

page 1 - Georgia Units Deploy to Saudi.
48th's call-up rounds out mobilization.

page 2 - GA, GUARD UNITS MOBILIZED FOR 'DESERT SHIELD'.

page 3 - WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

page 4 -

- TANKERS (1/108) ready to serve their country.
- Dublin Guardsmen (1/121) EXPECTED CALL-UP.
- GAANG REPORTS FOR DUTY.

page 5 - FAMILY ASSISTANCE/SUPPORT CENTERS SOLVE PROBLEMS

page 6 - WAYCROSS, POGO'S HOMETOWN, SWAMPS TROOPS WITH AFFECTION
(1/230)

page 7 - 148th FSB MOBILIZES.

page 8/9 - FARE THEE WELL: Soldiers receive grand send-off.

page 10 - Women Fill vital roles (highlights some female Guard members).

- AS MOBILIZATION LOOMS.
- GUARD WIVES TAKE UP SLACK.

page 11 - Vietnam vets support comrades.

- Does saying 'good-bye' get any easier?

page 12 - Retiring 1stSGT, Millard Joiner, of "C", 1/121. "Retiring 1SGT GOES HOME; HIS OLD COMPANY GOES AWAY".

- MOBILIZATION CHANGES LIVES.

page 13 -

- MEN of 'The Cloth' ARRIVE TO HELP.
- OVER 200 CORRECTIONS OFFICERS MOBILIZED.
- 48th's call-up continued from page 1.

page 14 - FAMILY SUPPORT

- LOVE FINDS A WAY; GUARDSMAN MARRIES IN ARMORY.

page 15 - GUARDSMEN'S letters (190th MP) describe desert duty.

- WAYCROSS gives 1/230th patriotic send-off.

page 16 - Scenes from MOBILIZATION.

Georgia Units Deploy to Saudi!

By Kenneth Davis,
Editor

As of December 19, three Georgia Army Guard units and a portion of an Air Guard unit have been deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield.

The Army Guard units presently deployed are the 190th Military Police (MP) Company of Atlanta, the 1148th Transportation Company of Augusta and the 165th Heavy Maintenance Company of Savannah. The Air Guard unit that has sent members to the area is the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron of Brunswick.

On September 17, Augusta's 1148th Transportation

Company, with an authorized strength of 164, and Atlanta's 190th Military Police Company, with an authorized strength of 163, was mobilized October 11.

The 190th MP Company left Fort Gordon, October 18, enroute to Saudi Arabia. The company provides Military Police support in an area of operations. Their equipment includes High-Mobility, Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), the Army's latest "jeep-like" transportation.

The 1148th Transportation Company deployed from Fort Gordon, November 5, for duty in Saudi Arabia. The 1148th provides transportation for the movement of bulk petroleum products. Its primary equipment consists of tractors with 5,000-gallon trailers.

The 165th Heavy Maintenance Supply Company deployed for Saudi Arabia from Hunter Army Air Field near Savannah, November 12. The unit's mission is to receive, store, maintain, and issue all types of self-propelled, towed, wheeled and tracked equipment.

Twelve members of the Georgia Air National Guard's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron of Brunswick were mobilized December 3 and reported to their mobilization station December 5 in Rhode Island, enroute to Saudi Arabia. The unit provides long-range communications support for air and ground forces.

To date, approximately 500 Georgia National Guard members are stationed in Saudi Arabia.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

Vol. 10 No. 4

SPECIAL MOBILIZATION ISSUE Published by the 124th Public Affairs Detachment

Winter 1990

INSIDE

Guard mobilization largest since WWII . . .

As the 48th Infantry Brigade assembled for a long, emotional convoy across Georgia, thousands lined the roadways from Calhoun to Valdosta, to lend their support. With the callup of the brigade, it rivals the Guard's mobilization during the early days of World War II. This special issue of the Georgia Guardsman documents this modern mobilization.

Cover Story

Communities open arms to departing troops . . .

In Macon, Waycross and other communities which were losing Guardsmen to the mobilization of the units of the 48th Brigade, wives formed support groups, churches held prayer vigils and chambers of commerce read proclamations.

Pages 6, 8, 9 & 15

Vietnam veterans say experience may help save lives . . .

Many Guardsmen served in Vietnam and are ready, willing and able to serve in the Middle East, if necessary. Their experience, they say, is a valuable asset to the National Guard in its mission.

