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GEORGIA
GUARDSMAN

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Bloody battle replayed on Georgia coast —page 20

MILESTONES

Ga. guard members receive accolades —page 21

The Georgia Guard's airman, soldier and NCO of the year —page 23

ANNUAL TRAINING '92

From Red River depot to Southwest Asia

It seems as if the Georgia Army and Air Guard is taking on more of a global mission sometimes, with all the globetrotting that soldiers and airmen do.

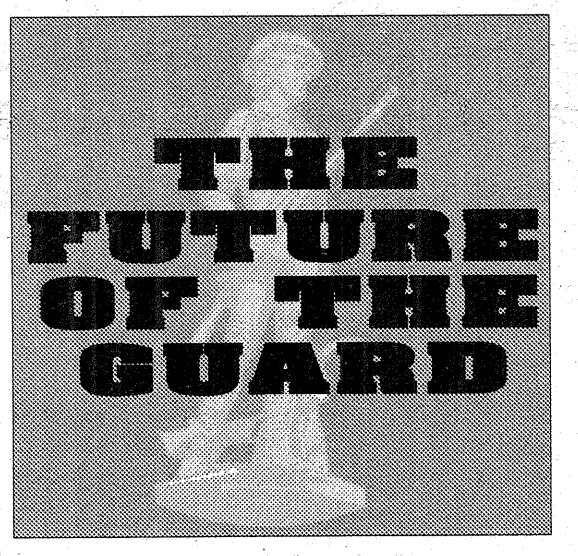
This training year, for example, guard members have trained worldwide. In this issue, we look at annual training. Besides the normal rotations at Ft. Stewart, among the palmettos and pines of the largest military reservation east of the Mississippi, Army guard units have traveled to exotic locales like Texas and the desert of Southwest Asia.

The 277th Maintenance Company, for example, spent its two weeks, not languishing in a Southeast Georgia firing position, but gainfully employed at the Red River Army Depot in Texas, in support of the 25th Infantry Brigade.

Units from the 265th Engineer Group paved their way across a classified location in a classified Southwest Asian nation, where they befriended locals and enjoyed their culture while trying to stay cool.

And other engineers traveled just outside Atlanta to help rural homeowners whose property contains hazardous waste obtain clean water.

SPECIAL REPORT



Report focuses on next decade

The National Guard — for that matter, all military services — is in a state of flux. Confusion abounds. In this report, the Georgia Guardsman explains just what's ahead for the Georgia Guard, looks at some of the reasons for these monumental changes, and how these changes can and will affect the individual soldier.

There are, of course, no easy answers on how to deal with down-sizing. But inside is a five-page special report on how soldiers can make choices in the wake of reorganization, retention boards and armory closings.

IN THIS ISSUE

TV commercials to feature 48th

Hollywood came to Fort Stewart, not in search of flatness, but to find training in action. A film crew from the Golden State spent two weeks with the 48th Brigade during its August annual training period to film three public service spots promoting the National Guard. About 30 brigade soldiers were used in speaking and action roles in the commercials.

The crews filmed all manner of action at the National Guard training Center during the brigade's rigorous fortnight. Story on page 19.

CENTERPIECE

For a battalion of Georgia engineers accustomed to greenery and hills, the flat, featureless desert of Southwest Asia has been quite a change. But members of the 878th and 560th engineers have quickly adjusted while training there.

During a months-long series of rotating in and out, the engineers have honed their roadbuilding, construction and soldiering skills, not to mention learning how to interact with a vastly different culture.

For a complete update on what those Georgians have been doing this summer, turn to page 12 and 13.

Col. Cecil Pearce named Ass't. AG

Ga. Gov. Zell Miller has announced the appointment of Col. Cecil L. Pearce as Assistant Adjutant General of the Georgia Army National Guard.

Pearce, a native Georgian, is a veteran of more than 37 years service in the Georgia Army Guard. He enlisted in the Georgia Guard in 1955 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from Officers Candidate School 1959.

He has held a variety of command and staff assignments including command of the 118th Field Artillery Brigade in Savannah.

Brig. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General, said, "Colonel Pearce is an outstanding officer and leader. His background and experience will be invaluable to the Georgia Army Guard."

Pearce is president of Atlanta's Rogers Bridge Co., Inc.

Blandford's death leaves a void

Brig. Gen. John L. "Jack" Blandford died recently of cancer. The former commander of Troop Command, who had only two years ago retired, was mourned by all who knew him.

Blandford, known by many for his storytelling ability and inveterate loquaciousness, was also a fine soldier, according to those officers who worked with him during his three decades of service to the Georgia Army National Guard.

A tribute to Gen. Blandford appears on page 21.

THE MILITARY BEAT

Sen. Nunn speaks out, stands up for guard

All of a sudden, the future is now.

With the dramatic ending of the Cold War, future missions for the National Guard are rapidly taking shape. And if highly-respected Congressional leaders have their way, the Guard's traditional "state mission" will take on increased vitality and importance.

"We are leaving a security era that demanded large numbers of U.S. combat forces stationed overseas, or operating in forward locations at high states of combat readiness The military should examine ways to refocus local reserve component training on local community support initiatives whenever feasible and operationally justified," says Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Nunn and Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), Nunn's counterpart in the House of Representatives, have been brainstorming future Guard missions this summer, as part of the debate regarding the FY 1993 Defense Authorization Bill.

According to Nunn, the Guard could be effectively used to rehabilitate and renew existing community facilities, assist with aeromedical evacuation, and support local nutrition programs. Highlighting Nunn's list is the National Guard Youth Corps. Funded beginning last year, the program is designed to assist disadvantaged youth via military models of education, personal and skills development, and work in service to their communities.

So if Nunn's plans come to fruition, Georgia Guard units may tackle missions in Atlanta, helping restore blighted areas with engineering assets, for example. As residents of Georgia's cities and towns, local Guard members would appear to carry a built-in incentive to carry out such missions, making their communities better places to live and work.

Numbers Game?

Although future Guard missions are coming into focus, what's slightly less clear is future Guard strength.

Nunn and Aspin have debated Pentagon officials in recent months regarding the Guard's future membership. And in late July, Nunn's Senate Armed Services Committee voted to reduce the Department of Defense's request for Guard and Reserve cuts.

Nunn's committee has, for the time being, rejected the Pentagon's "budget by subtraction" which provided a "less than compelling case," according to Nunn, for a proper mix of active forces, with Guard and Reserve.

According to Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio), the Pentagon has been unable to demonstrate adequate rationale, regarding the reserve units it wishes to eliminate. Glenn heads Nunn's subcommittee on manpower and personnel.

This initial standoff may prove only a prelude to a larger, ongoing debate regarding the proper balance between active and reserve strength in the post-Cold War era.

Army Guard reductions

"Only the best will be retained"

By CSM BILLY MANNING
Command Sergeant Major
Georgia Army National Guard

As I travel across Georgia and meet with the enlisted soldiers and NCOs in the Georgia Army National Guard, I am impressed with the jobs these men and women exhibit and the leadership qualities they demonstrate. But as most of you know, the guard is facing perhaps its toughest challenge in many years. The active Army and the reserve components are being reorganized and downsized.

Therefore, I think it's very important for young soldiers to begin planning their military careers now. Young guard soldiers and NCOs can begin this process by sitting down with their leaders and setting a course of action to pursue. First on the list should be a clear goal of the point at which you want to be when you retire. Then you should evaluate your current career track to determine if you can stay there and meet that goal.

Some jobs in some units are capped at the E-6 or E-7 level. If your goal is to attain the rank of sergeant major, for example, you can see that you will have to take a different tack to reach that plateau. You may have to change career fields.

Once you work out this career road map, start now. Don't wait for somebody else to do it for you. In Georgia, we have the Georgia Military Institute in Macon for the specific purpose of giving part-time soldiers the best military education possible. If you're a specialist, enroll in PLDC. If you're a sergeant, get in BNOC. And if you have reached the rank of E-6, you already know the value of those, and you're ready to take ANCOC.

But don't wait until the last minute. Schools and funds may not be available to those who procrastinate. There are plenty of options, but it all rests with the individual.

Remember that at each higher level that you reach, that promotion through the NCO rank structure brings with it new challenges and opportunities. You as an NCO are responsible for the training and career development of those young soldiers who report to you and look to you for guidance.

And think about this: how well NCOs perform in their assigned jobs and how well they execute those leadership traits that are expected of them will have a direct bearing on whether they will be retained after 20 years of service to the National Guard. This has become increasingly critical as the armed forces become smaller. Many Georgia guardsmen were not retained during the last retention board cycle. Boards evaluate soldiers on physical fitness, military education, civilian education and the demonstration of their leader skills. One outcome of this is that the NCO corps will get younger.

Each NCO MUST be a role model and a standard-bearer. Those who don't measure up will be eliminated. Only the best of the best will be retained.

I offer these comments not to intimidate you, but to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

The NCO corps in the Georgia Army National Guard is younger, smarter, and has more initiative than ever. And it is the best that it has ever been. Don't wait to plan. The time is now.

Make it happen.

Air Guard reductions

Newly appointed Sr. enlisted advisor discusses future

By CMS DAVID WILLIAMS
Senior Enlisted Advisor
Georgia Air National Guard

By way of introduction, I am Chief Master Sgt. David Williams, new senior enlisted advisor for the Georgia Air National Guard. I was formerly a member of the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron in Brunswick. At the unit, I held the position of NCOIC for operations.

As with all guardsmen throughout the state, I am carefully watching and analyzing what will be the continuing effects of on-going defense reductions on the men and women of the Georgia Air National Guard. At a recent first sergeants' meeting in Savannah, we pledged to help those guardsmen affected by force reductions in the state, both on the Army and the Air Guard side. I pledge to you my personal dedication to help retain or place our fellow guardsmen in other units, when or if future force reductions occur.

Brig. Gen. Michael Bowers has asked each Guardsmen to personally contact their representative in Congress urging their careful evaluation and restraint over future decisions to draw down our numbers. Let me simply underscore his request to write your Congressional and State representatives on this vitally important issue. I certainly have, and I hope you will.

One of my goals as I travel throughout the state is to meet with as many Air Guardsmen as possible to learn of their feelings toward the guard. I know that there are situations which need to be looked at and opportunities which need to be enhanced, but I am confident that together we can move aggressively in meeting the new challenges and building a better and stronger Air National Guard in Georgia.

As I become more accustomed to the day-to-day responsibilities of my new position, I will be out visiting each unit. I will look forward to learning your thoughts, ideas and concerns about our guard program. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in this important position.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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JOIN OUR CLUB

AG: it's your choice to join or not to join

Brig. Gen. William P. Bland

All of us get a steady stream of letters telling us just how much our careers depend on belonging to various professional organizations. It is true that each of these organizations works very hard to protect our careers and benefits; to get us modern equipment; to keep our units from being cut out of the force structure.

Membership does give each of these organizations clout before Congressional committees and the Department of Defense. The larger their membership, the more their message is heard.

Every member of the Georgia Army and Air Guard should seriously consider the merits of these organizations. However, the decision to join must be yours and yours alone.

"Command pressure" to join these organizations will **not be tolerated.**

I encourage each of you to think about membership and then make up your own mind.

Worth Repeating

"American armed strength is only as strong as the combat capabilities of its weakest service. Overemphasis on one or the other will obscure our compelling need — not for air-power, sea-power or land-power — but for American military power commensurate with our tasks in the world."

—Gen. of the Army Omar Bradley, *U.S. Army*

"We have always known that heedless self-interest was bad morals; we know now that it is bad economics."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, *U.S. president*

"Show me a good and gracious loser, and I'll show you a failure."

—Knute K. Rockne, *U.S. college football coach*

Georgia Guard's new IG

'Always on duty and never off the record'

GUARDSMAN Q&A

Col. Donald Lightman

Col. Donald R. Lightman, a regular Army infantry officer, has been named Inspector General for the Georgia Guard. For six years, while serving with the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Lightman worked with Macon's 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) "I know the guard very well," he said.

In an interview shortly after assuming the post this summer, Lightman discussed his approach to the job.

Q: What is the role of the IG in the National Guard?

A: The IG in the National Guard serves the same purpose as the IG in the active component — that is, to inquire into and report on matters affecting mission performance and readiness, economy, efficiency, discipline, morale and quality of life.

We conduct inquiries and investigations into sensitive issues as directed by the Adjutant General, and we process requests for assistance for both the Air and Army Guard.

Q: There's an old saw: "I'm the IG and I'm here to help." Most people think that's on par with saying, "the check's in the mail." How do you intend to operate?

A: The office of the IG was created to help commanders and soldiers. In the past, some commanders used the IG rather than the commanders to enforce compliance with regulations.

Brig. Gen. Bland wants to put the commanders back in the role of conducting compliance inspections and use the office of the IG to assist the commanders.

Our real job is to facilitate communications. We are problem solvers. Our primary function is to assist commanders, soldiers and their families in solving problems and establishing communication.

Q: If somebody tells you something in confidence that you know to be a violation of the law, what do you do?

A: The IG is always "on duty and never off the record." Our office goes to great lengths to protect the confidentiality of people who request our assistance.

AR 20-1 is very specific under what circumstances the concept of confidentiality may not apply. But otherwise, our clients' identities are protected from disclosure.

The main purpose of the IG is that of a teacher. Very few people violate regulations intentionally, so we instruct as we inspect. It's better to correct the problem as we find it rather than to keep finding the same problems.

Q: What command authority does the IG have?

A: The IG has no command authority. He is a specifically trained staff officer on the personal staff of the commander or The Adjutant General. His job is to point out differences or irregularities and recommend actions to correct. Commanders direct the appropriate activities or actions, not the IG.

INSIDE

The Army Guard

Lawton is cleared of harassment charges

A Second Army board of officers has cleared Lt. Col. Julius J. Lawton of charges of sexual harassment. The allegations were the subject of several reports by an Atlanta television station.

Following three days of testimony, the board concluded that Lawton "did not engage in a pattern of sexual harassment involving Jackie Renfroe-James."

James had publicly alleged that Lawton had sexually harassed her while she was a member of the Georgia Guard. She was honorably discharged from the Guard in the late 1980s.

The board also found baseless allegations that Lawton subjected other female soldiers to sexual harassment.

The decision by the board means that the case "is now closed," said Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, the Adjutant General.

The four-member board was comprised of officers outside the Georgia Army National Guard. Two members were National Guardsmen, one from Kentucky and the other from Tennessee. The other two members were from the active Army.

On four, off three

Enjoy long weekends? Full-timers in 11 Army and Air Guard offices and facilities are experimenting with a four-day work week. Hours worked are generally 0700 to 1730 and most people who are participating take off either Monday or Friday.

The test will run for six months. Not everybody prefers longer weekends. About half the 120 people in USP&FO, for example, elected not to participate. It's voluntary.

Molar Mobile is not mobile

The Molar Mobile, a fixture at annual training in recent years, is no longer mobile. The equipment has been removed from the trailer and mounted permanently at McKenna Armory in Macon. Repair costs were too high for a mobile Molar Mobile. Now, we suppose, it's a Permanent Molar.

Plan ahead

A note for the ambitious: Beginning 1 Jan 96, the feds won't recognize your promotion to brigadier general unless you're a graduate of the Senior Service College. Just thought you'd like to know.

Join the Guard. Get rich.

OK, if not rich, join the Guard and get a bonus. All non-prior service applicants who join the 48th Bde., 878th Engineer Bn., 165th Supply Co. and 24th RAOC, will be eligible for a $2,000 enlistment bonus.

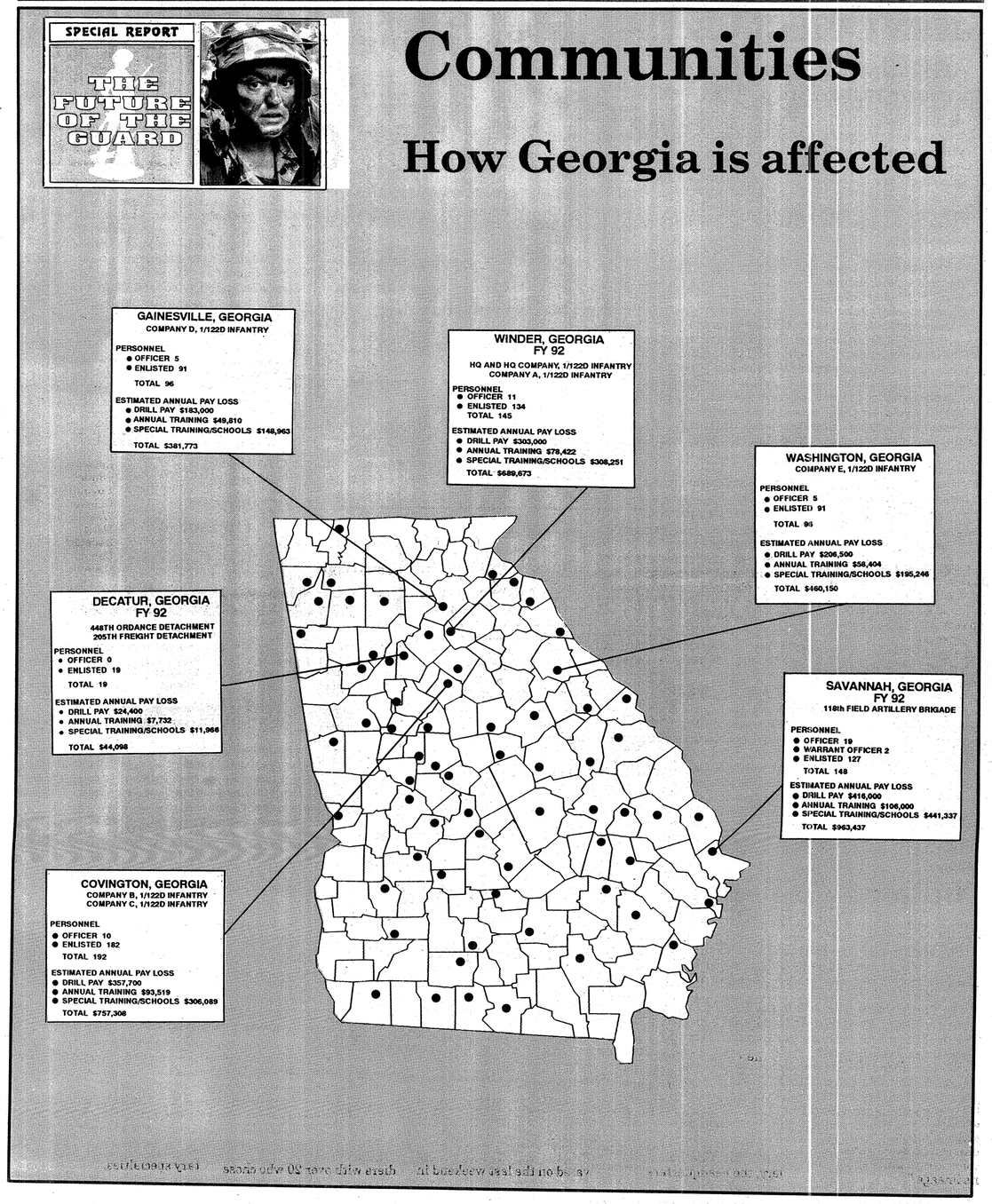
Don't picnic on the range

Active indoor firing ranges should not be used for storage or for any purpose other than firing weapons, says the state's occupational health manager, Patricia A. Ferguson.

Among the items found stored there are picnic wares, chairs, tables and office equipment. So, if you've been inviting your friends over for a leisurely picnic on the range, stop it now. Why else would you have picnic gear stored there?

Communities

How Georgia is affected



A Summer of Change

Closings loom; but guard will only lose 900 soldiers

By Staff Sgt. ELLIOTT MINOR
124th PA Detachment

The Georgia Army National Guard, forced to deactivate 10 units because of military downsizing, plans to keep all its armories open and to provide new opportunities for those who want to serve.

The Georgia guard is scheduled to lose fewer than 900 members this year as the U.S. military scales down. No Air Guard units are affected.

The Guard met its reduction goal through attrition, retirements, transfers to the Army Reserve and to the Individual Ready Reserve.

"Our missions will remain essentially the same"

"Our missions will remain essentially the same," said Harry Heath, a spokesman for the Adjutant General. "We will have to do them with fewer people, which means we cannot retain people who cannot or will not function completely as soldiers."

Under a plan known as Vision 2000, the guard is deactivating 10 units, moving four and creating eight new units.

While it has been a summer of transition, all of the changes will have taken place by the first of September.

Message to citizen-soldiers:

'We have a home for you'

By Pfc. CARLOS A. CAMPOS
124th PA Detachment

In the wake of downsizing, restructuring and other changes in the Georgia National Guard, at least one top recruiter had an important message for the state's part-time soldiers.

"We have a home for people if they want to stay in the guard," said recruiting Maj. Andy Durden. "Provided that they are willing to do the things to get them qualified, they certainly do have a home."

The restructuring of the guard has meant changes for a lot of guardsmen, and to help cope with those sometimes difficult changes, Durden said his staff has made up teams which have visited the affected units, "and explained what we were doing."

Armed with a slide presentation, and condensing "mounds and mounds of information," compiled by the Vision 2000 committee, Durden said guardsmen throughout the state were informed of their options because of the many changes.

In order to meet mandated troop reductions by 30, Sept. the National Guard has slowed its recruiting efforts, sped up discharges of unsatisfactory drill participants and raised enlistment standards, Durden said.

But most importantly, it has offered its troops four options in the event their unit was either being deactivated or moved.

The first option was to move with the unit to its new location. The second option was to find a slot in another unit, if possible. Another possibility was to be slotted as excess in another unit for a year, and hold out to be placed in a permanent slot commensurate with the grade. Finally, retirement was an option, but one which Durden said, "We really didn't push."

Durden said more problems will exist in relocating displaced senior NCOs and officers, as less slots exist throughout the state for them.

The key to all the changes, Durden said, is that "It takes a lot of coordination with each individual and each unit."

UNITS BEING DEACTIVATED

HHB, 118th Field Artillery Brigade	Savannah
HHD, Co. A, 1/122d Infantry (TLAT)	Winder
Co. B, C	Covington
Co. D	Gainesville
Co. E	Washington
A/158th Military Intelligence Company	Marietta
448th Ord Detachment	Decatur
59th FCDD	Decatur
205th FCDD	Decatur

UNITS BEING RELOCATED

	From	To
122d RAOC	Lawrenceville	Savannah
HHB 1-230th FA	Waycross	Savannah
Service Battery, 1-214th FA	Elberton	Washington
148th Medical Co. (AA)	Atlanta	Marietta

NEW UNITS CREATED

24th ID (RAOC)	Savannah
Det. 2, HHC, 1/121 Inf.	Winder
Det. 1, Co. A, 1/121 Inf.	Winder
Det. 1, Co. C, 1/121 Inf.	Gainesville
Det. 1, Co. A, 2/121 Inf.	Covington
Det. 1, Co. B, 2/121 Inf.	Covington
Det. 2, Co. D, 2.121 Inf.	Lawrenceville
Det. 1, HHB, 1-230th FA	Waycross

Chatham Artillery, Georgia's oldest, preserves its lineage

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

In January 1968, the oldest regiment in the Georgia Army National Guard, the 118th Field Artillery Regiment, ceased to exist as a regiment.

"When a Guard unit is lost, it's lost forever," says Maj. Eugene C. Martin, the state's Force Integration Readiness analyst. "It's not like the active component where a unit can be deactivated and some future unit can pick up its lineage."

Rather than preserve the 118th as a regiment, the state almost 25 years ago created the 118th Field Artillery Brigade and a new regiment, the 230th Field Artillery, according to National Guard Bureau.

The 118th FA Regiment, organized in 1751, was Georgia's oldest regiment and one of the few in the National Guard that served in the Revolutionary War.

To preserve the 118th's lineage to the Chatham Artillery, the headquarters element of the 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery at Waycross is being moved to Savannah and redesignated Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery.

The 2nd Battalion, 214th FA at Statesboro and the 1st Battalion, 230th FA at Waycross consolidate to form the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery.

By the time Savannah's HHB, 118th Field Artillery Brigade was officially deactivated on the last weekend in August, virtually all of the 130 guardsmen affected had found slots elsewhere.

"It was pretty chaotic, to say the least, earlier in the year when we first got the news," said HHB First Sergeant Bruce O'Berry.

"Now that the dust has settled and the deactivation is complete, I think most everyone is content with their new units," he said.

About 98 percent were successfully reassigned, he said. "There were three or four soldiers with over 20 who chose to retire, but as promised none of the 18 full-time staffers lost a job, took a pay cut or were demoted," O'Berry said.

"General Bland and his staff did an excellent job of finding us all new jobs."

Some guardsmen transferred with most of their equipment to new units following annual training this year. Some may require retraining in new units, he said, because not all were able to remain within their military specialties.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE FUTURE OF THE GUARD

Family

'It's a little harder for us to move like the regular Army'

Downsizing affects members of the Guard. But it affects families, too.

While most guardsmen in deactivating units were able to find new slots within 50 miles, some weren't so lucky. The 122nd Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC) is one example.

The entire unit was shifted from Decatur to Savannah. That can have considerable impact on families, says Second Lt. Tanya R. Brinkley, the state family program coordinator.

"Some members may have been driving 10 miles to the unit," she says. "Now they may have to leave on Friday afternoon and they won't be back until Sunday night."

There's a financial impact as well. "Financially, it's more difficult when they have find, and pay for, a place to stay overnight. Plus, there's the cost of travel."

Change can prompt anger, too. She explains:

"We've got some soldiers who are angry because they have been together for years. They're used to each other. They had a solidarity and now they don't have it anymore. It's a little harder for us to move on like the regular Army does."

To make the adjustments easier on members and their families, family support groups are being organized in every unit in the Georgia Army Guard.

The objective is to improve the quality of life, she says, to provide a support network to resolve problems as they arise, including deactivations or relocations.

In some areas, it's a strong, active organization. In Newnan, for example, family members of guardsmen in Troop E, 348th Cavalry, meet regularly, publish a newsletter, and conduct fund-raisers.

The group even established a $500 college scholarship, which was awarded during graduation ceremonies this spring.

If you are experiencing hardships from relocation or deactivation and think the family program can help your family, Brinkley invites you to call. The number is 1-800-242-4222, extension 6561.

CAPT. MICHAEL T. HOLDER, *left, commander of Company A, 158th Military Intelligence Battalion, helps Lt. Col. Michael L. Seely, commander of the 151st MI battalion, furl the guidon of the 158th at the deactivation ceremony on August 15 at Dobbins Air Force Base. (Photo by Sgt. Jerry DeAvila, 124th PAD)*

TOTAL PROJECTED REDUCTIONS

FY 92 - FY 95

STATE	CHANGES	PER CENT	STATE	CHANGES	PER CENT
TENNESSEE	-5812	-37.7	NORTH CAROLINA	-1838	-15.2
GEORGIA	-2432	-21.2	SOUTH CAROLINA	-1695	-12.6
FLORIDA	-2637	-20.5	MISSISSIPPI	-1483	-8.5
ALABAMA	-3278	-15.4	LOUISIANA	-1669	-5.0

FY 92 LOSSES

PERSONNEL
- OFFICER 50
- WARRANT OFFICER 2
- ENLISTED 635

TOTAL 687

ESTIMATED ANNUAL PAY LOSS
- DRILL PAY $1,478,400
- ANNUAL TRAINING $390,021
- SPECIAL TRAINING/SCHOOLS $1,405,869

TOTAL $3,274,390

FY 93 LOSSES

PERSONNEL
- OFFICER 33
- WARRANT OFFICER 24
- ENLISTED 479

TOTAL 536

ESTIMATED ANNUAL PAY LOSS
- DRILL PAY $1,190,900
- ANNUAL TRAINING $485,255
- SPECIAL TRAINING/SCHOOLS $972,850

TOTAL $2,597,880

Air Force not paring down, but rebuilding up

By Maj. KEN BALDOWSKI
Air Guard PAO

The Air Force today is undergoing the most fundamental reshaping it has experienced since it was established as a separate service nearly half a century ago. The changes touch every corner of the institution and every aspect of how airmen do their jobs.

The Air Force will continue to have a role in maintaining stability in many parts of the world, but will have to discharge this responsibility with leaner forces.

Global Reach-Global Power is the overarching structure which air powers's inherent strengths — speed, range, flexibility, precision and lethality are employed.

Between 1987 and 1995, the service will undergo substantial personnel reductions including force cuts of 10 tactical fighter wings and a reduction of 170,000 active duty airmen. The AF personnel cuts of 20 percent compare to Army cuts of 15 percent from its 1986 peak, Navy cuts of 7 percent since '89 and Marine cuts of 6 percent from 1987.

According to Secretary of the Air Force, Donald B. Rice, "We're not paring down the Air Force; we're building a new, smaller Air Force from the ground up".

Regardless of the role played by the restructured Air Force, the air capabilities in the new "Global Reach-Global Power" structure will prepare the service for the future. Structural changes will equip the Air Force to respond to all contingencies whether as the main combat force or in a supporting role.

The Air Force has long been structured on an artificial distinction between so-called tactical aircraft and strategic aircraft. In the new structure, a new command will employ air power as a unified whole. Two major new commands — the Air Combat Command and the Air Mobility Command will incorporate the former Tactical Air Command, the Strategic Air Command and the Military Airlift Command, all which went out of existence on 1 June 92.

On the support side, Logistics and Systems Command merged on 1 July to become the Material Command providing seamless life-cycle systems support. Electronic Security Command became Intelligence Command last October, consolidating all Air Force intelligence functions. Communications Command has become a field operating agency, with most of its personnel transferring to field commanders who now are responsible for operating their own communications and APP support.

Air Mobility Command will have MAC's intertheater airlift, most of the U.S. based theater airlift, and most of SAC's tankers. They will focus on the overall problem of force mobility or getting people and equipment to the fight. With fewer U.S. troops stationed overseas, the AF of the future will be required to airlift military power to trouble spots within hours.

The Air Reserve Component (ARC) plays an important role across the breadth of our activities. Indeed, although active manpower has been reduced by more than a quarter since the mid-1980s, Guard and Reserve personnel strengths will maintain their current levels even as the active component decline to base force levels. In the fighter force, ARC units will grow from one-third to over 42 percent of the total force by 1995. In the new AF structure, fully 48 percent of Air Force fighter cockpits will be filled by Reservists and Guardsmen. During Operation "Desert Storm" the ARC validated the AF's confidence in them, but current plans push reliance on the ARC to the maximum in relation to the size of the total force.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE FUTURE OF THE GUARD

Education

Schools become more important for guardsmen seeking rank

School or die.

It's getting that serious. For promotion after 1 October, guardsmen must have completed a Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) the basic non-commissioned officers course (BNOC) or the advanced course (ANOC).

"With the drawdown, education is particularly important," said Sgt. Maj. John W. Holland, the state's schools program manager.

"The biggest thing that's going to impact on schools is the retention boards," he said. "The budget had been pretty good for the last few years, so people have had the opportunity to go to school. People who didn't take advantage of the opportunities are at a disadvantage with the retention boards. Education is one of the factors they consider."

In the Georgia Army Guard, schools are big business. This year some $4.5 million will be spent. "It's safe to say that almost every Georgia guardsman is involved in something," Holland said. "The average guardsman has a requirement to go to some kind of school almost continuously."

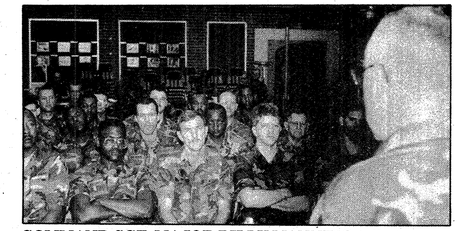
Most of them are run out of Macon's Georgia Military Institute. This year, for example, a dozen ANOC and BNOC courses will be run, each with about 60 participants. Four PLDC courses also were offered, with an average of 108 participants each.

While the first phase of ANOC and BNOC is held in-state, guardsmen may be sent anywhere in the country for the second phase. Some engineers requiring highly-specialized training were sent to North Dakota for the second phase.

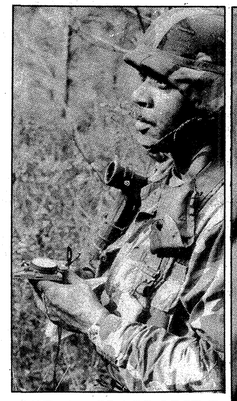
In addition to the state's ongoing NCO training programs, special courses are conducted, usually at annual training.

More than 200 members of the 48th Infantory Brigade (Mech) were trained in the 11M MOS (Bradley Fighting Vehicle Infantryman) at a Schoolhouse for the Soldier program at Ft. Stewart in August.

Most were former members of the 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry (TLAT) who were transferring into the brigade. At the end of the school, which is conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Army Reserves, guardsmen are awarded the 11M MOS.

