway.

"We started funding cold weather clothing and items like that about two years ago," said Hobbs.

"If a unit has a requirement, we always do our very best to meet those requirements," he said.



AN M-1 TANK plows through a muddy bottom during training at Fort Stewart. (Photo courtesy of Calhoun Times)

"We always try to stay in close contact with the units prior to camp to make sure they are ready ... We try to make it as easy as possible on the units."

the responsibility of the United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO).

Although the USPFO performs its mission year round, getting ready for AT requires special attention.

"For the annual training at Fort Stewart, we usually start 60 to 90 days out planning our requirements," said Lt. Col. Gary Hobbs, supply management officer.

Some items, such as rations, are drawn from the issue facility at the post where the training is taking place, according to Hobbs. That, too, requires planning. The facility must be informed well in advance of how many troops will be

purchase it if we have to," he said.

Occasionally units will be short of MTOE items when it comes time for camp. When this happens, the USPFO tries to find a temporary replacement, Hobbs said.

"What we do in most cases is let the unit borrow an item from another unit," he said. "Sometimes we have to go out of state or even lease items. It's generally not a problem to get them what they need."

And units sometimes inadvertently forget needed items.

"To help with this, we have a daily run from our warehouse here in Atlanta to

Change the oil; check the tires

MATES gears up for annual training

By Staff Sgt. ELLIOTT MINOR
124th PA Detachment

National Guard mechanics at Fort Stewart's Mobilization and Training Equipment Site keep about 1,000 sophisticated war machines oiled, tuned up and ready for combat.

These crack wrench-turners are responsible for \$10 billion worth of tracked vehicles that guard combat units train with during annual training and weekend drills.

The list includes M-1 and M-60 tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, portable bridges and command post carriers.

Lined up bumper-to-bumper, this hardware would stretch six miles.

The equipment belongs to units from three states: Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade and 1st and 2nd battalions, 214th Field Artillery; the 218th Infantry Brigade and 111th Field Artillery Brigade from South Carolina; and Kentucky's 149th Infantry Brigade.

And now that the mobilization station for Tennessee's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment has been shifted from Fort Pickett to Fort Stewart, MATES may get another 250 vehicles.

MATES serves as a pre-positioning site for

equipment that would go to war, and it saves money by storing vehicles and equipment that would be too expensive to ship back and forth between home stations and Fort Stewart.

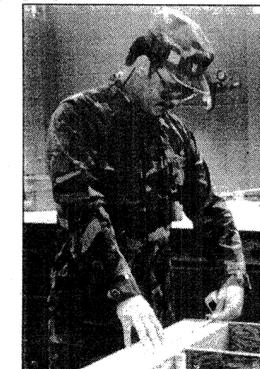
It costs about \$5,000 to load an M-1 tank on a commercial truck and haul it to NGTC from Dalton, where the headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor is located.

"It's more cost-effective to position the equipment at an activity like this because of transportation costs," said Sgt. 1st Class Henry Mock, a MATES production controller.

MATES used to have only two big issues of equipment annually, both in the summer to coincide with traditional annual training periods. Now, with the Pentagon's increased emphasis on reserve component training, guardsmen and reservists train at Fort Stewart year round.

MATES issues equipment to units of at least battalion strength on 47 of the 52 weekends last year, said MATES superintendent Lt. Col. Richard F. Riggs.

"I think we're very fortunate," Riggs said. "We have some of the best equipment and I think we have some of the most modern maintenance facilities and dedicated people around."



SGT. ALLAN DASHER, a MATES carpenter, checks the dimensions on a cabinet he is building. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, 124th PAD)



AN AERIAL VIEW of NGTC, Fort Stewart

What is the National Guard Training Center?

It's a state-controlled Army National Guard training site at Fort Stewart under long-term lease from the Secretary of the Army to the State of Georgia. The current lease expires in the year 2000.

How big is it?

The real estate covers 742.6 acres and has 634 buildings and structures, 506 of which have been constructed by the National Guard since 1959. The remaining 128 date from the early years of World War II, although all wooden buildings have been upgraded with vinyl siding and other improvements.

How many Guardsmen will it accommodate?

At any one time, about 12,200. It's arranged to serve 12 battalions, with four brigades and one state headquarters. Most of the space, of course, is for eating and sleeping. There are 61 mess halls, 189 male and five female barracks, each accommodating 58 people. It's the fifth largest of 88 training sites in the U.S.

Who uses it?

During a given year, about 18,000 Army Guardsmen and 3,000 Army Reservists perform annual training there. The facility is most commonly used by Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida, though others come occasionally.

AT: Who's going where, and when

ANNUAL TRAINING, FT. STEWART

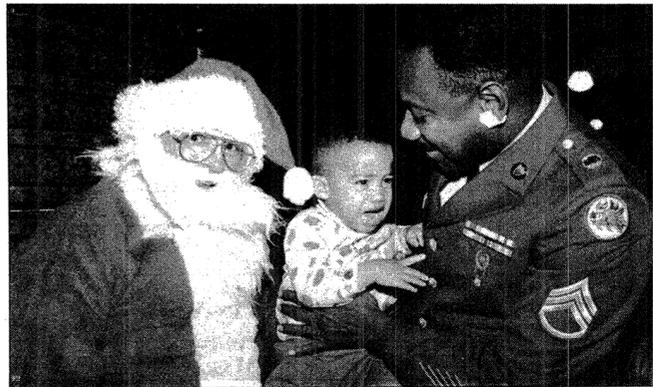
- 8-17 April**
HHC, 48th Infantry Brigade (Macon)
- 12-17 April**
24th Infantry Det. (Savannah)
- 17-25 April**
1/121st Infantry (Dublin)
2/121st Infantry (Albany)
1/108th Armor (Calhoun)
148th Forward Support Battalion (Forsyth)
Troop E., 348th Cavalry (Newnan/Griffin)
848th Engineer Co. (Douglas)
- 17 April-1 May**
HHC, 265th Engineer Group (Marietta)
560th Engineer Battalion (Columbus)
878th Engineer Battalion (Augusta)
HHD, 110th Maintenance Battalion (Decatur)
82nd Maintenance Co. (Toccoa)
2/214th Field Artillery (Statesboro)
138th Medical Co. (Atlanta)
166 Maintenance Co. (Hinesville)
202nd EOD (Forest Park)
148th Medical Co. (Marietta)
- 17-22 July**
1/121st Infantry (Dublin)