Page 11

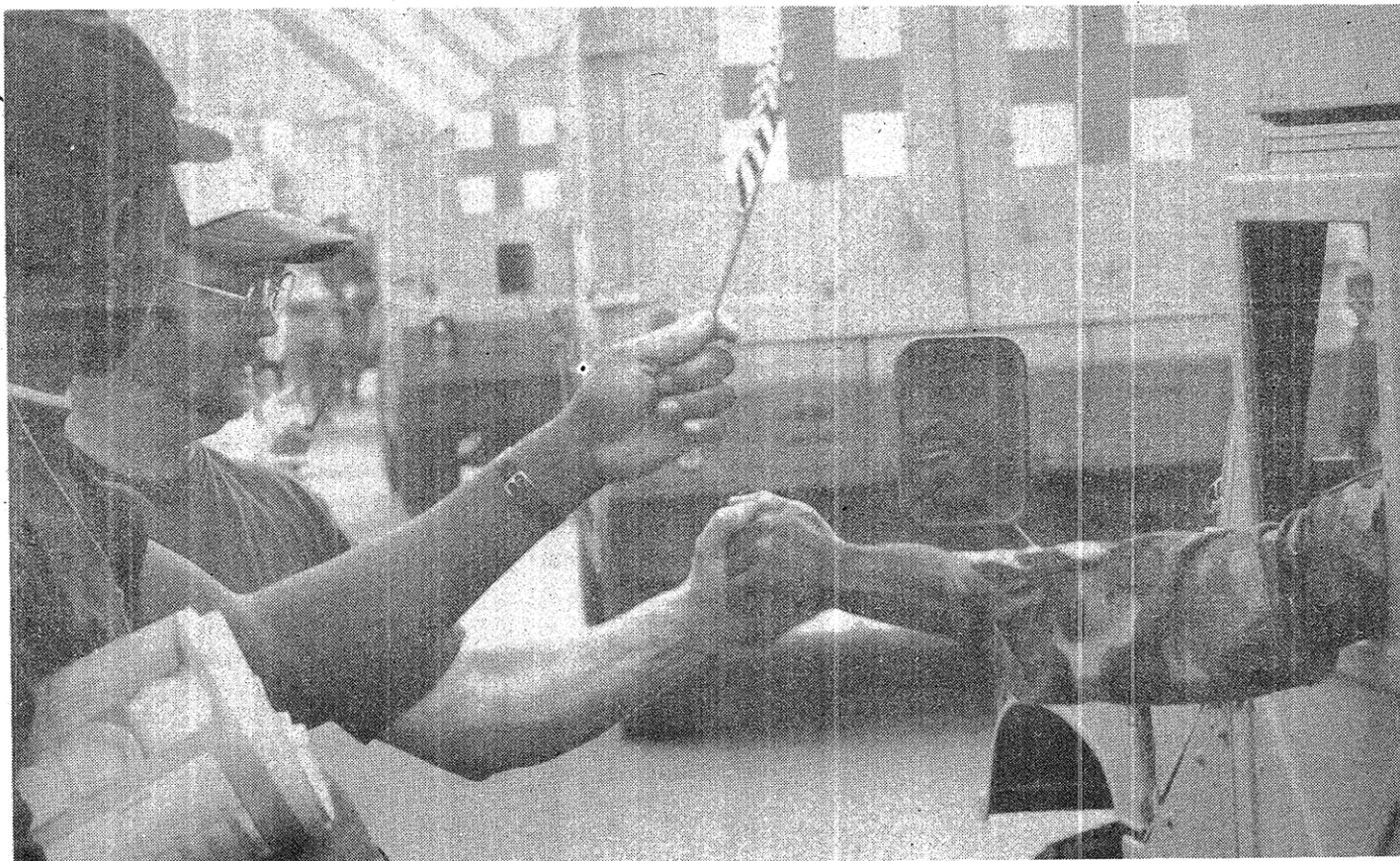
Women in Guard juggle two lives . . .

From Rabun Gap to Tybee Light, women Guard members from all walks of life have answered the call to duty.

Page 7

Georgia National Guard list . . .

Page 2



"WE'RE BEHIND YOU ALL THE WAY" - A brief handshake between an unidentified Guardsman and a well-wisher during an emotional send-off parade in Macon seems to say exactly that. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, 124th PAD)

48th's call-up rounds out mobilization

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

Members of the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), part of the largest National Guard call-up since World War II, bid tearful farewells to friends and family members to begin a tough, demanding tour as full-time soldiers who may be deployed to Saudi Arabia.

"We're soldiers now," said Capt. Paul Joiner, commander of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry of Albany. "It's going to be tough for all of us. . .but we're soldiers and we've got

a mission to prepare to go to war. I know whatever mission we're assigned, we'll do it with pride."

The citizen-soldiers gave up jobs as police officers, store clerks, prison guards and accountants to answer the President's call for thousands of Reserve and National Guard troops to augment the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have been in Saudi Arabia since August to deter further aggression from Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

The 48th Brigade, a roundout brigade for Fort Stewart's 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), has 4,200 members who drill at 43 armories in 36

Georgia communities. Some Guard members were disappointed when the 24th was deployed in August without the 48th. Both units have trained together for years and as recently as July, soldiers and Guardsmen trained together in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Congress recently approved legislation that allows the President to call up Guard and Reserve combat units for up to a year.

The 48th will spend about four weeks at Fort Stewart, getting shots, filling out

See 48th's call-up page 13

Remarks . . .

The following is a sampling of editorial comments from newspapers across Georgia, written about the deployment of National Guard soldiers to Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart, Fort Drum, NY, Fort Irwin, CA and the Middle East:

The Waycross Journal -Herald

The Pentagon's decision to call up the 48th Brigade brings the American presence in Saudi Arabia very close to home. Numbers of Waycrossans (left) for Fort Stewart, not knowing when they will see their wives, girlfriends, children and other family members again.

They could well find themselves in Saudi Arabia by January for an all out offensive against Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

We're hopeful that it doesn't come to that. We wish the 230th Field Artillery and the 48th Brigade well as they travel. We want each of you to return home safely if you have to go to the Middle East to fight.