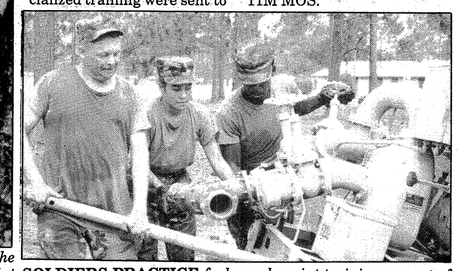


COMMAND SGT. MAJOR BILLY MANNING *talks to members of the Advanced NCO Course.*



SGT. 1st CLASS OBIE F. KING *shoots an azimuth on the land navigation course during the Advanced NCO Course.*

SGT. 1st CLASS ELAINE FITZGERALD *takes a break in the field during the Advanced NCO Course. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Willis Mitchell, 124th PAD)*



SOLDIERS PRACTICE *fuel supply point training as part of the Schoolhouse of the Soldier at Fort Stewart.*

Those with 20-plus years reviewed

Retention boards retire 80 EMs, 30 guard officers

By Staff Sgt. ELLIOTT MINOR
124th PA Detachment

Retention boards, charged with keeping only the best in the era of military downsizing, have recommended the release of more than 80 enlisted soldiers and approximately 30 officers from the Georgia Army National Guard.

The boards met in the spring to review the records of 662 members with over 20 years' service.

"This should not be viewed as a punitive action," said Lt. Col. James A. Bruno, deputy director of personnel and administration. "The purpose of the retention board is to keep the best qualified soldiers. The ones with the best potential and the records to back it up will be retained."

The retention boards considered primarily senior level officers and NCOs.

Retention boards are supposed to review the records of members with over 20 years routinely every other year.

In April, a six-member board that included Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Manning reviewed the records of 458 enlisted guard members.

It recommended that 82 be retired, that 119 have their records reviewed again in a year and that 257 be retained for two more years.

A second board, made up of three field grade officers, met in May to review the records of 204 officers. It recommended the retirement of approximately 30.

Manning said the enlisted board had to be more selective because of downsizing and to ensure upward mobility of top-flight young soldiers.

While nearly everyone will have an opportunity to serve at least 20 years, continued service will depend on unit needs, potential for advancement and meeting all physical and educational requirements, Manning said.

This year board members had a mandate from Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, the Adjutant General, to keep only the most qualified, Bruno said.

The boards considered such things as military and civilian education, fitness and weight, efficiency reports and potential for advancement.

"The primary purpose of the retention board is to provide for continued upward mobility in the organization," said Maj. Donald W. Venn, chief of plans and actions.

"The biggest thing the board members are instructed to look for is a soldier's and an officer's potential. Have they peaked out as far as potential?"

Those who are not retained can transfer to the individual ready reserve or to the retired reserve. Both categories are subject to recall during a national emergency.

What's next?

Vision 2000 committee examines state; matches guard units to communities

Why is a National Guard unit in your hometown?

Does the population support it? What about the future?

Those are the kinds of questions pondered by Vision 2000, a group of officers and senior NCOs representing major commands and State Headquarters staff sections.

Their job, explains Lt. Col. Richard H. Stokes, who served as vice chairman of the committee, was to reinvent the Georgia Guard.

While there were guidelines, the planners were told to "consider any and all options, as if the Guard didn't exist," Stokes said.

They worked for nine weeks, with the 12 committee members meeting in small groups as much as four times per week.

They examined communities, units and regions. "We wanted to try to make sure a Guard unit was available to every Georgian, although it might not be in his home county."

By studying current commuting patterns, they discovered that most all guardsmen in non-headquarters units live in the county where the armory is located, or an adjoining county. They, therefore, sought to put units within 25 miles of everybody — or, roughly, a 30-minute maximum commute.

They also explored ways to expand the recruitment pool. Most all units in South Georgia, for example, are combat units. Is it possible to relocate some units that can recruit women? Those are the kinds of questions they asked.

The panel discovered that a population of 22,000 is the minimum needed to support a Guard company. But "some locations have less than that now and they have excellent support records for the Guard, so you can't look at the people base alone," Stokes said.

Another consideration, in deciding how to react to downsizing, is cost. "We looked at the cost to retrain a unit if we moved them," he said. "We tried to keep the cost of relocations to a minimum and to use existing skills as much as possible," he said.

Therefore, in considering the kind of unit to move to Winder, for example, planners took note of the existing infantry skills in the TLAT battalion.

The committee's work is designed to guide the state through current and future downsizing, now scheduled to run through fiscal year 1995.

Where to put units not a crap shoot

As the Georgia Guard shrinks in size, planners evaluate how to do it most effectively, with the least possible impact on guardsmen, their families and communities where they live.

They debate options — saying, for example, if the primary goal is to accomplish a specific objective, what's the best way to go about it?

Here are five possible ways to go:

- Eliminate all separate detachments and units in areas too thinly populated to support a National Guard presence.
- No separate units would have detachments, but detachments would be allowed in battalions with organic companies. Use the best possible population support base. And, maintain only two of the present three flight facilities.
- Provide the best possible command and control in the state, with priority to the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech). Protect the lineage of the Chatham Artillery. Demographics would be a second priority.
- Place units in areas where the population exists to support them.
- The best possible command and control for the state.

In each instance, the ramifications are debated by planners. Strengths and weaknesses of each approach are weighed.

Numbers tell one story. But, in the end, it's not a science. It's people and families and communities.

Does your community support you?

Decisions can't be made by the numbers. But planners do, as a starting point, construct a demographic profile of all Guard communities.

Here's what the numbers tell:

- Current National Guardsmen/women in the county.
- Guardsmen/women living in adjoining counties.
- Male population projected in 1996 and 2000.
- County population projections in 1996 and 2000.
- Percent of high school graduates entering military service.
- Percent passing armed forces entry tests.
- Percent of current population in the local Guard unit.

Each unit is profiled, too. Especially important is historical strength. Half of all units are at 95 percent of authorized strength or better. The units with the most severe strength problems ranged from 56.6 to 80.6 percent strength.

Guidance to the planners

Planners operated with guidance from the Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. William P. Bland Jr.

His current command intent:

- No armories will be closed.
- Utilize existing personnel to fill every vacancy possible.
- Every attempt will be made to provide every guardsman/woman job opportunity, both the full-timers and the part-timers.
- Combat readiness will not suffer.

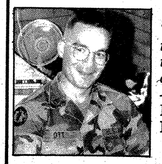
Instructions from National Guard Bureau

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, director of National Guard Bureau, had some specific instructions for planners.

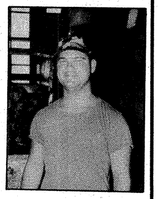
The key points:

- Ensure we provide for displaced soldiers and families.
- High-quality soldiers must be encouraged to continue.
- Unsatisfactory performers must be expeditiously processed for discharge.
- Planning for and accommodating displaced soldiers and families should be a high priority.

What soldiers say ...



"It hasn't affected me yet. If they are going to downsize, that's fine — as long as they don't cut money for training." —Staff Sgt. Craig Ott, Duluth, 178th Military Police Company.



"If they get rid of the people that aren't very good, then they won't have to bother soldiers that really want to be in the guard." —Spec. William A. Hall, Hinesville, mechanic in the 166th Maintenance Company.

"Personally, I'll have to work harder — get my schools in, my PT score higher — keep ahead of the cuts." —Spec. Christopher B. Bishop, Atlanta, medical admin. specialist in the 138th Medical Company.

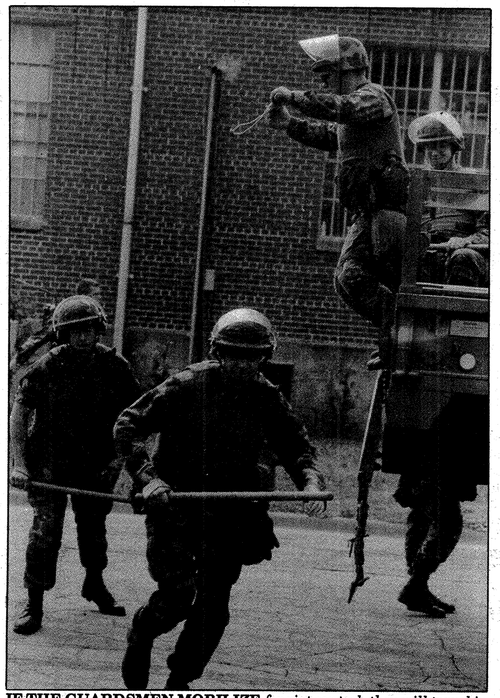
"We should keep the same size. Our mission as a state militia hasn't changed, i.e., riot control and natural disasters. If we downsize to much we may jeopardize that mission," —Sgt. Thomas Washington, 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery.

"Two good things that will come out of this is — one; some of the higher ranking NCOs will retire freeing slots that will allow for junior soldiers to be promoted: — two; the majority of soldiers will pick up a secondary MOS which will make them more flexible for promotion purposes." —Sgt. Dennis Mulkey, Atlanta, HQ STARC.

"A lot of young soldiers are getting out because there's no place for them to go (advancement). Hopefully the reorganization will open some slots for these soldiers. We lose good ones every day. The retention boards need to tighten up on PT standards and weight control — there are a lot of people still in who just don't measure up," —Staff Sgt. Chris Gaudry, 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery.

Relieved that they were weren't needed

Guardsmen ready to face riot challenge



IF THE GUARDSMEN MOBILIZE *for riot control, they will travel in trucks and have to learn to exit the vehicles quickly, as members of the Scout platoon of Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor practice at Fort Gillem.*

By Spec. EMORY MINOR
124th PA Detachment

ATLANTA, Ga. — Deputy Charles R. Ward was guarding prisoners at the Polk County jail when he received an important phone call. Raymond Deblois was on duty at Northside Hospital when he received a similar call.

Ward and Deblois were among 1,000 members of the Georgia Army National Guard who where mobilized by Gov. Zell Miller to protect lives and property during three days of looting and violence in Atlanta.

The turmoil in Atlanta and several other U.S. cities was in response to the acquittal of four white Los Angeles police officers who had been videotaped beating black motorist Rodney King.

Spec. Ward, a tank driver in Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor in Cedartown, said his coworkers clapped and his mother cried when they learned that he might be called on to maintain order in the city.

Deblois, a medic with D Company, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry in Gainesville, said he had joked about the possibility of a call-up and two hours later he was told to report to his unit.

Deblois, the Guard's Soldier of the Year in 1990, said he was apprehensive but hopeful they would arrive in time to make a difference.

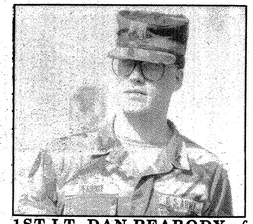
Miller mobilized guard members from three north Georgia units Thursday evening after youths went on a rampage in downtown Atlanta, smashing windows, beating people and overturning cars. Sporadic clashes were reported between police and demonstrators on Friday and Saturday. Guard members were never sent into the city because police were able to maintain control.

Units affected by the call-up were the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, headquartered in Calhoun, the 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry headquartered in Winder and the 190th MP Company of Atlanta.

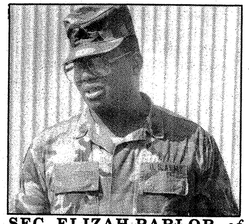
"We are glad the mission didn't go off, but disappointed we could not help Mayor Maynard Jackson and the local police," said Lt. Col. Allan O'Rouke, commander of the 108th.

During the three days of state active duty, the guardsmen slept in an armory on Confederate Ave. and in warehouses on Fort Gillem. They practiced riot control and amused themselves by batting balls with their riot batons and tossing horseshoes. Some crowded around a television Saturday afternoon to watch a Braves game.

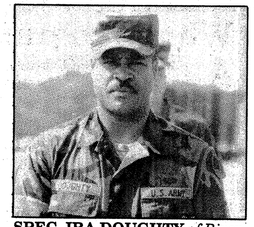
"I'm glad we didn't have to be used; it's better to be bored then for someone to get hurt," said Deblois.



1ST LT. DAN PEABODY *of Smyrna, a member of the 190th MP Company, says that being called-up for riot control is routine since he is a police officer in the civilian world.*



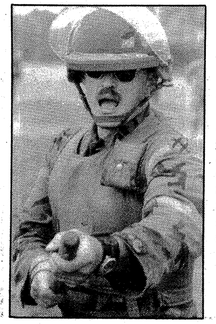
SFC. ELIZAH PARLOR, *of Union City, is a member of the 190th MP Company. "I was at work when I got called. We are citizens and we may have to face citizens or maybe people we know."*



SPEC. IRA DOUGHTY *of Riverdale, a member of the 190th MP Company, says there was a sense of uncertainty about the call-up. "You don't know how the situation can escalate. I just hope for the best."*

Guardsmen came from 10 communities

Guardsmen mobilized during the three days of looting and violence in Atlanta drill at armories in Calhoun, Canton, Cedartown, Dalton, Douglas, Covington, Gainesville, Winder, Washington and Atlanta.



TO PREPARE HIMSELF *for anything that may happen, Staff Sgt. Greg A. Cady, a Bradley vehicle commander in the scout Platoon of Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor and a car salesman from Dalton, practices movements with the stick and wears a flack jacket at Fort Gillem.*

MEMBERS OF THE SCOUT PLATOON *for Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor practice getting into riot control formations to limit confusion if a real situation occurs at Fort Gillem. (Photos by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th PAD)*

The Blue Yonder

Leftovers from 116th Feeding the Hungry

The 116th Fighter Wing at Dobbins has become the first Atlanta-area military unit to donate leftover food from week drills to the "Atlanta Table," a project of the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

The project was initiated by Master Sgt. Philip Bersch, president of the local chapter of the Non-commissioned Officers Graduate Association and MSgt Charles Pritchett of the 116th Services Flight.

The "Atlanta Table" began in 1987 to address the problems of local hunger. More than 200 local restaurants, caterers, hotels, hospitals and other food service providers participate, donating from 20 to 1,000 pounds of prepared food per pickup.

Honoring Champions

A Savannah high school has been cited for outstanding athletic performance by members of the 117th Air Control Squadron. Recruiters Master Sgt. Greg Gray and Tech Sgt. Kelly Smith presented Johnson High School's basketball team and its coaches with a congratulatory plaque and letter. The team won the State AAAA basketball championship.

The Durable C-130

Marietta's Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company has delivered its 2,000th C-130 Hercules aircraft, this one going to the Kentucky Air National Guard. The C-130 is the longest running aircraft production line in the aviation industry. More than 60 countries fly it.

Footsteps to Follow

Staff Sgt. Margaret N. Johnson, a secure-telecommunications systems technician with Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron, was presented an associate of arts degree from Community College of the Air Force in ceremonies at Glynco Jetport.

The two-year degree in electronic systems technology was earned by combining credits achieved through Air Force technical training schools and Brunswick and Valdosta State Colleges.

Graduation speaker Dr. Morgan Stapleton, vice president of academic affairs at Brunswick College, praised the commitment of Sergeant Johnson. She spoke, as well, of the credibility of the Community College of the Air Force within the academic community and encouraged the 200 assembled Air National Guard members to follow in Johnson's footsteps.

Johnson lives in Savannah and is employed by Barrett Oil Distributors as a systems manager. Her parents, Wayne and Margaret Johnson of Brunswick, also participated in the graduation ceremony.

LT. COL. BARRY BEIRIG, *left, the pilot of an F-15 that crashed in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, joins 116th Fighter Wing commander Col. Stephen Kearney, right, in honoring Rangers Steven Kloster and Jack Piepenbring. The rangers received the Georgia Medal of Valor for their role in the rescue.*

Two get Medal of Valor

Park rangers cited for rescue of downed Air Guard pilot

It was a rescue that would have made television's MacGyver proud, said one newspaper.

Two national park rangers rappelled from a hovering helicopter on a cold January day to reach the pilot of a Georgia Air National Guard plane that crashed in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For their heroics, Rangers Jack Piepenbring and Steven Kloster have been awarded the Georgia Medal of Valor by Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, Georgia's Adjutant General. Also present was the pilot of the downed F-15, Lt. Col. Barry Beirig, and the commander of the 116th Fighter Wing, Col. Stephen Kearney.

The two rangers were cited for their role in rescuing Beirig after two F-15 Eagle jet aircraft collided while on a training mission over the North Carolina section of the park.

One aircraft was able to make an emergency landing at McGhee-Tyson Airport in Knoxville. Beirig's F-15 was critically damaged and crashed into a remote area of the park after Beirig ejected.

The pilot, clad only in a flight suit and light jacket, parachuted into the park unharmed. Temperatures dipped below 10 degrees that day and Beirig landed miles from the nearest road.

Beirig called for assistance using a portable radio and guided a Tennessee Air National Guard helicopter to him. Dense vegetation made it impossible to land, so Rangers Kloster and Piepenbring had to rappel about 150 feet down to assist the pilot.

To reach safety, they guided him four miles through rugged terrain and thickets of rhododendron to the nearest trail and then two more miles to the road.

Rappelling from a hovering helicopter into trees is a hazardous maneuver rarely undertaken. "It was a tremendous relief to see that helicopter," said Beirig.

"The Georgia Medal of Valor was created to recognize heroic acts performed by members of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard," Kearney said. "The events of 15 January were so compelling we felt compelled to honor these two rangers for their acts."

In addition to the Georgia Medal of Valor, the two rangers were also given an Exemplary Act Award by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Guard vets eligible for free license

Veteran guardsmen who served on active duty during war time, including Operation Desert Storm, are eligible for a free Georgia driver's license under a state law which went into effect July 1.

To qualify for the free license, a guardsman had to be on active duty during an armed conflict, but not necessarily assigned to a unit or division which directly participated in the conflict.

Also, you must have entered the National Guard in Georgia, and be a resident of the state at the time of application for the license, according to Pete Wheeler, the state's commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

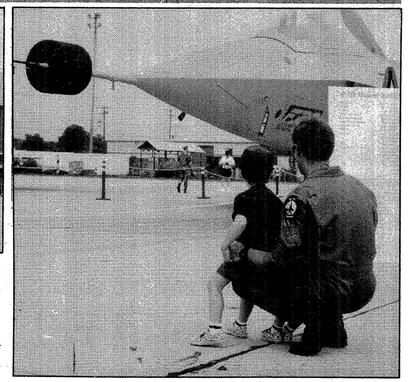
If you entered the National Guard in another state, you must be a resident of Georgia for five consecutive years to be eligible for the free license.

Members or former members of the National Guard who have at least 20 years of service are also eligible for the free license.

Also eligible for the license are spouses of disabled veterans who do not have driver's licenses, or the unremarried spouses of deceased veterans.

Veterans who feel they qualify should take their discharge papers (DD-214 form) to any office of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service for certification.

AMERICA'S NEXT GENERATION TACTICAL FIGHTER — *the F-22 — made its first public appearance at Family Day activities in June at Dobbins Air Force Base.*



THE FUTURE AIR SUPERIORITY FIGHTER *of the U.S. Air Force is closely examined by F-15 pilot Maj. Scott Hammond and future pilot, three-year-old Joshua, at the Family Day activities for the 116TFW.*

Family Day at Dobbins

Public gets first look at F-22 prototype

Kids of all ages scrambled to have their pictures made in the cockpit of an F-l5 or standing beside the F-22 during Family Day at Dobbins Air Force Base.

More than 1,500 guardsmen and their families showed up for the first public showing of the Air Force's next generation tactical fighter, the F-22, which is to be built next door at Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Co.

Display of the F-22 at the 116th Fighter Wing Family Day marked its first appearance at a non-Air Force gathering. It is one of only two prototypes built. The second was damaged in May in a crash at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

In addition to the F-22, another 15 combat aircraft were on display, including a vintage Chinese jet fighter.

Two World War II Air Force trainers, currently used to provide real-life combat simulation to paying customers at Charlie Brown Airport, were a source of great interest, as were two F-16s from the 169th Fighter Group, which saw action in Operation Desert Storm.

Aircraft from the Air Force Reserve, Marines and Army were also on display.

Highlight of the day was the traditional five-kilometer Family Day foot race for guardsmen and serious runners. Staff Sgt. Perry Doyle, a member of the 116th CAMS, won the race for the second year in a row in a time of 18:06. Maj. Cynthia Islin, also of the 116th CAMS, was the first female guardsman to cross the finish line.

In addition to the race and static displays, which included vintage automobiles, live firepower demonstrations showcased the field tactics employed by the 116th Weapons Systems Security Flight.

The Cobb County Police Department's K-9 unit presented attack demonstrations.

Families were treated to a lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers, while being serenaded by an afternoon of music by the 530th Air Force Band.

Brunswick unit assists African relief effort

By Maj. DONALD N. EDMANDS JR.
224th Joint Communications Squadron

Assisting international relief efforts is becoming routine for the 224th Joint Communications Squadron at Glynco Jetport in Brunswick.

For the third time in three years, the Georgia Air guardsmen have responded to an appeal for assistance in loading emergency relief supplies.

The relief supplies for war-torn Zaire were being shipped by MAP International, a non-profit health and relief organization with international headquarters at Glynco.

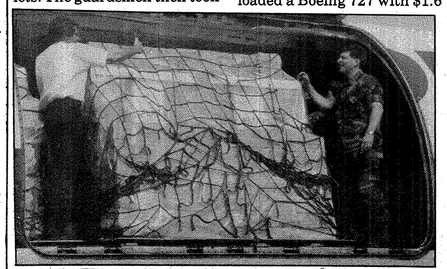
MAP had been requested by the U.S. State Department's Office of Foreign Assistance to airlift the medical and other supplies valued at $3.5 million which had been donated by various American health care companies.

To load the plane, squadron members volunteered to help supervise MAP employees as they built and netted the pallets. The guardsmen then took over and quickly loaded the commercial DC-8 freighter with 14 pallets. MAP employees, meanwhile, loaded sacks of flour, which had been donated by another humanitarian relief organization.

"The shipment to Zaire would not have taken place had the guardsmen not provided their equipment and expertise to help load the airplane," said Larry Glass, MAP's director of relief.

The shipment was not the first time the 224th had been called for help. In 1989, they loaded a Boeing 727 with $1.6 million in medical supplies and food destined for Panama during Operation Just Cause.

And in 1990, while dispatching personnel on Operation Desert Shield, the unit loaded a Boeing 707 with $2 million in medical supplies bound for Liberia.



MAJ. RAYMOND J. KING, *Logistics Officer for the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron, assists the DC-8 Loadmaster in loading one of the 14 pallets of medical supplies destined for Zaire. (Photo by: Maj. Donald N. Edmands, Jr.)*

In South Florida, too, Georgia Guard helps

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

The Georgia National Guard joined forces with the Florida National Guard to provide relief to the hurricane-ravaged areas of south Florida after Andrew hit in late August.

"The National Guard Bureau tasked the Georgia Guard to provide equipment support to the Florida National Guard," said Lt. Col. (P) Robert Baird, the Director of Logistics for the Georgia Guard.

The Georgia Guard sent 293 flak jackets and 299 batons for riot control after reports of heavy looting, according to Lt. Col. Phillip Glise, the transportation officer in the Deputy Chief of Staff-Directorate of Logistics.

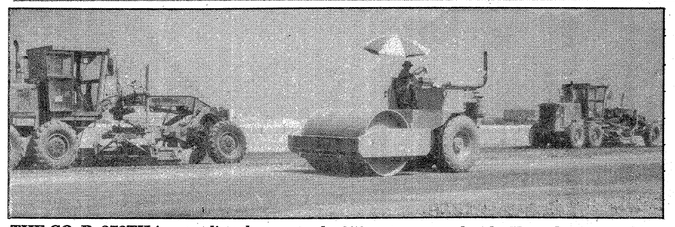
Fort Stewart also sent thousands of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and Tray Rations (T-Rats) to the devastated area.

A C-130 H cargo plane from the 125th Fighter Group and Operational Support Aircraft of the Florida Air National Guard out of Jacksonville landed at Wright Army Airfield at Fort Stewart to pick up the supplies August 25. The plane then went to Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta for more supplies, then dropped them off at Opaloca, Fla., which is just north of Miami, according to Lt. Col. Janson Kinsley, a pilot on the plane.

Cobb airmen volunteer for Special Olympics

Members of the National Guard are a part of the communities where they live. For several years now, and again this year, members of Kennesaw's 129th and 118th Air Control Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard have participated in the Cobb County Special Olympics.

Master Sgt. Jerry L. Haney has coordinated the support. Among those who served the Special Olympics as umpires this year were Master Sgt. Jerry D. Whitworth, Tech. Sft. Perrine C. Hays, Master Sgt. Ronald L. Brown, Tech. Sgt. Grant L. Brumbaugh, Master Sgt. Mack O. Peed, and Master Sgt. Mack E. Douse Jr.



THE CO. B, 878TH *is extending the runway by 250 meters on each side. Here, they are packing the dirt and gravel to prepare for laying the asphalt.*

Engineers pave way to good relations

Three weeks of sun, sand and water. It sounds like a vacation. But, for members of the 265th Engineer Group, headquartered in Marietta, it is hard work.

Georgia Army national Guard engineers are spending their annual training in the desert — a Southwest Asian desert. Various engineering projects are giving soldiers the opportunity to train in a harsh desert environment.

During the month of July, engineers from Company B of the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Sandersville, separated with half working in a dusty, mountainous area and half working in a flat, sandy area of the country. Company C of the 560th Engineer Battalion of LaGrange, also spent its annual training in sandy Southwest Asia.

The northern group, working at a host nation airbase, prepared a site for a K-Span building for storage and began extending the runway. "We're building a site up with fill dirt and paving it with asphalt for the K-Span building and extending the runway 250 meters on each end," said First Lt. James Kammerdiener, the horizontal construction platoon leader for Company B, 878th.

The southern group was also concentrated at an airbase. "We're building two K-Span buildings for storage, expanding the road by 2 kilometers and improving a range house," said Lt. Col. Henry Chapman, the battalion commander for the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Augusta.

The desert environment makes the workday a challenge. "This annual training gives us the opportunity to get familiar with this type of environment and the difficulties training in it," said Chapman. The 560th Engineer's First Sgt. Guy Crowe added, "We're working from sunrise to noon and then from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. But, we're getting used to the heat and doing without necessities."

The local people have proven to be very helpful to the U.S. soldiers. The southern task force commander, Capt. John Heath of the 265th Engineer Group said, "The people have been very helpful. They seem very grateful that we are here and very eager to share their culture."

Several Active Army engineers accompanied the 878th and 560th to evaluate their progress and overall training. "To compare them to a regular Army unit, these soldiers are accomplishing missions just as good and even superior to an active duty unit," said First Lt. Paul Olsen of the 43rd Engineering Battalion at Fort Benning. "Their motivation, drive and teamwork carries them through."

The engineering units are rotating in and out of the country every two to three weeks. The projects are due to be complete by mid-September.

THE ENGINEERS

Mission: business as usual at AT

What they're doing

The engineer project, called Eastern Castle '92, is a joint Army-Air Force exercise to improve the host nation's infrastructure and to demonstrate the benefits of continuing a military relationship with the U.S.

The organization

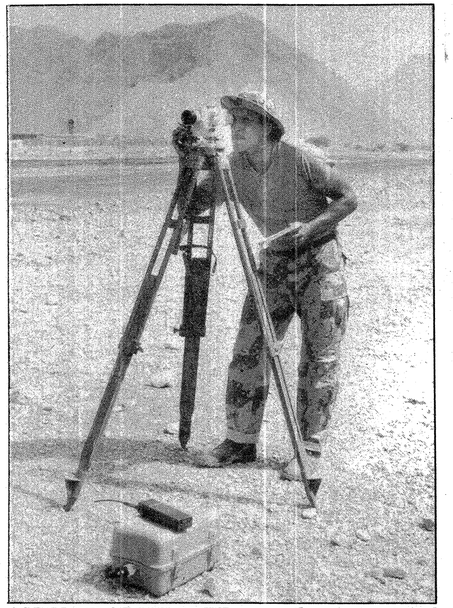
The engineer task force is commanded by the Georgia Guard's 265 Engineer Group. It includes Georgia's 878th Engineer Bn. and its 560th Engineer Bn., the active Army's 92nd Engineer Bn., and the U.S. Air Force's 823rd Red Horse Civil Engineer Squadron.

Their projects

- The 878th and the 823rd are extending a runway by 500 meters.
- The 92nd is constructing a prosthetics lab to manufacture artificial limbs and orthopedic braces.

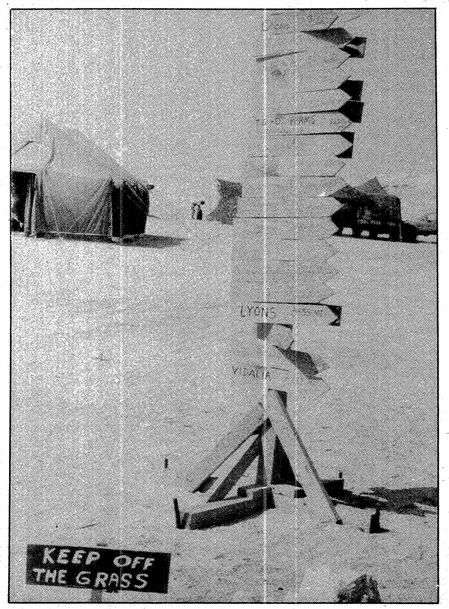
Working conditions

The desert environment is inhospitable, making construction work demanding and training realistic. Daytime temperatures reach 138 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds of 30 to 70 miles per hour hinder construction and cause longer work days. The drive between work sites requires four to five hours.

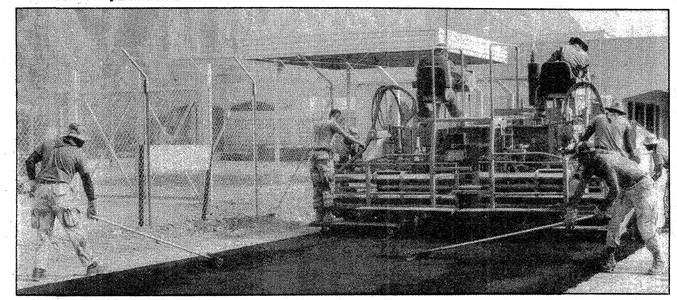


A MEMBER OF THE 878TH *surveys the runway site and reports the progress to the platoon leaders.*

Stories and photos by Sgt. Kimberly Ryan, 124th PA Detachment

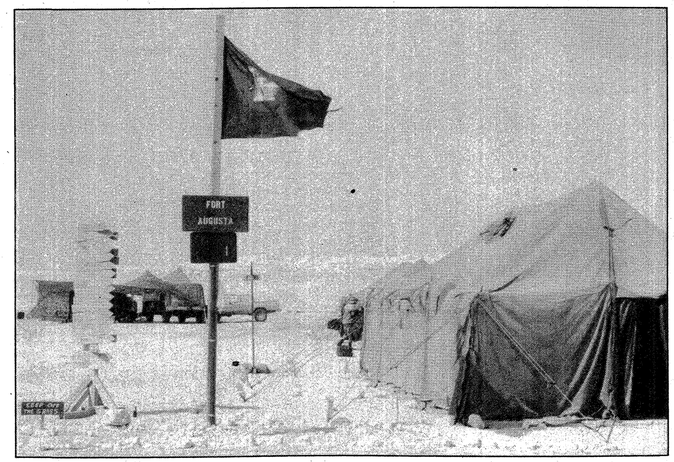


FAR FROM HOME, *the 878th erects a reminder of the distance.*



THE CO. B, 878TH *is spreading the asphalt for the K-span building to be used for storage on the airbase.*

MEMBERS OF CO. B, 878TH *try one of the local agricultural products — dates.*



IN THE SOUTHERN REGION, *the Co. B, 878th sets up its base camp in the middle of a sandy, flat desert.*

Leave it to the supply sergeant to befriend the local vendors

In the middle of a desert, far from what we know as civilization, the most important aspect of survival is supply.

The supply section of the 560th Engineer Battalion was prepared for anything. The group sent an advanced group of 24 soldiers and one of them, Sgt. Larry Easom, a supply sergeant for Company D, began to set up the supply system.

"We set up a schematic of the mil vans prior to coming so that we can find supplies easily," said Easom. "The only real problem we've had is obtaining ice, but everything is going pretty well."

The key to Easom's success, however, is dealing with the local people. Easom handles the rations, water, laundry, etc. and with great ease due to his rapport with the local vendors. While dropping off the laundry, Easom never refuses to have tea with the gentleman in charge of laundry.

Easom doesn't speak the language, but friendliness seems to communicate his intentions. "I've met some local people and some British people. I've made some good friends here," said Easom, who will spend a total of two months in the country.

Women in the desert

Female engineers say trek not a problem for them

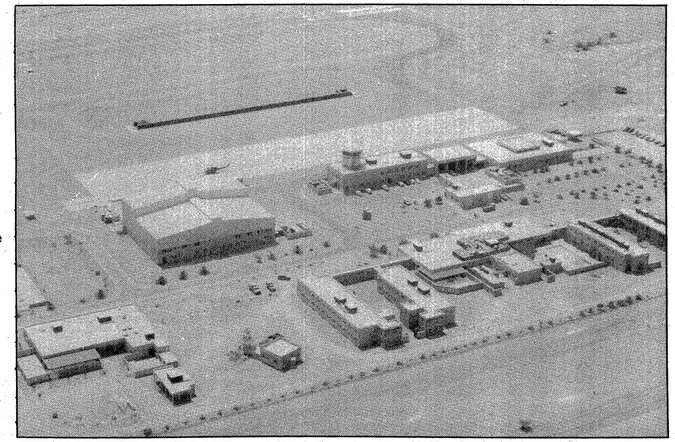
The women are veiled, rarely allowed to leave the home and restricted in most everything they do. But, the women in the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Augusta, are being treated just like their male co-workers.