- 2/121st Infantry (Albany)
- 1/108th Armor (Calhoun)
- 148th Forward Support Battalion (Forsyth)
- Troop E., 348th Cavalry (Newnan/Griffin)
- 848th Engineer Co. (Douglas)
- 17-31 July**
117 MASH (Atlanta)
1/118th Field Artillery (Savannah)
- 11-25 September**
75th Engineer Det. (Utility) (Hinesville)
- 22-24 September**
24th Infantry Det. (Savannah)

AT ELSEWHERE

- 20 March-3 April**
ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, FT. MCCLLELLAN, ALA
165th Supply Co. (Savannah)
NORWAY
Battery C, 1/214th Field Artillery (Waynesboro)
- 17 April-1 May**
TRAVIS FIELD
Co. C, 878th Engineer Battalion (Lyons)
FT. GORDON
Co. B, 878th Engineer Battalion (Sandersville)
- 15-29 May**
CAMP DODGE, IOWA

- 201st Maintenance Co. (Forest Park)
- 22 May-6 June**
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.
1177th Transportation Co. (Barnesville)
1148th Transportation Co. (Augusta)
- 29 May-12 June**
FT. GORDON
178th MP Co. (Monroe)
- 12-26 June**
FT. HOOD, TEXAS
Co. B, 244th Aviation Regiment (Winder)
Det. 1, HHC, 244th Aviation (Winder)
- 13-27 June**
GMI
Officer Candidate School (Juniors)
- 24 June-7 August**
GMI
OCS (Seniors)
- 5-19 June**
FT. RICKETT, VA.
122nd Rear Area Operation Center (Savannah)
- 12-26 June**
FT. MCCLLELLAN, ALA.
190th MP Co. (Atlanta)
- 14-28 August**
FT. BRAGG, N.C.
Co. H, 122nd Infantry (LRSU) (Summerville)



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES are one of the rare occasions during the year for guardsmen and their families to get together with each other to enjoy good food and fellowship. At State Headquarters in Atlanta, several different units shared an afternoon of music by the 116th Army Band and a visit with Santa during an open house organized by Lori Cason and members of the Family Support Group. Among those enjoying the afternoon were (top left) CW3 Danny Hammond and daughter Jessica and Sgt. David Brown and daughter Brittina. At left, Elliott Phillips, son of Staff Sgt. Herman Phillips, has not yet warmed to Santa (CW3 David Cason). Top, Capt. Jack Womack and son, Carson. At right, children visit with Santa, while Sgt. First Class Gerald L. Evans, marksmanship coordinator, explains the proper method of aiming a BB pistol. At far right, Sgt. Merenda Green helps to decorate the unit Christmas tree at the 48th Brigade armory. (Photos by 124th PAD and 48th Brigade PAO)



Guardsmen share the season with family, friends

The holidays are a time of the year for family and friends.

All across Georgia, armories become more casual and warmer places as airmen and soldiers pause to share the season with family and community.

"Support from family and friends is important to the soldier," said Staff Sgt. Oscar Ferrara, one of the leaders of the Macon Volunteers NCO Club.

"So we set aside some time this time of year especially to let spouses and friends know that we appreciate their support and to let the soldiers have a good time."

More than 200 soldiers of the 48th Brigade's Headquarters Company, along with spouses and friends, took part in the annual Christmas party sponsored by the Macon Volunteers.

The gathering featured live entertainment, dancing, a holiday meal and refreshments.

The celebration has been

an annual tradition with the Macon unit since it returned from deployment during World War II.

The scene was much the same throughout the state. In Dawson, members of Co. A, 560th Engineer Battalion, hosted a luncheon in

December to honor family members, retired guardsmen and employers who have provided generous support.

During the festivities, the guardsmen and about 50 guests enjoyed a holiday meal that included turkey, salad and sweet potato pie. Then they held a drawing for door prizes, including a deluxe barbecue grill.

In Swainsboro, family members and friends of Co. A, 878th Engineer Battalion, made the slogan "Guard is Family" a reality. Guardsmen and their families shared the season with the community and with the less fortunate.

The family support group held a family day, with activities that included face painting, crafts, a clown and

drug awareness classes for children.

The group also held a Christmas party for the children of guardsmen, which included a visit with



MEMBERS OF MONROE'S 178th Military Police Co. march in the Christmas parade held in downtown Monroe.

Santa.

Also, the company hosted a Christmas benefit for the entire battalion and neighboring communities. The benefit consisted of a

dinner and dance.

Donations were collected to benefit Homestead, Fla., and White Plains, Ga., hurricane and tornado victims for Christmas. The

hurricane victims are members of the Florida National Guard.

The event was held in the Swainsboro armory. Local radio personalities donated their time to entertain.

Gail Brown, president of the company's family support group, organized the benefit, assisted by Judy Griffith, vice president, Kay Wilson, secretary, and Eva Coppock, treasurer.

In Glennville, the annual Christmas celebration was an occasion to honor recent retirees of Detachment 1, 166th Maintenance Co. Among those honored was Chief Warrant Officer 4 George Bailey, who devoted 43 years of his life to his state and country.

Most every unit held open houses. At State Headquarters, for example, an afternoon open house included refreshments, a shooting gallery for children, music by the 116th Army Band, and a visit with Santa.

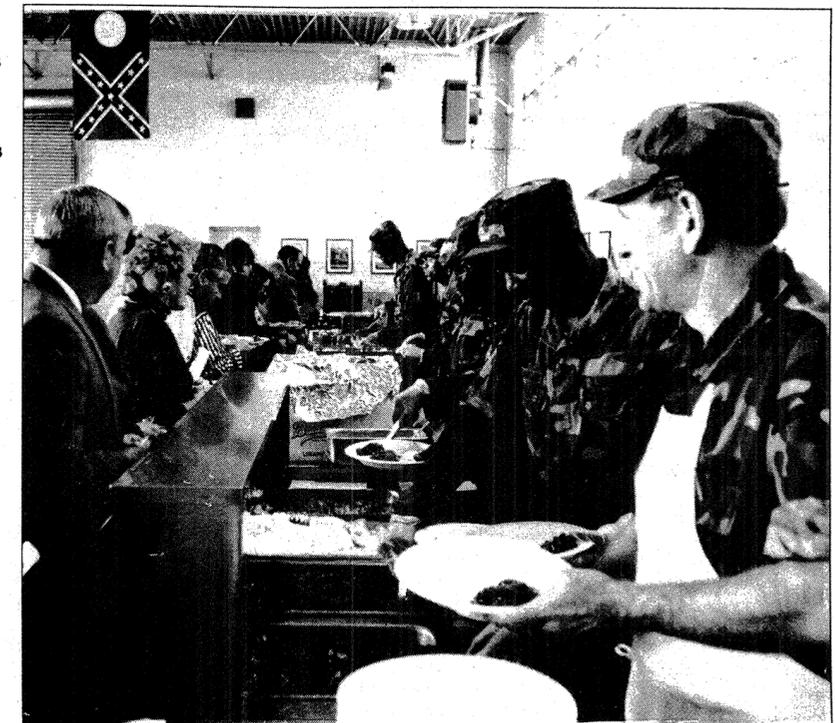
The 151st Military

Intelligence Battalion held an open house at its Dobbins Air Force Base armory.