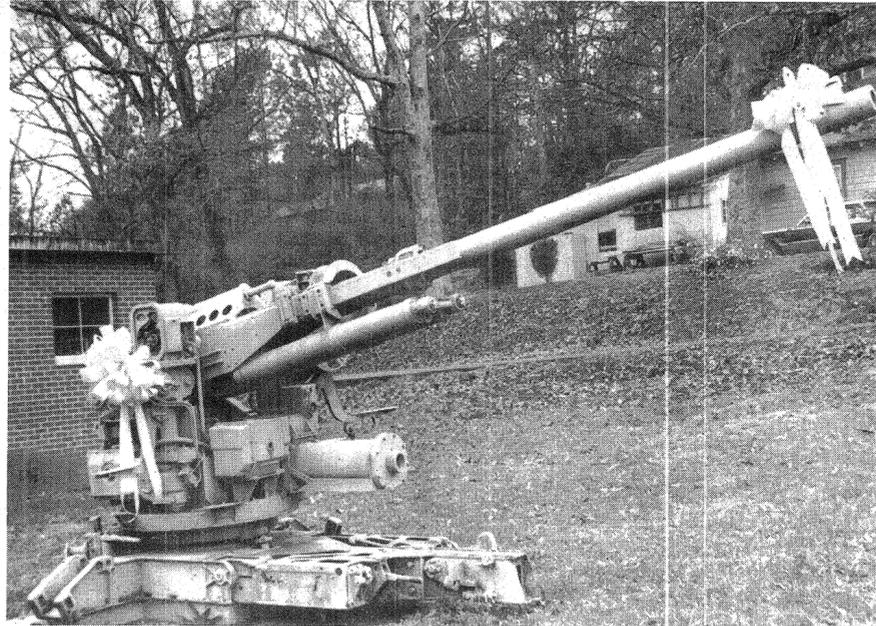
May God bless and protect each of you.

The Valdosta Daily Times

These Guard members are our neighbors, our colleagues at work, our friends. We wish them well and pray for their safe return. As they serve our country, we want them to know we are behind them 100 percent.

The Peachtree Fort Valley State College Student Newspaper

Hopefully, you have asked yourself what you, as an individual, can do to support our troops. During this holiday season, let's remember these soldiers and their families in prayer. Show your support by displaying yellow ribbons on your automobiles and flags at your home.



Georgia Guard Units Mobilized for 'Desert Shield'

190th Military Police Co*	Atlanta	HQ, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor	Calhoun
		Co D, 1/108th	Canton
1148th Transportation Co*	Augusta	Co B, 1/108th	Cedartown
		Co C, 1/108th	Dalton
165th Heavy Maintenance Supply Co*	Savannah	Det 1, HC, 1/108th	Douglasville
		Co A, 1/108th	Rome
224th Joint Communications Support Squadron	Brunswick	HQ 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry	Dublin
		Co C, 1/121st	Eastman
HQ, 265th Engineer Group*	Marietta	Co E, 1/121st	Eatonton
		Co A, 1/121st	Fitzgerald
111th Tactical Air Control Party Flight	Brunswick	Det 1, Co D, 121st	Hawkinsville
		Det 1, HC, 1/121st	Milledgeville
848th Engineer Co	Douglas	Co D, 1/121st	Perry
Troop E, 348th Cavalry	Griffin	Co B, 1/121st	Thomaston
Det 1, 48th Brigade	Hawkinsville		
HQ, 48th Brigade	Macon	HQ, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry	Albany
HC, 48th Brigade	Macon	Co C, 2/121st	Americus
Det 1, Troop E, 348th Cav	Newnan	Co B, 2/121st	Cordele
		Co D, 2/121st	Moultrie
HQ, 148th Forward Support Battalion	Forsyth	Det 1, Co D, 2/121st	Quitman
Det 1, Co B, 148th	Forsyth	Co E, 2/121st	Tifton
Co B, 148th	Jackson	Det 1, HC, 2/121st	Tifton
Co C, 148th	Macon	Co A, 2/121st	Valdosta
Det 2, Co B, 148th	Metter		
Co A, 148th	Sparta		
Det 1, Battery B, 1/230th Field Artillery	Baxley	138th Medical Co	Atlanta
Service Battery, 1/230th	Brunswick	122nd Rear Area Operations Center	Lawrenceville
Battery A, 1/230th	Brunswick	166th Maintenance Co	Hinesville
Det 1, Battery C, 1/230th	Jesup	Det 1, 166th Maintenance Co	Glennville
Det 1, HB, 1/230th	Macon	202nd Explosive Ordinance Disposal Det	Atlanta
Battery B, 1/230th	Reidsville		
Battery C, 1/230th	Savannah		
HQ Battery, 1/230th	Waycross		
HQ, 1/230th	Waycross		

* Units on duty in Saudi Arabia as of December 19, 1990.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

The Georgia Guardsman is an official quarterly publication of the Military Division, Georgia Department of Defense, under the provisions of AR 360-81 and AFR 6-1. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of any state or federal government agency. This newspaper is published by the Georgia Department of Defense with the editorial assistance of the 124th Public Affairs Detachment, Major Jim Driscoll, commanding.