These female soldiers are Georgia Army national Guard members and they are doing their annual training in the harsh desert conditions of Southwest Asia.

"We have not had any problems here. The people seem to be fairly liberated and they understand the role of the female in the Army," said Sgt. Paula Marlatt of 878th Headquarters, who has been in the country for two rotations — 36 days.

Only 10 females out of a group of 120 soldiers spent the month of July in the Middle East, but no problems have been reported. "I haven't been treated differently," said Sgt. Yvonne Grant, who works in communications for the company.

Grant said it has been a good experience. "This is my first time overseas. Overall, you can tough the weather out, but it really has made me appreciate home and America," she said.



THE NORTHERN AIRBASE *nestled in the mountains. The runway is being extended and two K-span buildings are being erected.*

Shots, pills, physicals, the 138th does it all

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

Medic. On the battlefield, the medic may be the difference between life and death.

"When a soldier is wounded, the combat medic's job is to stabilize and transport the soldier to another line of treatment, like the 138th Medical Co.," said Cadet Jennifer L. Splinter, a 138th medic.

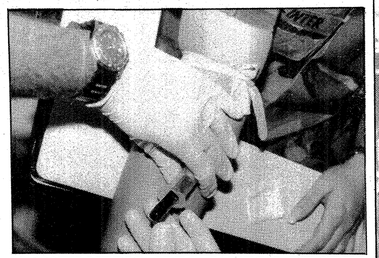
After the soldier's condition is stabilized, he's sent to a Medical company for up to 72 hours, then to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) and, usually within a week, to a rear area hospital.

"We are very mobile and can move within eight hours," said First Sgt. Marion Washington, a nurse at Grady Memorial Hospital's burn unit in Atlanta.

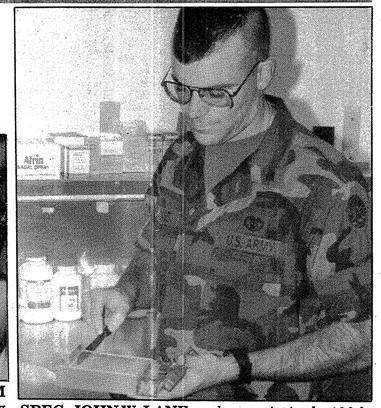
In addition to its wartime mission, the 138th performs other critical tasks. "On drill weekends we do physicals, regular training, provide medical support for units going to rifle ranges and we also do shot missions (updating shots at units)," Washington said.

While at Ft. Stewart for annual training, "we are doing something we have been asking to do for a number of years," said Capt. John E. Hughey, executive officer and acting commander.

"We are getting our basic medics some clinical training," explained Hughey, a police supervisor for the City of Atlanta. "We have about 60 people farmed out to different medical settings doing some hands-on training with active duty personnel."



A 138TH MEDIC, SPEC. JAMES J. PILGRIM III, *draws a blood sample from a patient during clinical training at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah.*



SPEC. JOHN W. LANE, *a pharmacist in the 138th Medical Co. and a mental health specialist in Dahlonega, carefully fills a prescription during sick call at Ft. Stewart. (Photos by Spec. Eric Johnson, 124th PAD)*

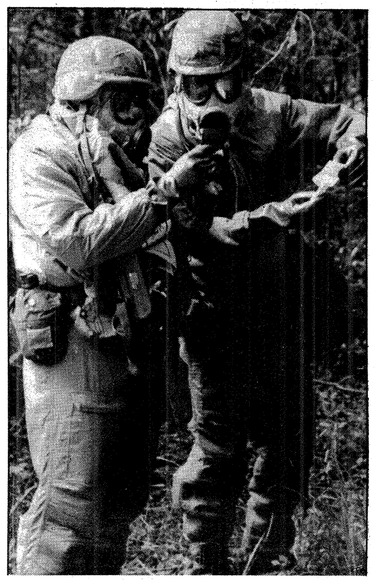
Besides hands-on training, members of the 138th run the National Guard Training Center dispensary every year during annual training. They take in heat injuries and other medical emergencies from the field and run morning sick call.

While the work may seem routine, there is something special about the unit, members say.

Spec. Donna D. Fuller of Lithonia, a licensed practical nurse, describes it. "The fact that we can all work together and as a family is what makes this unit special," she said.

"We don't make much money, so there has to be some form of enjoyment. Unconditional love and respect for others — that's what makes this unit special," said Spec. Thomas Lee Gibson, a medic who serves as an operating room technician at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Columbus.

Chemical warfair — the eight-minute difference



SGT. JIM ROSE *of Watkinsville and Sgt. Michael A. Reid of Athens try to determine the type of chemical threat they have encountered during a training exercise at Ft. Stewart. (Photo by Sgt. Mark Owens, 124th PAD)*

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

Eight minutes can be an eternity. Or, if you're trying to don chemical protective clothing, it passes in a flash.

"They have eight minutes to put on their top, bottom, boots and gloves," said Staff Sgt. Carlos A. Bradshaw of Athens, the nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) noncommissioned officer for Monroe's 178th Military Police Co.

During this year's annual training, the Monroe unit was evaluated on the effectiveness of its NBC program.

Bradshaw's role in the Army Training Evaluation Program (ARTEP) was to evaluate teams, like that consisting of Sgt. Michael A. Reid of Athens, Sgt. Jim Rose of Watkinsville, and Spec. Paul Hammes of Athens.

For one exercise, Sgt. First Class Keith Glass of Monroe, a platoon sergeant, gave the three-man team an operations order to find and mark a contaminated area near a bridge.

"They don't know what hazards they may encounter," Bradshaw said under his breath.

Suddenly the vehicle with the NBC team stopped. "You want to stop 100 to 150 meters before the contaminated area because of the weather, wind or rain," Rose told the evaluator.

"Because of the heat, go ahead and stop just before the bridge," Bradshaw told the team. "I know that you would have donned your MOPP (mission-oriented protective posture) gear here."

Just shy of the bridge, the team stopped to put on their protective clothing, thick, bulky suits with rubber gloves, boots and gas mask. Eight minutes is the maximum time allowed. "Then they have nine seconds to clear and seal the protective mask, with an extra six seconds to put the hood over," Bradshaw said.

Suited up, the team approached the bridge. Rose and Reid moved toward the water while Hammes stayed behind to provide security. "Through using the M8A1 (automatic chemical detector), they come upon the actual area of contamination," Bradshaw explained.

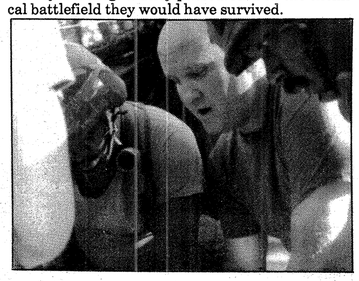
"At that time, they use the M256 kit to determine the type of chemical agent. They must determine the type of chemical, mark the boundaries and 50 meters beyond that for warning."

Rose checked his water sample. "I think it's a nerve agent," he said.

Rose and Reid then marked the contaminated area, carefully placing the date and time of the test.

After marking the area, passing the information back and decontaminating themselves, the team got the word.

They were right. They passed. And on the chemical battlefield they would have survived.



SGT. FIRST CLASS KEITH GLASS *of Monroe's 178th Military Police Co., gives an operation order to an NBC team going out to the field during a chemical-threat training exercise. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th PAD)*

AIR AMBULANCE

An Olympic role for one of Georgia Guard's new units?

By Spec. JOHNNY CAIN
124th PA Detachment

"A year and a half ago, there wasn't a stitch of clothing — nothing," says Capt. Tom Cobb, operations officer for one of the Georgia Army Guard's newest units, the 148th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance.)

By this fall, the unit is expected not only to have all its clothing and equipment, but to be mission-capable as well.

While conducting annual training this year at Ft. Stewart, the company has placed particular emphasis on training with night vision goggles.

"I've got 20 folks working at night to support the NVG (night vision goggles) qualification," said Maj. Greg Dunne, 148th company commander. "That's a significant opportunity."

The new company, which is headquartered at Marietta's Dobbins Air Force Base, has obtained the services of two nurses from Atlanta's 117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). The nurses are attached to the company indefinitely to conduct the 148th's ongoing cross-training program between medics and crew chiefs.

"We have our crew chiefs and medics paired up," said First Lt. Sherry Schacke, full-time director of specialty services at Athens Regional Medical Center. "We're doing cross-training on both sides. The crew chiefs have been very helpful about getting the medics up to speed, and the medics are working real hard with the crew chiefs."

"Basically we try to have fun when we're training. And I think that's important because each is pretty much overwhelmed with the other's job."

Like any helicopter unit, the 148th must maintain its aircraft. Initially, the company converted its fleet of UH-1H "Huey" choppers for medevac operations. Since the company's maintenance unit has carried the ball.

"The birds are holding up real well," said Sgt. First Class James Harrell, Aviation Unit Maintenance platoon sergeant. "Anything to do with the airframe, we repair."

The company took five of its 10 helicopters to annual training. According to Harrell, the 148th is scheduled to be outfitted with up to 15 aircraft.

After completing its short-term training goals, the 148th can be called on to support stateside medevac operations and could be utilized, if needed, to support the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

"We are training toward that goal," explained Dunne. "I would imagine that we would be called up to be placed on medevac stand-by at any one of the numbers of locations (where Olympic events may be held). Having 12-15 aircraft, we could support four or five different locations."

Formed on 1 October 1990, the 148th is now at about 95 percent strength.

MEMBERS OF THE 148TH *train to "down load" injured soldiers during annual training at Ft. Stewart's Wright Army Airfield. The unit also flew training missions to Ft. Stewart's Winn Army Community Hospital. (Photo by Spec. Johnny Cain, 124th PAD)*

'It's just like having a television set stuck to your forehead'

I see, said the (night) blind man.

With the Army's specially-designed night vision goggles (NVG) previously blind pilots can see.

"It's just like having a television set stuck on your forehead," said CWO2 Paul E. Wade, safety officer for Marietta's 148th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance).

Although the equipment is limited in the sense that the pilot loses some degree of depth perception, the goggles allow pilots to fly in some of the darkest conditions in the middle of the night.

"It's actually lots of fun to train with these things," Wade said. "And I'd say this training is every bit as important as the medical-related training we've been doing as pilots."

Night vision goggle training represents a significant requirement the recently-formed 148th must complete prior to becoming fully mission-capable.

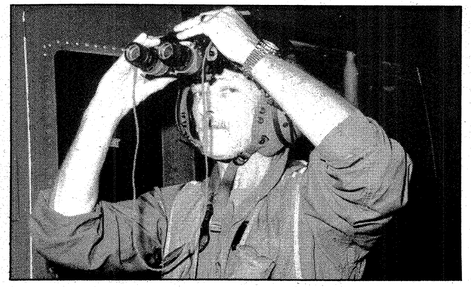
"We've platooned the trainees out separately," said Capt. Tom Cobb, operations officer. "They have to have a minimum of 10 hours of training. And we'd like them to have 14."

The goggles, which are mounted on the pilot's helmet, can be worn comfortably for about six to eight hours.

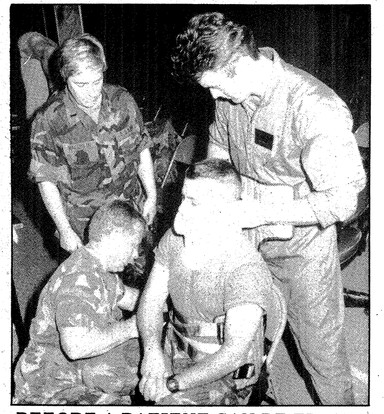
They present the viewer with an illuminated representation of daylight in darkness. Although the details may not be as sharp as during normal daylight, the viewer can see reasonably well.

"When you first put them on, you need some time to understand what you're looking at," said Wade, a training development manager for aircraft manufacturer McDonnel-Douglas Corp.

Since the 148th undoubtedly will be called upon to perform night medevacs "we can't afford to be without this training," Wade said.



VETERAN HELICOPTER PILOT CWO4 TUCK MIDDLEBROOK *attaches night vision goggles to his flight helmet prior to a night training mission at Ft. Stewart.*



BEFORE A PATIENT CAN BE TRANSPORTED *by air, proper bracing is essential. Sgt. Jason Armstrong (standing) and Staff Sgt. Phillip Dowdy practice on Second Lt. James Asher while First Lt. Linda McGahagan observes. McGahagan, a nurse on loan from the 117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, evaluates their medical techniques.*

A Bold Shift for 48th

By Spec. GREG HOLLEY
48th Brigade PAO

Fort Stewart, Ga. — The 48th brigade is back in action.

The brigade, which has not trained as a total element since its activation during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, is back with a new training focus.

It's called Operation Bold Shift. Derived from lessons learned from the conflict in the gulf, the new focus puts the emphasis on the individual soldier and small-team staff training rather than higher levels of operation at battalion or brigade levels.

One benefit: the 24th Division aids the brigade with instructors and other manpower, allowing the 48th's soldier to participate in the training, rather than all the technicalities involved in setting it up and making it happen.

"The real benefit outside of training to standard," said Brigadier Gen. James D. Davis, commander of the 48th Brigade, "is the watchful eyes and expertise of the 24th Division soldiers."

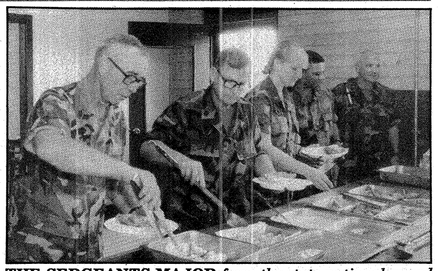
The brigade, which performed annual training on 15-29 August, spent the majority of its time in the field polishing skills such as land navigation, upkeep of tracked and wheeled vehicles, individual section operations and personal weapons qualification.

Many state and national dignitaries have had their eyes on the 48th and the success of its new style of training.

Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, praised the brigade, saying, "I am extremely impressed with these Georgians who give their time."

"We have a much less defined enemy than was in the past, said Major Gen. Paul E. Blackwell, commander of the 24th Infantry Division. "This causes us to have to be prepared to go to war in a come as you are army. It takes a special breed of person to take weekends and vacation time to go about training. The guardsman is truly a patriot."

"I'm confident I will bring back more troops alive if we have to go into combat due to our affiliation with this great division," said Davis.



THE SERGEANTS-MAJOR *from the state national guard and the 48th Brigade make their way through the lunch line of the cook school at Fort Stewart. The CSM's were observing training of guardsmen in August. From left to right are: Command Sgt. Major Billy Manning of the Georgia Army national Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Emmett Walker of the 48th Brigade and driver, Sgt. Leslie Kilchriss. (Photo by Pfc. Carlos A. Campos 124th PAD)*

5 top-ranking NCOs praise the shift

By Pfc. CARLOS A. CAMPOS
124th PA Detachment

Five command sergeants-major from the Active Army and Army national Guard toured the training areas of Operation Bold Shift at Fort Stewart in August, and praised the soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), as well as the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Command Sgt. Major George S. Blackwood of the National Guard Bureau, Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Manning of Georgia, Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Smith of Forces Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin D. Thomas of the 24th Infantry, and Command Sgt. Maj. Emmett Walker of the 48th Brigade, traveled together for three days, visiting soldiers training in the field and in schools.

All has positive comments. "I'm most impressed by the commitment both by the active Army and the National Guard," said Blackwood. "I'm convinced that Bold Shift will be a total success for the total Army."

Engineers spend AT piping water to tainted residential area

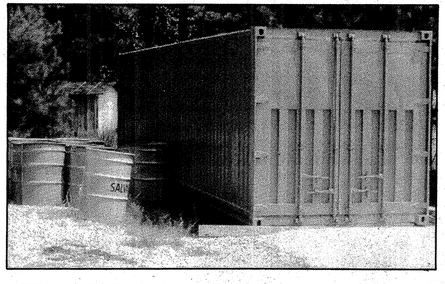
By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

Members from all the companies of the 560th Engineer Battalion joined forces with the Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority to help the residents of a rural Douglas County area called Basket Creek have clean water.

The neighborhood is on an old, illegal toxic waste site, whichcontaminated some of the wells in the area, according to Capt. Robert R. Resch, the officer in charge of the 26-man project.

The engineers spent two weeks of annual training on the project. "These people were selected to do this and the rest of their units went overseas," Resch said.

"WSA paid for the food, fuel, and lodging. Some of the food was donated by local churches and restaurants." Resch said.



A SEA-LAND VAN *sits waiting to ship the barrels containing contaminated soil to Indiana.*

The mission of the project is to bring clean, county water into the 16-family area, according to C. J. Nutter, department head for WSA, and a major in the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor.

"I'm glad they are getting it all together. It's been a long time," said Carolyn Brooks, a 19-year resident of the neighborhood. "We saw when they brought the barrels down here — but at that time we didn't think about contamination."

SGT. MICHAEL SMITH OF LAGRANGE, *a combat engineer in C Company, 560th Engineer Battalion, guides a section of water line. (Photos by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th Public Affairs Det.)*

THE 277TH AT RED RIVER

"They love getting greasy and turning wrenches"

By CECIL GREEN
Red River Army Depot PAO

TEXARKANA, TEXAS — For most members of Atlanta's 277th Maintenance Co., it was their first visit to Red River Army Depot — and the first time many of them had made it as far west as Texas, even 18 miles west of the state line in Texarkana.

"They're loving every minute of it," said Maj. Steven Blanton, commander of the 277th, as his unit neared the end of its two-week annual training in July.

The visiting guardsmen were spread out in shops and field sites throughout the depot, repairing and rebuilding Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M-113 armored personnel carriers.

They also tested engines and provided roadside service to keep convoys of the 25th Infantry Division rolling from Beaumont, Tex., to Fort Chaffee, Ark.

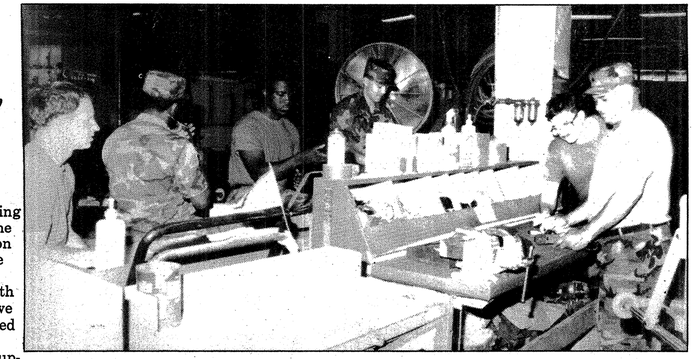
The 25th, based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, had shipped its vehicles to the Texas port for a large training exercise at Fort Chaffee. The 277th just happened to be on hand for any needed on-site maintenance.

While the cooperation with the 25th wasn't planned, "we were there when they needed our services," said CWO3 Ronald Allen, the 277th's support staff technician and training officer.

The 277th's mission is to provide intermediate direct support maintenance to Army units at theater level, where the mechanics and repairmen are likely to see both tracked and wheeled vehicles.

At Ft. Gillem, their home station, they work mostly on wheeled vehicles. At Red River, they worked on both.

"Our mechanics are really learning how each component in a Bradley or personnel carrier works to make up the whole vehicle," Allen said. "We're able to do a lot of cross-training. It's some of the best hands-on training we've run into."



SPECIALISTS FROM ATLANTA'S 277TH MAINTENANCE CO. *repair and fabricate electrical cables and other components at the Red River Army Depot. They are, left to right, Sgt. Jeff MacKim of Riverdale, Pfc. Ronald Deshazor of Atlanta, Spec. Deron Redden of Atlanta, Spec. Todd King of Atlanta, Spec. Robert Free of Heard County, and Sgt. Raymond Carrillo of Marietta.*

Quality training meant high morale, said the 277th commander. "Our soldiers' morale here this year is as high as I've ever seen it," Blanton said.

"The main reason their esprit is so good is that they love getting greasy and turning wrenches, especially when they can take a tough job and see it through to completion, as they're doing here.

We're getting great support, our soldiers are learning valuable skills, and I can't say enough about the hospitality and cooperation that have been shown us."

Red River employees vouched for the work done by the Georgia guardsmen.

"The soldiers working with us repaired and realigned about 10 RT-524 radio receiver/transmitters," said Paul Wilson, an electrical mechanic at Red River. "They did quality work on a very expensive piece of equipment."

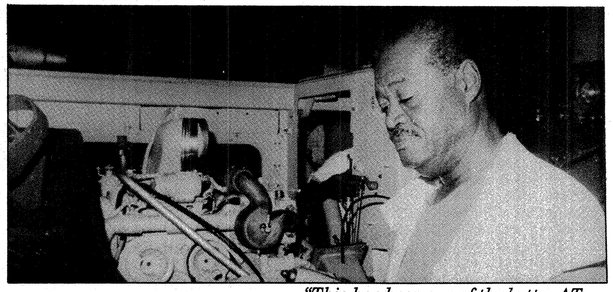
As part of their electronic work, members of the 277th cannibalized some radio units to identify usable parts, repaired some, and then repaired and fabricated different types of communication cable.

They then handled installation projects on Bradleys, M-113s, Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and Fire Integration Support Team Vehicles and they did it all with "excellent technical expertise, Wilson said.

In their own words . . .

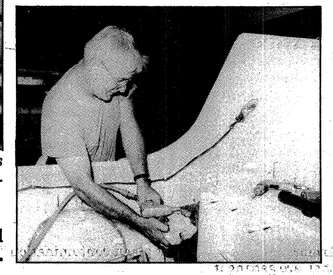
"Everything in my MOS is here on one floor, so there's more variety of work than I've ever had before. I'm getting to work with fuel systems that I don't normally see, so it's been good training."

—Sgt. John Roggow, fuel and electrical systems specialist.



"This has been one of the better ATs I've ever been on. I've had something to do every day, and I feel good about what I've done."

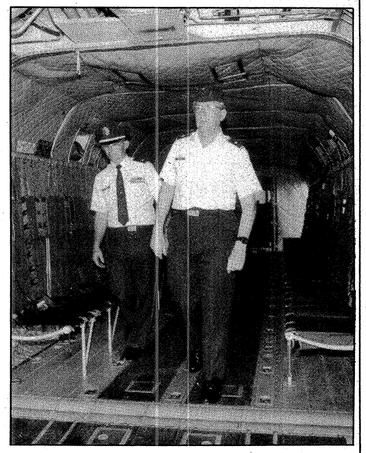
—Staff Sgt. Willie Ellison, mechanic.



"While I've been here, I've installed transmissions, shut-off valves, steering assemblies, flooring plates, steering sticks, gear selectors and other new parts in M-113s. I've gotten a lot of hands-on experience and I love it."

—Staff Sgt. Dewey Allen, track vehicle mechanic.

Photos by R.D. Tollet



Georgia unit first to get new Chinook

REPLACING THE AGING CH-54 SKYCRANE *in the background is the improved CH-47D Chinook, refitted by Boeing. Company G, 244th Aviation Regiment, based at Hunter Army Airfield, is the first military unit in the nation to receive the workhorse helicopters. The Chinooks were officially presented to the company during a ceremony recently at Hunter. Chinooks, like their gangly-looking predecessors, are used in heavy-lift combat support operations. The new models come equipped with high-tech equipment, such as flight-control system and cockpit equipped for night-vision goggles. In photo at right, Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, right, adjutant general of Georgia, tours the new aircraft with G Company commander Maj. William S. Smith. (Photos by Sgt. Jerry De Avila, 124th PAD)*

Air Guard rifle team shells competition; on to nationals

Brunswick team takes nine of 10 places in Catoosa

M-16 sharpshooters from Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Squadron are headed to Little Rock, Ark., to represent Georgia in October's Winston P. Wilson National Championship Match.

The Air Guard rifle team won the right to represent Georgia by winning its third straight state championship in matches conducted at the Catoosa Training Center in Ringgold. That event was open to all Army and Air National Guard units in Georgia.

The team has been competing for only three years.

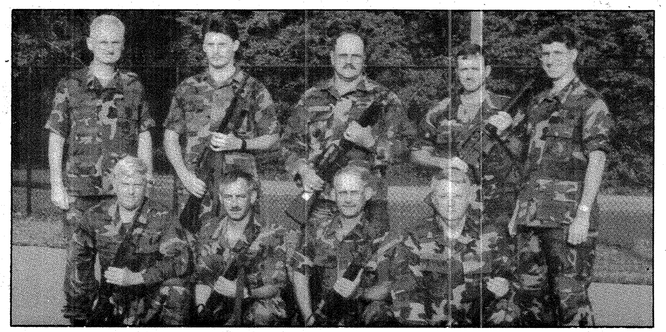
For the 224th, it was a blowout. The 10-member team took the first nine places in the individual event, one of two events during the weekend match.

Top shooter was MSgt Larry R. Tanner of Statesboro. Placing second was Senior Airman George H. Stinson of Atlanta and third was SSgt Raymond M. Ganas of Brunswick.

On Sunday, team competition took place. Top team scorers were Tanner, followed by Stinson and TSgt William J. Croms of Brunswick.

Major Donald N. Edmands Jr., the detachment commander, praised the team's achievement. "Team commander SSgt Jeffrey White provided outstanding leadership in preparing the 1992 team," he said. "We can't help but be proud of their accomplishment. They have shown tremendous initiative and discipline in putting together the championship team. Much of the time and money to support their team practices were borne by the individual members and not the unit. They exemplify the esprit de corps we see in all National Guard personnel."

In Little Rock, the Georgia team will be competing against teams from 54 states and territories as well as international teams.



1992 GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD STATE M-16 RIFLE CHAMPIONS. *FRONT ROW, l to r — Tech. Sgt. William J. Crooms, Staff Sgt. Raymond M. Ganas, Tech. Sgt. Jesse W. Davis, and Master Sgt. Larry R. Tanner; STANDING: Maj. Donald N. Edmands, Jr., Detachment Commander, Sr. Airman Walter L. Smith Jr, Tech. Sgt. Robert M. Waters, Master Sgt. Michael D. Chumley, and Lt. Col. Lester L. Preiss III, Commander. NOT AVAILABLE FOR PHOTO: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey B. White, Team Captain, of Jacksonville, Florida, Staff Sgt. Ottis J. May of Nashville, and Sr. Airman George H. Stinson, of Atlanta.*

Combat rifle shoot is a tough exercise

Success in combat rifle shooting is physically and mentally demanding.

Shooters have to run two miles in full combat gear to reach the firing line. Then they fire 10 rounds at 100 yards from the standing position, 20 rounds at 200 yards in the standing and sitting position, 10 rounds at 300 yards in the standing and prone positions and 22 rounds at 400 yards in the prone position.

"You've got to love shooting to put up with a two-mile run," said Tech. Sgt. Larry R. Tanner of Statesboro, a wildlife biologist. Tanner scored 213 out of a possible 250 points to become the individual match winner.

"It takes dieting and exercise," said Tech. Sgt. William Crooms of Brunswick. "If you don't cross the line within 25 minutes, you don't shoot."

STARC shooters bag prize

Capt. Harve T. Romaine and Sgt. Anthony Q. Bailey, both members of Headquarters STARC, were members of the rifle team that placed third in the Combined Team Championship Matches at the first Total Forces Composite Championships.

Competition took place at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark. The two are members of the Marksmanship Advisory Council (MAC) Region 3 team.

It's a Guard thing

Guardsmen help stage anti-drug retreat for kids

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

The Georgia Army and Air National Guard are involved in the fight against drugs with a new community relations project.

America's PRIDE (Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education) is a private, non-profit organization whose goal is to educate young people on the influences of drugs and alcohol.

This joint effort is under the auspices of the National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction program.

MARGARET CRIBB, *right, an America's PRIDE group leader, helps Kelli Cowart, one of the members of her group, fill out an application for the talent show held on the last day of the retreat. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th Public Affairs Det.)*

The guard recently funded a retreat for middle school and high school students from all around Georgia, and one group from Virginia at the Air National Guard Training Center in Savannah, providing transportation, lodging, food, and facilities, according to Maj. Cynthia T. Islin, of the 116th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Dobbins Air Force Base.

"Capt. Bob Avery, a pilot, met with the head of America' PRIDE and developed an idea of how America's PRIDE and the National Guard could work together. Avery took it to Gen. Bland (the Adjutant General) and he liked the idea," said Islin. "Gen. Bland told me to arrange this."

"If it weren't for the support of the guard, not even half of the kids could have attended," said Lisa M. Ellsworth, National Youth Director for America's PRIDE.

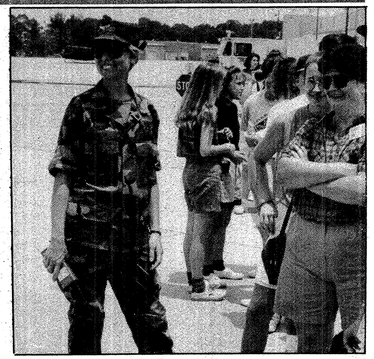
During the retreat, the kids learned songs and dances about living a drug-free life. "Last year, drugs were the second largest seller in the United States next to oil," Ellsworth said.

Tech. Sgt. Pamela J. Byrd, a medical specialist in the 129th Air Control Squadron in Kennesaw, arranged most of the retreat.

"In order to transport civilians, we had to get permission from the Guard Bureau," Byrd said. "Also, about 80 percent of the money allotted for the retreat was Army Guard money, so I had to work closely with the Army side to get everything working."

"I got the 131st Army Aviation unit from Alabama to cook for the kids during the retreat," said Byrd.

The guard sponsored a class on August 1 at Dobbins AFB and another on August 29 at Ft. Stewart for guard members interested in volunteering in the fight against drugs, according to Byrd. Also, the guard will try to sponsor one more retreat this year.



MAJ. CYNTHIA T. ISLIN *of the 116th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Dobbins AFB, watches the F-15 demonstration along with some of the participants in the America's PRIDE retreat at the Air National Guard Training Center in Savannah. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th PAD)*

THE STORY BOARD

The Army National Guard ... men and women trained to be their best — to protect our country and communities.

Americans committed to ideal of the citizen/soldier.

You'll find them in your neighborhood, raising families ... teaching children ... running businesses.

They're people like you an me. And they will always be here, serving, just as the Army National Guard has been for 350 years.

TV commercial shoots, using real-life Georgia Guardsmen

"Sure hanging out is fun — and easy, but when you decide it's time to get on with your life ..."

Join the National Guard.

As early as September, television viewers throughout the nation could be seeing commercials — or, as they are more appropriately known, public service announcements — that are made in Georgia.

The "actors" and "actresses" are all members of the Georgia Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade recruited to reflect the Guard's talent, good looks and diversity.

Or, at least, that's what the 65 or so participants would assert.

Georgia, and specifically the 48th, was selected "because the brigade is a top-notch unit and National Guard Bureau thought we should feature them," said Sgt. First Class Benjamin B. Livesay, the Georgia Guard's marketing NCO.

In addition to the Georgians, Apache helicopter crews from the South Carolina Guard and Blackhawk crews from the Texas Guard also participated.

After shooting at Ft. Stewart during the 48th's annual training, production crews moved to Newnan. Among the scenes shot there were a high school, families, and a nursing home. Final production was to be done in September in Atlanta.

Being shot are three different story-lines. The themes are mission, adventure and schooling. One, for example, opens with a young adult with a skateboard hanging out at the school yard.

"The best way to go from here (the school yard) to here (tanks, rappelling, adventure) is to go head on," the story line goes, "and not let anything stand in your way."

About 65-70 guardsmen, mostly from Thomaston, Newnan, Griffin and Jackson, were chosen to participate. Of those, about 30 will be given acting roles. Four tank crews and four Bradley crews will also be featured.

As is often the case, guardsmen participate for the glory and not for pay. The actors and actresses don't make Hollywood scales or even union wages. They're paid regular pay, same as usual.

Colonial battle continues for 250 years

By CW3 RICH ELWELL
Command Historian

In July 1742, Spanish forces sailed from St. Augustine, landing at St. Simon's Island. The Spanish fleet of 36 ships brought 2,000 troops under command of the Spanish governor of St. Augustine, Manuel de Montiano.

James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, assembled his regulars, the 650-man British 42nd Regiment, and mobilized his militia troops.

The Scot Highlanders came to the Island from nearby Darien. The colonial rangers and Creek, Yamacraw and Chickasaw Indian allies brought Oglethorpe's strength to 800.

On the morning of July 7, 1742, Georgia Rangers guarding the military road approach to the town of Frederica on St. Simon's sighted a force of over 100 Spanish soldiers. Oglethorpe quickly organized a force composed of the Highland Independent Company, Rangers and Indian allies and personally led the assault on the Spanish at a place on the Island named Gully Hole Creek.

The fighting was fierce and lasted an hour as the Georgia militia routed the invaders. The Spanish lost one-third of their force and all the officers were either killed or captured. Oglethorpe lost one man to heat exhaustion.

Later that day, additional Spanish troops were landed and a force of 200 elite Grenadiers prepared to cross an open marsh, which would become known as "Bloody Marsh." The Highlanders, Rangers, Indians, and a platoon of British regulars were waiting in ambush and opened fire on the column.