Area retention NCO Sgt. 1st Class Robert A. Dunaway spoke with soldiers and their families about guard programs and benefits.

The Cobb Shriners Association provided clowns and a Santa for the many children present. Unit personnel gave an M-60 machine gun demonstration and other Dobbins units provided static displays. The medical section demonstrated first aid techniques.

Parades also marked the season, with either guard units or color guard representation. In Dalton, members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor led the parade. In Monroe, members of the 178th Military Police Company were prominent in the parade that highlights the town's Christmas observance.



OPEN HOUSE IN Dawson was a time for community leaders, retirees and old friends to visit Co. A, 560th Engineer Battalion, where they were treated to a holiday meal.

New aircraft debuts for Georgia guard

The Georgia Army and Air National Guard has added two new aircraft to its inventory with the introduction of the C-26B twin-turbo Metroliner.

Built by Fairchild Aircraft in San Antonio, the 18-passenger plane joined the ranks of the Georgia Army and Air Guard last year. Its primary purpose is to support units throughout the state as well as specific requirements of National Guard Headquarters and the Adjutant General.

The sleek aircraft has a ceiling of 25,000 feet and flies over 250 knots. It has a range of over 1,500 miles. State-of-the-art avionics and cockpit design are complemented by a sophisticated navigational system. The aircraft, which has a price tag of \$3.5 million each, is currently used by many commuter airlines.

Lt. Col. Jim Applegate of the 128th Fighter



DESTINED TO BE a workhorse of both the Air and Army National Guard, the new C-26 will support guard units throughout the state. (Air Guard Photo)

Squadron heads the list of seven Air National Guard pilots in the squadron designated to fly the new aircraft.

Applegate, an F-15 veteran, has logged more than 150 flying hours in the new Metroliner. Also in training for the new aircraft are Lt. Col.

Richard Durant, Maj. Bob Avery, Maj. Bob Barton, Capt. Jeff Townsend, Maj. Bill Hallam and Capt. Ben White.

The National Guard Bureau limits the use of the two C-26s to no more than 500 hours per aircraft each year.

INSIDE The Air Guard

'Last of the first' Red Smith retires

One of the best known "characters" in the Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Edward E. "Red" Smith, is hanging it up after 43 years.

Smith, vehicle operations manager for the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center, was the last of the original members of the Savannah Permanent Field Training Site (PFTS) still active in the Air Guard. The PFTS was the forerunner of the Combat Readiness Training Center at Travis Field. It was established in 1952.

Smith is a man who made his presence known. Turning a dirty vehicle into him at the end of a deployment brought "the wrath of Red." Facing his wrath became a rite of passage for young officers, especially fighter pilots. It's a lesson in humility they never forgot.

Westgate to Somalia

Col. Steven Westgate, vice commander of the 165th Airlift Group in Savannah, was deployed to Somalia as the liaison for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve forces participating in Operation Restore Hope.

Westgate was named deputy director for Mobility Forces on the Central Command staff in Mogadishu. He is responsible for coordinating the large-scale airlift of relief and military supplies into and out of the two largest airports in Somalia.

Westgate was one of many who volunteered, noted Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., the Adjutant General. His selection "exemplifies the total integration of the Guard and Reserve forces with the active-duty military and demonstrates how Guardsmen throughout the state are ready to step in when called," Bland said.

116 FW rated excellent

Following months of extensive preparation, training and practice, the 116th Fighter Wing scored an overall excellent rating in its Operational Readiness Inspection.

More than 800 Guardsmen from the Dobbins-based F-15 unit participated in the week-long inspection, which was conducted by the Office of the Inspector General, Ninth Air Force.

During the exercise, more than 120 tons of equipment were airlifted to the Savannah Combat Training Center in support of the inspection.

Along with the overall rating of excellent, five specific areas were rated as "Best Seen to Date in the Ninth Air Force."



A LUCKY BREAK for Master Sgt. Dena Bynum led to a high-profile as a high-flying flight attendant on National Guard Bureau's fleet of airliners. (Air Guard Photo)

Aboard 'Guard One'

Master Sgt. Dena Bynum of the 116th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Savannah could easily be considered as once holding one of the most prestigious, high-profile jobs in the National Guard.

Bynum served a three-year tour of duty as a flight attendant on the five 727 luxury aircraft assigned to National Guard Bureau in Washington.

"It was a unique experience to fly around the world and to get to know many people," recalls Bynum of her tour of duty with the Guard One fleet. Bynum, along with others of the mostly male flight attendants, flew worldwide missions hosting national and international leaders of the military, the Army and



Air National Guard and distinguished members of Congress.

The assignment came quite by accident. Bynum was serving in the Air Force Reserves at Travis Air Force Base in California, when a guard C-22B landed at Travis to unload its distinguished passengers. Bynum offered her personal

auto to transport the "abandoned" crew to their local hotel. Her interest in their jobs aboard the Guard One aircraft led month later to a telephone call from one of the crew members inviting her to interview for a flight attendants position with the reorganized 201st Flying Squadron. Although she had no previous flying experience, Bynum interviewed and was accepted into this elite unit.

Training for National Guard flight attendants is similar to that of commercial airline flight attendants. In fact, Bynum's six-week initial training was conducted by Eastern Airline flight attendants. Refresher courses were conducted throughout the tour at United Flight Attendant schools.