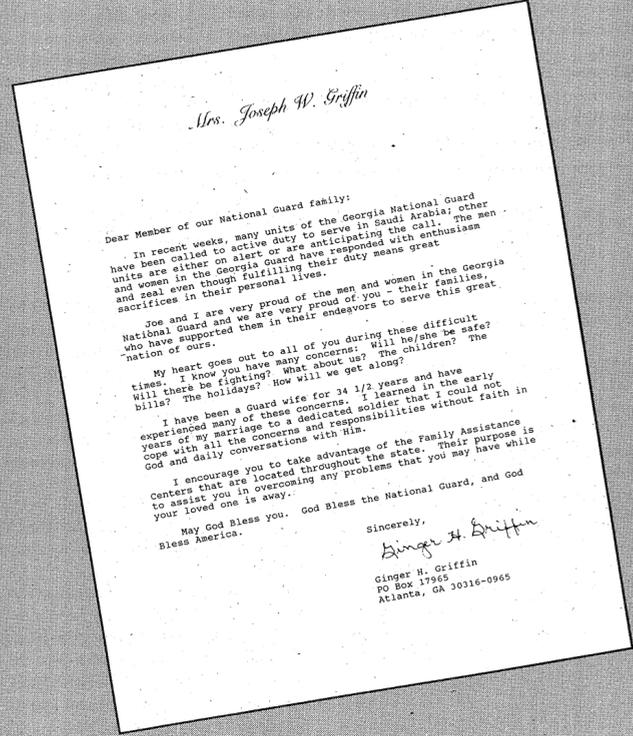
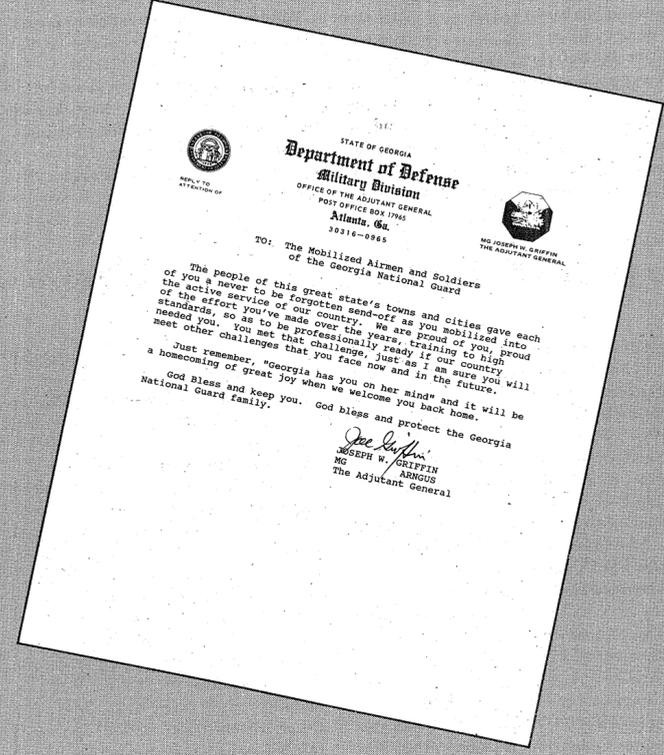
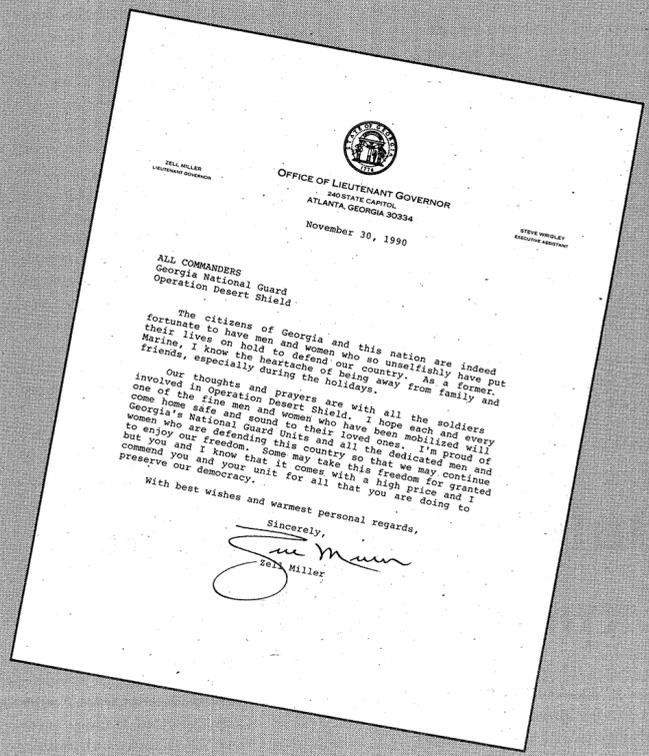
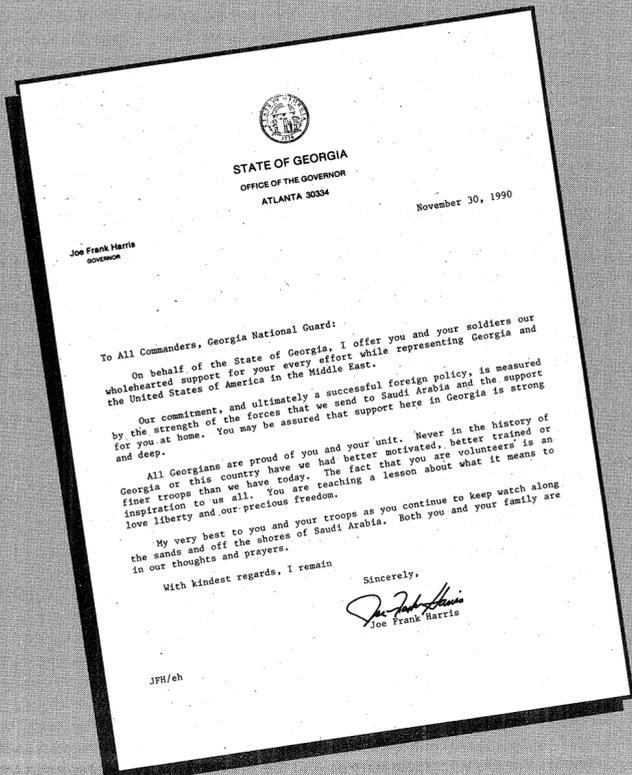
- Georgia Commander-in-Chief.....Gov. Joe Frank Harris
- Georgia Adjutant General.....Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin
- Director, Public Affairs.....Col. (Ret.) Harry A. Heath
- Public Affairs Officer, GaARNG.....Lt. Col. James Wooten
- Public Affairs Officer, GaANG.....Capt. Ken Baldowski
- Coordinator, Public Affairs.....B. I. Diamond
- Editor.....Kenneth Davis
- Editorial Assistant.....Delores Thomas