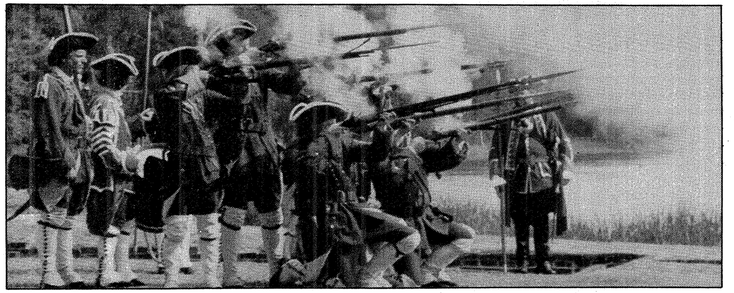
There was great confusion, smoke, and screams of the surprised and the wounded.

The Spanish could not see their adversary and failed to realize how much they outnumbered the ambushers.

After two hours of firing at the ghostly targets in the thick woods, the Spanish ran out of ammunition. Spanish losses were light, but with this second sound defeat in one day their will to fight was gone.

The Spanish withdrawal from St. Simon's began immediately after Bloody Marsh and Spain would never again attempt to take the English colony of Georgia, named after King George II.

It had been primarily the fighting skill and heart of Georgia militia that had won that hot July day in 1742. Georgia citizen-soldiers that followed the next two centuries would fight and maintain peace not only within our state, but around the world as well.



TROOPS FIRE MUSKETS *for the retreat ceremony at Saint Simons Island.*

All walks of life join in mock battles

By CW3 RICH ELWELL
Command Historian

What does a doctor from Brunswick and a high school student from Augusta have in common?

A love of military history and more specifically, the military history of the southern colonies, which includes Georgia.

Over 100 reenactors from all over the Southeast gathered to commemorate and reenact the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simon's Island 250 years after the actual battle. That battle was the first time that the Georgia militia — later to become the Georgia National Guard — mobilized to meet a threat to the country and state.

During a July weekend, lawyers, investment bankers, construction workers, and history professors donned the uniforms of those early militia and British regulars who drove Spanish invaders from Georgia shores in 1742.

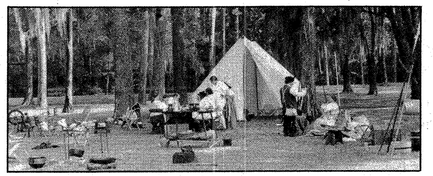
Units that fought at Bloody Marsh in 1742 included Gen. James Oglethorpe's Georgia Mounted Rangers (who became the Georgia Hussars and today is Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 214 Field Artillery Regiment in Savannah) and the British 42nd Regiment of Foot that Oglethorpe brought with him from London in 1733.

Oglethorpe knew the need for and value of trained militia, and when he settled Georgia in 1733, forming a militia was a priority. Oglethorpe also knew that to effectively defend the colonies against the native Indians and Spanish he must have woods-wise and unconventional fighters. Hence the formation of units such as Nobel Jones' Company of Marine Boatmen, the Georgia Coastal Rangers, and the Highland Mounted Rangers.

Modern reenactors (they prefer the title of historical interpretors) have adopted these units to study and portray as realistically as possible.

Bob Blanchard, a reenactor from Hastings, Florida, wears the green hunting crock of a Highland Ranger from western Georgia (which would have been Mississippi by today's geography). "These fellows were rugged individualists, and never did anything in formation or by the book", Blanchard said.

A SOLDIER MOVES *to another position to fire on the enemy.*



TROOPS TAKE A BREAK *for lunch at their camp on Saint Simons Island.*

Interested in history? Join Guard Society

Georgia National Guardsmen and Militia have fought in battles ranging from Bloody Marsh to Desert Storm. Now an organization devoted to preserving the heritage of Georgia's fighting forces is open to anyone interested in military history.

The Georgia National Guard and Militia Society, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1988, is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the Georgia Guard and its predecessor forces. Among the benefits of joining are an annual membership meeting and symposium and a quarterly journal.

Persons interested in more information or joining the Society may call Major Clint Perkins, at 404-624-6140, or write to: The Georgia National Guard and Militia Society, P.O. Box 17965, Atlanta, GA 30316-0965. An annual membership fee is $20.

In the *JOURNAL* of the National Guard and Militia Society members can read Georgia history which ranges from the little known "Battle of Griswoldville," and to rarely thought of Georgia Guard expedition to find Pancho Villa.

An annual membership and business meeting, usually held in the fall of the year, offers members the opportunity to view "living history" recreations, hear a number of papers on Georgia's military past, and most significantly, voice their opinion on the future of their Society.

Among the goals of the Society is the establishment of a museum; a reference library for scholars and members to research the past; and a series of original artwork commemorating the important events in the history of Georgia's militia forces.

A son's tribute

"His spirit is that of iron; his soul of a soft spring rain"

When General Blandford's younger son, Jeff, was told that his father had incurable cancer and that his remaining time was short, he immediately went to Charleston to personally tell his brother, Jay.

Upon hearing the news, Jay drove to the campus of The Citadel, parked his car, sat down under one of the great oaks on the parade ground within sight of Summerall Chapel where his parents had been married 33 years before and composed this poem to his father.

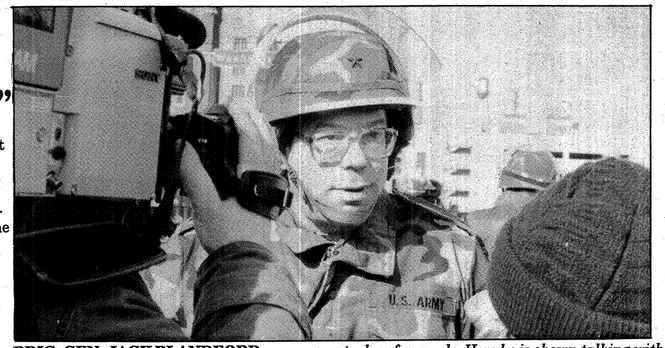
A poem by Jay Blandford

The bell tolls seven from Summerall Chapel
The wind lashing recklessly on a cool March eve,
Old oaks and palms bowing to its puissance.
Cadets stroll lazily from the Mess Hall, chatting and chuckling,
And the vast parade ground lies empty and still in the dusk,
Embraced by the massive monoliths of academics and discipline.

It is here that it all began — the rigorous molding of a man,
Where he studied and sweated, waltzed and wedded.
Where he saluted and marched, and broke barracks to The Ark.
Where his mischievous boyhood faded,
And his solvent manhood embarked.
It is here that countless memories lie —
At most we laugh; at some we must cry.

The Citadel harbors his essence
Where duty and honor, courage and chivalry abound,
A man of dignity and distinction, of merriment and mirth —
That he and Miss Drew could simply tango to the ends of the earth.

His spirit is that of iron, his soul of a soft spring rain,
His character seasoned like a robust vintage champagne.
So cheers to my father — my friend — General Jack Blandford,
A brilliant friend of Patton, and the Duke, John Wayne.



BRIG. GEN. JACK BLANDFORD *was never at a loss for words. Here he is shown talking with members of the news media during a civil disturbance in Atlanta in 1990. (Photo by 124th PAD)*

Brig. Gen. Jack Blandford dies at 54

Brig. Gen. John L. "Jack" Blandford, former commander of Decatur's Troop Command, died of cancer at his home in Chamblee on July 12. He was 54.

Blandford, a trial lawyer and judge of the Chamblee Municipal Court, had served in the Georgia Army National Guard for more than 30 years.

A native of Greenville, S.C., he was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Citadel in 1955. He transferred to the Georgia Army Guard in December 1960, and served in the 118th Field Artillery and the 179th Field Artillery until January 1968.

For the next 12 years, he served in the 122nd Rear Area Operations Center, and as commander of the 190th Military Police Co. and the 170th Military Police Battalion.

From November 1980 to April 1986, he served as commandant of the Georgia Military Academy.

His military honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (4th Award), the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2nd award) and the Army Service Medal.

A graduate of the John Marshall Law School, he was a senior partner in the Chamblee firm of Blandford & Werbin. He had been a Chamblee Municipal Court judge since 1970.

Survivors include his wife, Drew Harris Blandford, two sons, Jefferson B. Blandford of Lawrenceville and J. Lloyd Blandford II of Atlanta, his mother, two brothers and a sister.

Burial was in Arlington Memorial Park with full military honors.

On the loss of General Blandford

"Jack Blandford was one of the finest officers we had in the Georgia Guard. His loss, even in retirement, will be felt very deeply. He was a caring people-person and a highly respected commander and friend, a wise counselor and a truly dedicated Guardsman."

— Brig. Gen. William P. Bland
The Adjutant General

"He was a leader and a friend, a supporter and a task-master. He probably loved the Georgia Guard as much as any person who has ever been in it. He considered all soldiers his friends."

— Lt. Col. Richard H. Stokes
State Training Officer

"He was probably the best commander I ever served with. He was a close personal friend and a true mentor and I'm going to miss him."

— Lt. Col. Carroll L. Edge
OCS Commandant, GMI

"He was probably the best example of what an officer ought to be that I ever served under. He had the unique ability to provide strong leadership and maintain compassion for the soldier."

— Col. Thomas L. McCullough
Deputy Commander
Troop Command

AWARDS

LEGION OF MERIT
Col. David A. Otto, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Col. Cecil L. Pearce, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Col. Thomas R. Williams, Jr. HQ, 265 Engr Gp, Marietta

ARMY MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Lt. Col. Robert T. Baird, III, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Hershel B. Johnson, Co A, 1/108 AR, Rome

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
Maj. Douglas M. Brantley, Jr., Det 1, HQ, STARC, Decatur
Maj. Dale P. Foster, 148th FSB, Ft. Stewart
2nd Lt. Jacqualine D. Arnold, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Tech Sgt. William J. Croome, 224 JCSS
Staff Sgt. Elizabeth L. Deering, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Charles F. Hogan, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Tech. Sgt. Keith A. Graversen, 224 JCSS
Staff Sgt. Scott Reigel, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Cecil Brown, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Robert A. Dunaway, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Bayford C. Newman, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. Randy T. Bradley, 118th PSC, Atlanta

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Chief Warrant Officer Richard L. Nix, HQ, Troop Command, Decatur
Sgt. Maj. William Gotsan, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Mable M. Harvard, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Ulysses Sims, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Robin T. Worthy, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Master Sgt. James E. Vaughn, 283rd CCB, Savannah
Sgt. 1st Class Patricia A. Perry, HQ, STARC, Atlanta

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Col. David W. Gunn, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Lt. Col. Thomas W. Dalton, Jr., HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer John H. Edge, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer Thelmer S. Salter, 166th Maint. Co, Hinesville
Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur E. Leonors, HQ, 151st MI Bn, Robbins
Master Sgt. Jeff Dawkins, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Melvin E. Buford, Co C, 560th Engr Gp, LaGrange
Sgt. 1st Class Hershel B. Johnson, Co A, 1/108th Armor, Rome
Sgt. 1st Class Keith A. Rahn, 166th Maint. Co, Hinesville

AIR FORCE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Lt. Col. Sarah A. Henderson, 165th

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL
Capt. John R. Wiggins, 283 CCS
Master Sgt. Randall A. Greer, 224 JCSS
Master Sgt. John A. Johnson, Jr., 202 EIS
Tech. Sgt. Pryor A. Hattaway, 202 EIS

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Capt. George W. Gabbil, Jr. 129 TCS
Senior Master Sgt. Gary K. Sims, 129 TCS
Master Sgt. Gerald L. Dobson, 129 TCS
Tech Sgt. Donald A. Beck, 129 TCS
Tech Sgt. Johnny W. Champion, 129 TCS
Tech Sgt. Joseph H. Ely, Jr., 224 JCSS
Staff Sgt. Roger K. Atkinson, 129 TCS
Staff Sgt. David A. Nix, 129 TCS
Staff Sgt. Bennett J. Roy, 129 TCS

GEORGIA COMMENDATION MEDAL
Col. Richard T. Powers, FMO, FLANG
Lt. Col. Daniel R. Miller, 117th MASH, Atlanta
1st Lt. Kevin A. Kupperbusch, Co B, 1/108th AR, Cedartown
Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Alexander, 116 CAMS
Staff Sgt. Harvey L. Lovett, 116 CAMS
Staff Sgt. Ellis P. Cook, Co B, 148th FSB, Jackson
Staff Sgt. Richard H. McNair, 118 PSC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Ellel J. Rundle, 118 PSC, Atlanta
Master Sgt. George H. Freeman, 116 CAMS
Master Sgt. Wendell S. Gilason, 165 MSS
Tech Sgt. William C. Byrd, 202 EIS
Tech Sgt. Rufus O. Hendrix, 165 MSS
Tech. Sgt. Edward S. Tharpe, 165 MSS
Tech. Sgt. Patrick J. Walsh, 116 CAMS
Eleanor L. Dean, COS, Atlanta
Durwood McAlister, Atlanta Journal Atlanta
Linda Meadows, USPCO, Atlanta
John H. Owens, North GA College, Dahlonega
Bobby Pierson, Rome Police Department
Mike Simmons, Rome Police Department

GEORGIA DISTINCTIVE SERVICE MEDAL
Capt. Timothy D. Becton, HQ, 1/214th FA, Elberton
CW4 John H. Edge, HQ STARC, Atlanta
SrA Kimberly M. Williamson, 224 JCSS

GEORGIA MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Col. Lawrence L. Allen, Jr. 117th MASH, Atlanta
Col. Bobby S. Duncan, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Col. Simon J. Sheffield, Jr., HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Lt. Col. Charles T. Southerland, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Lt. Col. Richard H. Stokes, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Douglas M. Brantley, Det 1, HQ, STARC, Decatur
Maj. William T. Childers, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Charles E. Lott, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Maj. Gen. Barry B. McCaffrey, HQ, 48th Inf. Bde, Macon
Maj. Charles E. Thompson, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Capt. William L. Taylor, Jr., 117th MASH, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer Jack R. Henry, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Sgt. 1st Class John J. Cadwell, Jr., HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Arthur W. Crawford, Jr., 117th MASH, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Stephen W. Head, 178th MP Co, Monroe
Sgt. 1st Class Royce B. Derrisso, 1st Provisional Bn, Atlanta
Sgt. Noble W. Harris, 178th MP Co, Monroe
Sgt. James R. Hanson, 1/214th Field Artillery, Thomson
Sgt. Joseph P. Chapman, 178th MP Co, Monroe

DURWOOD McALLISTER, *left, and Brig. Gen. Al Holland present Atlanta Journal Achievement awards to Sgt. First Class Richard Watts, Staff Sgt. Mark Saxon and Spec. William Fortson.*

Journal Achievement Awards

Honor goes to MASH platoon sergeant

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

The Atlanta Journal began awarding the Reserve Component Achievement Award more than twenty years ago. This award recognizes outstanding enlisted personnel in both the Georgia Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. The categories include Pvt.1 through PFC, Spec. through Staff Sgt. and Sgt. First Class through Sgt. Maj.

At a recent ceremony in Atlanta, Ga., the 1991 senior award for the Georgia Army National Guard was presented to Sgt. First Class Richard C. Watts, Jr. of the 117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. The 21-year veteran is currently a platoon sergeant for surgical services with the unit. Watts spent nine years with the active component, eight years in the Army reserve and switched to the guard four years ago. "This move afforded me the opportunity to advance and exercise my leadership qualities said Watts.

"I am thoroughly satisfied with the 117th MASH. It has the right kind of management," said Watts. "And I really appreciate the opportunity to be recognized," he added.

The Indiana-born Watts is married to Archiette and they have a son named Eric and daughter, Lauren. In his civilian role, Watts is an instructor for Branell College in Decatur, Ga. and an emergency medical technician with DeKalb County.

Watts at some point in his life wants to teach graduate level in a seminary. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and is currently in the master's of divinity program at Emory University. In what little spare time he has, Watts enjoys mowing the grass, reading and quality time with his family.

The key to being successful in the military is to be sensitive to the specific needs of your younger troops, according to the soft-spoken Watts. "And never compromise your integrity," he added.

PT helps Monroe soldier win award

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

"This is what I do best," said Staff Sgt. Mark Saxon of his nine years in the Georgia Army National Guard.

Saxon is one of this year's recipients of the Atlanta Journal Army Reserve Component Achievement Award. This award is given every year to six citizen-soldiers — three each from the Army Guard and the Army Reserve.

Saxon is the training NCO for the 178th Military Police Company in Monroe. Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Smith, Readiness NCO for the 178th, nominated him for this award because of his exemplary performance as a soldier. He has won NCO of the Year at unit, battalion and major command levels. Upon entrance into the company in 1986, Saxon also won his battalion's physical training competition four consecutive years.

"Staff Sgt. Saxon has been a very positive role model for myself as well as other young soldiers in this unit," said Sgt. Andy Koundourakis, member of the 178th.

Saxon is also a member of the three-man M-60 machine gun state championship team. His team competed in Little Rock, Ark, recently for a national title. He holds the state title for the individual M-60 competition. This was Saxon's second trip to the Winston P. Wilson national competition.

Besides being an expert marksman, Saxon is quite a physical training (PT) buff. He recently attended advanced NCO training alongside active duty soldiers at Fort McClellan, Ala. He was the only National Guard member in his class of 49. He graduated third in his class and brought home the top PT award. "I felt obligated to excel," said Saxon. "We all know what the active component thinks about the guard. God, I like to compete against the active duty soldiers," he added.

Saxon has quite an active life outside the military as well. He and his wife, Marie, are the proud parents of a 10-month-old son named Mack. He also makes periodic appearances at various schools in the area to speak with students interested in the military.

Saxon, who was a criminal justice major at Georgia Southern University, says that he is ready to complete his degree now, and that the military has been instrumental in that decision. "I am able to retain so much more now, whereas, in college I couldn't," he said.

"I've been at my best in the military," said Saxon. "I'm very proud to be a member of this unit as well as the Georgia guard," he added.

Fortson: 'I try to do everything as best I can.'

By Pfc. CARLOS A. CAMPOS
124th PA Detachment

Spec. 4 William R. Fortson wasn't surprised to get a call from his National Guard armory in Elberton in late April.

After all, the violence from the Los Angeles riots had spread to the streets of downtown Atlanta, and Georgia Gov. Zell Miller had called up several units to help restore peace and order.

Fortson, an administrative specialist with Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, just figured his unit was one of those called up.

"My NCO said 'You ready to go?' and I said, 'Yeah,' Fortson said.

But the only place Fortson was going was to the Atlanta Journal Reserve Component Achievement Awards ceremony. He had just been informed he had won the award.

Only three guardsmen in the state are honored with the Journal Award. Fortson, who was recently promoted to Spec. won the award in the Pvt. 1 to Pfc. category.

At a June 7 ceremony, Fortson was presented a plaque for his outstanding achievements in the guard.

"I don't know what I did to get it, it was a surprise to me," Fortson, 19, said, from his home in Ila, near Athens.

But it probably wasn't a surprise to anyone else. Fortson was also honored last year with the Enlisted Member of the Year Award, both on a battalion and brigade level.

"I guest it's because I'm always on time. I'm never late for a drill," he said. "And anytime they call me, and need something, I'm always there. I guest I'm just an average soldier and I try to do everything as best I can and get it done."

Fortson, a 1991 high school graduate has plans to attend Athens Tech to study electrical engineering.

Valedictorian, new "louies" pinned during North Georgia commission ceremony

A Calhoun National Guardsman graduated number one in his class from North Georgia College in June, and was honored as co-valedictorian of his class.

Brenden D. Burke, a five-year member of Calhoun's 108th Armor, Georgia Army Guard, finished his four-year degree at North Georgia with a 4.0 grade point average.

Burke was commissioned as a first lieutenant upon graduation, and chose to serve in the active army.

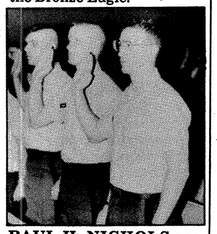
Burke and his two brothers, James and Steven, all served with the 48th Infantry Brigade last year in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

The Army National Guard also welcomed six new lieutenants on June 4 during commissioning ceremonies at North Georgia College.

Receiving commissions were James D. Asher III and Jeffrey Russell, Medical Services Corps; Timothy K. Gibson and Robert J. Stuart, Infantry; and Paul H. Nichols and Thomas Williams, Ordnance Corps.

Brig. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., the adjutant general of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard, made remarks at the ceremony, which marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

On May 18, Bland presented North Georgia College President Dr. John H. Owen, the Georgia Commendation Medal and the Bronze Eagle.



PAUL H. NICHOLS *prepares to be a new second lieutenant in the Georgia guard by taking an oath before receiving his bars at the North Georgia College commissioning ceremony in Dahlonega. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th Public Affairs Det.)*

Outstanding airman of the year

Sharon Page is first in state to earn honor

A 17-year veteran of the Georgia Air National Guard, Master Sgt. Sharon B. Page of Brunswick, has been selected for one of the most elite clubs in the U.S. Air Force.

She is one of a dozen airmen from the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard to be named "Outstanding Airmen of the Year."

Page is the first member of the Georgia Air National Guard to win the prestigious award.

"I am absolutely overwhelmed," said Page, a member of Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron. "Being selected Outstanding Airman for the Air Force caps the most exciting year of my life. It could not have happened without the support of my family and my unit."

In September, Page will join the 11 others to be honored by the Air Force Association at a banquet in Washington. She will also be serving on a council of enlisted members to make recommendations to senior Air Force commanders.

"Sergeant Page is going to have a full calendar for the next 12 months," said her squadron detachment commander, Maj. Donald N. Edmands Jr. "We are extremely proud of her."

At the Brunswick unit, Page is the full-time non-commissioned officer in charge of the electronic computer and switching systems maintenance section.

She was called to active duty during Operation Desert Storm to augment an element providing communications support to the U.S. Central Command in Saudi Arabia. She was awarded a Bronze Star for her service during the conflict.

The Outstanding Airmen award is presented annually by the Air Force Association and the U.S. Air Force to its most outstanding enlisted personnel worldwide.

Before being selected, Page had already been named Senior NCO of the Year for the Georgia Air Guard. She was also selected as one of eight Outstanding Airmen by the Air National Guard.

"This is a significant honor Sergeant Page has received," said Lt. Col. Lester L. Preiss III, commander of the 224th. "She competed against the best of the best in the Air Force and I'm very proud of her."

NCO of the year

178th has Georgia's top NCO

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

Monroe's 178th Military Police Company is home away from home to one of the most dedicated soldiers in the Georgia Army National Guard.

In just three years Sgt. Andy Koundourakis has achieved a degree of success many guardsmen strive for throughout their entire careers.

He is NCO of the Year at company, battalion and state levels. He competed for and won the title of U.S. 2nd Army NCO of the Year. Koundourakis finished second in competition at bureau level in Washington.

Even more impressive is that last year he also won the title of Soldier of the Year at company, battalion and state levels.

Koundourakis competed for the title of U.S. 2nd Army Soldier of the Year in Atlanta. He didn't win at that level in 1991, but returned as an NCO in 1992 and came home a winner.

Things were temporarily put on hold for Koundourakis recently. He was scheduled to leave for Washington when his unit was called to state active duty during the recent violent protests in Atlanta following the Los Angeles riots.

At the time, he didn't know if he'd make it to compete. "My first priority is my unit," said Koundourakis. "Besides I wouldn't deserve any of the awards if I abandoned my unit when I was needed."

"My achievements are the product of a team effort. The 178th has consistently put out winners. We have another sergeant who won this title at every level possible in 1985," said Koundourakis. "It says a lot about a unit that can educate, train and motivate its soldiers to win honors such as these," he added.

"Andy's a great guy. Everybody likes him," said Spec. Marty English, a member of the 178th MP Company. "He's also very squared away and knows what he's talking about. That's why you like and respect him," English added.

He believes that the young soldier is the future of the guard, and has already started to give back what he felt he received from his NCOs — the drive to "be the best that you can be." He has begun to help young soldiers prepare for promotions and awards boards as well.

"You have to nurture that sense of pride that is often neglected, Koundourakis said. "Sgt. Koundourakis epitomizes what will become standard in family support. His wife, Karen helps prepare him for boards, travels for the Georgia Army National Guard. He is eager to learn, a team player, and has that extra 'umph' which will take him to the top," said Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Smith, his supervisor.

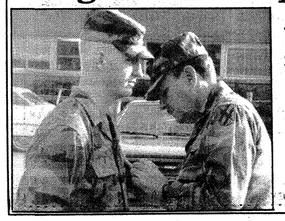
Koundourakis is a member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard and also believes very strongly to competition and even attends rep training with him. He has a degree in political science and Russian language and is currently working on a graduate degree in public administration with a concentration in finance.

"I know this has been a definite career move. To get me out now, they'd have to kick me out," said Koundourakis.

FULL FORCE — *Sgt. Andy Koundourakis advances as point man in a diamond formation with is unit, the 178th Military Police Company of Monroe, Georgia. (Photos by Spec. Mattie Jones, 124th Public Affairs Detachment)*

Soldier of the year

Brigade MP cops top prize



By Spec. GREG HOLLEY
48th Brigade PAO

Spec. Kelly L. Johnson of Macon, a pre-engineering student at Macon College, is thinking of making the Army a career.

If he does, he's likely to go far.

The 20-year-old military policeman, who serves in Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech) in Macon, has been selected as the Georgia Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

"Although Johnson has only been in my platoon for a little over a year, he has proven himself to be a class A soldier," said his platoon sergeant, Sergeant 1st Class Edward Adams. "He has been a definite asset to our unit."

Johnson was selected to represent Georgia after winning at company and brigade level. The competition consists of numerous categories, such as military presence, basic soldier skills, military courtesy, familiarity with weapons and other duties of the soldier. The competition is judged by top ranking NCOs.

"I was happy to be able to represent Headquarters Company," said Johnson, "and I felt it was my responsibility to be all I could be."

After he won the brigade competition, Johnson was presented a Georgia Commendation Medal.

The next step? "I think I would like to try Ranger school," he said. "I like the hard-core stuff."

Combat Fitness Test

More realistic measure of soldier's mettle

By Lt. Col. (P) ROBERT T. BAIRD III
Master Fitness Trainer

Despite an aggressive fitness program prior to mobilization, a young captain from a Georgia Army National Guard unit that deployed to the Persian Gulf said his soldiers still felt severe soreness in their legs during the early stages of deployment.

The lesson? Our present physical fitness methods did not fully prepare soldiers to do the things that must be done to fight.

Under combat conditions, soldiers were required to carry full magazines of ball ammunition on their load-bearing equipment (LBE) a full magazine in their weapon and two full canteens of water at all times.

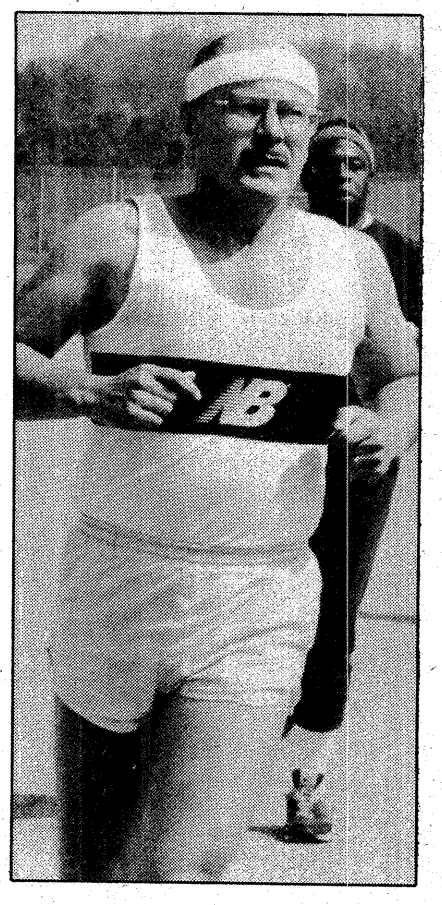
Ammunition and water are heavy. The soldiers simply were not accustomed to the load.

While the present Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) has served us well, there is a better, more efficient test.

It is a timed foot march carrying combat equipment.

The foot march has long been recognized as a military skill and an indicator of soldier fitness. The APFT is an athletic endeavor. It does not measure the ability of soldiers to perform their mission.

More useful would be a Combat Fitness Test. It would involve marching four kilometers wearing field uniform, helmet, LBE, protective mask and ruck sack. Maximum time of completion would be one hour.



The protective mask should be worn for a half kilometer of the course.

Every soldier should carry weight in the ruck and LBE equalling 30 percent of the soldier's weight.

The foot march with equipment is by no means a new measure to verify fitness. Most of the elite forces in the world, including the U.S. Army DELTA Force, incorporate similar approaches to screen prospective candidates.

The APFT is a good test that has yielded a combat-capable force. It has some flaws, however, and these flaws are amplified in the National Guard training environment.

Because of limited training time, we must train as we will fight. Soldiers must be prepared to perform military missions effectively after incurring great physical and mental stress.

The APFT does not measure the ability of soldiers to perform their mission during or after completion of the test. They shower and change into duty uniform.

Too, it's costly, difficult to manage, and not equitable to reserve component soldiers. Guardsmen must purchase shoes, for example, out of their own pockets.

The cost of over-40 screening, necessary to train for the APFT, is high. Minor sprains, aches and other injuries brought on by a sporadic exercise program also are costly in training time lost.

Most speculation about the Army of the future envisions a lean and agile force capable of rapid deployment. That scenario, coupled with the experiences of the Gulf War, leads to the proposition that units must be prepared to adapt quickly to changes in mission, lack of organic transportation, and a requirement to move great distances on short notice.

The Combat Fitness Test, and not the APFT, is the way to train.

Preparation vital for marathons

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Information Service

The first man to run a marathon died from it.

The messenger Pheidippides keeled over after running from Marathon to Athens and announcing the Greek victory over the Persians in 490 B.C.

The bad name he gave the sport has lasted: Many people think marathoners are crazy.

But hundreds of thousands of Americans have taken to the sport. The military — which, of course, stresses physical fitness — has been in the vanguard. The Army sponsors a 10-mile race in Washington each October.

For those who would consider long-distance running, preparation is essential. "You don't wake up one morning and go out and decide to run a marathon," said Dr. David Brody, an orthopedic surgeon who founded the Washington (D.C.) Runners Clinic of George Washington University Hospital.

Brody says those who wish to run a marathon should start preparing a year in advance. They should be running 15 to 20 miles per week.

About three months before the marathon, runners should bring their weekly mileage up to 45 miles. He recommends five running days per week.

Mileage should not be divided evenly each day, but with intermittent long runs. "The body has to get used to longer runs," he says. "Runners should start with a long run of eight to 10 miles and build up to a 20-mile run one month before the marathon."

Brody strongly advocates a good stretching program and weight training. "Stretching is essential," he says. "The muscles on the calf, back of the thigh and lower back get stiff running. Stretching alleviates this."

Runners should stretch before running, just after running and another time during the day unrelated to the run.

Weight training is important, too. Research shows that it's especially helpful to get runners through the last six miles of the marathon. Brody recommends training with weights on the two off days per week.

Runners need also to get accustomed to drinking water while they run.

Diet is important, too. Brody says to avoid fad diets and concentrate on complex carbohydrates such as pasta, potatoes and bananas. They produce glycogen, a sugar they body uses best when running.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Dealing with downsizing

You pick up a newspaper and it's there.

You listen to the news and it's there.

Everyone is talking about it — downsizing of the military.

For some members of the Georgia Army National Guard, downsizing is very much a reality. Their units are going away, being deactivated.

For others, the effect of downsizing is unknown. Rumors abound, but getting the facts is often difficult and what is true today may not be tomorrow.

Whether you are a victim of downsizing or, like everyone else, a potential victim, here are some suggestions for dealing with the stress that uncertainty causes:

- Don't waste your energy on things that you can't change. Focus on those things that you can do, like writing to your elected officials to make your views known.
- Talk over your concerns with friends or family. Don't keep your anxieties bottled up inside.
- Find a favorite place to escape to whenever possible. Some find meditation helpful.
- Participate in some enjoyable leisure activities, maybe exercise, fishing or listening to music.

There's a cheap booklet available for help in dealing with stress. It's available for 30-cents from the National Mental Health Association, 1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, Va., 22314-2971. It's called "Stress: A Fact of Life."

One possible symptom of emotional stress may be canker sores. Although doctors don't actually know that they're linked, they believe the sores may be related to stress, gum injuries and to certain foods.

If you are prone to canker sores, it is recommended that you avoid eating a lot of sugar, as well as nuts, chocolate and acidic foods like grapes and citrus fruits.

While the canker sore is healing, you may find some relief by sucking medicated lozenges or antacid tablets to decrease the acidity of your mouth. Gargling with mouthwash may help relieve the pain. An over-the-counter ointment, Zilactin, may also provide relief, according to the Health Newsletter.

Compiled by Lt. Col. Laura Strange, chief nurse, Georgia Army National Guard.

Kevlar helmet's design caused some headaches

As many as 500 unnecessary headaches might have been avoided had units stressed accident reporting. That's the word from the U.S. Army Safety Center at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

When the Kevlar helmet replaced the old steel pot, airborne soldiers faced a new danger from head injuries, but the Safety Center didn't know it for five years.

That's how long it took to identify a weakness in the helmet's design, because not all head injuries were reported. The helmet is now being modified, but a lot of headaches might have been avoided had the problem been identified and corrected sooner.