HOME ON THE (CATOOSA) RANGE

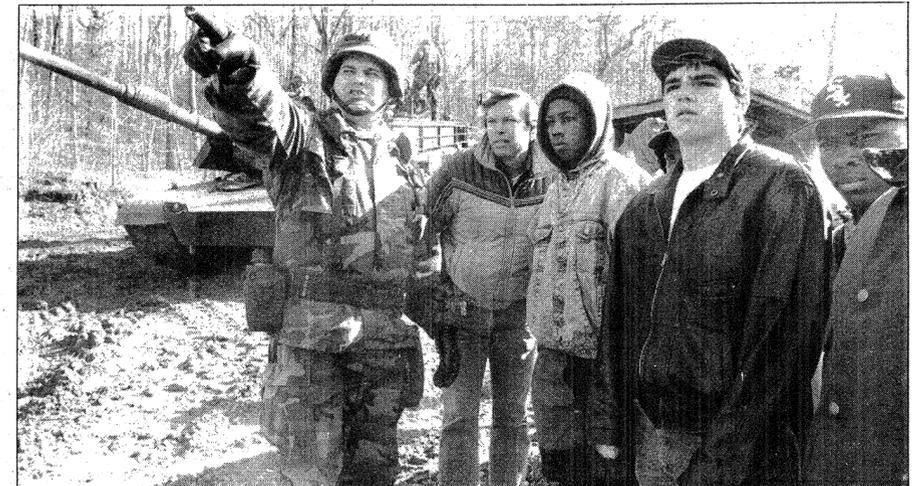
Bundled against a cold wind at the Catoosa range in northwest Georgia, 15 teenagers from Boys Clubs in Gainesville and Winder got a taste of bivouac life.

The boys went to Catoosa as part of the Georgia National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program, which uses volunteers from both Army and Air Guard to help kids stay away from drugs.

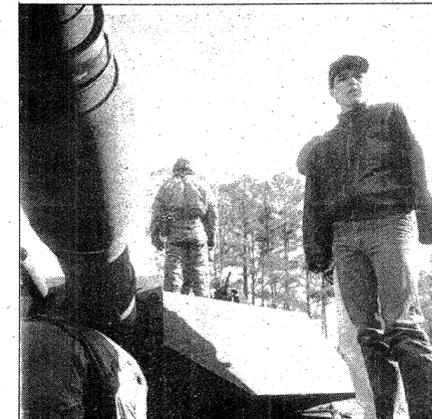
During this field trip in December, volunteers from the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, gave the boys a tour of the range, let them ride in a Hummer and a tank, and watch a Chinook helicopter take off and land.

This was a first for the guard's program, said Maj. Cynthia Islin of Peachtree City, who administers the program.

"It was a real success," said Islin, who is a maintenance officer with the Air Guard's 116th Fighter Wing at Dobbins Air Force Base. "It was so successful, in fact, that we're planning an overnight trip for a group of kids in May."



CAPT. LARRY DEATON of the 108th Armor in Calhoun, gives kids and their chaperone a guided tour of the Catoosa range, with an M1 tank in the background.



A BOYS CLUB member stands beside the turret of an Abrams during the field day.



SHIVERING IN THE back of a Hummer, the boys get a taste of life during a National Guard bivouac.

Photos by
Sgt. Jerry De Avila,
124th PAD

New program's goal is to help at-risk Georgia teens

By Capt. ALAN FECTEAU
124th PA Detachment

It was not that long ago more than 5,000 citizen-soldiers from Georgia responded to world events halfway around the globe during Operation Desert Storm.

The same level of pride can be captured within Georgia's borders as Guard members fulfill new missions much closer to home.

A prime example may be Guard leadership in a developing program called the Georgia Guard Civilian Youth Opportunity (Pilot) Program (GACYP) — or the Georgia Youth Challenge Program.

"The Guard is well-suited for an undertaking like this," said Col. Donald Burdick, director of Georgia's program. "We have a long history of community involvement, and can provide a structured environment and positive role models."

The program targets high school drop-outs

between 16 and 18 years old, and seeks to provide them another opportunity for success. The primary goal of the program is to help the youngsters complete the equivalent to a standard high school diploma, the General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

These so-called at-risk youths must be drug-free, and not under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system.

"This is not a military-style program, in the sense of a boot-camp for a juvenile offender," Burdick explained. "We want these young people to see us as positive role models and help them to be successful in achieving a high school equivalency certificate, develop self-discipline, learn a skill, and understand what it takes to obtain and hold a job."

At this point, about 100 volunteer youngsters are to be selected twice per year for entry into a five-month resident phase. Later, plans are to sponsor 200 youths, twice annually. Besides educational instruction, the initial phase includes training in leadership, athletics, personal

hygiene and self-esteem development.

The resident phase is followed by 12 to 18 months of adult mentoring back in the community.

"We need to mentor these young people, so they do not lose sight of their continuing goals," Burdick said.

Somebody might ask, why use the military in this program?

"Even though this is not a boot-camp setting, we will still provide a somewhat structured, disciplined, military-style environment," Burdick said. "And we can instill in the kids a sense of self-worth, discipline, and a feeling of accomplishment. And we're well-suited for that because most of us serving in the military take pride in these same things."

Age and status in high school are the main criteria for program entry. Although many of the youths will likely tend not to be affluent, poverty is not a prerequisite.

Georgia is one of 10 states nationwide chosen for program funding.

VITA program offers tax help to guardsmen

By Staff Sgt. TOBY MOORE
124th PA Detachment

With the April 15 tax deadline looming, many Georgia guard members need help filling out their returns. Now they can get it.

Since February, three teams of guardsmen from the Headquarters, State Area Command Finance Section have been spending their weekends visiting armories to lend a hand to soldiers in filing their taxes.

Help comes from the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which has been run by the Internal Revenue Service for about 20 years, according to 1st Lt. Larry Hammel, officer in charge of the Army guard's program.

"We've done this program for several years for the guard, and this year we decided to expand

it to assist as many soldiers as possible," Hammel said. The teams, all volunteers from the Finance Section, are visiting armories through the state through the second weekend in April.

Hammel, who is in his first year as OIC of the program, said that the teams will handle any tax questions soldiers may have, such as which form to use, and in itemizing deductions, and will show them how to fill out the forms.

"We'll advise them to seek professional help from a CPA, if necessary," he said.

Staff Sgt. Frank Schott, who works for the IRS as a civilian, started the VITA program for the guard. The program itself has been around for years on active Army posts, he said.

Before they began this year's expanded assistance, the team polled armories in the state to determine if there was a need, Schott



said. "We said, 'Let's go where they need help,'" he explained.