124th Public Affairs Detachment

Capt. Alan Fecteau, Capt. Jack Womack, Capt. Wince Kenitzer, Master Sgt. Randy Garrett, Staff Sgt. Gene Crowder, Staff Sgt. Toby Moore, Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, Sgt. 1st Class Willis Mitchell, Spec. Jerry DeAvila, Spec. Kimberly Feldhaus, Spec. Emory Minor, Spec. Mattie Jones, Spec. Johnny Cain, Spec. Mark Owens, Spec. Stephanie Frank, Spec. William Schmieder, Spec. Michael Hubbard, PFC Eric Johnson.

Correspondence should be addressed to: Public Affairs Office CA DOD, P.O. Box 17965, Atlanta, Ga. 30316-0965, Phone (404) 624-6060 or Autovon 338-6060.

Words of Encouragement



Tankers 'ready to serve their country'

By Spec. Mark Owens,
124th Public Affairs Department

CALHOUN, Ga. -- "Good morning gentlemen, and welcome to the United States Army." This was the greeting members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor received from their company commander, Capt. Joe Harrison, Nov. 30.

The Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, of which the armor battalion is a part, recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its mobilization for World War II. Now, the brigade is once again being called upon to support active duty elements of the Army.

Almost 600 members of the armor battalion, headquartered in Calhoun, gathered at armories spread around North Georgia to answer the call of Uncle Sam. At battalion headquarters, relatives of the men said emotional farewells to their loved ones.

This was a scene repeated at Company A in Rome, Company B in Cedartown, Company C in Dalton, Company D in Canton and Detachment 1, Headquarters Company, in Douglasville. Neither the soldiers nor their families knew exactly what was in store for them, or where they might be the next day.

The first morning of their activation was spent in briefings. These were the same briefings they had received annually for years, but this time they were real. No more hypothetical topics. The men were briefed on the code of conduct, physical security, job re-employment rights and other topics of concern.

After the briefings, the men began to prepare for the trip to Fort Stewart. They packed their duffel bags, inventoried unit equipment, performed preventive maintenance and loaded trucks. This was the order of the day until they finally got on the road, the morning of Dec 3. At this point the third phase of the mobilization had begun. The entire battalion convoyed to Fort Stewart to

begin their active duty careers.

The soldiers weren't the only ones who had things to do in preparation for departure, their dependents had to attend family assistance briefings. During these briefings, family members were assured that they were not going to be left out in the cold during the soldiers' absence. There were people to help them with problems that would arise during the mobilization.

At one of the briefings, Cathy O'Rourke, wife of 108th Battalion commander Dale O'Rourke said, "I'm in the same boat as you are. If there are problems, contact me and I will check it out. I have Brig. Gen. William McDaniel's and Maj. Gen. Joseph Griffin's telephone numbers and I know them personally. I have no qualms about calling them if something is wrong. I'm going to make sure families are well taken care of."

Throughout the communities where the battalion has units there was enormous support. Many local restaurants

donated free food to soldiers and their families, parades were held in honor of the departing soldiers and banners and yellow ribbons were seen everywhere.

This was not lost on the men of the unit. "The support has been tremendous," said 2nd Lt. Paul Palmgren of Company C in Dalton. "They've come by and decorated the armory for us. It helps the morale of the troops. Morale is good." They were very appreciative and more confident that their families would be taken care of while they were gone.

Although most members of the battalion were sad about leaving home, they were ready to serve their country and do whatever was asked of them to get the job done. Their attitude could be summed up with what Palmgren had to say about the unit, "I feel good about what I'm doing and feel confident that the 108th Armor will do its job well."

a question of when," said Staff Sgt. Dan H. Purvis, a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry in Dublin.

"We had hoped that this day wouldn't have to come, but it has and we are ready to do the job," he said.

More than 700 members of the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry were mobilized in support of Operation Desert Shield on Nov. 30.

The battalion has armories located throughout Middle Georgia in Dublin, Eastman, Eatonton, Fitzgerald, Hawkinsville, Milledgeville, Perry and Thomaston.

Soldiers gathered and began the process of going

from part-time to full-time soldiers. Completing paperwork such as wills, powers of attorney and dependent I.D. cards was part of this process.

Throughout Middle Georgia, parades and ceremonies were held to honor the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry.

They convoyed to Fort Stewart for some initial training and processing into the Army. Next they are scheduled to depart for Fort Irwin, Calif., for intensive combat training in the Mojave Desert.

"We are going to have to adapt," said Purvis. "But we accept the challenge."

Dublin Guardsmen Expected Call-up

By Spec. Mike Hubbard and
Spec. Emory Minor,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

DUBLIN, Ga. -- Members of the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry have expected a call-up since August, when Saddam Hussein unleashed the Iraqi army on oil-rich Kuwait.

Whenever the Guardsmen turned on a television or read a newspaper, they were reminded of the turmoil in the Middle East.