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GEORGIA
GUARDSMAN

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Manning: stripes are there for those who want them —page 2

Welcome aboard for new Air Guard chief —page 2

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Air ambulance unit gets off ground —page 15

Bloody battle replayed on Georgia coast —page 20

MILESTONES

Ga. guard members receive accolades —page 21

The Georgia Guard's airman, soldier and NCO of the year —page 23

ANNUAL TRAINING '92

From Red River depot to Southwest Asia

It seems as if the Georgia Army and Air Guard is taking on more of a global mission sometimes, with all the globetrotting that soldiers and airmen do.

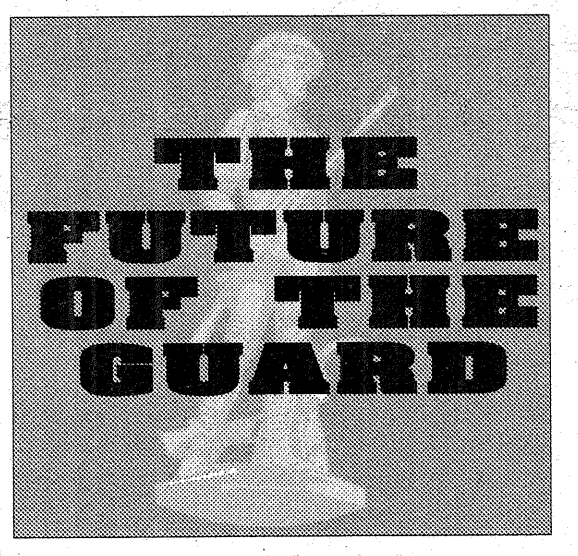
This training year, for example, guard members have trained worldwide. In this issue, we look at annual training. Besides the normal rotations at Ft. Stewart, among the palmettos and pines of the largest military reservation east of the Mississippi, Army guard units have traveled to exotic locales like Texas and the desert of Southwest Asia.

The 277th Maintenance Company, for example, spent its two weeks, not languishing in a Southeast Georgia firing position, but gainfully employed at the Red River Army Depot in Texas, in support of the 25th Infantry Brigade.

Units from the 265th Engineer Group paved their way across a classified location in a classified Southwest Asian nation, where they befriended locals and enjoyed their culture while trying to stay cool.

And other engineers traveled just outside Atlanta to help rural homeowners whose property contains hazardous waste obtain clean water.

SPECIAL REPORT



Report focuses on next decade

The National Guard — for that matter, all military services — is in a state of flux. Confusion abounds. In this report, the Georgia Guardsman explains just what's ahead for the Georgia Guard, looks at some of the reasons for these monumental changes, and how these changes can and will affect the individual soldier.

There are, of course, no easy answers on how to deal with down-sizing. But inside is a five-page special report on how soldiers can make choices in the wake of reorganization, retention boards and armory closings.

IN THIS ISSUE

TV commercials to feature 48th

Hollywood came to Fort Stewart, not in search of flatness, but to find training in action. A film crew from the Golden State spent two weeks with the 48th Brigade during its August annual training period to film three public service spots promoting the National Guard. About 30 brigade soldiers were used in speaking and action roles in the commercials.

The crews filmed all manner of action at the National Guard training Center during the brigade's rigorous fortnight. Story on page 19.

CENTERPIECE

For a battalion of Georgia engineers accustomed to greenery and hills, the flat, featureless desert of Southwest Asia has been quite a change. But members of the 878th and 560th engineers have quickly adjusted while training there.

During a months-long series of rotating in and out, the engineers have honed their roadbuilding, construction and soldiering skills, not to mention learning how to interact with a vastly different culture.

For a complete update on what those Georgians have been doing this summer, turn to page 12 and 13.

Col. Cecil Pearce named Ass't. AG

Ga. Gov. Zell Miller has announced the appointment of Col. Cecil L. Pearce as Assistant Adjutant General of the Georgia Army National Guard.

Pearce, a native Georgian, is a veteran of more than 37 years service in the Georgia Army Guard. He enlisted in the Georgia Guard in 1955 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from Officers Candidate School 1959.

He has held a variety of command and staff assignments including command of the 118th Field Artillery Brigade in Savannah.

Brig. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., Georgia's Adjutant General, said, "Colonel Pearce is an outstanding officer and leader. His background and experience will be invaluable to the Georgia Army Guard."

Pearce is president of Atlanta's Rogers Bridge Co., Inc.

Blandford's death leaves a void

Brig. Gen. John L. "Jack" Blandford died recently of cancer. The former commander of Troop Command, who had only two years ago retired, was mourned by all who knew him.

Blandford, known by many for his storytelling ability and inveterate loquaciousness, was also a fine soldier, according to those officers who worked with him during his three decades of service to the Georgia Army National Guard.

A tribute to Gen. Blandford appears on page 21.

THE MILITARY BEAT

Sen. Nunn speaks out, stands up for guard

All of a sudden, the future is now.

With the dramatic ending of the Cold War, future missions for the National Guard are rapidly taking shape. And if highly-respected Congressional leaders have their way, the Guard's traditional "state mission" will take on increased vitality and importance.

"We are leaving a security era that demanded large numbers of U.S. combat forces stationed overseas, or operating in forward locations at high states of combat readiness The military should examine ways to refocus local reserve component training on local community support initiatives whenever feasible and operationally justified," says Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Nunn and Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), Nunn's counterpart in the House of Representatives, have been brainstorming future Guard missions this summer, as part of the debate regarding the FY 1993 Defense Authorization Bill.

According to Nunn, the Guard could be effectively used to rehabilitate and renew existing community facilities, assist with aeromedical evacuation, and support local nutrition programs. Highlighting Nunn's list is the National Guard Youth Corps. Funded beginning last year, the program is designed to assist disadvantaged youth via military models of education, personal and skills development, and work in service to their communities.

So if Nunn's plans come to fruition, Georgia Guard units may tackle missions in Atlanta, helping restore blighted areas with engineering assets, for example. As residents of Georgia's cities and towns, local Guard members would appear to carry a built-in incentive to carry out such missions, making their communities better places to live and work.

Numbers Game?

Although future Guard missions are coming into focus, what's slightly less clear is future Guard strength.

Nunn and Aspin have debated Pentagon officials in recent months regarding the Guard's future membership. And in late July, Nunn's Senate Armed Services Committee voted to reduce the Department of Defense's request for Guard and Reserve cuts.

Nunn's committee has, for the time being, rejected the Pentagon's "budget by subtraction" which provided a "less than compelling case," according to Nunn, for a proper mix of active forces, with Guard and Reserve.

According to Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio), the Pentagon has been unable to demonstrate adequate rationale, regarding the reserve units it wishes to eliminate. Glenn heads Nunn's subcommittee on manpower and personnel.

This initial standoff may prove only a prelude to a larger, ongoing debate regarding the proper balance between active and reserve strength in the post-Cold War era.

Army Guard reductions

"Only the best will be retained"

By CSM BILLY MANNING
Command Sergeant Major
Georgia Army National Guard

As I travel across Georgia and meet with the enlisted soldiers and NCOs in the Georgia Army National Guard, I am impressed with the jobs these men and women exhibit and the leadership qualities they demonstrate. But as most of you know, the guard is facing perhaps its toughest challenge in many years. The active Army and the reserve components are being reorganized and downsized.

Therefore, I think it's very important for young soldiers to begin planning their military careers now. Young guard soldiers and NCOs can begin this process by sitting down with their leaders and setting a course of action to pursue. First on the list should be a clear goal of the point at which you want to be when you retire. Then you should evaluate your current career track to determine if you can stay there and meet that goal.

Some jobs in some units are capped at the E-6 or E-7 level. If your goal is to attain the rank of sergeant major, for example, you can see that you will have to take a different tack to reach that plateau. You may have to change career fields.

Once you work out this career road map, start now. Don't wait for somebody else to do it for you. In Georgia, we have the Georgia Military Institute in Macon for the specific purpose of giving part-time soldiers the best military education possible. If you're a specialist, enroll in PLDC. If you're a sergeant, get in BNOC. And if you have reached the rank of E-6, you already know the value of those, and you're ready to take ANCOC.

But don't wait until the last minute. Schools and funds may not be available to those who procrastinate. There are plenty of options, but it all rests with the individual.

Remember that at each higher level that you reach, that promotion through the NCO rank structure brings with it new challenges and opportunities. You as an NCO are responsible for the training and career development of those young soldiers who report to you and look to you for guidance.

And think about this: how well NCOs perform in their assigned jobs and how well they execute those leadership traits that are expected of them will have a direct bearing on whether they will be retained after 20 years of service to the National Guard. This has become increasingly critical as the armed forces become smaller. Many Georgia guardsmen were not retained during the last retention board cycle. Boards evaluate soldiers on physical fitness, military education, civilian education and the demonstration of their leader skills. One outcome of this is that the NCO corps will get younger.

Each NCO MUST be a role model and a standard-bearer. Those who don't measure up will be eliminated. Only the best of the best will be retained.

I offer these comments not to intimidate you, but to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

The NCO corps in the Georgia Army National Guard is younger, smarter, and has more initiative than ever. And it is the best that it has ever been. Don't wait to plan. The time is now.

Make it happen.

Air Guard reductions

Newly appointed Sr. enlisted advisor discusses future

By CMS DAVID WILLIAMS
Senior Enlisted Advisor
Georgia Air National Guard

By way of introduction, I am Chief Master Sgt. David Williams, new senior enlisted advisor for the Georgia Air National Guard. I was formerly a member of the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron in Brunswick. At the unit, I held the position of NCOIC for operations.

As with all guardsmen throughout the state, I am carefully watching and analyzing what will be the continuing effects of on-going defense reductions on the men and women of the Georgia Air National Guard. At a recent first sergeants' meeting in Savannah, we pledged to help those guardsmen affected by force reductions in the state, both on the Army and the Air Guard side. I pledge to you my personal dedication to help retain or place our fellow guardsmen in other units, when or if future force reductions occur.

Brig. Gen. Michael Bowers has asked each Guardsmen to personally contact their representative in Congress urging their careful evaluation and restraint over future decisions to draw down our numbers. Let me simply underscore his request to write your Congressional and State representatives on this vitally important issue. I certainly have, and I hope you will.

One of my goals as I travel throughout the state is to meet with as many Air Guardsmen as possible to learn of their feelings toward the guard. I know that there are situations which need to be looked at and opportunities which need to be enhanced, but I am confident that together we can move aggressively in meeting the new challenges and building a better and stronger Air National Guard in Georgia.

As I become more accustomed to the day-to-day responsibilities of my new position, I will be out visiting each unit. I will look forward to learning your thoughts, ideas and concerns about our guard program. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in this important position.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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JOIN OUR CLUB

AG: it's your choice to join or not to join

Brig. Gen. William P. Bland

All of us get a steady stream of letters telling us just how much our careers depend on belonging to various professional organizations. It is true that each of these organizations works very hard to protect our careers and benefits; to get us modern equipment; to keep our units from being cut out of the force structure.

Membership does give each of these organizations clout before Congressional committees and the Department of Defense. The larger their membership, the more their message is heard.

Every member of the Georgia Army and Air Guard should seriously consider the merits of these organizations. However, the decision to join must be yours and yours alone.

"Command pressure" to join these organizations will **not be tolerated.**

I encourage each of you to think about membership and then make up your own mind.

Worth Repeating

"American armed strength is only as strong as the combat capabilities of its weakest service. Overemphasis on one or the other will obscure our compelling need — not for air-power, sea-power or land-power — but for American military power commensurate with our tasks in the world."

—Gen. of the Army Omar Bradley, *U.S. Army*

"We have always known that heedless self-interest was bad morals; we know now that it is bad economics."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, *U.S. president*

"Show me a good and gracious loser, and I'll show you a failure."

—Knute K. Rockne, *U.S. college football coach*

Georgia Guard's new IG

'Always on duty and never off the record'

GUARDSMAN Q&A

Col. Donald Lightman

Col. Donald R. Lightman, a regular Army infantry officer, has been named Inspector General for the Georgia Guard. For six years, while serving with the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Lightman worked with Macon's 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) "I know the guard very well," he said.

In an interview shortly after assuming the post this summer, Lightman discussed his approach to the job.

Q: What is the role of the IG in the National Guard?

A: The IG in the National Guard serves the same purpose as the IG in the active component — that is, to inquire into and report on matters affecting mission performance and readiness, economy, efficiency, discipline, morale and quality of life.

We conduct inquiries and investigations into sensitive issues as directed by the Adjutant General, and we process requests for assistance for both the Air and Army Guard.

Q: There's an old saw: "I'm the IG and I'm here to help." Most people think that's on par with saying, "the check's in the mail." How do you intend to operate?

A: The office of the IG was created to help commanders and soldiers. In the past, some commanders used the IG rather than the commanders to enforce compliance with regulations.

Brig. Gen. Bland wants to put the commanders back in the role of conducting compliance inspections and use the office of the IG to assist the commanders.

Our real job is to facilitate communications. We are problem solvers. Our primary function is to assist commanders, soldiers and their families in solving problems and establishing communication.

Q: If somebody tells you something in confidence that you know to be a violation of the law, what do you do?

A: The IG is always "on duty and never off the record." Our office goes to great lengths to protect the confidentiality of people who request our assistance.

AR 20-1 is very specific under what circumstances the concept of confidentiality may not apply. But otherwise, our clients' identities are protected from disclosure.

The main purpose of the IG is that of a teacher. Very few people violate regulations intentionally, so we instruct as we inspect. It's better to correct the problem as we find it rather than to keep finding the same problems.

Q: What command authority does the IG have?

A: The IG has no command authority. He is a specifically trained staff officer on the personal staff of the commander or The Adjutant General. His job is to point out differences or irregularities and recommend actions to correct. Commanders direct the appropriate activities or actions, not the IG.

INSIDE

The Army Guard

Lawton is cleared of harassment charges

A Second Army board of officers has cleared Lt. Col. Julius J. Lawton of charges of sexual harassment. The allegations were the subject of several reports by an Atlanta television station.

Following three days of testimony, the board concluded that Lawton "did not engage in a pattern of sexual harassment involving Jackie Renfroe-James."

James had publicly alleged that Lawton had sexually harassed her while she was a member of the Georgia Guard. She was honorably discharged from the Guard in the late 1980s.

The board also found baseless allegations that Lawton subjected other female soldiers to sexual harassment.

The decision by the board means that the case "is now closed," said Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, the Adjutant General.

The four-member board was comprised of officers outside the Georgia Army National Guard. Two members were National Guardsmen, one from Kentucky and the other from Tennessee. The other two members were from the active Army.

On four, off three

Enjoy long weekends? Full-timers in 11 Army and Air Guard offices and facilities are experimenting with a four-day work week. Hours worked are generally 0700 to 1730 and most people who are participating take off either Monday or Friday.

The test will run for six months. Not everybody prefers longer weekends. About half the 120 people in USP&FO, for example, elected not to participate. It's voluntary.

Molar Mobile is not mobile

The Molar Mobile, a fixture at annual training in recent years, is no longer mobile. The equipment has been removed from the trailer and mounted permanently at McKenna Armory in Macon. Repair costs were too high for a mobile Molar Mobile. Now, we suppose, it's a Permanent Molar.

Plan ahead

A note for the ambitious: Beginning 1 Jan 96, the feds won't recognize your promotion to brigadier general unless you're a graduate of the Senior Service College. Just thought you'd like to know.

Join the Guard. Get rich.

OK, if not rich, join the Guard and get a bonus. All non-prior service applicants who join the 48th Bde., 878th Engineer Bn., 165th Supply Co. and 24th RAOC, will be eligible for a $2,000 enlistment bonus.

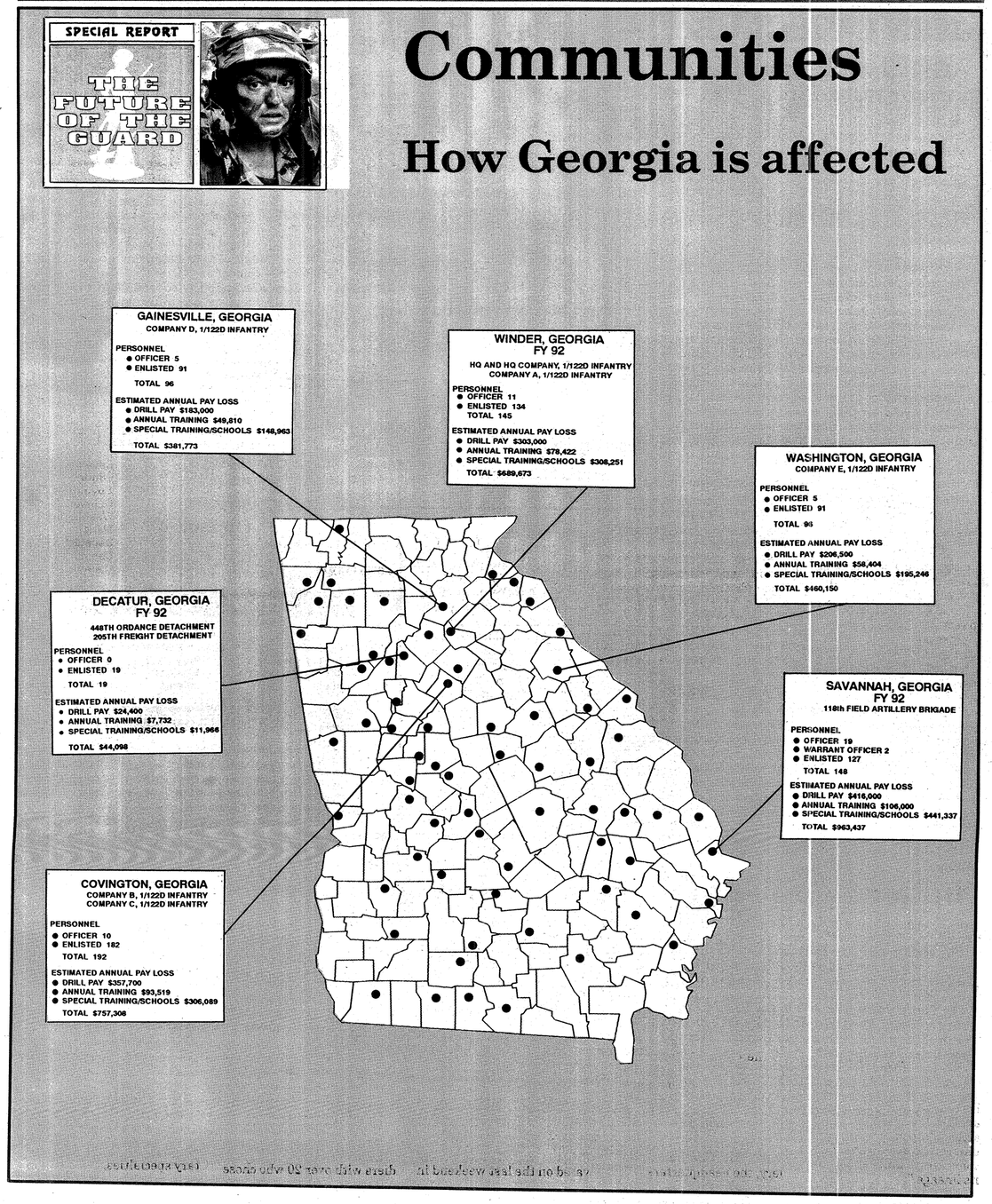
Don't picnic on the range

Active indoor firing ranges should not be used for storage or for any purpose other than firing weapons, says the state's occupational health manager, Patricia A. Ferguson.

Among the items found stored there are picnic wares, chairs, tables and office equipment. So, if you've been inviting your friends over for a leisurely picnic on the range, stop it now. Why else would you have picnic gear stored there?

Communities

How Georgia is affected



A Summer of Change

Closings loom; but guard will only lose 900 soldiers

By Staff Sgt. ELLIOTT MINOR
124th PA Detachment

The Georgia Army National Guard, forced to deactivate 10 units because of military downsizing, plans to keep all its armories open and to provide new opportunities for those who want to serve.

The Georgia guard is scheduled to lose fewer than 900 members this year as the U.S. military scales down. No Air Guard units are affected.

The Guard met its reduction goal through attrition, retirements, transfers to the Army Reserve and to the Individual Ready Reserve.

"Our missions will remain essentially the same"

"Our missions will remain essentially the same," said Harry Heath, a spokesman for the Adjutant General. "We will have to do them with fewer people, which means we cannot retain people who cannot or will not function completely as soldiers."

Under a plan known as Vision 2000, the guard is deactivating 10 units, moving four and creating eight new units.

While it has been a summer of transition, all of the changes will have taken place by the first of September.

Message to citizen-soldiers:

'We have a home for you'

By Pfc. CARLOS A. CAMPOS
124th PA Detachment

In the wake of downsizing, restructuring and other changes in the Georgia National Guard, at least one top recruiter had an important message for the state's part-time soldiers.

"We have a home for people if they want to stay in the guard," said recruiting Maj. Andy Durden. "Provided that they are willing to do the things to get them qualified, they certainly do have a home."

The restructuring of the guard has meant changes for a lot of guardsmen, and to help cope with those sometimes difficult changes, Durden said his staff has made up teams which have visited the affected units, "and explained what we were doing."

Armed with a slide presentation, and condensing "mounds and mounds of information," compiled by the Vision 2000 committee, Durden said guardsmen throughout the state were informed of their options because of the many changes.

In order to meet mandated troop reductions by 30, Sept. the National Guard has slowed its recruiting efforts, sped up discharges of unsatisfactory drill participants and raised enlistment standards, Durden said.

But most importantly, it has offered its troops four options in the event their unit was either being deactivated or moved.

The first option was to move with the unit to its new location. The second option was to find a slot in another unit, if possible. Another possibility was to be slotted as excess in another unit for a year, and hold out to be placed in a permanent slot commensurate with the grade. Finally, retirement was an option, but one which Durden said, "We really didn't push."

Durden said more problems will exist in relocating displaced senior NCOs and officers, as less slots exist throughout the state for them.

The key to all the changes, Durden said, is that "It takes a lot of coordination with each individual and each unit."

UNITS BEING DEACTIVATED

HHB, 118th Field Artillery Brigade	Savannah
HHD, Co. A, 1/122d Infantry (TLAT)	Winder
Co. B, C	Covington
Co. D	Gainesville
Co. E	Washington
A/158th Military Intelligence Company	Marietta
448th Ord Detachment	Decatur
59th FCDD	Decatur
205th FCDD	Decatur

UNITS BEING RELOCATED

	From	To
122d RAOC	Lawrenceville	Savannah
HHB 1-230th FA	Waycross	Savannah
Service Battery, 1-214th FA	Elberton	Washington
148th Medical Co. (AA)	Atlanta	Marietta

NEW UNITS CREATED

24th ID (RAOC)	Savannah
Det. 2, HHC, 1/121 Inf.	Winder
Det. 1, Co. A, 1/121 Inf.	Winder
Det. 1, Co. C, 1/121 Inf.	Gainesville
Det. 1, Co. A, 2/121 Inf.	Covington
Det. 1, Co. B, 2/121 Inf.	Covington
Det. 2, Co. D, 2.121 Inf.	Lawrenceville
Det. 1, HHB, 1-230th FA	Waycross

Chatham Artillery, Georgia's oldest, preserves its lineage

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

In January 1968, the oldest regiment in the Georgia Army National Guard, the 118th Field Artillery Regiment, ceased to exist as a regiment.

"When a Guard unit is lost, it's lost forever," says Maj. Eugene C. Martin, the state's Force Integration Readiness analyst. "It's not like the active component where a unit can be deactivated and some future unit can pick up its lineage."

Rather than preserve the 118th as a regiment, the state almost 25 years ago created the 118th Field Artillery Brigade and a new regiment, the 230th Field Artillery, according to National Guard Bureau.

The 118th FA Regiment, organized in 1751, was Georgia's oldest regiment and one of the few in the National Guard that served in the Revolutionary War.

To preserve the 118th's lineage to the Chatham Artillery, the headquarters element of the 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery at Waycross is being moved to Savannah and redesignated Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery.

The 2nd Battalion, 214th FA at Statesboro and the 1st Battalion, 230th FA at Waycross consolidate to form the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery.

By the time Savannah's HHB, 118th Field Artillery Brigade was officially deactivated on the last weekend in August, virtually all of the 130 guardsmen affected had found slots elsewhere.

"It was pretty chaotic, to say the least, earlier in the year when we first got the news," said HHB First Sergeant Bruce O'Berry.

"Now that the dust has settled and the deactivation is complete, I think most everyone is content with their new units," he said.

About 98 percent were successfully reassigned, he said. "There were three or four soldiers with over 20 who chose to retire, but as promised none of the 18 full-time staffers lost a job, took a pay cut or were demoted," O'Berry said.

"General Bland and his staff did an excellent job of finding us all new jobs."

Some guardsmen transferred with most of their equipment to new units following annual training this year. Some may require retraining in new units, he said, because not all were able to remain within their military specialties.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE FUTURE OF THE GUARD

Family

'It's a little harder for us to move like the regular Army'

Downsizing affects members of the Guard. But it affects families, too.

While most guardsmen in deactivating units were able to find new slots within 50 miles, some weren't so lucky. The 122nd Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC) is one example.

The entire unit was shifted from Decatur to Savannah. That can have considerable impact on families, says Second Lt. Tanya R. Brinkley, the state family program coordinator.

"Some members may have been driving 10 miles to the unit," she says. "Now they may have to leave on Friday afternoon and they won't be back until Sunday night."

There's a financial impact as well. "Financially, it's more difficult when they have find, and pay for, a place to stay overnight. Plus, there's the cost of travel."

Change can prompt anger, too. She explains:

"We've got some soldiers who are angry because they have been together for years. They're used to each other. They had a solidarity and now they don't have it anymore. It's a little harder for us to move on like the regular Army does."

To make the adjustments easier on members and their families, family support groups are being organized in every unit in the Georgia Army Guard.

The objective is to improve the quality of life, she says, to provide a support network to resolve problems as they arise, including deactivations or relocations.

In some areas, it's a strong, active organization. In Newnan, for example, family members of guardsmen in Troop E, 348th Cavalry, meet regularly, publish a newsletter, and conduct fund-raisers.

The group even established a $500 college scholarship, which was awarded during graduation ceremonies this spring.

If you are experiencing hardships from relocation or deactivation and think the family program can help your family, Brinkley invites you to call. The number is 1-800-242-4222, extension 6561.

CAPT. MICHAEL T. HOLDER, *left, commander of Company A, 158th Military Intelligence Battalion, helps Lt. Col. Michael L. Seely, commander of the 151st MI battalion, furl the guidon of the 158th at the deactivation ceremony on August 15 at Dobbins Air Force Base. (Photo by Sgt. Jerry DeAvila, 124th PAD)*

TOTAL PROJECTED REDUCTIONS

FY 92 - FY 95

STATE	CHANGES	PER CENT	STATE	CHANGES	PER CENT
TENNESSEE	-5812	-37.7	NORTH CAROLINA	-1838	-15.2
GEORGIA	-2432	-21.2	SOUTH CAROLINA	-1695	-12.6
FLORIDA	-2637	-20.5	MISSISSIPPI	-1483	-8.5
ALABAMA	-3278	-15.4	LOUISIANA	-1669	-5.0

FY 92 LOSSES

PERSONNEL
- OFFICER 50
- WARRANT OFFICER 2
- ENLISTED 635

TOTAL 687

ESTIMATED ANNUAL PAY LOSS
- DRILL PAY $1,478,400
- ANNUAL TRAINING $390,021
- SPECIAL TRAINING/SCHOOLS $1,405,869

TOTAL $3,274,390

FY 93 LOSSES

PERSONNEL
- OFFICER 33
- WARRANT OFFICER 24
- ENLISTED 479

TOTAL 536

ESTIMATED ANNUAL PAY LOSS
- DRILL PAY $1,190,900
- ANNUAL TRAINING $485,255
- SPECIAL TRAINING/SCHOOLS $972,850

TOTAL $2,597,880

Air Force not paring down, but rebuilding up

By Maj. KEN BALDOWSKI
Air Guard PAO

The Air Force today is undergoing the most fundamental reshaping it has experienced since it was established as a separate service nearly half a century ago. The changes touch every corner of the institution and every aspect of how airmen do their jobs.

The Air Force will continue to have a role in maintaining stability in many parts of the world, but will have to discharge this responsibility with leaner forces.

Global Reach-Global Power is the overarching structure which air powers's inherent strengths — speed, range, flexibility, precision and lethality are employed.

Between 1987 and 1995, the service will undergo substantial personnel reductions including force cuts of 10 tactical fighter wings and a reduction of 170,000 active duty airmen. The AF personnel cuts of 20 percent compare to Army cuts of 15 percent from its 1986 peak, Navy cuts of 7 percent since '89 and Marine cuts of 6 percent from 1987.

According to Secretary of the Air Force, Donald B. Rice, "We're not paring down the Air Force; we're building a new, smaller Air Force from the ground up".

Regardless of the role played by the restructured Air Force, the air capabilities in the new "Global Reach-Global Power" structure will prepare the service for the future. Structural changes will equip the Air Force to respond to all contingencies whether as the main combat force or in a supporting role.

The Air Force has long been structured on an artificial distinction between so-called tactical aircraft and strategic aircraft. In the new structure, a new command will employ air power as a unified whole. Two major new commands — the Air Combat Command and the Air Mobility Command will incorporate the former Tactical Air Command, the Strategic Air Command and the Military Airlift Command, all which went out of existence on 1 June 92.

On the support side, Logistics and Systems Command merged on 1 July to become the Material Command providing seamless life-cycle systems support. Electronic Security Command became Intelligence Command last October, consolidating all Air Force intelligence functions. Communications Command has become a field operating agency, with most of its personnel transferring to field commanders who now are responsible for operating their own communications and APP support.

Air Mobility Command will have MAC's intertheater airlift, most of the U.S. based theater airlift, and most of SAC's tankers. They will focus on the overall problem of force mobility or getting people and equipment to the fight. With fewer U.S. troops stationed overseas, the AF of the future will be required to airlift military power to trouble spots within hours.

The Air Reserve Component (ARC) plays an important role across the breadth of our activities. Indeed, although active manpower has been reduced by more than a quarter since the mid-1980s, Guard and Reserve personnel strengths will maintain their current levels even as the active component decline to base force levels. In the fighter force, ARC units will grow from one-third to over 42 percent of the total force by 1995. In the new AF structure, fully 48 percent of Air Force fighter cockpits will be filled by Reservists and Guardsmen. During Operation "Desert Storm" the ARC validated the AF's confidence in them, but current plans push reliance on the ARC to the maximum in relation to the size of the total force.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE FUTURE OF THE GUARD

Education

Schools become more important for guardsmen seeking rank

School or die.

It's getting that serious. For promotion after 1 October, guardsmen must have completed a Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) the basic non-commissioned officers course (BNOC) or the advanced course (ANOC).

"With the drawdown, education is particularly important," said Sgt. Maj. John W. Holland, the state's schools program manager.

"The biggest thing that's going to impact on schools is the retention boards," he said. "The budget had been pretty good for the last few years, so people have had the opportunity to go to school. People who didn't take advantage of the opportunities are at a disadvantage with the retention boards. Education is one of the factors they consider."

In the Georgia Army Guard, schools are big business. This year some $4.5 million will be spent. "It's safe to say that almost every Georgia guardsman is involved in something," Holland said. "The average guardsman has a requirement to go to some kind of school almost continuously."

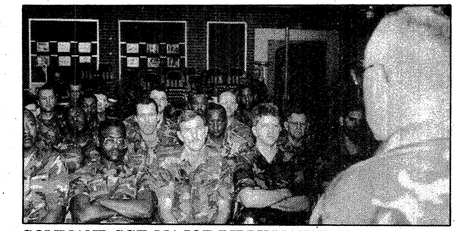
Most of them are run out of Macon's Georgia Military Institute. This year, for example, a dozen ANOC and BNOC courses will be run, each with about 60 participants. Four PLDC courses also were offered, with an average of 108 participants each.

While the first phase of ANOC and BNOC is held in-state, guardsmen may be sent anywhere in the country for the second phase. Some engineers requiring highly-specialized training were sent to North Dakota for the second phase.

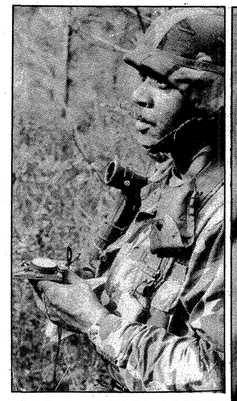
In addition to the state's ongoing NCO training programs, special courses are conducted, usually at annual training.

More than 200 members of the 48th Infantory Brigade (Mech) were trained in the 11M MOS (Bradley Fighting Vehicle Infantryman) at a Schoolhouse for the Soldier program at Ft. Stewart in August.

Most were former members of the 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry (TLAT) who were transferring into the brigade. At the end of the school, which is conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Army Reserves, guardsmen are awarded the 11M MOS.