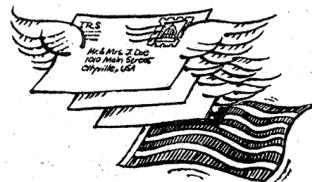
Schott said that the VITA program was particularly helpful during Operation Desert Storm, when assistance teams spent a month at local armories giving families assistance with tax returns.

Tax refund check late? Call the IRS

It takes about eight weeks from the time the IRS receives your federal tax form until a refund check is in the mail, say IRS officials.

If it's been more than eight weeks since you mailed your federal return and you're expecting a refund, the IRS Tele-Tax system can help. To check the status, you'll need your Social Security number, filing status and the exact amount of the refund due.

The service's toll-free telephone number is 1-800-829-4477. Call Monday through Friday, 0700 to 2330, if you are using a touch-tone telephone. The best time to call the service, which updates refund information once a week, is Wednesday morning.



Senior NCOs, warrants get 24-year longevity raise

Drill pay raised by 3.7 percent

Guardsmen are seeing a slight increase in their 1993 drill pay vouchers, the result of a 3.7 percent raise that began Jan. 1.

During its last session Congress approved the increase, which affects 1.2 million members of the Army and Air National Guard, and other reserve component branches.

Also, a 24-year longevity raise takes effect this year for the first time for pay grades E-7 through E-9, W-4 through W-5 and O-6. A sergeant first class who reaches 24 years of service will get a 3.7 percent raise of \$10.68 per

weekend, plus \$14.92 for the new longevity step.

According to *Army Times*, reservists who get Voluntary Separation Incentive payments no longer will forfeit \$1 of every drill pay for every dollar of VSI annuity. The change in the offset rules means drilling reservists who never reach retirement eligibility will keep their full drill pay and VSI money. The Defense Department has not said whether 1992 drill pay offsets will be refunded, or how the refunds would be made.

Military pay: To tax or not to tax

When it comes to military pay, exactly what is taxable can be confusing. Housing allowances, re-enlistment bonuses, combat pay and base pay are just a few of the many different pays and allowances Guardsmen receive — some are taxed; others are not.

Military pay is taxable

The IRS says generally the following pay is taxable:

- *Active duty pay;
- *Guard training pay;
- *Military retirement pay based on length of service or age;
- *Re-enlistment bonuses;
- *Special pay for hazardous or foreign duty; and
- *Lump-sum payments upon separation or release to inactive duty.

Military pay not taxable

Generally, the following items are not taxable:

- *Basic quarters allowance;
- *Variable housing allowance;
- *Other quarters cost-of-living allowances;

- *Basic allowance for subsistence;
- *Department of Veterans Affairs benefits;
- *Uniform allowances;
- *Forfeited pay, but not fines;
- *Certain disability retirement pensions;
- *Benefits under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance; and
- *Moving and storage expenses provided in kind, or reimbursements for actual expenses for permanent change-of-station moves.

For more information, the IRS publishes two pamphlets on military pay, IRS Publication 3, "Tax Information for Military Personnel," and IRS Publication 945, "Tax Information for Those Affected by Operation Desert Storm." For copies, call 1-800-829-3676.

News Briefs

To get an extension

Can't get it together? To get an extra four months, until August 15, with no explanation necessary, correctly fill out IRS Form 4868 and file it by April 15.

Any taxes owed must be paid with the request for extension because interest on the unpaid amount begins accumulating on April 15. Also, if you file an extension request, you cannot use tax return Form 1040EZ.

The humorists' view

Will Rogers' view of taxes: "The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has. Even when you make a tax form out on the level, you don't know when it's through if you are a crook or a martyr."

Humorist Peg Bracken: "Why does a slight tax increase cost you \$200 and a substantial tax cut save you 30 cents?"

Arthur Godfrey on taxes: "I'm proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is — I could be just as proud for half the money."



ABLE TO GO most anywhere, an M1A1 Abrams tank plows through the muck during a winter testing exercise. (Photo courtesy of General Dynamics)

Calhoun armor unit formally accepts M1A1 tank



KATHY O'ROUKE, wife of 108th Armor commander Lt. Col. Alan O'Rourke, breaks a bottle of champagne over the nose of one of the unit's new Abrams tanks. (Photo by Spec. Johnny Cain, 124th PAD)

Calhoun's Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, formally accepted the Army's newest and most modern main battle tank, the M1A1 Abrams, into its weapons inventory at a ceremony in December.

To mark the occasion, Kathy O'Rourke, wife of battalion commander Lt. Col. Alan O'Rourke, broke a bottle of champagne over the front slope of the 63-ton tank.

The ceremony drew several high-ranking officers from the Georgia National Guard, as well as state and local officials and representatives from General Dynamics, the company that builds the M1A1. Attending were Adjutant General of Georgia, Maj. Gen. William P. Bland Jr.; Brig. Gen. Cecil Pearce, assistant adjutant general, Army; and Brig. Gen. James D. Davis, commander of the 48th Infantry Brigade,

parent command of the Calhoun unit.

As a high-priority "round-up" unit of the Army's 24th Infantry Division, the 108th Armor receives the most modern military equipment ahead of many active and reserve-component units.

A crew of four operates the M1A1 Abrams which features a 120-millimeter cannon, as well as several machine guns. It can travel at speeds up to 42 miles per hour and has a cruising range of 275 miles.

The Georgia Army National Guard has more than a dozen new Abrams assigned to units in North Georgia. Two of the main battle tanks are stationed in Calhoun.

The M1A1 was successfully battle-tested during the Persian Gulf War by the 108th's active duty parent command, the 24th Infantry.

THE M1A1 ABRAMS AT A GLANCE

MOBILITY

Acceleration	0 to 32 kph (kilometers per hour) . . . 6.8 seconds
Speed	Maximum 41.5 mph (66.9 kph)
	60 percent grade 4.1 mph (6.6 kph)
Obstacle Crossing	Vertical wall 42 inches
	Trench 9 feet
Water Fording	Without kit 4 feet
	With kit 78 inches
Power Plant	. . . . . 1,500 multifuel air-cooled turbine

DIMENSIONS

Overall length	. . . . . 386.9 inches
Width	. . . . . 143.8 inches
Combat weight	. . . . . 55 metric tons

ARMAMENT

Main gun	. . . . . M256 120 mm
Ammunition	. . . . . 40 rounds
Range	. . . . . 7,990 meters
	(laser rangefinder)
Commander's weapon	. . . . . M2 .50 cal.
Ammunition	. . . . . 1,000 rounds
Field of fire, azimuth	. . . . . 360 degrees
Coaxial weapon	. . . . . 7.62 mm machine gun
Loader's weapon	. . . . . 7.62 mm machine gun
Ammunition	. . . . . 12,400 rounds
Smoke grenades	. . . . . 24 rounds

CREW

Commander — Loader — Driver — Gunner

Big changes at Brigade — four key posts to be changed

By Capt. SUELLEN REITZ
48th Brigade PAO

There will be a lot of changes in the 48th Infantry Brigade's command structure next month, but no new faces.