"It wasn't a question of if we would be called up, but

Savannah on Monday, Aug. 13. This was the first of more than 96 sorties, representing almost 275 logged flying hours, in support of the stateside mission.

The 165th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMS) has expanded over 850 manhours to generate these flights.

Also, 22 members of the 158th Tactical Airlift Squadron and the 165th CAMS volunteered to serve 30-day rotational tours.

Activities have not been limited to flying. The TAG Hospital provided support by giving needed immunizations and medical intelligence briefings. In addition, the hospital delivered "care packages" with sun screen, lip balm, water purification tablets, bleach and nerve agent antidotes. The hospital has sent two nurses, one bioenvironmental technician and one medical administrative technician to various stateside hos-

pitals to fill-in for deployed personnel.

The 165th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron deployed almost 60 members to Rhein-Main, Germany; Torrejon Air Base, Spain; Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina; and McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, in support of Operation Desert Shield. These deployments total 2,549 mandays.

The 165th Civilian Engineering Support Squadron also supported stateside missions. Eight fighters have served or are serving tours at Shaw Air Force Base, Myrtle Beach Air Force Base and Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina.

Increased communication and security support has taken place. The Communications Center and Command Post are manned 24 hours a day. Flightline security posture has increased to provide additional support to protect against possible terrorist attacks.

The 165th Legal Office has processed

373 wills and 413 powers of attorney. They have personally interviewed and counseled approximately 450 individuals about such things as re-employment rights and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

The Public Affairs has handled many inquiries from news media representatives. Col. Douglas Padgett, 165th Group Commander, has been interviewed on several occasions by local television stations. Padgett said "these types of situations are why we wear the uniform. The men and women of the 165th TAG have performed in an outstanding manner on all tasks that have been asked of them since Operation Desert Shield began and all are ready for whatever may be asked in the future. To the credit of the members of the 165th TAG, their normal day-to-day job and training efforts have not suffered. When and if the call comes, we're ready."

Family assistance centers solve problems

The following are the most frequently asked questions at Family Assistance Centers in Georgia.

WHAT BENEFITS ARE THE DEPENDENTS OF NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS WHO ARE ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS ELIGIBLE FOR?

Dependents are entitled to medical, commissary, exchange, and other morale, welfare, and recreation activities and facilities, on the same basis as dependents of active component members.

WHAT KIND OF MEDICAL CARE ARE THESE DEPENDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR?

Dependents are eligible for medical care at Uniformed Services Health Care facilities on a space available basis. Dependents are also eligible for medical coverage, on a cost sharing basis, provided by the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS), and for no-cost treatment provided by the Primary Care for the Uniformed Services (PRIMUS) Clinics.

WILL DEPENDENTS BE ELIGIBLE FOR DENTAL CARE?

Dependents will be eligible for emergency dental care at Uniformed Services facilities on a space available basis. They will not be entitled to non-emergency care or for dependent dental care insurance under the Uniformed Services Active Duty Dependents Dental Plan. The dental insurance plan requires a minimum two year active duty commitment to qualify.

HOW WILL DEPENDENTS BE IDENTIFIED AS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS?

The National Guard has been working to issue ID cards to dependents usually in conjunction with their sponsor's enrollment in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) in a pre-eligible status. DEERS identifies members and dependents as eligible for medical benefits.

ARE IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES THE SAME FOR ALL BENEFITS? WHAT IF A DEPENDENT DOESN'T HAVE AN ID CARD?

Unlimited use of commissary, exchange, and morale welfare and recreation facilities will be available to any dependent of a Guard member upon presentation of a copy of the sponsor's orders to active duty and a dependent ID card or an appropriate photo identification such as a driver's license. Where a dependent child does not possess a dependent ID card or valid photo ID, the child must be accompanied by either the sponsor, the sponsor's spouse, or an appointed legal guardian possessing a command authorization letter and a copy of the sponsor's orders.

HOW ABOUT IDENTIFICATION FOR MEDICAL CARE?

Upon notification by the service of the unit or member's order to active duty, the Defense Manpower Data Center will automatically assign benefits eligibility dates to those Guard dependents who have been enrolled in DEERS as pre-eligible for benefits upon order to active duty of the sponsor. The eligibility dates will be the same as the sponsor's. Those dependents not enrolled in DEERS as pre-eligible will be enrolled in DEERS in accordance with the existing policies.

WHAT IF A DEPENDENT IS NOT IN DEERS?

As noted, dependents of Guard members ordered to active duty for more than 30 days are entitled to medical benefits. Identification procedures are as follows:

Uniformed Services Facilities

- Emergency medical and (where available) dental care will be provided to the dependent of a Guard member with the presumption that they will be reflected as eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) within 120 days.
- Non-emergency medical care will be provided if the dependent is reflected in DEERS as medical benefits eligible, or if the dependent presents an appropriate photo ID card and a copy of a signed DD Form 1172 accompanied by a set of the sponsor's orders. A DD Form 1172 contains necessary information on the sponsor and dependents, and verifies the dependent's status.

Civilian Health Care

- Health care provided by civilian providers will be available to dependents who present the appropriate photo identification accompanied by a copy of the sponsor's orders to active duty. To cover those cases where a dependent requires medical care and the dependent does not have the appropriate identification or a copy of the sponsor's orders to active duty, under non-emergency circumstances, the existing system for verification will be used.
- In the event a crisis should occur in a location not supported by a Uniformed Services facility, and a dependent cannot be identified as a benefits eligible dependent of a Guard member ordered to active duty, the National Guard has compiled a list of crisis reaction telephone numbers that are manned on a 24 hour basis in National Guard Headquarters command centers. These numbers have been provided to CHAMPUS for distribution to civilian health care facilities nation-wide by the CHAMPUS Regional Field Representatives.

WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE CONCERNING FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES TO DEPENDENTS OF GUARD MEMBERS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY AND WHO SHOULD THEY CONTACT TO RECEIVE IT?

Family Assistance Centers are located at 21 Georgia Army National Guard Armories and three Georgia Air National Guard units. They are staffed by knowledgeable personnel to assist immediate family members of National Guard

Georgia Army and Air National Guard Family Support Centers

CENTERS	UNITS	PHONE
Albany	HHC (-), 2/121st Infantry Co D, 2/121st Infantry	(912) 430-4541/8 (912) 430-4553
Atlanta	190th Military Police Company 138th Medical Company 122d Rear Area Operation Center 202d Explosive Ordnance Detachment	(404) 624-6682
Augusta Brunswick	1148th Transportation Company Battery A, 1/230th Field Artillery Service Battery, 1/230th Field Artillery 111th Tactical Air Control Party Flight 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron	(404) 737-1467 (912) 264-7370 (912) 267-1570 (912) 264-6224
Calhoun	HHC (-), 1/108th Armor Co C, 1/108th Armor	(404) 629-5100 (404) 629-4568
Cedartown	Co A and B, 1/108th Armor	(404) 749-2217/8
Cordele	Co B and C, 2/121st Infantry	(912) 276-2360
Dublin 6537/8/9	HHC (-), 1/121st Infantry	(912) 275-
Fitzgerald	Co A, 1/121st Infantry Det 1, HHC, 2/121st Infantry Co E, 2/121st Infantry 848th Engineer Company	(912) 423-3454
Forsyth	Co B, 1/121st Infantry HHD, 148th Forward Support Battalion Det 1, Co B, 148th Forward Support Battalion	(912) 994-5712 (912) 994-5713
Griffin	Co B, 148th Forward Support Battalion Troop E, 348th Cavalry	(404) 229-3280/1
Hawkinsville	Det 1, HHC, 48th Infantry Brigade Co D (-), 1/121st Infantry Det 1, Co D, 1/121st Infantry Co C, 1/121st Infantry	(912) 783-3117
Hinesville	Co B, 1/230th Field Artillery Det 1, Co B, 1/230th Field Artillery Det 1, Co C, 1/230th Field Artillery	(912) 876-2505 (912) 767-4609
Macon	HHC, 48th Infantry Brigade Co C, 148th Forward Support Battalion Det 1, HHC, 1/230th Field Artillery	(912) 751-6242/4
Marietta	Det 1, HHC, 1/108th Armor Co D, 1/108th Armor HQ, 265th Engineer Group	(404) 528-4300
Metter	Det, Co B, 148th Forward Support Battalion	(912) 685-4111
Milledgeville	Det 1, HHC, 1/121st Infantry Co E, 1/121st Infantry Co A, 148th Forward Support Battalion	(912) 453-4555
Newnan	Det 1, Troop E, 348th Cavalry	(404) 254-7224/5
Savannah	Co C, 1/230th Field Artillery 165th Heavy Maintenance Supply Company 166th Maintenance Company (-) Det 1, 166th Maintenance Company 165th Tactical Airlift Group	(912) 356-2732 (912) 964-1941 (912) 333-7841
Valdosta	Co A, 2/121st Infantry Det 1, Co D, 2/121st Infantry	(912) 333-7841
Waycross	HHC (-), 1/230th Field Artillery	(912) 285-6049

personnel with information and referral services, emergency family assistance, counseling, and related support.

HOW CAN GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY MEMBERS CONTACT FAMILY CENTERS?

Family centers may be contacted by calling the telephone number of the nearest Family Assistance Center in the above chart.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER FAMILY SUPPORT REFERRAL SERVICES AVAILABLE?

Yes, the Family Assistance Centers will be augmented by the American Red Cross, which is mobilizing its vast net-

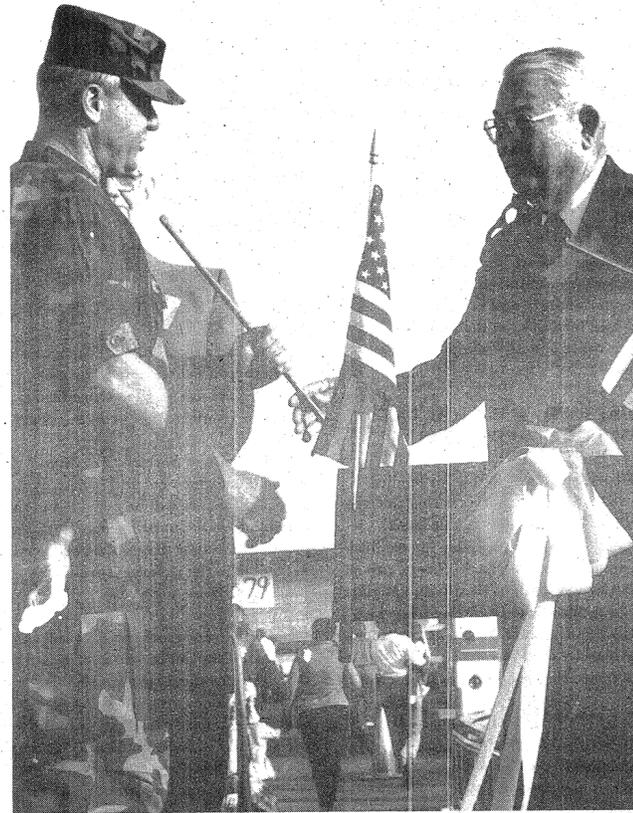
work of chapters to assist in addressing health and welfare inquiries of family members.