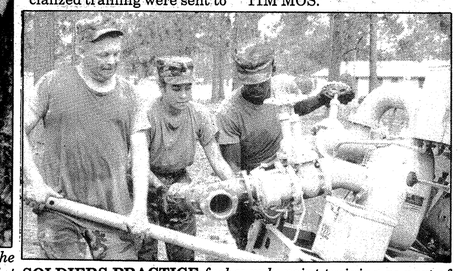


COMMAND SGT. MAJOR BILLY MANNING *talks to members of the Advanced NCO Course.*



SGT. 1st CLASS OBIE F. KING *shoots an azimuth on the land navigation course during the Advanced NCO Course.*

SGT. 1st CLASS ELAINE FITZGERALD *takes a break in the field during the Advanced NCO Course. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Willis Mitchell, 124th PAD)*



SOLDIERS PRACTICE *fuel supply point training as part of the Schoolhouse of the Soldier at Fort Stewart.*

Those with 20-plus years reviewed

Retention boards retire 80 EMs, 30 guard officers

By Staff Sgt. ELLIOTT MINOR
124th PA Detachment

Retention boards, charged with keeping only the best in the era of military downsizing, have recommended the release of more than 80 enlisted soldiers and approximately 30 officers from the Georgia Army National Guard.

The boards met in the spring to review the records of 662 members with over 20 years' service.

"This should not be viewed as a punitive action," said Lt. Col. James A. Bruno, deputy director of personnel and administration. "The purpose of the retention board is to keep the best qualified soldiers. The ones with the best potential and the records to back it up will be retained."

The retention boards considered primarily senior level officers and NCOs.

Retention boards are supposed to review the records of members with over 20 years routinely every other year.

In April, a six-member board that included Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Manning reviewed the records of 458 enlisted guard members.

It recommended that 82 be retired, that 119 have their records reviewed again in a year and that 257 be retained for two more years.

A second board, made up of three field grade officers, met in May to review the records of 204 officers. It recommended the retirement of approximately 30.

Manning said the enlisted board had to be more selective because of downsizing and to ensure upward mobility of top-flight young soldiers.

While nearly everyone will have an opportunity to serve at least 20 years, continued service will depend on unit needs, potential for advancement and meeting all physical and educational requirements, Manning said.

This year board members had a mandate from Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, the Adjutant General, to keep only the most qualified, Bruno said.

The boards considered such things as military and civilian education, fitness and weight, efficiency reports and potential for advancement.

"The primary purpose of the retention board is to provide for continued upward mobility in the organization," said Maj. Donald W. Venn, chief of plans and actions.

"The biggest thing the board members are instructed to look for is a soldier's and an officer's potential. Have they peaked out as far as potential?"

Those who are not retained can transfer to the individual ready reserve or to the retired reserve. Both categories are subject to recall during a national emergency.

What's next?

Vision 2000 committee examines state; matches guard units to communities

Why is a National Guard unit in your hometown?

Does the population support it? What about the future?

Those are the kinds of questions pondered by Vision 2000, a group of officers and senior NCOs representing major commands and State Headquarters staff sections.

Their job, explains Lt. Col. Richard H. Stokes, who served as vice chairman of the committee, was to reinvent the Georgia Guard.

While there were guidelines, the planners were told to "consider any and all options, as if the Guard didn't exist," Stokes said.

They worked for nine weeks, with the 12 committee members meeting in small groups as much as four times per week.

They examined communities, units and regions. "We wanted to try to make sure a Guard unit was available to every Georgian, although it might not be in his home county."

By studying current commuting patterns, they discovered that most all guardsmen in non-headquarters units live in the county where the armory is located, or an adjoining county. They, therefore, sought to put units within 25 miles of everybody — or, roughly, a 30-minute maximum commute.

They also explored ways to expand the recruitment pool. Most all units in South Georgia, for example, are combat units. Is it possible to relocate some units that can recruit women? Those are the kinds of questions they asked.

The panel discovered that a population of 22,000 is the minimum needed to support a Guard company. But "some locations have less than that now and they have excellent support records for the Guard, so you can't look at the people base alone," Stokes said.

Another consideration, in deciding how to react to downsizing, is cost. "We looked at the cost to retrain a unit if we moved them," he said. "We tried to keep the cost of relocations to a minimum and to use existing skills as much as possible," he said.

Therefore, in considering the kind of unit to move to Winder, for example, planners took note of the existing infantry skills in the TLAT battalion.

The committee's work is designed to guide the state through current and future downsizing, now scheduled to run through fiscal year 1995.

Where to put units not a crap shoot

As the Georgia Guard shrinks in size, planners evaluate how to do it most effectively, with the least possible impact on guardsmen, their families and communities where they live.

They debate options — saying, for example, if the primary goal is to accomplish a specific objective, what's the best way to go about it?

Here are five possible ways to go:

- Eliminate all separate detachments and units in areas too thinly populated to support a National Guard presence.
- No separate units would have detachments, but detachments would be allowed in battalions with organic companies. Use the best possible population support base. And, maintain only two of the present three flight facilities.
- Provide the best possible command and control in the state, with priority to the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech). Protect the lineage of the Chatham Artillery. Demographics would be a second priority.
- Place units in areas where the population exists to support them.
- The best possible command and control for the state.

In each instance, the ramifications are debated by planners. Strengths and weaknesses of each approach are weighed.

Numbers tell one story. But, in the end, it's not a science. It's people and families and communities.

Does your community support you?

Decisions can't be made by the numbers. But planners do, as a starting point, construct a demographic profile of all Guard communities.

Here's what the numbers tell:

- Current National Guardsmen/women in the county.
- Guardsmen/women living in adjoining counties.
- Male population projected in 1996 and 2000.
- County population projections in 1996 and 2000.
- Percent of high school graduates entering military service.
- Percent passing armed forces entry tests.
- Percent of current population in the local Guard unit.

Each unit is profiled, too. Especially important is historical strength. Half of all units are at 95 percent of authorized strength or better. The units with the most severe strength problems ranged from 56.6 to 80.6 percent strength.

Guidance to the planners

Planners operated with guidance from the Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. William P. Bland Jr.

His current command intent:

- No armories will be closed.
- Utilize existing personnel to fill every vacancy possible.
- Every attempt will be made to provide every guardsman/woman job opportunity, both the full-timers and the part-timers.
- Combat readiness will not suffer.

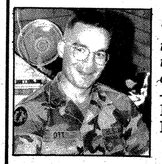
Instructions from National Guard Bureau

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, director of National Guard Bureau, had some specific instructions for planners.

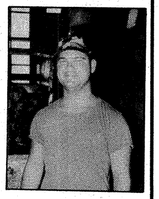
The key points:

- Ensure we provide for displaced soldiers and families.
- High-quality soldiers must be encouraged to continue.
- Unsatisfactory performers must be expeditiously processed for discharge.
- Planning for and accommodating displaced soldiers and families should be a high priority.

What soldiers say ...



"It hasn't affected me yet. If they are going to downsize, that's fine — as long as they don't cut money for training." —Staff Sgt. Craig Ott, Duluth, 178th Military Police Company.



"If they get rid of the people that aren't very good, then they won't have to bother soldiers that really want to be in the guard." —Spec. William A. Hall, Hinesville, mechanic in the 166th Maintenance Company.

"Personally, I'll have to work harder — get my schools in, my PT score higher — keep ahead of the cuts." —Spec. Christopher B. Bishop, Atlanta, medical admin. specialist in the 138th Medical Company.

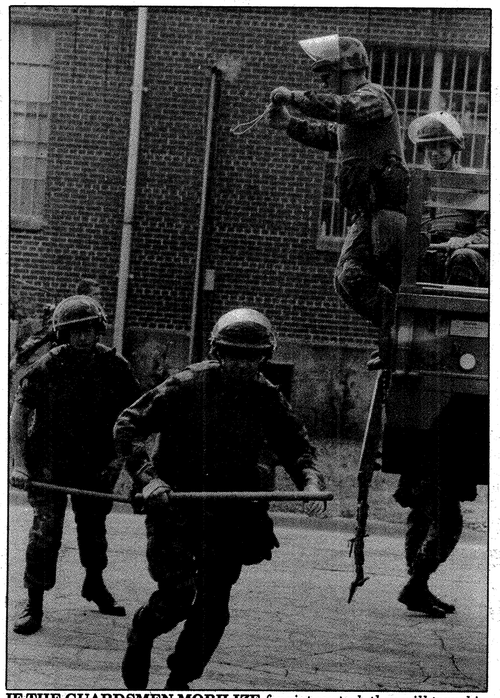
"We should keep the same size. Our mission as a state militia hasn't changed, i.e., riot control and natural disasters. If we downsize to much we may jeopardize that mission," —Sgt. Thomas Washington, 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery.

"Two good things that will come out of this is — one; some of the higher ranking NCOs will retire freeing slots that will allow for junior soldiers to be promoted: — two; the majority of soldiers will pick up a secondary MOS which will make them more flexible for promotion purposes." —Sgt. Dennis Mulkey, Atlanta, HQ STARC.

"A lot of young soldiers are getting out because there's no place for them to go (advancement). Hopefully the reorganization will open some slots for these soldiers. We lose good ones every day. The retention boards need to tighten up on PT standards and weight control — there are a lot of people still in who just don't measure up," —Staff Sgt. Chris Gaudry, 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery.

Relieved that they were weren't needed

Guardsmen ready to face riot challenge



IF THE GUARDSMEN MOBILIZE *for riot control, they will travel in trucks and have to learn to exit the vehicles quickly, as members of the Scout platoon of Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor practice at Fort Gillem.*

By Spec. EMORY MINOR
124th PA Detachment

ATLANTA, Ga. — Deputy Charles R. Ward was guarding prisoners at the Polk County jail when he received an important phone call. Raymond Deblois was on duty at Northside Hospital when he received a similar call.

Ward and Deblois were among 1,000 members of the Georgia Army National Guard who where mobilized by Gov. Zell Miller to protect lives and property during three days of looting and violence in Atlanta.

The turmoil in Atlanta and several other U.S. cities was in response to the acquittal of four white Los Angeles police officers who had been videotaped beating black motorist Rodney King.

Spec. Ward, a tank driver in Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor in Cedartown, said his coworkers clapped and his mother cried when they learned that he might be called on to maintain order in the city.

Deblois, a medic with D Company, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry in Gainesville, said he had joked about the possibility of a call-up and two hours later he was told to report to his unit.

Deblois, the Guard's Soldier of the Year in 1990, said he was apprehensive but hopeful they would arrive in time to make a difference.

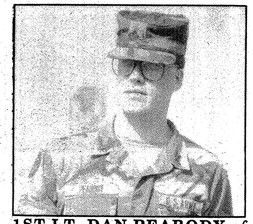
Miller mobilized guard members from three north Georgia units Thursday evening after youths went on a rampage in downtown Atlanta, smashing windows, beating people and overturning cars. Sporadic clashes were reported between police and demonstrators on Friday and Saturday. Guard members were never sent into the city because police were able to maintain control.

Units affected by the call-up were the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, headquartered in Calhoun, the 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry headquartered in Winder and the 190th MP Company of Atlanta.

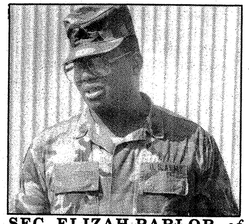
"We are glad the mission didn't go off, but disappointed we could not help Mayor Maynard Jackson and the local police," said Lt. Col. Allan O'Rouke, commander of the 108th.

During the three days of state active duty, the guardsmen slept in an armory on Confederate Ave. and in warehouses on Fort Gillem. They practiced riot control and amused themselves by batting balls with their riot batons and tossing horseshoes. Some crowded around a television Saturday afternoon to watch a Braves game.

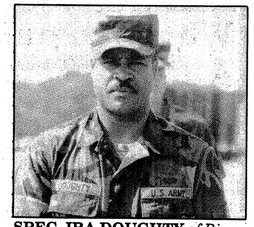
"I'm glad we didn't have to be used; it's better to be bored then for someone to get hurt," said Deblois.



1ST LT. DAN PEABODY *of Smyrna, a member of the 190th MP Company, says that being called-up for riot control is routine since he is a police officer in the civilian world.*



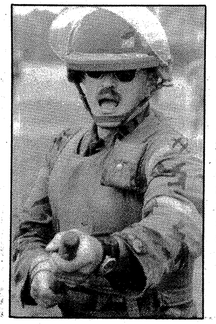
SFC. ELIZAH PARLOR, *of Union City, is a member of the 190th MP Company. "I was at work when I got called. We are citizens and we may have to face citizens or maybe people we know."*



SPEC. IRA DOUGHTY *of Riverdale, a member of the 190th MP Company, says there was a sense of uncertainty about the call-up. "You don't know how the situation can escalate. I just hope for the best."*

Guardsmen came from 10 communities

Guardsmen mobilized during the three days of looting and violence in Atlanta drill at armories in Calhoun, Canton, Cedartown, Dalton, Douglas, Covington, Gainesville, Winder, Washington and Atlanta.



TO PREPARE HIMSELF *for anything that may happen, Staff Sgt. Greg A. Cady, a Bradley vehicle commander in the scout Platoon of Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor and a car salesman from Dalton, practices movements with the stick and wears a flack jacket at Fort Gillem.*

MEMBERS OF THE SCOUT PLATOON *for Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor practice getting into riot control formations to limit confusion if a real situation occurs at Fort Gillem. (Photos by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th PAD)*

The Blue Yonder

Leftovers from 116th Feeding the Hungry

The 116th Fighter Wing at Dobbins has become the first Atlanta-area military unit to donate leftover food from week drills to the "Atlanta Table," a project of the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

The project was initiated by Master Sgt. Philip Bersch, president of the local chapter of the Non-commissioned Officers Graduate Association and MSgt Charles Pritchett of the 116th Services Flight.

The "Atlanta Table" began in 1987 to address the problems of local hunger. More than 200 local restaurants, caterers, hotels, hospitals and other food service providers participate, donating from 20 to 1,000 pounds of prepared food per pickup.

Honoring Champions

A Savannah high school has been cited for outstanding athletic performance by members of the 117th Air Control Squadron. Recruiters Master Sgt. Greg Gray and Tech Sgt. Kelly Smith presented Johnson High School's basketball team and its coaches with a congratulatory plaque and letter. The team won the State AAAA basketball championship.

The Durable C-130

Marietta's Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company has delivered its 2,000th C-130 Hercules aircraft, this one going to the Kentucky Air National Guard. The C-130 is the longest running aircraft production line in the aviation industry. More than 60 countries fly it.

Footsteps to Follow

Staff Sgt. Margaret N. Johnson, a secure-telecommunications systems technician with Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron, was presented an associate of arts degree from Community College of the Air Force in ceremonies at Glynco Jetport.

The two-year degree in electronic systems technology was earned by combining credits achieved through Air Force technical training schools and Brunswick and Valdosta State Colleges.

Graduation speaker Dr. Morgan Stapleton, vice president of academic affairs at Brunswick College, praised the commitment of Sergeant Johnson. She spoke, as well, of the credibility of the Community College of the Air Force within the academic community and encouraged the 200 assembled Air National Guard members to follow in Johnson's footsteps.

Johnson lives in Savannah and is employed by Barrett Oil Distributors as a systems manager. Her parents, Wayne and Margaret Johnson of Brunswick, also participated in the graduation ceremony.

LT. COL. BARRY BEIRIG, *left, the pilot of an F-15 that crashed in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, joins 116th Fighter Wing commander Col. Stephen Kearney, right, in honoring Rangers Steven Kloster and Jack Piepenbring. The rangers received the Georgia Medal of Valor for their role in the rescue.*

Two get Medal of Valor

Park rangers cited for rescue of downed Air Guard pilot

It was a rescue that would have made television's MacGyver proud, said one newspaper.

Two national park rangers rappelled from a hovering helicopter on a cold January day to reach the pilot of a Georgia Air National Guard plane that crashed in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For their heroics, Rangers Jack Piepenbring and Steven Kloster have been awarded the Georgia Medal of Valor by Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, Georgia's Adjutant General. Also present was the pilot of the downed F-15, Lt. Col. Barry Beirig, and the commander of the 116th Fighter Wing, Col. Stephen Kearney.

The two rangers were cited for their role in rescuing Beirig after two F-15 Eagle jet aircraft collided while on a training mission over the North Carolina section of the park.

One aircraft was able to make an emergency landing at McGhee-Tyson Airport in Knoxville. Beirig's F-15 was critically damaged and crashed into a remote area of the park after Beirig ejected.

The pilot, clad only in a flight suit and light jacket, parachuted into the park unharmed. Temperatures dipped below 10 degrees that day and Beirig landed miles from the nearest road.

Beirig called for assistance using a portable radio and guided a Tennessee Air National Guard helicopter to him. Dense vegetation made it impossible to land, so Rangers Kloster and Piepenbring had to rappel about 150 feet down to assist the pilot.

To reach safety, they guided him four miles through rugged terrain and thickets of rhododendron to the nearest trail and then two more miles to the road.

Rappelling from a hovering helicopter into trees is a hazardous maneuver rarely undertaken. "It was a tremendous relief to see that helicopter," said Beirig.

"The Georgia Medal of Valor was created to recognize heroic acts performed by members of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard," Kearney said. "The events of 15 January were so compelling we felt compelled to honor these two rangers for their acts."

In addition to the Georgia Medal of Valor, the two rangers were also given an Exemplary Act Award by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Guard vets eligible for free license

Veteran guardsmen who served on active duty during war time, including Operation Desert Storm, are eligible for a free Georgia driver's license under a state law which went into effect July 1.

To qualify for the free license, a guardsman had to be on active duty during an armed conflict, but not necessarily assigned to a unit or division which directly participated in the conflict.

Also, you must have entered the National Guard in Georgia, and be a resident of the state at the time of application for the license, according to Pete Wheeler, the state's commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

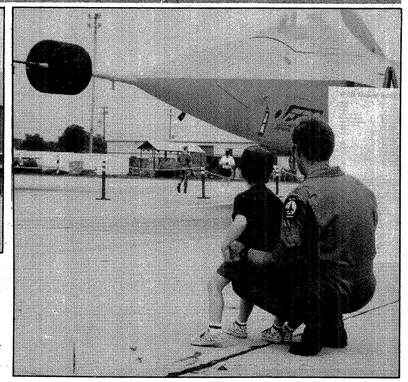
If you entered the National Guard in another state, you must be a resident of Georgia for five consecutive years to be eligible for the free license.

Members or former members of the National Guard who have at least 20 years of service are also eligible for the free license.

Also eligible for the license are spouses of disabled veterans who do not have driver's licenses, or the unremarried spouses of deceased veterans.

Veterans who feel they qualify should take their discharge papers (DD-214 form) to any office of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service for certification.

AMERICA'S NEXT GENERATION TACTICAL FIGHTER — *the F-22 — made its first public appearance at Family Day activities in June at Dobbins Air Force Base.*



THE FUTURE AIR SUPERIORITY FIGHTER *of the U.S. Air Force is closely examined by F-15 pilot Maj. Scott Hammond and future pilot, three-year-old Joshua, at the Family Day activities for the 116TFW.*

Family Day at Dobbins

Public gets first look at F-22 prototype

Kids of all ages scrambled to have their pictures made in the cockpit of an F-l5 or standing beside the F-22 during Family Day at Dobbins Air Force Base.

More than 1,500 guardsmen and their families showed up for the first public showing of the Air Force's next generation tactical fighter, the F-22, which is to be built next door at Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Co.

Display of the F-22 at the 116th Fighter Wing Family Day marked its first appearance at a non-Air Force gathering. It is one of only two prototypes built. The second was damaged in May in a crash at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

In addition to the F-22, another 15 combat aircraft were on display, including a vintage Chinese jet fighter.

Two World War II Air Force trainers, currently used to provide real-life combat simulation to paying customers at Charlie Brown Airport, were a source of great interest, as were two F-16s from the 169th Fighter Group, which saw action in Operation Desert Storm.

Aircraft from the Air Force Reserve, Marines and Army were also on display.

Highlight of the day was the traditional five-kilometer Family Day foot race for guardsmen and serious runners. Staff Sgt. Perry Doyle, a member of the 116th CAMS, won the race for the second year in a row in a time of 18:06. Maj. Cynthia Islin, also of the 116th CAMS, was the first female guardsman to cross the finish line.

In addition to the race and static displays, which included vintage automobiles, live firepower demonstrations showcased the field tactics employed by the 116th Weapons Systems Security Flight.

The Cobb County Police Department's K-9 unit presented attack demonstrations.

Families were treated to a lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers, while being serenaded by an afternoon of music by the 530th Air Force Band.

Brunswick unit assists African relief effort

By Maj. DONALD N. EDMANDS JR.
224th Joint Communications Squadron

Assisting international relief efforts is becoming routine for the 224th Joint Communications Squadron at Glynco Jetport in Brunswick.

For the third time in three years, the Georgia Air guardsmen have responded to an appeal for assistance in loading emergency relief supplies.

The relief supplies for war-torn Zaire were being shipped by MAP International, a non-profit health and relief organization with international headquarters at Glynco.

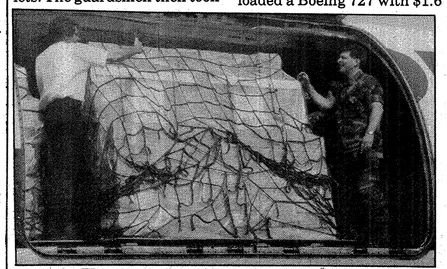
MAP had been requested by the U.S. State Department's Office of Foreign Assistance to airlift the medical and other supplies valued at $3.5 million which had been donated by various American health care companies.

To load the plane, squadron members volunteered to help supervise MAP employees as they built and netted the pallets. The guardsmen then took over and quickly loaded the commercial DC-8 freighter with 14 pallets. MAP employees, meanwhile, loaded sacks of flour, which had been donated by another humanitarian relief organization.

"The shipment to Zaire would not have taken place had the guardsmen not provided their equipment and expertise to help load the airplane," said Larry Glass, MAP's director of relief.

The shipment was not the first time the 224th had been called for help. In 1989, they loaded a Boeing 727 with $1.6 million in medical supplies and food destined for Panama during Operation Just Cause.

And in 1990, while dispatching personnel on Operation Desert Shield, the unit loaded a Boeing 707 with $2 million in medical supplies bound for Liberia.



MAJ. RAYMOND J. KING, *Logistics Officer for the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron, assists the DC-8 Loadmaster in loading one of the 14 pallets of medical supplies destined for Zaire. (Photo by: Maj. Donald N. Edmands, Jr.)*

In South Florida, too, Georgia Guard helps

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

The Georgia National Guard joined forces with the Florida National Guard to provide relief to the hurricane-ravaged areas of south Florida after Andrew hit in late August.

"The National Guard Bureau tasked the Georgia Guard to provide equipment support to the Florida National Guard," said Lt. Col. (P) Robert Baird, the Director of Logistics for the Georgia Guard.

The Georgia Guard sent 293 flak jackets and 299 batons for riot control after reports of heavy looting, according to Lt. Col. Phillip Glise, the transportation officer in the Deputy Chief of Staff-Directorate of Logistics.

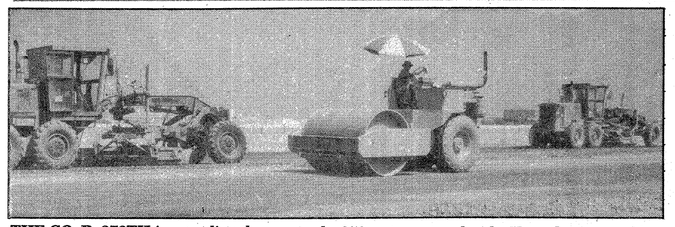
Fort Stewart also sent thousands of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and Tray Rations (T-Rats) to the devastated area.

A C-130 H cargo plane from the 125th Fighter Group and Operational Support Aircraft of the Florida Air National Guard out of Jacksonville landed at Wright Army Airfield at Fort Stewart to pick up the supplies August 25. The plane then went to Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta for more supplies, then dropped them off at Opaloca, Fla., which is just north of Miami, according to Lt. Col. Janson Kinsley, a pilot on the plane.

Cobb airmen volunteer for Special Olympics

Members of the National Guard are a part of the communities where they live. For several years now, and again this year, members of Kennesaw's 129th and 118th Air Control Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard have participated in the Cobb County Special Olympics.

Master Sgt. Jerry L. Haney has coordinated the support. Among those who served the Special Olympics as umpires this year were Master Sgt. Jerry D. Whitworth, Tech. Sft. Perrine C. Hays, Master Sgt. Ronald L. Brown, Tech. Sgt. Grant L. Brumbaugh, Master Sgt. Mack O. Peed, and Master Sgt. Mack E. Douse Jr.



THE CO. B, 878TH *is extending the runway by 250 meters on each side. Here, they are packing the dirt and gravel to prepare for laying the asphalt.*

Engineers pave way to good relations

Three weeks of sun, sand and water. It sounds like a vacation. But, for members of the 265th Engineer Group, headquartered in Marietta, it is hard work.

Georgia Army national Guard engineers are spending their annual training in the desert — a Southwest Asian desert. Various engineering projects are giving soldiers the opportunity to train in a harsh desert environment.

During the month of July, engineers from Company B of the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Sandersville, separated with half working in a dusty, mountainous area and half working in a flat, sandy area of the country. Company C of the 560th Engineer Battalion of LaGrange, also spent its annual training in sandy Southwest Asia.

The northern group, working at a host nation airbase, prepared a site for a K-Span building for storage and began extending the runway. "We're building a site up with fill dirt and paving it with asphalt for the K-Span building and extending the runway 250 meters on each end," said First Lt. James Kammerdiener, the horizontal construction platoon leader for Company B, 878th.

The southern group was also concentrated at an airbase. "We're building two K-Span buildings for storage, expanding the road by 2 kilometers and improving a range house," said Lt. Col. Henry Chapman, the battalion commander for the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Augusta.

The desert environment makes the workday a challenge. "This annual training gives us the opportunity to get familiar with this type of environment and the difficulties training in it," said Chapman. The 560th Engineer's First Sgt. Guy Crowe added, "We're working from sunrise to noon and then from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. But, we're getting used to the heat and doing without necessities."

The local people have proven to be very helpful to the U.S. soldiers. The southern task force commander, Capt. John Heath of the 265th Engineer Group said, "The people have been very helpful. They seem very grateful that we are here and very eager to share their culture."

Several Active Army engineers accompanied the 878th and 560th to evaluate their progress and overall training. "To compare them to a regular Army unit, these soldiers are accomplishing missions just as good and even superior to an active duty unit," said First Lt. Paul Olsen of the 43rd Engineering Battalion at Fort Benning. "Their motivation, drive and teamwork carries them through."

The engineering units are rotating in and out of the country every two to three weeks. The projects are due to be complete by mid-September.

THE ENGINEERS

Mission: business as usual at AT

What they're doing

The engineer project, called Eastern Castle '92, is a joint Army-Air Force exercise to improve the host nation's infrastructure and to demonstrate the benefits of continuing a military relationship with the U.S.

The organization

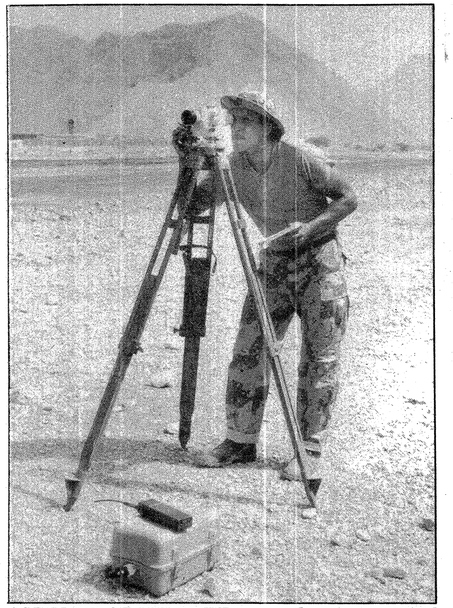
The engineer task force is commanded by the Georgia Guard's 265 Engineer Group. It includes Georgia's 878th Engineer Bn. and its 560th Engineer Bn., the active Army's 92nd Engineer Bn., and the U.S. Air Force's 823rd Red Horse Civil Engineer Squadron.

Their projects

- The 878th and the 823rd are extending a runway by 500 meters.
- The 92nd is constructing a prosthetics lab to manufacture artificial limbs and orthopedic braces.

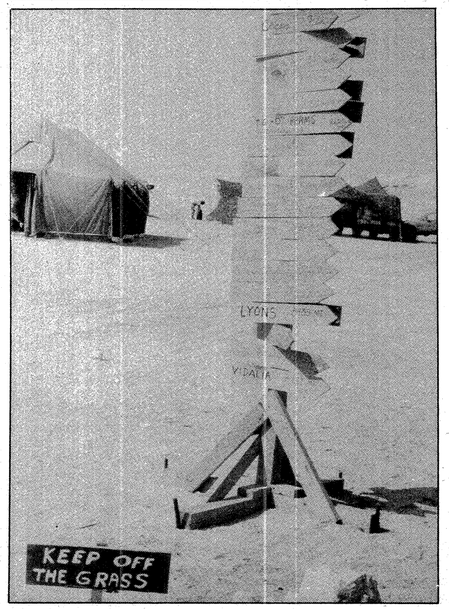
Working conditions

The desert environment is inhospitable, making construction work demanding and training realistic. Daytime temperatures reach 138 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds of 30 to 70 miles per hour hinder construction and cause longer work days. The drive between work sites requires four to five hours.

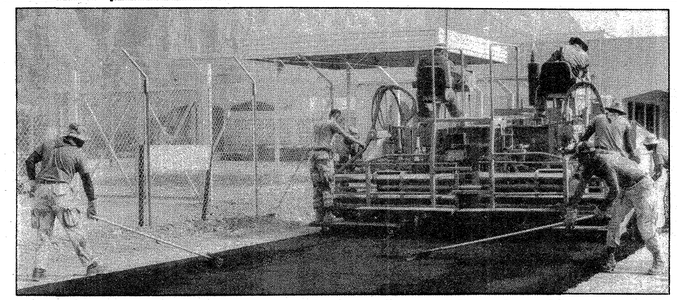


A MEMBER OF THE 878TH *surveys the runway site and reports the progress to the platoon leaders.*

Stories and photos by Sgt. Kimberly Ryan, 124th PA Detachment

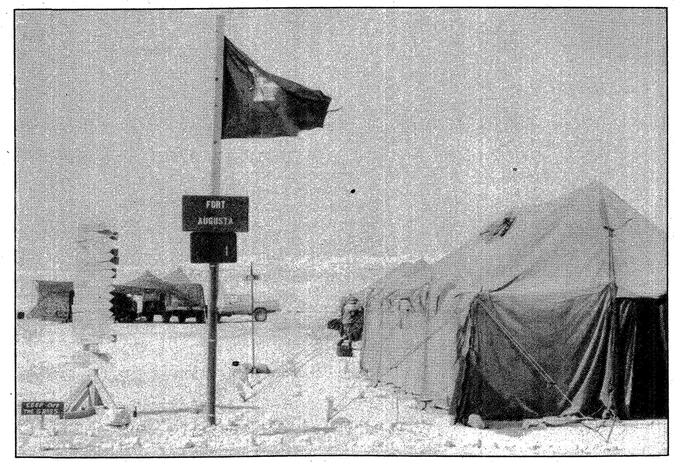


FAR FROM HOME, *the 878th erects a reminder of the distance.*



THE CO. B, 878TH *is spreading the asphalt for the K-span building to be used for storage on the airbase.*

MEMBERS OF CO. B, 878TH *try one of the local agricultural products — dates.*



IN THE SOUTHERN REGION, *the Co. B, 878th sets up its base camp in the middle of a sandy, flat desert.*

Leave it to the supply sergeant to befriend the local vendors

In the middle of a desert, far from what we know as civilization, the most important aspect of survival is supply.

The supply section of the 560th Engineer Battalion was prepared for anything. The group sent an advanced group of 24 soldiers and one of them, Sgt. Larry Easom, a supply sergeant for Company D, began to set up the supply system.

"We set up a schematic of the mil vans prior to coming so that we can find supplies easily," said Easom. "The only real problem we've had is obtaining ice, but everything is going pretty well."

The key to Easom's success, however, is dealing with the local people. Easom handles the rations, water, laundry, etc. and with great ease due to his rapport with the local vendors. While dropping off the laundry, Easom never refuses to have tea with the gentleman in charge of laundry.

Easom doesn't speak the language, but friendliness seems to communicate his intentions. "I've met some local people and some British people. I've made some good friends here," said Easom, who will spend a total of two months in the country.

Women in the desert

Female engineers say trek not a problem for them

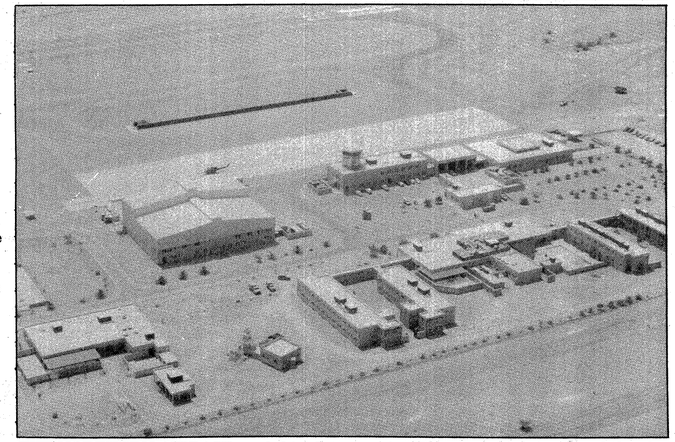
The women are veiled, rarely allowed to leave the home and restricted in most everything they do. But, the women in the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Augusta, are being treated just like their male co-workers.