Four key positions, brigade commander, deputy commander, executive officer, and a battalion commander will be filled during a change of command ceremony April 22-23 during the brigade's annual training period at Fort Stewart.

Brigade commander Brig. Gen. James D. Davis, who was selected to become deputy commander for reserve components at Second Army, will be replaced by Col. William T. Theilmann, currently deputy commander of the 48th.



OUTGOING BRIGADE commander Brig. Gen. James D. Davis, right, honors Col. Jerry Corbin, who announced his retirement as deputy commander last October. (Photo by Spec. Greg Holley, 48th Brigade PAO)

Col. Robert C. Hughes, former commander of the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, will become deputy brigade commander. And Lt.

Col. Robert M. Kenemer, who now commands the 148th Support Battalion, will be the brigade's executive officer, while current XO Lt.

Col. Dennis J. Manning will assume command of the 148th.

This rollover of command is unprecedented in the 48th, with the number of simultaneous changes. But it was set in motion by the unexpected retirement of Brig. Gen. Jerry N. Corbin, who had been the 48th's deputy.

Corbin retired last October after 34 years in the Georgia Army National Guard to allow more time for his civilian occupation and family.

Theilmann, a resident of Griffin, is vice president of Spalding Knitting Mills. Being named brigade commander has long been his military goal.

"I think my seven months

(as deputy) has helped a great deal in preparation for command. My goal has always been to come back to the brigade as deputy with a shot at command," he said. "I'm just four years ahead of schedule."

His plans for the 48th are simple and straightforward: "I've got three priorities, to reposition units to maintain strength, training and preparation for the next rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin."

Hughes, who hails from Macon, is a federal probation officer. He is also pleased to be returning to the 48th, after serving 18 months as the deputy inspector General.

Air Guard unit is tops in nation

Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron has been named the top Air Guard unit in the nation.

The 224th, based at the Glynco Jetport, received the Mission Support Trophy and the Outstanding Combat Communications Unit award during a ceremony during December.

The Mission Support Trophy, sponsored by the Na-

tional Guard Association of the U.S., is awarded annually to the overall outstanding non-flying unit in the Air National Guard. It is one of 182 mission support units in the country eligible for the award.

For the past two years, the 224th has placed in the top five highest rated units.

The second award, given by National Guard Bureau, honors units in each of five

functional areas: combat communications, weather, engineering installation and tactical air control. The 224th competed against 53 other units to win the award.

Also, the unit was selected to represent the Air National Guard in the Lt. Gen. Harold W. Grant award for the outstanding communications unit in the Air Force.

Vet honored by bureau

The Morrow Animal Hospital recently received the National Guard Bureau Employer Support Award for the company's support of the guard and reserve.

Owners Robert and Joanne Allen were honored for their support of Lt. Col. Jackie Gerrells of Dahlongea, who works for the veterinary hospital. Gerrells, is deputy commander of the 117th MASH and state veterinary officer for the Georgia Army National Guard.

The Allens were cited for their support of Gerrells, who was mobilized during Operation Desert Storm.

Gerrells has previously been recognized for her work in implementing the emergency war surgery course for medical personnel at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine.

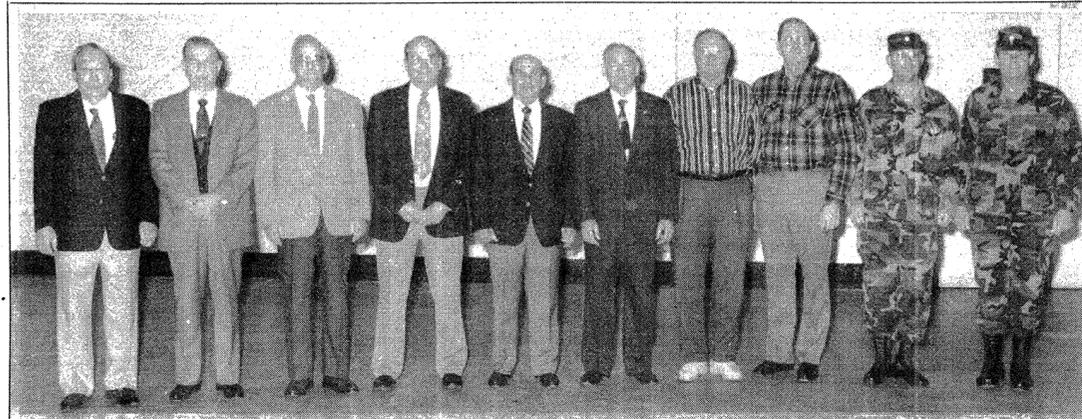
'Ping' Johnson dies at age 72

Command Sgt. Maj. William "Ping" Johnson of Elberton has died at age 72.

Johnson, who died late in 1992, was the long-time ranking NCO for the 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery. He served in the battalion under six different commanding officers over the years, after becoming command sergeant major in 1969. Also, he had been the battalion first sergeant.

He retired in 1980 after 38 years of service in the Army and Georgia Army National Guard. He served during World War II in the Aleutian Islands.

Johnson was a native of Elberton. He was buried there with full military honors.



They're ba-ack

DURING THE RECENT change of command at Headquarters, 878th Engineer Battalion, 10 consecutive former and current battalion commanders were on hand for the ceremonies. The officers served in succession from May 1947, when the unit was the 250th AAA Gun Battalion, through the present. They are, left to right, Lt. Cols. Albert J. Twiggs, 47-

61; William L. Britton Jr., 61-71; James E. Duncan Jr., 71-74; Samuel M. Meyer, 74-77; Jack D. Cooper Sr., 77-80; Hugh L. Neisler, 80-83; Thomas R. Williams Jr., 83-86; Larry W. Bedingfield, 86-89; Henry C. Chapman, 89-92, and new commander Maj.(P) DeSaussure D. Smith. (Photo by Spec. Johnny Cain, 124th PAD)

Douglas NCO gets medal of valor

By Sgt. 1st Class
WILLIS MITCHELL
48th Brigade PAO

Spec. Waylon Moore recently joined the elite ranks of Georgia Medal of Valor recipients by saving the life of a Georgia state trooper. The award has only been handed out 23 times in the past eight years, but never before for a cocked finger.

Moore, a member of the Georgia Army National Guard's 848th Engineer Company in Douglas, got the drop on a prisoner who held trooper Grady Cook at gunpoint by sneaking up behind him and pointing his finger at the back of his head.

The medal was presented by Col. William Thielemann, deputy commander of the 48th Infantry Brigade, during a ceremony

at the Douglas armory.

"I felt scared and excited, but I relaxed when the colonel shook my hand," Moore said. "It was one of the proudest moments of my life."

The Medal of Valor is presented to soldiers in the Georgia National Guard for acts of heroism not in federal service in conditions other than war, either on or off duty.

In June, 1991, Trooper Cook was transporting a prisoner to the Coffee County Detention Center when the prisoner grabbed Cook's side arm. Moore, a fireman, was driving through Douglas when he saw the men struggling in Cook's patrol car. He stopped and sneaked up behind the assailant, who held Cook at gunpoint

Although he was unarmed, Moore opened the

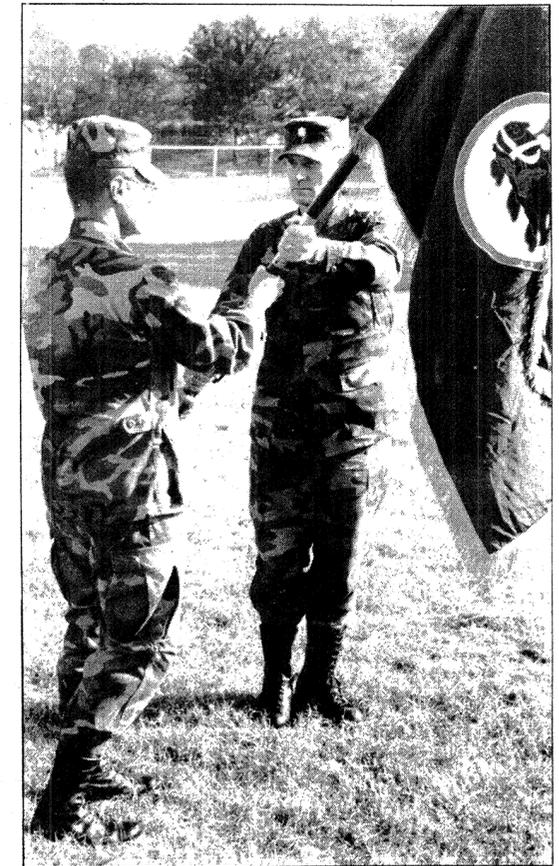
passenger door of Cook's vehicle, put his finger to the back of the prisoner's head, and told him to drop the weapon. The perpetrator froze long enough for Cook to regain control of the situation.

"I could see the hammer cocked on the officer's gun," Moore said. "If he had turned around, I feel sure he would have killed us both. I could see the officer was having problems, and I just wanted to help. I'd do it over again if I had to."

After he had taken the prisoner to the detention center, Cook thanked Moore for saving his life, still thinking that Moore had had a weapon.

"Waylon, thank God you had your gun," Cook said.

Moore responded, "I didn't have a gun, Grady, but thank God I had my finger cocked."



OUTGOING COMMANDER Lt. Col. Robert T. Baird III, left, passes the boar's head flag to new commander, Lt. Col. Thomas E. Stewart. (Photo by Cadet Eric Johnson, 124th PAD)

Stewart assumes commander of 1st Provisional Battalion

By Cadet ERIC JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

Lt. Col. Thomas E. Stewart assumed command of the 1st Provisional Battalion, State Area Command, and Headquarters Detachment, STARC, during a ceremony Nov. 8 at STARC Headquarters in Atlanta.

Stewart replaces Lt. Col. Robert T. Baird III as battalion commander and Maj. William T. Childers as headquarters detachment commander. The positions were recently combined under a single commanding officer.

"I'm excited about taking command," said Stewart, who was deputy director of Plans and Operations for the state. "I think it's a tremendous challenge and

privilege."

"Taking a full-load in college, being a battalion commander and being deputy chief of staff for logistics has been a lot," said outgoing battalion commander Baird. "I look forward to having a little more time, but I will miss the opportunity to interact with soldiers."

Baird will remain as deputy chief of staff for logistics.

"I'm very satisfied at this point in time," said Childers. "I feel that HD STARC has progressed, and there is an overall feeling of pride among the soldiers of the unit. I feel very comfortable turning the unit over to Lt. Col. Stewart."

Childers will assume the position of chief of military support, civil authorities.

Awards

LEGION OF MERIT
Col. Jerry N. Corbin, HQ, 48TH INF BDE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
Maj. Allen R. Abell, HQ, STARC
2nd Lt. Carl L. White, HQ, STARC
Command Sgt. Maj. Roy E. Staines, HQ, STARC
Staff Sgt. Dennis D. Morgan, HQ, STARC
Sgt. 1st Class Bobby H. Horn, HQ, STARC

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Sgt. 1st Class Elmer G. Parker, HQ, STARC
Sgt. 1st Class William M. White, HQ, STARC
Sgt. Alberta Homer, HQ, STARC
Sgt. Devika O. Hull, HQ, STARC
Spec. Willie L. Giddens, Jr. HQ, STARC
Spec. Katrina D. Nickens, HQ, STARC

GEORGIA MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Lt. Col. Charles Sikes, HQ, STARC
Sgt. 1st Class Charles Davis, HQ, 110th Maintenance Bn.
Sgt. 1st Class Joe Moose, HQ, 110th Maintenance Bn.

GEORGIA DISTINCTIVE SERVICE MEDAL
Col. Jerry N. Corbin, HQ, 48th Inf Bde.