These female soldiers are Georgia Army national Guard members and they are doing their annual training in the harsh desert conditions of Southwest Asia.

"We have not had any problems here. The people seem to be fairly liberated and they understand the role of the female in the Army," said Sgt. Paula Marlatt of 878th Headquarters, who has been in the country for two rotations — 36 days.

Only 10 females out of a group of 120 soldiers spent the month of July in the Middle East, but no problems have been reported. "I haven't been treated differently," said Sgt. Yvonne Grant, who works in communications for the company.

Grant said it has been a good experience. "This is my first time overseas. Overall, you can tough the weather out, but it really has made me appreciate home and America," she said.



THE NORTHERN AIRBASE *nestled in the mountains. The runway is being extended and two K-span buildings are being erected.*

Shots, pills, physicals, the 138th does it all

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

Medic. On the battlefield, the medic may be the difference between life and death.

"When a soldier is wounded, the combat medic's job is to stabilize and transport the soldier to another line of treatment, like the 138th Medical Co.," said Cadet Jennifer L. Splinter, a 138th medic.

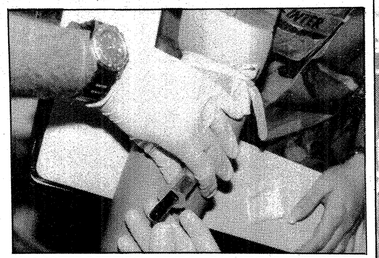
After the soldier's condition is stabilized, he's sent to a Medical company for up to 72 hours, then to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) and, usually within a week, to a rear area hospital.

"We are very mobile and can move within eight hours," said First Sgt. Marion Washington, a nurse at Grady Memorial Hospital's burn unit in Atlanta.

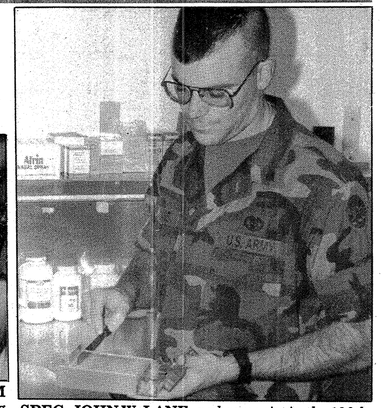
In addition to its wartime mission, the 138th performs other critical tasks. "On drill weekends we do physicals, regular training, provide medical support for units going to rifle ranges and we also do shot missions (updating shots at units)," Washington said.

While at Ft. Stewart for annual training, "we are doing something we have been asking to do for a number of years," said Capt. John E. Hughey, executive officer and acting commander.

"We are getting our basic medics some clinical training," explained Hughey, a police supervisor for the City of Atlanta. "We have about 60 people farmed out to different medical settings doing some hands-on training with active duty personnel."



A 138TH MEDIC, SPEC. JAMES J. PILGRIM III, *draws a blood sample from a patient during clinical training at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah.*



SPEC. JOHN W. LANE, *a pharmacist in the 138th Medical Co. and a mental health specialist in Dahlonega, carefully fills a prescription during sick call at Ft. Stewart. (Photos by Spec. Eric Johnson, 124th PAD)*

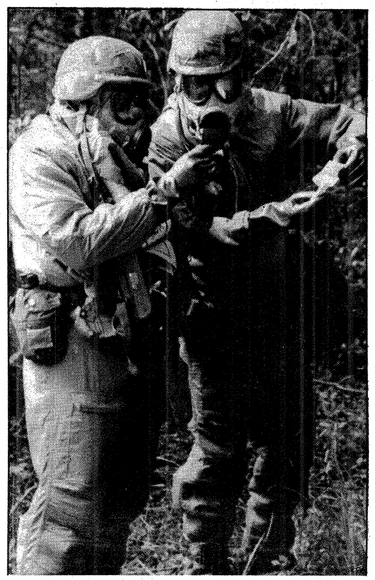
Besides hands-on training, members of the 138th run the National Guard Training Center dispensary every year during annual training. They take in heat injuries and other medical emergencies from the field and run morning sick call.

While the work may seem routine, there is something special about the unit, members say.

Spec. Donna D. Fuller of Lithonia, a licensed practical nurse, describes it. "The fact that we can all work together and as a family is what makes this unit special," she said.

"We don't make much money, so there has to be some form of enjoyment. Unconditional love and respect for others — that's what makes this unit special," said Spec. Thomas Lee Gibson, a medic who serves as an operating room technician at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Columbus.

Chemical warfair — the eight-minute difference



SGT. JIM ROSE *of Watkinsville and Sgt. Michael A. Reid of Athens try to determine the type of chemical threat they have encountered during a training exercise at Ft. Stewart. (Photo by Sgt. Mark Owens, 124th PAD)*

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

Eight minutes can be an eternity. Or, if you're trying to don chemical protective clothing, it passes in a flash.

"They have eight minutes to put on their top, bottom, boots and gloves," said Staff Sgt. Carlos A. Bradshaw of Athens, the nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) noncommissioned officer for Monroe's 178th Military Police Co.

During this year's annual training, the Monroe unit was evaluated on the effectiveness of its NBC program.

Bradshaw's role in the Army Training Evaluation Program (ARTEP) was to evaluate teams, like that consisting of Sgt. Michael A. Reid of Athens, Sgt. Jim Rose of Watkinsville, and Spec. Paul Hammes of Athens.

For one exercise, Sgt. First Class Keith Glass of Monroe, a platoon sergeant, gave the three-man team an operations order to find and mark a contaminated area near a bridge.

"They don't know what hazards they may encounter," Bradshaw said under his breath.

Suddenly the vehicle with the NBC team stopped. "You want to stop 100 to 150 meters before the contaminated area because of the weather, wind or rain," Rose told the evaluator.

"Because of the heat, go ahead and stop just before the bridge," Bradshaw told the team. "I know that you would have donned your MOPP (mission-oriented protective posture) gear here."

Just shy of the bridge, the team stopped to put on their protective clothing, thick, bulky suits with rubber gloves, boots and gas mask. Eight minutes is the maximum time allowed. "Then they have nine seconds to clear and seal the protective mask, with an extra six seconds to put the hood over," Bradshaw said.

Suited up, the team approached the bridge. Rose and Reid moved toward the water while Hammes stayed behind to provide security. "Through using the M8A1 (automatic chemical detector), they come upon the actual area of contamination," Bradshaw explained.

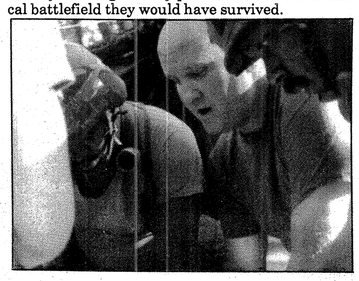
"At that time, they use the M256 kit to determine the type of chemical agent. They must determine the type of chemical, mark the boundaries and 50 meters beyond that for warning."

Rose checked his water sample. "I think it's a nerve agent," he said.

Rose and Reid then marked the contaminated area, carefully placing the date and time of the test.

After marking the area, passing the information back and decontaminating themselves, the team got the word.

They were right. They passed. And on the chemical battlefield they would have survived.



SGT. FIRST CLASS KEITH GLASS *of Monroe's 178th Military Police Co., gives an operation order to an NBC team going out to the field during a chemical-threat training exercise. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th PAD)*

AIR AMBULANCE

An Olympic role for one of Georgia Guard's new units?

By Spec. JOHNNY CAIN
124th PA Detachment

"A year and a half ago, there wasn't a stitch of clothing — nothing," says Capt. Tom Cobb, operations officer for one of the Georgia Army Guard's newest units, the 148th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance.)

By this fall, the unit is expected not only to have all its clothing and equipment, but to be mission-capable as well.

While conducting annual training this year at Ft. Stewart, the company has placed particular emphasis on training with night vision goggles.

"I've got 20 folks working at night to support the NVG (night vision goggles) qualification," said Maj. Greg Dunne, 148th company commander. "That's a significant opportunity."

The new company, which is headquartered at Marietta's Dobbins Air Force Base, has obtained the services of two nurses from Atlanta's 117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). The nurses are attached to the company indefinitely to conduct the 148th's ongoing cross-training program between medics and crew chiefs.

"We have our crew chiefs and medics paired up," said First Lt. Sherry Schacke, full-time director of specialty services at Athens Regional Medical Center. "We're doing cross-training on both sides. The crew chiefs have been very helpful about getting the medics up to speed, and the medics are working real hard with the crew chiefs."

"Basically we try to have fun when we're training. And I think that's important because each is pretty much overwhelmed with the other's job."

Like any helicopter unit, the 148th must maintain its aircraft. Initially, the company converted its fleet of UH-1H "Huey" choppers for medevac operations. Since the company's maintenance unit has carried the ball.

"The birds are holding up real well," said Sgt. First Class James Harrell, Aviation Unit Maintenance platoon sergeant. "Anything to do with the airframe, we repair."

The company took five of its 10 helicopters to annual training. According to Harrell, the 148th is scheduled to be outfitted with up to 15 aircraft.

After completing its short-term training goals, the 148th can be called on to support stateside medevac operations and could be utilized, if needed, to support the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

"We are training toward that goal," explained Dunne. "I would imagine that we would be called up to be placed on medevac stand-by at any one of the numbers of locations (where Olympic events may be held). Having 12-15 aircraft, we could support four or five different locations."

Formed on 1 October 1990, the 148th is now at about 95 percent strength.

MEMBERS OF THE 148TH *train to "down load" injured soldiers during annual training at Ft. Stewart's Wright Army Airfield. The unit also flew training missions to Ft. Stewart's Winn Army Community Hospital. (Photo by Spec. Johnny Cain, 124th PAD)*

'It's just like having a television set stuck to your forehead'

I see, said the (night) blind man.

With the Army's specially-designed night vision goggles (NVG) previously blind pilots can see.

"It's just like having a television set stuck on your forehead," said CWO2 Paul E. Wade, safety officer for Marietta's 148th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance).

Although the equipment is limited in the sense that the pilot loses some degree of depth perception, the goggles allow pilots to fly in some of the darkest conditions in the middle of the night.

"It's actually lots of fun to train with these things," Wade said. "And I'd say this training is every bit as important as the medical-related training we've been doing as pilots."

Night vision goggle training represents a significant requirement the recently-formed 148th must complete prior to becoming fully mission-capable.

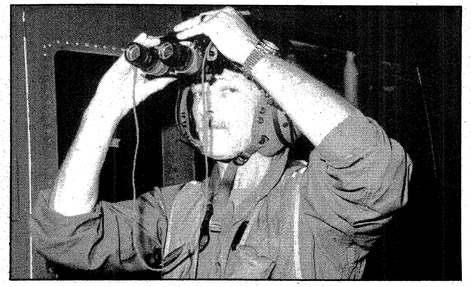
"We've platooned the trainees out separately," said Capt. Tom Cobb, operations officer. "They have to have a minimum of 10 hours of training. And we'd like them to have 14."

The goggles, which are mounted on the pilot's helmet, can be worn comfortably for about six to eight hours.

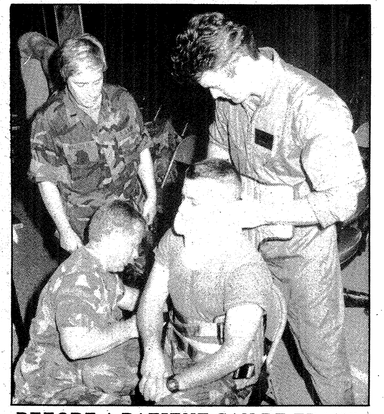
They present the viewer with an illuminated representation of daylight in darkness. Although the details may not be as sharp as during normal daylight, the viewer can see reasonably well.

"When you first put them on, you need some time to understand what you're looking at," said Wade, a training development manager for aircraft manufacturer McDonnel-Douglas Corp.

Since the 148th undoubtedly will be called upon to perform night medevacs "we can't afford to be without this training," Wade said.



VETERAN HELICOPTER PILOT CWO4 TUCK MIDDLEBROOK *attaches night vision goggles to his flight helmet prior to a night training mission at Ft. Stewart.*



BEFORE A PATIENT CAN BE TRANSPORTED *by air, proper bracing is essential. Sgt. Jason Armstrong (standing) and Staff Sgt. Phillip Dowdy practice on Second Lt. James Asher while First Lt. Linda McGahagan observes. McGahagan, a nurse on loan from the 117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, evaluates their medical techniques.*

A Bold Shift for 48th

By Spec. GREG HOLLEY
48th Brigade PAO

Fort Stewart, Ga. — The 48th brigade is back in action.

The brigade, which has not trained as a total element since its activation during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, is back with a new training focus.

It's called Operation Bold Shift. Derived from lessons learned from the conflict in the gulf, the new focus puts the emphasis on the individual soldier and small-team staff training rather than higher levels of operation at battalion or brigade levels.

One benefit: the 24th Division aids the brigade with instructors and other manpower, allowing the 48th's soldier to participate in the training, rather than all the technicalities involved in setting it up and making it happen.

"The real benefit outside of training to standard," said Brigadier Gen. James D. Davis, commander of the 48th Brigade, "is the watchful eyes and expertise of the 24th Division soldiers."

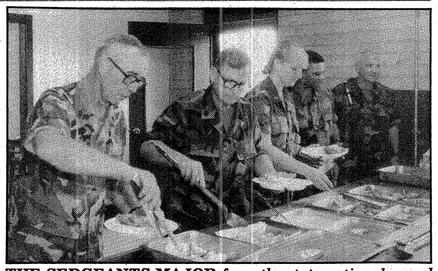
The brigade, which performed annual training on 15-29 August, spent the majority of its time in the field polishing skills such as land navigation, upkeep of tracked and wheeled vehicles, individual section operations and personal weapons qualification.

Many state and national dignitaries have had their eyes on the 48th and the success of its new style of training.

Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, praised the brigade, saying, "I am extremely impressed with these Georgians who give their time."

"We have a much less defined enemy than was in the past, said Major Gen. Paul E. Blackwell, commander of the 24th Infantry Division. "This causes us to have to be prepared to go to war in a come as you are army. It takes a special breed of person to take weekends and vacation time to go about training. The guardsman is truly a patriot."

"I'm confident I will bring back more troops alive if we have to go into combat due to our affiliation with this great division," said Davis.



THE SERGEANTS-MAJOR *from the state national guard and the 48th Brigade make their way through the lunch line of the cook school at Fort Stewart. The CSM's were observing training of guardsmen in August. From left to right are: Command Sgt. Major Billy Manning of the Georgia Army national Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Emmett Walker of the 48th Brigade and driver, Sgt. Leslie Kilchriss. (Photo by Pfc. Carlos A. Campos 124th PAD)*

5 top-ranking NCOs praise the shift

By Pfc. CARLOS A. CAMPOS
124th PA Detachment

Five command sergeants-major from the Active Army and Army national Guard toured the training areas of Operation Bold Shift at Fort Stewart in August, and praised the soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), as well as the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Command Sgt. Major George S. Blackwood of the National Guard Bureau, Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Manning of Georgia, Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Smith of Forces Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin D. Thomas of the 24th Infantry, and Command Sgt. Maj. Emmett Walker of the 48th Brigade, traveled together for three days, visiting soldiers training in the field and in schools.

All has positive comments. "I'm most impressed by the commitment both by the active Army and the National Guard," said Blackwood. "I'm convinced that Bold Shift will be a total success for the total Army."

Engineers spend AT piping water to tainted residential area

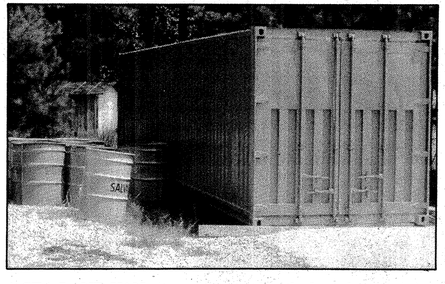
By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

Members from all the companies of the 560th Engineer Battalion joined forces with the Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority to help the residents of a rural Douglas County area called Basket Creek have clean water.

The neighborhood is on an old, illegal toxic waste site, whichcontaminated some of the wells in the area, according to Capt. Robert R. Resch, the officer in charge of the 26-man project.

The engineers spent two weeks of annual training on the project. "These people were selected to do this and the rest of their units went overseas," Resch said.

"WSA paid for the food, fuel, and lodging. Some of the food was donated by local churches and restaurants." Resch said.



A SEA-LAND VAN *sits waiting to ship the barrels containing contaminated soil to Indiana.*

The mission of the project is to bring clean, county water into the 16-family area, according to C. J. Nutter, department head for WSA, and a major in the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor.

"I'm glad they are getting it all together. It's been a long time," said Carolyn Brooks, a 19-year resident of the neighborhood. "We saw when they brought the barrels down here — but at that time we didn't think about contamination."

SGT. MICHAEL SMITH OF LAGRANGE, *a combat engineer in C Company, 560th Engineer Battalion, guides a section of water line. (Photos by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th Public Affairs Det.)*

THE 277TH AT RED RIVER

"They love getting greasy and turning wrenches"

By CECIL GREEN
Red River Army Depot PAO

TEXARKANA, TEXAS — For most members of Atlanta's 277th Maintenance Co., it was their first visit to Red River Army Depot — and the first time many of them had made it as far west as Texas, even 18 miles west of the state line in Texarkana.

"They're loving every minute of it," said Maj. Steven Blanton, commander of the 277th, as his unit neared the end of its two-week annual training in July.

The visiting guardsmen were spread out in shops and field sites throughout the depot, repairing and rebuilding Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M-113 armored personnel carriers.

They also tested engines and provided roadside service to keep convoys of the 25th Infantry Division rolling from Beaumont, Tex., to Fort Chaffee, Ark.

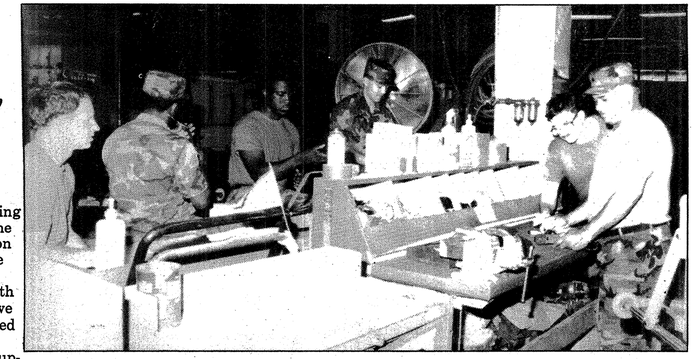
The 25th, based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, had shipped its vehicles to the Texas port for a large training exercise at Fort Chaffee. The 277th just happened to be on hand for any needed on-site maintenance.

While the cooperation with the 25th wasn't planned, "we were there when they needed our services," said CWO3 Ronald Allen, the 277th's support staff technician and training officer.

The 277th's mission is to provide intermediate direct support maintenance to Army units at theater level, where the mechanics and repairmen are likely to see both tracked and wheeled vehicles.

At Ft. Gillem, their home station, they work mostly on wheeled vehicles. At Red River, they worked on both.

"Our mechanics are really learning how each component in a Bradley or personnel carrier works to make up the whole vehicle," Allen said. "We're able to do a lot of cross-training. It's some of the best hands-on training we've run into."



SPECIALISTS FROM ATLANTA'S 277TH MAINTENANCE CO. *repair and fabricate electrical cables and other components at the Red River Army Depot. They are, left to right, Sgt. Jeff MacKim of Riverdale, Pfc. Ronald Deshazor of Atlanta, Spec. Deron Redden of Atlanta, Spec. Todd King of Atlanta, Spec. Robert Free of Heard County, and Sgt. Raymond Carrillo of Marietta.*

Quality training meant high morale, said the 277th commander. "Our soldiers' morale here this year is as high as I've ever seen it," Blanton said.

"The main reason their esprit is so good is that they love getting greasy and turning wrenches, especially when they can take a tough job and see it through to completion, as they're doing here.

We're getting great support, our soldiers are learning valuable skills, and I can't say enough about the hospitality and cooperation that have been shown us."

Red River employees vouched for the work done by the Georgia guardsmen.

"The soldiers working with us repaired and realigned about 10 RT-524 radio receiver/transmitters," said Paul Wilson, an electrical mechanic at Red River. "They did quality work on a very expensive piece of equipment."

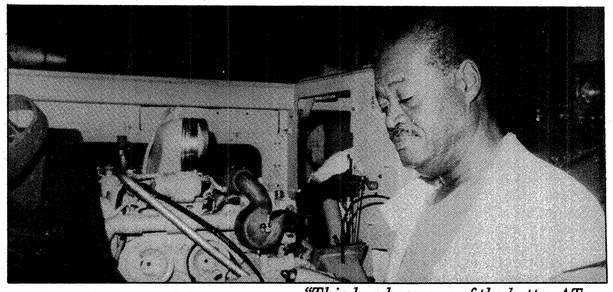
As part of their electronic work, members of the 277th cannibalized some radio units to identify usable parts, repaired some, and then repaired and fabricated different types of communication cable.

They then handled installation projects on Bradleys, M-113s, Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and Fire Integration Support Team Vehicles and they did it all with "excellent technical expertise, Wilson said.

In their own words . . .

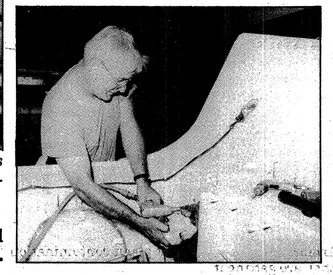
"Everything in my MOS is here on one floor, so there's more variety of work than I've ever had before. I'm getting to work with fuel systems that I don't normally see, so it's been good training."

—Sgt. John Roggow, fuel and electrical systems specialist.



"This has been one of the better ATs I've ever been on. I've had something to do every day, and I feel good about what I've done."

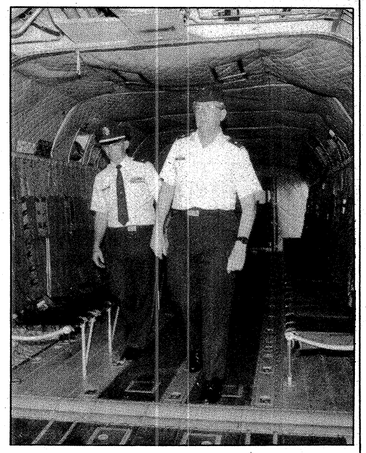
—Staff Sgt. Willie Ellison, mechanic.



"While I've been here, I've installed transmissions, shut-off valves, steering assemblies, flooring plates, steering sticks, gear selectors and other new parts in M-113s. I've gotten a lot of hands-on experience and I love it."

—Staff Sgt. Dewey Allen, track vehicle mechanic.

Photos by R.D. Tollet



Georgia unit first to get new Chinook

REPLACING THE AGING CH-54 SKYCRANE *in the background is the improved CH-47D Chinook, refitted by Boeing. Company G, 244th Aviation Regiment, based at Hunter Army Airfield, is the first military unit in the nation to receive the workhorse helicopters. The Chinooks were officially presented to the company during a ceremony recently at Hunter. Chinooks, like their gangly-looking predecessors, are used in heavy-lift combat support operations. The new models come equipped with high-tech equipment, such as flight-control system and cockpit equipped for night-vision goggles. In photo at right, Brig. Gen. William P. Bland, right, adjutant general of Georgia, tours the new aircraft with G Company commander Maj. William S. Smith. (Photos by Sgt. Jerry De Avila, 124th PAD)*

Air Guard rifle team shells competition; on to nationals

Brunswick team takes nine of 10 places in Catoosa

M-16 sharpshooters from Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Squadron are headed to Little Rock, Ark., to represent Georgia in October's Winston P. Wilson National Championship Match.

The Air Guard rifle team won the right to represent Georgia by winning its third straight state championship in matches conducted at the Catoosa Training Center in Ringgold. That event was open to all Army and Air National Guard units in Georgia.

The team has been competing for only three years.

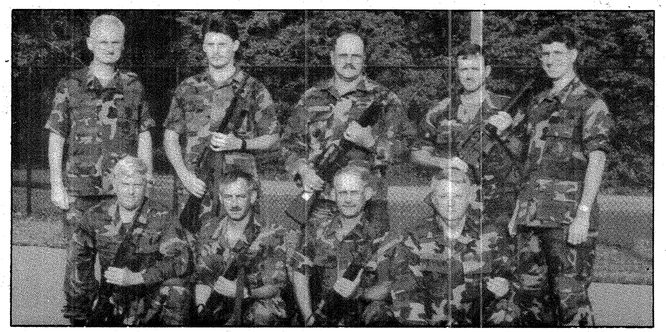
For the 224th, it was a blowout. The 10-member team took the first nine places in the individual event, one of two events during the weekend match.

Top shooter was MSgt Larry R. Tanner of Statesboro. Placing second was Senior Airman George H. Stinson of Atlanta and third was SSgt Raymond M. Ganas of Brunswick.

On Sunday, team competition took place. Top team scorers were Tanner, followed by Stinson and TSgt William J. Croms of Brunswick.

Major Donald N. Edmands Jr., the detachment commander, praised the team's achievement. "Team commander SSgt Jeffrey White provided outstanding leadership in preparing the 1992 team," he said. "We can't help but be proud of their accomplishment. They have shown tremendous initiative and discipline in putting together the championship team. Much of the time and money to support their team practices were borne by the individual members and not the unit. They exemplify the esprit de corps we see in all National Guard personnel."

In Little Rock, the Georgia team will be competing against teams from 54 states and territories as well as international teams.



1992 GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD STATE M-16 RIFLE CHAMPIONS. *FRONT ROW, l to r — Tech. Sgt. William J. Crooms, Staff Sgt. Raymond M. Ganas, Tech. Sgt. Jesse W. Davis, and Master Sgt. Larry R. Tanner; STANDING: Maj. Donald N. Edmands, Jr., Detachment Commander, Sr. Airman Walter L. Smith Jr, Tech. Sgt. Robert M. Waters, Master Sgt. Michael D. Chumley, and Lt. Col. Lester L. Preiss III, Commander. NOT AVAILABLE FOR PHOTO: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey B. White, Team Captain, of Jacksonville, Florida, Staff Sgt. Ottis J. May of Nashville, and Sr. Airman George H. Stinson, of Atlanta.*

Combat rifle shoot is a tough exercise

Success in combat rifle shooting is physically and mentally demanding.

Shooters have to run two miles in full combat gear to reach the firing line. Then they fire 10 rounds at 100 yards from the standing position, 20 rounds at 200 yards in the standing and sitting position, 10 rounds at 300 yards in the standing and prone positions and 22 rounds at 400 yards in the prone position.

"You've got to love shooting to put up with a two-mile run," said Tech. Sgt. Larry R. Tanner of Statesboro, a wildlife biologist. Tanner scored 213 out of a possible 250 points to become the individual match winner.

"It takes dieting and exercise," said Tech. Sgt. William Crooms of Brunswick. "If you don't cross the line within 25 minutes, you don't shoot."

STARC shooters bag prize

Capt. Harve T. Romaine and Sgt. Anthony Q. Bailey, both members of Headquarters STARC, were members of the rifle team that placed third in the Combined Team Championship Matches at the first Total Forces Composite Championships.

Competition took place at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark. The two are members of the Marksmanship Advisory Council (MAC) Region 3 team.

It's a Guard thing

Guardsmen help stage anti-drug retreat for kids

By Spec. ERIC D. JOHNSON
124th PA Detachment

The Georgia Army and Air National Guard are involved in the fight against drugs with a new community relations project.

America's PRIDE (Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education) is a private, non-profit organization whose goal is to educate young people on the influences of drugs and alcohol.

This joint effort is under the auspices of the National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction program.

MARGARET CRIBB, *right, an America's PRIDE group leader, helps Kelli Cowart, one of the members of her group, fill out an application for the talent show held on the last day of the retreat. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th Public Affairs Det.)*

The guard recently funded a retreat for middle school and high school students from all around Georgia, and one group from Virginia at the Air National Guard Training Center in Savannah, providing transportation, lodging, food, and facilities, according to Maj. Cynthia T. Islin, of the 116th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Dobbins Air Force Base.

"Capt. Bob Avery, a pilot, met with the head of America' PRIDE and developed an idea of how America's PRIDE and the National Guard could work together. Avery took it to Gen. Bland (the Adjutant General) and he liked the idea," said Islin. "Gen. Bland told me to arrange this."

"If it weren't for the support of the guard, not even half of the kids could have attended," said Lisa M. Ellsworth, National Youth Director for America's PRIDE.

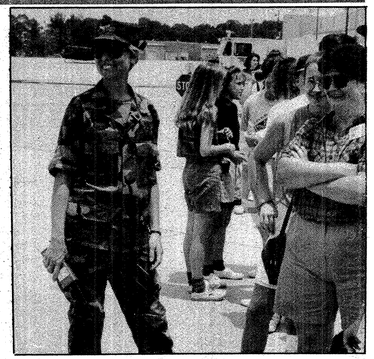
During the retreat, the kids learned songs and dances about living a drug-free life. "Last year, drugs were the second largest seller in the United States next to oil," Ellsworth said.

Tech. Sgt. Pamela J. Byrd, a medical specialist in the 129th Air Control Squadron in Kennesaw, arranged most of the retreat.

"In order to transport civilians, we had to get permission from the Guard Bureau," Byrd said. "Also, about 80 percent of the money allotted for the retreat was Army Guard money, so I had to work closely with the Army side to get everything working."

"I got the 131st Army Aviation unit from Alabama to cook for the kids during the retreat," said Byrd.

The guard sponsored a class on August 1 at Dobbins AFB and another on August 29 at Ft. Stewart for guard members interested in volunteering in the fight against drugs, according to Byrd. Also, the guard will try to sponsor one more retreat this year.



MAJ. CYNTHIA T. ISLIN *of the 116th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Dobbins AFB, watches the F-15 demonstration along with some of the participants in the America's PRIDE retreat at the Air National Guard Training Center in Savannah. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th PAD)*

THE STORY BOARD

The Army National Guard ... men and women trained to be their best — to protect our country and communities.

Americans committed to ideal of the citizen/soldier.

You'll find them in your neighborhood, raising families ... teaching children ... running businesses.

They're people like you an me. And they will always be here, serving, just as the Army National Guard has been for 350 years.

TV commercial shoots, using real-life Georgia Guardsmen

"Sure hanging out is fun — and easy, but when you decide it's time to get on with your life ..."

Join the National Guard.

As early as September, television viewers throughout the nation could be seeing commercials — or, as they are more appropriately known, public service announcements — that are made in Georgia.

The "actors" and "actresses" are all members of the Georgia Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade recruited to reflect the Guard's talent, good looks and diversity.

Or, at least, that's what the 65 or so participants would assert.

Georgia, and specifically the 48th, was selected "because the brigade is a top-notch unit and National Guard Bureau thought we should feature them," said Sgt. First Class Benjamin B. Livesay, the Georgia Guard's marketing NCO.

In addition to the Georgians, Apache helicopter crews from the South Carolina Guard and Blackhawk crews from the Texas Guard also participated.

After shooting at Ft. Stewart during the 48th's annual training, production crews moved to Newnan. Among the scenes shot there were a high school, families, and a nursing home. Final production was to be done in September in Atlanta.

Being shot are three different story-lines. The themes are mission, adventure and schooling. One, for example, opens with a young adult with a skateboard hanging out at the school yard.

"The best way to go from here (the school yard) to here (tanks, rappelling, adventure) is to go head on," the story line goes, "and not let anything stand in your way."

About 65-70 guardsmen, mostly from Thomaston, Newnan, Griffin and Jackson, were chosen to participate. Of those, about 30 will be given acting roles. Four tank crews and four Bradley crews will also be featured.

As is often the case, guardsmen participate for the glory and not for pay. The actors and actresses don't make Hollywood scales or even union wages. They're paid regular pay, same as usual.

Colonial battle continues for 250 years

By CW3 RICH ELWELL
Command Historian

In July 1742, Spanish forces sailed from St. Augustine, landing at St. Simon's Island. The Spanish fleet of 36 ships brought 2,000 troops under command of the Spanish governor of St. Augustine, Manuel de Montiano.

James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, assembled his regulars, the 650-man British 42nd Regiment, and mobilized his militia troops.

The Scot Highlanders came to the Island from nearby Darien. The colonial rangers and Creek, Yamacraw and Chickasaw Indian allies brought Oglethorpe's strength to 800.

On the morning of July 7, 1742, Georgia Rangers guarding the military road approach to the town of Frederica on St. Simon's sighted a force of over 100 Spanish soldiers. Oglethorpe quickly organized a force composed of the Highland Independent Company, Rangers and Indian allies and personally led the assault on the Spanish at a place on the Island named Gully Hole Creek.

The fighting was fierce and lasted an hour as the Georgia militia routed the invaders. The Spanish lost one-third of their force and all the officers were either killed or captured. Oglethorpe lost one man to heat exhaustion.

Later that day, additional Spanish troops were landed and a force of 200 elite Grenadiers prepared to cross an open marsh, which would become known as "Bloody Marsh." The Highlanders, Rangers, Indians, and a platoon of British regulars were waiting in ambush and opened fire on the column.