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Staff Sgt. Brian K. Aguiar, 165 ACPF
Staff Sgt. Gregory W. Rogers, 165 ACPF
Sr. Airman Paul D. Callaway, 165 ACPF
Sr. Airman Chadwick D. Ireland, 165 ACPF
Sr. Airman Randy L. Mason, 165 ACPF
Sr. Airman Michael G. McDonald, 165 ACPF

GEORGIA MEDAL FOR VALOR
Staff Sgt. Rory H. Dunn, 116 CAMS

GEORGIA COMMENDATION MEDAL
Sr. Master Sgt. Robert C. Ferguson, 202 EIS
Master Sgt. Larry W. Brannen, 202 EIS
Master Sgt. Douglas W. Brooks, 202 EIS
Master Sgt. Daniel V. Hurst Sr., 202 EIS
Master Sgt. Donald O. Keene, 202 EIS
Master Sgt. Raymond C. Pierce Sr., 202 EIS
Master Sgt. Dewey W. Turner, 202 EIS
Tech. Sgt. Joseph H. Briley, 202 EIS
Tech. Sgt. Mack Mountain, 202 EIS
Staff Sgt. Paul W. Barkley, 202 EIS
Staff Sgt. Charles B. Bayles, 202 EIS
Staff Sgt. Theron C. Crockett, 202 EIS
Staff Sgt. Janet F. Dixon, 202 EIS
Staff Sgt. Leon F. Martin, 202 EIS
Staff Sgt. William A. Smith, 202 EIS



SOLDIERS FROM THE 178th Military Police Company in Monroe participate in a timed road march as part of their combat fitness exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Mattie Jones, 124th PAD)

Crackdown on PT MPs launch an offensive attack

By Sgt. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

As with many other units in the Georgia Army National Guard, Monroe's 178th Military Police Company has lost a few good soldiers due to downsizing.

"Most of our soldiers were squared-away in every aspect except physical fitness," said Sgt. First Class Tracey Smith, unit training NCO. "They just couldn't pass the APFT."

Also, many volunteers from the 178th, upon their return from the Gulf War, informed their command of the difficulties they encountered with endurance and physical performance while in the desert.

Armed with this information the training section conducted a major overhaul on the unit's PT program.

"The first thing we did was break the company into ability groups. It does nothing for the esteem of an 9-minute miler to lag behind a 6-minute miler for 8 laps around a track," said Staff Sgt. Mark Saxon, assistant training NCO.

"We've also added a mixture of combative endurance exercises, such as a timed road march in full gear," said Smith. "This not only breaks the humdrum; but it allows the older, heavier soldier to excel," he added.

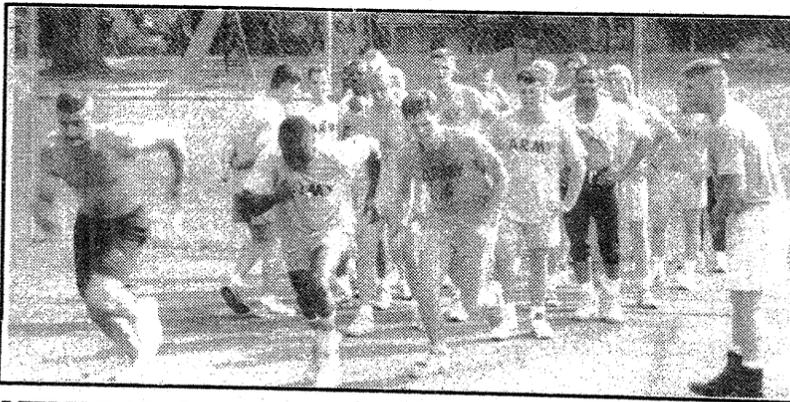
The new program started at 1992 annual training. Although the unit continues to perform quarterly diagnostic PT tests, no measurable results are expected until April during the annual recorded test.

"I've been in the unit for four years and I think the new PT program is very effective for some people. They're taking more time out for people who need help. It still hasn't been enough of a motivator for me to exercise on my own which is equally as important," said Spec. Felix Mapp of Monroe.

"I like the concept. It helps me to run with a group of my peers. I can actually run longer and I've always had

difficulty with the timed run. I run with the slower group and the comraderie that has developed is wonderful. We help each other out during difficult times and that counts," said Sgt. Amy Butler of Chamblee.

"It still comes down to the individual. We can only do so much. If a soldier doesn't do some type of exercise at home they're going to have a hard time," said Smith.



MEMBERS OF THE 178th give it all they've got during competitive sprinting exercises. (Photo by Sgt. Mattie Jones, 124th PAD)

STARC begins remedial PT program

To reduce the number of soldiers who flunk or barely pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, Headquarters STARC began the new year by implementing a rigorous remedial program.

The program was spearheaded by Lt. Col. Thomas E. Stewart, battalion commander.

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Graham, who has every intention of helping its participants improve their health and PT scores, manages the program.

"We will be meeting every day of every drill," said Graham. The remedial program begins with reviewing guidelines on beginning new exercise programs and nutritional information.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Downsizing and health care

Downsizing of the military is forcing the Army Medical Department to reexamine its mission. Meanwhile, the U.S. health care crisis offers the opportunity for service as well as training for medical personnel in the Georgia Army National Guard.

State health and dental clinics are being proposed to support the medical mission of guard units. This mission includes the usual medical support of physical exams, immunizations, and medical care during annual training. In addition, state health and dental clinics would have a humanitarian mission to provide medical care to civilians in underserved areas of the State. Working together with the State Health Department, guard units could provide immunizations, blood pressure and cholesterol screening, well-baby check-ups, and prenatal care.

Congressional and state support exists for the concept of this program. However, actual implementation awaits further direction from the Department of Defense. However, it is reassuring to know as the medical units in the Georgia Army National Guard are being downsized, there are plans to continue to care for our soldiers and to contribute to the care of other Georgia citizens.

Pay attention to emotions

Paying attention to signs of emotional distress can head off serious problems. The American Psychiatric Association recommends seeking professional help if you experience these warning signs:

- Marked personality change
- Inability to cope with problems and daily activities
- Strange or grandiose ideals
- Excessive anxiety
- Prolonged depression and apathy
- Marked changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Thinking or talking about suicide
- Extreme emotional highs and lows
- Abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs
- Excessive anger or hostility or violent behavior

If it smells like a fish...

Concerned about the fish that you are eating? The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has established a 24-hour, toll-free hotline to answer questions about safe buying, handling, and storage of seafood. By dialing the hot-line number, 1-800-FDA-4010 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, you can talk directly with a FDA seafood specialist. During other hours, pre-recorded seafood safety messages are available as well as information on FDA seafood publications.

**Compiled by Lt. Col. Laura Strange
Chief Nurse
Georgia Army National Guard**