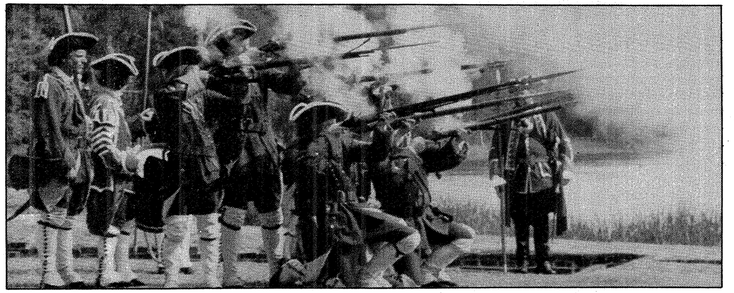
There was great confusion, smoke, and screams of the surprised and the wounded.

The Spanish could not see their adversary and failed to realize how much they outnumbered the ambushers.

After two hours of firing at the ghostly targets in the thick woods, the Spanish ran out of ammunition. Spanish losses were light, but with this second sound defeat in one day their will to fight was gone.

The Spanish withdrawal from St. Simon's began immediately after Bloody Marsh and Spain would never again attempt to take the English colony of Georgia, named after King George II.

It had been primarily the fighting skill and heart of Georgia militia that had won that hot July day in 1742. Georgia citizen-soldiers that followed the next two centuries would fight and maintain peace not only within our state, but around the world as well.



TROOPS FIRE MUSKETS *for the retreat ceremony at Saint Simons Island.*

All walks of life join in mock battles

By CW3 RICH ELWELL
Command Historian

What does a doctor from Brunswick and a high school student from Augusta have in common?

A love of military history and more specifically, the military history of the southern colonies, which includes Georgia.

Over 100 reenactors from all over the Southeast gathered to commemorate and reenact the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simon's Island 250 years after the actual battle. That battle was the first time that the Georgia militia — later to become the Georgia National Guard — mobilized to meet a threat to the country and state.

During a July weekend, lawyers, investment bankers, construction workers, and history professors donned the uniforms of those early militia and British regulars who drove Spanish invaders from Georgia shores in 1742.

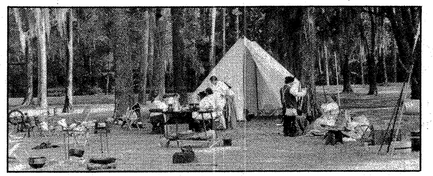
Units that fought at Bloody Marsh in 1742 included Gen. James Oglethorpe's Georgia Mounted Rangers (who became the Georgia Hussars and today is Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 214 Field Artillery Regiment in Savannah) and the British 42nd Regiment of Foot that Oglethorpe brought with him from London in 1733.

Oglethorpe knew the need for and value of trained militia, and when he settled Georgia in 1733, forming a militia was a priority. Oglethorpe also knew that to effectively defend the colonies against the native Indians and Spanish he must have woods-wise and unconventional fighters. Hence the formation of units such as Nobel Jones' Company of Marine Boatmen, the Georgia Coastal Rangers, and the Highland Mounted Rangers.

Modern reenactors (they prefer the title of historical interpretors) have adopted these units to study and portray as realistically as possible.

Bob Blanchard, a reenactor from Hastings, Florida, wears the green hunting crock of a Highland Ranger from western Georgia (which would have been Mississippi by today's geography). "These fellows were rugged individualists, and never did anything in formation or by the book", Blanchard said.

A SOLDIER MOVES *to another position to fire on the enemy.*



TROOPS TAKE A BREAK *for lunch at their camp on Saint Simons Island.*

Interested in history? Join Guard Society

Georgia National Guardsmen and Militia have fought in battles ranging from Bloody Marsh to Desert Storm. Now an organization devoted to preserving the heritage of Georgia's fighting forces is open to anyone interested in military history.

The Georgia National Guard and Militia Society, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1988, is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the Georgia Guard and its predecessor forces. Among the benefits of joining are an annual membership meeting and symposium and a quarterly journal.

Persons interested in more information or joining the Society may call Major Clint Perkins, at 404-624-6140, or write to: The Georgia National Guard and Militia Society, P.O. Box 17965, Atlanta, GA 30316-0965. An annual membership fee is $20.

In the *JOURNAL* of the National Guard and Militia Society members can read Georgia history which ranges from the little known "Battle of Griswoldville," and to rarely thought of Georgia Guard expedition to find Pancho Villa.

An annual membership and business meeting, usually held in the fall of the year, offers members the opportunity to view "living history" recreations, hear a number of papers on Georgia's military past, and most significantly, voice their opinion on the future of their Society.

Among the goals of the Society is the establishment of a museum; a reference library for scholars and members to research the past; and a series of original artwork commemorating the important events in the history of Georgia's militia forces.

A son's tribute

"His spirit is that of iron; his soul of a soft spring rain"

When General Blandford's younger son, Jeff, was told that his father had incurable cancer and that his remaining time was short, he immediately went to Charleston to personally tell his brother, Jay.

Upon hearing the news, Jay drove to the campus of The Citadel, parked his car, sat down under one of the great oaks on the parade ground within sight of Summerall Chapel where his parents had been married 33 years before and composed this poem to his father.

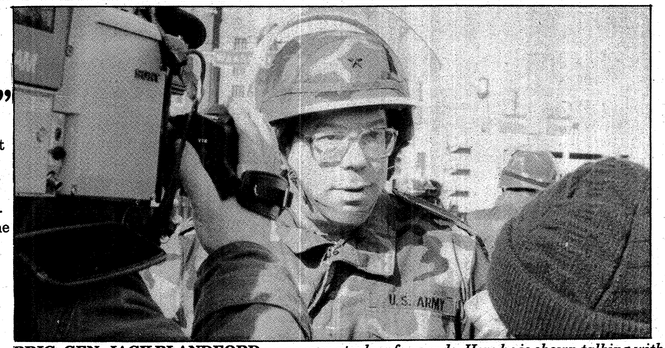
A poem by Jay Blandford

The bell tolls seven from Summerall Chapel
The wind lashing recklessly on a cool March eve,
Old oaks and palms bowing to its puissance.
Cadets stroll lazily from the Mess Hall, chatting and chuckling,
And the vast parade ground lies empty and still in the dusk,
Embraced by the massive monoliths of academics and discipline.

It is here that it all began — the rigorous molding of a man,
Where he studied and sweated, waltzed and wedded.
Where he saluted and marched, and broke barracks to The Ark.
Where his mischievous boyhood faded,
And his solvent manhood embarked.
It is here that countless memories lie —
At most we laugh; at some we must cry.

The Citadel harbors his essence
Where duty and honor, courage and chivalry abound,
A man of dignity and distinction, of merriment and mirth —
That he and Miss Drew could simply tango to the ends of the earth.

His spirit is that of iron, his soul of a soft spring rain,
His character seasoned like a robust vintage champagne.
So cheers to my father — my friend — General Jack Blandford,
A brilliant friend of Patton, and the Duke, John Wayne.



BRIG. GEN. JACK BLANDFORD *was never at a loss for words. Here he is shown talking with members of the news media during a civil disturbance in Atlanta in 1990. (Photo by 124th PAD)*

Brig. Gen. Jack Blandford dies at 54

Brig. Gen. John L. "Jack" Blandford, former commander of Decatur's Troop Command, died of cancer at his home in Chamblee on July 12. He was 54.

Blandford, a trial lawyer and judge of the Chamblee Municipal Court, had served in the Georgia Army National Guard for more than 30 years.

A native of Greenville, S.C., he was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Citadel in 1955. He transferred to the Georgia Army Guard in December 1960, and served in the 118th Field Artillery and the 179th Field Artillery until January 1968.

For the next 12 years, he served in the 122nd Rear Area Operations Center, and as commander of the 190th Military Police Co. and the 170th Military Police Battalion.

From November 1980 to April 1986, he served as commandant of the Georgia Military Academy.

His military honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (4th Award), the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2nd award) and the Army Service Medal.

A graduate of the John Marshall Law School, he was a senior partner in the Chamblee firm of Blandford & Werbin. He had been a Chamblee Municipal Court judge since 1970.

Survivors include his wife, Drew Harris Blandford, two sons, Jefferson B. Blandford of Lawrenceville and J. Lloyd Blandford II of Atlanta, his mother, two brothers and a sister.

Burial was in Arlington Memorial Park with full military honors.

On the loss of General Blandford

"Jack Blandford was one of the finest officers we had in the Georgia Guard. His loss, even in retirement, will be felt very deeply. He was a caring people-person and a highly respected commander and friend, a wise counselor and a truly dedicated Guardsman."

— Brig. Gen. William P. Bland
The Adjutant General

"He was a leader and a friend, a supporter and a task-master. He probably loved the Georgia Guard as much as any person who has ever been in it. He considered all soldiers his friends."

— Lt. Col. Richard H. Stokes
State Training Officer

"He was probably the best commander I ever served with. He was a close personal friend and a true mentor and I'm going to miss him."

— Lt. Col. Carroll L. Edge
OCS Commandant, GMI

"He was probably the best example of what an officer ought to be that I ever served under. He had the unique ability to provide strong leadership and maintain compassion for the soldier."

— Col. Thomas L. McCullough
Deputy Commander
Troop Command

AWARDS

LEGION OF MERIT
Col. David A. Otto, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Col. Cecil L. Pearce, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Col. Thomas R. Williams, Jr. HQ, 265 Engr Gp, Marietta

ARMY MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Lt. Col. Robert T. Baird, III, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Hershel B. Johnson, Co A, 1/108 AR, Rome

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
Maj. Douglas M. Brantley, Jr., Det 1, HQ, STARC, Decatur
Maj. Dale P. Foster, 148th FSB, Ft. Stewart
2nd Lt. Jacqualine D. Arnold, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Tech Sgt. William J. Croome, 224 JCSS
Staff Sgt. Elizabeth L. Deering, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Charles F. Hogan, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Tech. Sgt. Keith A. Graversen, 224 JCSS
Staff Sgt. Scott Reigel, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Cecil Brown, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Robert A. Dunaway, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Bayford C. Newman, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. Randy T. Bradley, 118th PSC, Atlanta

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Chief Warrant Officer Richard L. Nix, HQ, Troop Command, Decatur
Sgt. Maj. William Gotsan, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Mable M. Harvard, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Ulysses Sims, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Robin T. Worthy, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Master Sgt. James E. Vaughn, 283rd CCB, Savannah
Sgt. 1st Class Patricia A. Perry, HQ, STARC, Atlanta

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Col. David W. Gunn, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Lt. Col. Thomas W. Dalton, Jr., HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer John H. Edge, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer Thelmer S. Salter, 166th Maint. Co, Hinesville
Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur E. Leonors, HQ, 151st MI Bn, Robbins
Master Sgt. Jeff Dawkins, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Melvin E. Buford, Co C, 560th Engr Gp, LaGrange
Sgt. 1st Class Hershel B. Johnson, Co A, 1/108th Armor, Rome
Sgt. 1st Class Keith A. Rahn, 166th Maint. Co, Hinesville

AIR FORCE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Lt. Col. Sarah A. Henderson, 165th

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL
Capt. John R. Wiggins, 283 CCS
Master Sgt. Randall A. Greer, 224 JCSS
Master Sgt. John A. Johnson, Jr., 202 EIS
Tech. Sgt. Pryor A. Hattaway, 202 EIS

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Capt. George W. Gabbil, Jr. 129 TCS
Senior Master Sgt. Gary K. Sims, 129 TCS
Master Sgt. Gerald L. Dobson, 129 TCS
Tech Sgt. Donald A. Beck, 129 TCS
Tech Sgt. Johnny W. Champion, 129 TCS
Tech Sgt. Joseph H. Ely, Jr., 224 JCSS
Staff Sgt. Roger K. Atkinson, 129 TCS
Staff Sgt. David A. Nix, 129 TCS
Staff Sgt. Bennett J. Roy, 129 TCS

GEORGIA COMMENDATION MEDAL
Col. Richard T. Powers, FMO, FLANG
Lt. Col. Daniel R. Miller, 117th MASH, Atlanta
1st Lt. Kevin A. Kupperbusch, Co B, 1/108th AR, Cedartown
Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Alexander, 116 CAMS
Staff Sgt. Harvey L. Lovett, 116 CAMS
Staff Sgt. Ellis P. Cook, Co B, 148th FSB, Jackson
Staff Sgt. Richard H. McNair, 118 PSC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Ellel J. Rundle, 118 PSC, Atlanta
Master Sgt. George H. Freeman, 116 CAMS
Master Sgt. Wendell S. Gilason, 165 MSS
Tech Sgt. William C. Byrd, 202 EIS
Tech Sgt. Rufus O. Hendrix, 165 MSS
Tech. Sgt. Edward S. Tharpe, 165 MSS
Tech. Sgt. Patrick J. Walsh, 116 CAMS
Eleanor L. Dean, COS, Atlanta
Durwood McAlister, Atlanta Journal Atlanta
Linda Meadows, USPCO, Atlanta
John H. Owens, North GA College, Dahlonega
Bobby Pierson, Rome Police Department
Mike Simmons, Rome Police Department

GEORGIA DISTINCTIVE SERVICE MEDAL
Capt. Timothy D. Becton, HQ, 1/214th FA, Elberton
CW4 John H. Edge, HQ STARC, Atlanta
SrA Kimberly M. Williamson, 224 JCSS

GEORGIA MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Col. Lawrence L. Allen, Jr. 117th MASH, Atlanta
Col. Bobby S. Duncan, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Col. Simon J. Sheffield, Jr., HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Lt. Col. Charles T. Southerland, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Lt. Col. Richard H. Stokes, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Douglas M. Brantley, Det 1, HQ, STARC, Decatur
Maj. William T. Childers, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Charles E. Lott, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Maj. Gen. Barry B. McCaffrey, HQ, 48th Inf. Bde, Macon
Maj. Charles E. Thompson, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Capt. William L. Taylor, Jr., 117th MASH, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer Jack R. Henry, Det 2, HQ, STARC, Hinesville
Sgt. 1st Class John J. Cadwell, Jr., HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Arthur W. Crawford, Jr., 117th MASH, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Stephen W. Head, 178th MP Co, Monroe
Sgt. 1st Class Royce B. Derrisso, 1st Provisional Bn, Atlanta
Sgt. Noble W. Harris, 178th MP Co, Monroe
Sgt. James R. Hanson, 1/214th Field Artillery, Thomson
Sgt. Joseph P. Chapman, 178th MP Co, Monroe

DURWOOD McALLISTER, *left, and Brig. Gen. Al Holland present Atlanta Journal Achievement awards to Sgt. First Class Richard Watts, Staff Sgt. Mark Saxon and Spec. William Fortson.*

Journal Achievement Awards

Honor goes to MASH platoon sergeant

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

The Atlanta Journal began awarding the Reserve Component Achievement Award more than twenty years ago. This award recognizes outstanding enlisted personnel in both the Georgia Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. The categories include Pvt.1 through PFC, Spec. through Staff Sgt. and Sgt. First Class through Sgt. Maj.

At a recent ceremony in Atlanta, Ga., the 1991 senior award for the Georgia Army National Guard was presented to Sgt. First Class Richard C. Watts, Jr. of the 117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. The 21-year veteran is currently a platoon sergeant for surgical services with the unit. Watts spent nine years with the active component, eight years in the Army reserve and switched to the guard four years ago. "This move afforded me the opportunity to advance and exercise my leadership qualities said Watts.

"I am thoroughly satisfied with the 117th MASH. It has the right kind of management," said Watts. "And I really appreciate the opportunity to be recognized," he added.

The Indiana-born Watts is married to Archiette and they have a son named Eric and daughter, Lauren. In his civilian role, Watts is an instructor for Branell College in Decatur, Ga. and an emergency medical technician with DeKalb County.

Watts at some point in his life wants to teach graduate level in a seminary. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and is currently in the master's of divinity program at Emory University. In what little spare time he has, Watts enjoys mowing the grass, reading and quality time with his family.

The key to being successful in the military is to be sensitive to the specific needs of your younger troops, according to the soft-spoken Watts. "And never compromise your integrity," he added.

PT helps Monroe soldier win award

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

"This is what I do best," said Staff Sgt. Mark Saxon of his nine years in the Georgia Army National Guard.

Saxon is one of this year's recipients of the Atlanta Journal Army Reserve Component Achievement Award. This award is given every year to six citizen-soldiers — three each from the Army Guard and the Army Reserve.

Saxon is the training NCO for the 178th Military Police Company in Monroe. Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Smith, Readiness NCO for the 178th, nominated him for this award because of his exemplary performance as a soldier. He has won NCO of the Year at unit, battalion and major command levels. Upon entrance into the company in 1986, Saxon also won his battalion's physical training competition four consecutive years.

"Staff Sgt. Saxon has been a very positive role model for myself as well as other young soldiers in this unit," said Sgt. Andy Koundourakis, member of the 178th.

Saxon is also a member of the three-man M-60 machine gun state championship team. His team competed in Little Rock, Ark, recently for a national title. He holds the state title for the individual M-60 competition. This was Saxon's second trip to the Winston P. Wilson national competition.

Besides being an expert marksman, Saxon is quite a physical training (PT) buff. He recently attended advanced NCO training alongside active duty soldiers at Fort McClellan, Ala. He was the only National Guard member in his class of 49. He graduated third in his class and brought home the top PT award. "I felt obligated to excel," said Saxon. "We all know what the active component thinks about the guard. God, I like to compete against the active duty soldiers," he added.

Saxon has quite an active life outside the military as well. He and his wife, Marie, are the proud parents of a 10-month-old son named Mack. He also makes periodic appearances at various schools in the area to speak with students interested in the military.

Saxon, who was a criminal justice major at Georgia Southern University, says that he is ready to complete his degree now, and that the military has been instrumental in that decision. "I am able to retain so much more now, whereas, in college I couldn't," he said.

"I've been at my best in the military," said Saxon. "I'm very proud to be a member of this unit as well as the Georgia guard," he added.

Fortson: 'I try to do everything as best I can.'

By Pfc. CARLOS A. CAMPOS
124th PA Detachment

Spec. 4 William R. Fortson wasn't surprised to get a call from his National Guard armory in Elberton in late April.

After all, the violence from the Los Angeles riots had spread to the streets of downtown Atlanta, and Georgia Gov. Zell Miller had called up several units to help restore peace and order.

Fortson, an administrative specialist with Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, just figured his unit was one of those called up.

"My NCO said 'You ready to go?' and I said, 'Yeah,' Fortson said.

But the only place Fortson was going was to the Atlanta Journal Reserve Component Achievement Awards ceremony. He had just been informed he had won the award.

Only three guardsmen in the state are honored with the Journal Award. Fortson, who was recently promoted to Spec. won the award in the Pvt. 1 to Pfc. category.

At a June 7 ceremony, Fortson was presented a plaque for his outstanding achievements in the guard.

"I don't know what I did to get it, it was a surprise to me," Fortson, 19, said, from his home in Ila, near Athens.

But it probably wasn't a surprise to anyone else. Fortson was also honored last year with the Enlisted Member of the Year Award, both on a battalion and brigade level.

"I guest it's because I'm always on time. I'm never late for a drill," he said. "And anytime they call me, and need something, I'm always there. I guest I'm just an average soldier and I try to do everything as best I can and get it done."

Fortson, a 1991 high school graduate has plans to attend Athens Tech to study electrical engineering.

Valedictorian, new "louies" pinned during North Georgia commission ceremony

A Calhoun National Guardsman graduated number one in his class from North Georgia College in June, and was honored as co-valedictorian of his class.

Brenden D. Burke, a five-year member of Calhoun's 108th Armor, Georgia Army Guard, finished his four-year degree at North Georgia with a 4.0 grade point average.

Burke was commissioned as a first lieutenant upon graduation, and chose to serve in the active army.

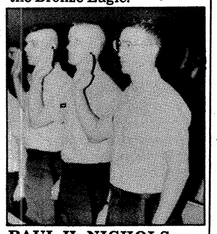
Burke and his two brothers, James and Steven, all served with the 48th Infantry Brigade last year in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

The Army National Guard also welcomed six new lieutenants on June 4 during commissioning ceremonies at North Georgia College.

Receiving commissions were James D. Asher III and Jeffrey Russell, Medical Services Corps; Timothy K. Gibson and Robert J. Stuart, Infantry; and Paul H. Nichols and Thomas Williams, Ordnance Corps.

Brig. Gen. William P. Bland Jr., the adjutant general of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard, made remarks at the ceremony, which marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

On May 18, Bland presented North Georgia College President Dr. John H. Owen, the Georgia Commendation Medal and the Bronze Eagle.



PAUL H. NICHOLS *prepares to be a new second lieutenant in the Georgia guard by taking an oath before receiving his bars at the North Georgia College commissioning ceremony in Dahlonega. (Photo by Spec. Eric D. Johnson, 124th Public Affairs Det.)*

Outstanding airman of the year

Sharon Page is first in state to earn honor

A 17-year veteran of the Georgia Air National Guard, Master Sgt. Sharon B. Page of Brunswick, has been selected for one of the most elite clubs in the U.S. Air Force.

She is one of a dozen airmen from the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard to be named "Outstanding Airmen of the Year."

Page is the first member of the Georgia Air National Guard to win the prestigious award.

"I am absolutely overwhelmed," said Page, a member of Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron. "Being selected Outstanding Airman for the Air Force caps the most exciting year of my life. It could not have happened without the support of my family and my unit."

In September, Page will join the 11 others to be honored by the Air Force Association at a banquet in Washington. She will also be serving on a council of enlisted members to make recommendations to senior Air Force commanders.

"Sergeant Page is going to have a full calendar for the next 12 months," said her squadron detachment commander, Maj. Donald N. Edmands Jr. "We are extremely proud of her."

At the Brunswick unit, Page is the full-time non-commissioned officer in charge of the electronic computer and switching systems maintenance section.

She was called to active duty during Operation Desert Storm to augment an element providing communications support to the U.S. Central Command in Saudi Arabia. She was awarded a Bronze Star for her service during the conflict.

The Outstanding Airmen award is presented annually by the Air Force Association and the U.S. Air Force to its most outstanding enlisted personnel worldwide.

Before being selected, Page had already been named Senior NCO of the Year for the Georgia Air Guard. She was also selected as one of eight Outstanding Airmen by the Air National Guard.

"This is a significant honor Sergeant Page has received," said Lt. Col. Lester L. Preiss III, commander of the 224th. "She competed against the best of the best in the Air Force and I'm very proud of her."

NCO of the year

178th has Georgia's top NCO

By Spec. MATTIE JONES
124th PA Detachment

Monroe's 178th Military Police Company is home away from home to one of the most dedicated soldiers in the Georgia Army National Guard.

In just three years Sgt. Andy Koundourakis has achieved a degree of success many guardsmen strive for throughout their entire careers.

He is NCO of the Year at company, battalion and state levels. He competed for and won the title of U.S. 2nd Army NCO of the Year. Koundourakis finished second in competition at bureau level in Washington.

Even more impressive is that last year he also won the title of Soldier of the Year at company, battalion and state levels.

Koundourakis competed for the title of U.S. 2nd Army Soldier of the Year in Atlanta. He didn't win at that level in 1991, but returned as an NCO in 1992 and came home a winner.

Things were temporarily put on hold for Koundourakis recently. He was scheduled to leave for Washington when his unit was called to state active duty during the recent violent protests in Atlanta following the Los Angeles riots.

At the time, he didn't know if he'd make it to compete. "My first priority is my unit," said Koundourakis. "Besides I wouldn't deserve any of the awards if I abandoned my unit when I was needed."

"My achievements are the product of a team effort. The 178th has consistently put out winners. We have another sergeant who won this title at every level possible in 1985," said Koundourakis. "It says a lot about a unit that can educate, train and motivate its soldiers to win honors such as these," he added.

"Andy's a great guy. Everybody likes him," said Spec. Marty English, a member of the 178th MP Company. "He's also very squared away and knows what he's talking about. That's why you like and respect him," English added.

He believes that the young soldier is the future of the guard, and has already started to give back what he felt he received from his NCOs — the drive to "be the best that you can be." He has begun to help young soldiers prepare for promotions and awards boards as well.

"You have to nurture that sense of pride that is often neglected, Koundourakis said. "Sgt. Koundourakis epitomizes what will become standard in family support. His wife, Karen helps prepare him for boards, travels for the Georgia Army National Guard. He is eager to learn, a team player, and has that extra 'umph' which will take him to the top," said Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Smith, his supervisor.

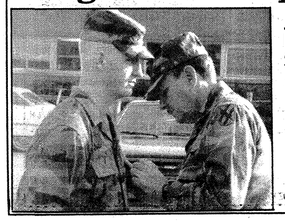
Koundourakis is a member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard and also believes very strongly to competition and even attends rep training with him. He has a degree in political science and Russian language and is currently working on a graduate degree in public administration with a concentration in finance.

"I know this has been a definite career move. To get me out now, they'd have to kick me out," said Koundourakis.

FULL FORCE — *Sgt. Andy Koundourakis advances as point man in a diamond formation with is unit, the 178th Military Police Company of Monroe, Georgia. (Photos by Spec. Mattie Jones, 124th Public Affairs Detachment)*

Soldier of the year

Brigade MP cops top prize



By Spec. GREG HOLLEY
48th Brigade PAO

Spec. Kelly L. Johnson of Macon, a pre-engineering student at Macon College, is thinking of making the Army a career.

If he does, he's likely to go far.

The 20-year-old military policeman, who serves in Headquarters Company, 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech) in Macon, has been selected as the Georgia Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

"Although Johnson has only been in my platoon for a little over a year, he has proven himself to be a class A soldier," said his platoon sergeant, Sergeant 1st Class Edward Adams. "He has been a definite asset to our unit."

Johnson was selected to represent Georgia after winning at company and brigade level. The competition consists of numerous categories, such as military presence, basic soldier skills, military courtesy, familiarity with weapons and other duties of the soldier. The competition is judged by top ranking NCOs.

"I was happy to be able to represent Headquarters Company," said Johnson, "and I felt it was my responsibility to be all I could be."

After he won the brigade competition, Johnson was presented a Georgia Commendation Medal.

The next step? "I think I would like to try Ranger school," he said. "I like the hard-core stuff."

Combat Fitness Test

More realistic measure of soldier's mettle

By Lt. Col. (P) ROBERT T. BAIRD III
Master Fitness Trainer

Despite an aggressive fitness program prior to mobilization, a young captain from a Georgia Army National Guard unit that deployed to the Persian Gulf said his soldiers still felt severe soreness in their legs during the early stages of deployment.

The lesson? Our present physical fitness methods did not fully prepare soldiers to do the things that must be done to fight.

Under combat conditions, soldiers were required to carry full magazines of ball ammunition on their load-bearing equipment (LBE) a full magazine in their weapon and two full canteens of water at all times.

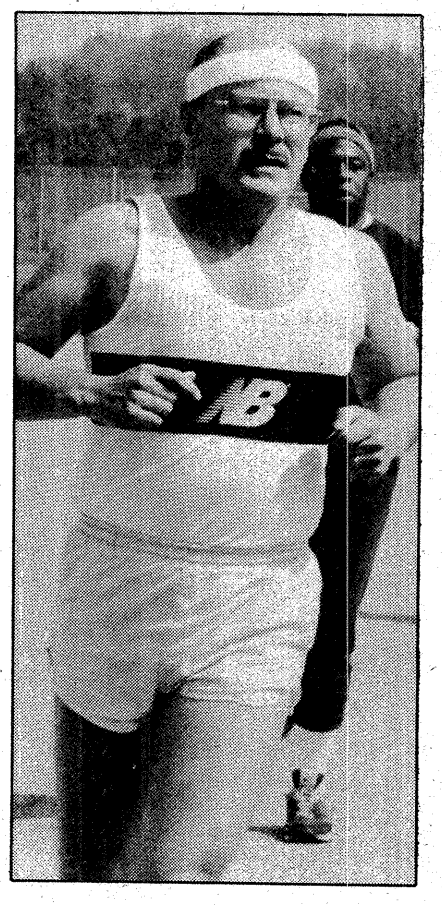
Ammunition and water are heavy. The soldiers simply were not accustomed to the load.

While the present Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) has served us well, there is a better, more efficient test.

It is a timed foot march carrying combat equipment.

The foot march has long been recognized as a military skill and an indicator of soldier fitness. The APFT is an athletic endeavor. It does not measure the ability of soldiers to perform their mission.

More useful would be a Combat Fitness Test. It would involve marching four kilometers wearing field uniform, helmet, LBE, protective mask and ruck sack. Maximum time of completion would be one hour.



The protective mask should be worn for a half kilometer of the course.

Every soldier should carry weight in the ruck and LBE equalling 30 percent of the soldier's weight.

The foot march with equipment is by no means a new measure to verify fitness. Most of the elite forces in the world, including the U.S. Army DELTA Force, incorporate similar approaches to screen prospective candidates.

The APFT is a good test that has yielded a combat-capable force. It has some flaws, however, and these flaws are amplified in the National Guard training environment.

Because of limited training time, we must train as we will fight. Soldiers must be prepared to perform military missions effectively after incurring great physical and mental stress.

The APFT does not measure the ability of soldiers to perform their mission during or after completion of the test. They shower and change into duty uniform.

Too, it's costly, difficult to manage, and not equitable to reserve component soldiers. Guardsmen must purchase shoes, for example, out of their own pockets.

The cost of over-40 screening, necessary to train for the APFT, is high. Minor sprains, aches and other injuries brought on by a sporadic exercise program also are costly in training time lost.

Most speculation about the Army of the future envisions a lean and agile force capable of rapid deployment. That scenario, coupled with the experiences of the Gulf War, leads to the proposition that units must be prepared to adapt quickly to changes in mission, lack of organic transportation, and a requirement to move great distances on short notice.

The Combat Fitness Test, and not the APFT, is the way to train.

Preparation vital for marathons

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Information Service

The first man to run a marathon died from it.

The messenger Pheidippides keeled over after running from Marathon to Athens and announcing the Greek victory over the Persians in 490 B.C.

The bad name he gave the sport has lasted: Many people think marathoners are crazy.

But hundreds of thousands of Americans have taken to the sport. The military — which, of course, stresses physical fitness — has been in the vanguard. The Army sponsors a 10-mile race in Washington each October.

For those who would consider long-distance running, preparation is essential. "You don't wake up one morning and go out and decide to run a marathon," said Dr. David Brody, an orthopedic surgeon who founded the Washington (D.C.) Runners Clinic of George Washington University Hospital.

Brody says those who wish to run a marathon should start preparing a year in advance. They should be running 15 to 20 miles per week.

About three months before the marathon, runners should bring their weekly mileage up to 45 miles. He recommends five running days per week.

Mileage should not be divided evenly each day, but with intermittent long runs. "The body has to get used to longer runs," he says. "Runners should start with a long run of eight to 10 miles and build up to a 20-mile run one month before the marathon."

Brody strongly advocates a good stretching program and weight training. "Stretching is essential," he says. "The muscles on the calf, back of the thigh and lower back get stiff running. Stretching alleviates this."

Runners should stretch before running, just after running and another time during the day unrelated to the run.

Weight training is important, too. Research shows that it's especially helpful to get runners through the last six miles of the marathon. Brody recommends training with weights on the two off days per week.

Runners need also to get accustomed to drinking water while they run.

Diet is important, too. Brody says to avoid fad diets and concentrate on complex carbohydrates such as pasta, potatoes and bananas. They produce glycogen, a sugar they body uses best when running.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Dealing with downsizing

You pick up a newspaper and it's there.

You listen to the news and it's there.

Everyone is talking about it — downsizing of the military.

For some members of the Georgia Army National Guard, downsizing is very much a reality. Their units are going away, being deactivated.

For others, the effect of downsizing is unknown. Rumors abound, but getting the facts is often difficult and what is true today may not be tomorrow.

Whether you are a victim of downsizing or, like everyone else, a potential victim, here are some suggestions for dealing with the stress that uncertainty causes:

- Don't waste your energy on things that you can't change. Focus on those things that you can do, like writing to your elected officials to make your views known.
- Talk over your concerns with friends or family. Don't keep your anxieties bottled up inside.
- Find a favorite place to escape to whenever possible. Some find meditation helpful.
- Participate in some enjoyable leisure activities, maybe exercise, fishing or listening to music.

There's a cheap booklet available for help in dealing with stress. It's available for 30-cents from the National Mental Health Association, 1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, Va., 22314-2971. It's called "Stress: A Fact of Life."

One possible symptom of emotional stress may be canker sores. Although doctors don't actually know that they're linked, they believe the sores may be related to stress, gum injuries and to certain foods.

If you are prone to canker sores, it is recommended that you avoid eating a lot of sugar, as well as nuts, chocolate and acidic foods like grapes and citrus fruits.

While the canker sore is healing, you may find some relief by sucking medicated lozenges or antacid tablets to decrease the acidity of your mouth. Gargling with mouthwash may help relieve the pain. An over-the-counter ointment, Zilactin, may also provide relief, according to the Health Newsletter.

Compiled by Lt. Col. Laura Strange, chief nurse, Georgia Army National Guard.

Kevlar helmet's design caused some headaches

As many as 500 unnecessary headaches might have been avoided had units stressed accident reporting. That's the word from the U.S. Army Safety Center at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

When the Kevlar helmet replaced the old steel pot, airborne soldiers faced a new danger from head injuries, but the Safety Center didn't know it for five years.

That's how long it took to identify a weakness in the helmet's design, because not all head injuries were reported. The helmet is now being modified, but a lot of headaches might have been avoided had the problem been identified and corrected sooner.