CAN I GET LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE MILITARY?

Yes. Federal law authorizes the Military Departments to provide legal assistance (subject to the availability of legal staff resources) to military members on active duty and their dependents in connection with their personal civil legal affairs. Family Assistance Centers can provide sources for such assistance and can help with questions on powers of attorney, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act, etc.



LAST MINUTE PREP -- PFC Detrick Stanford makes sure all his gear is attached to his load-bearing equipment in the Waycross armory.



PASSING THE STICK -- Retired National Guard Col. Hugh Brooks, right, passes his swagger stick to Lt. Col. Robley Rigdon, commander of the 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery, during a brief ceremony the morning the battalion headquarters company moved out. Brooks was commander of the Waycross Guard unit 50 years ago, when it was mobilized for World War II.

Waycross, Pogo's hometown, swamps troops with affection

By Spec. Stephanie Frank,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

Swamp and, to some, as the headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery.

WAYCROSS, Ga. -- Waycross is known for railroads, the Okefenokee

The 230th is clustered throughout South Georgia in communities such as

Savannah, Jesup, Baxley, Reidsville and Brunswick. More than 500 Southern gentlemen and ladies left their families and careers in this peaceful region.

The unit was last called to federal active duty in 1940 during World War II and was then designated as Company F, 121st Infantry. Col. Hugh Brooks commanded the troops upon their return to Waycross in 1946. For the 16 years he was in command, Hughes witnessed the company's transformation into a field artillery unit.

On the monumental mobilization, Brooks returned to his military home to show his support. With pride, he presented his original swagger stick to Lt. Col. Robley Rigdon, the current battalion commander.

Waycross, at the headwaters of the Suwannee River, is the home of the battalion headquarters -- the heart of the operation. On the last day of November, the 130 battery troops reported with anticipation and uncertainty.

As smooth and mechanized as their sophisticated 155mm self-propelled howitzers, soldiers throughout the battalion prepared their gear. In groups of 15, section chiefs and supply sergeants completed the inventory. Tents, duffel bags, mess kits and uniforms were counted and soldiers completed record checks.

"It's not a game anymore, you're now in the Army," stressed Capt. Doug Rudd, headquarters battery commander.

Amidst the preparation, headquarters battery also promoted seven soldiers including Master Sgt. Barney Brantley of Waycross. The new master sergeant stood proudly in front of the unit which he has served for over 26 years. "I started here as a private. That makes today a very special day," said Brantley.

As the battalion prepared for departure, local communities readied for a grand send-off. Waycross, home of the cartoon character Pogo, gave soldiers a reminder of their heritage with Pogo stickers. "They're not authorized on the uniform, but we'll see what we can do," said Rudd.

Other community events included food donations, family assistance programs and an ecumenical church service. Over 30 local churches of various denominations combined efforts in a service dedicated to the soldiers and their families.

Finally, hundreds of people lined the streets from Homerville to Hinesville spreading their patriotic support and wishing the troops a grand farewell.



ALL AROUND SUPPORT -- Signs of affection and farewell were everywhere about town in the days before the unit left town.

148th Forward Support Battalion mobilizes

Middle Georgians prepare for Middle East

Story and Photos
By Spec. Mattie Jones,
124th Public Affairs Department

FORSYTH, Ga. -- As soon as the rumor of activation was confirmed on Nov. 30, the 148th Forward Support Battalion consisting of units in Forsyth, Jackson, Sparta, Metter and Macon began the long and tedious task of mobilization.

They started out by preparing paperwork including wills and insurance policies. The next phase handled by the armory was immunization shots. All soldiers had to be screened for polio, typhoid and tetanus. Even though they had deployed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., less than six months prior, several of the soldiers had to have these shots again.

Another major task was the maintenance of equipment and vehicles. Normally this would be done on a case-by-case basis; but because of the activation, all the vehicles had to be checked at the same time. Soldiers worked day and night to prepare themselves, said Capt. Rebecca Suddath, Company B commander.

Once the vehicles were readied mechanically, they had to be loaded. Everything in the armory had to be packed and put into the trucks -- a physically exhausting task, said Spec. Ziva Beddingfield, of Company C. Beddingfield works 10 hour shifts for the Macon Police Department and admits that this was much more tiring.

"We've been so busy packing that we haven't had time to really think about what is happening," said Staff Sgt. Kenny Curry.

Once the equipment was loaded, soldiers spent a little time with their families prior to their departure on Dec. 2. The unit received a grand hail and farewell from their respective hometowns. Banners waved, flags flew and tears flowed.

The three companies flowed into one convoy on Interstate 75 and 16. All along the interstate banners lined overpasses.



PACKING UP -- Soldiers from Headquarters Company of the 148th pack their gear in preparation for leaving their hometown armory.



THE LAST TRUCK -- Troops from the 148th's C Company pack their gear inside a deuce and a half before departure.



THE GUARD -- Security is paramount, with so much gear laying around, a guard is always necessary.



LINING UP -- The convoy prepares to depart as the trucks and other vehicles line up.

Fare thee well: Soldiers receive grand send-off

Emotions ran high during the largest National Guard mobilization since World War II. Supporters cried, waved flags and cheered as the 48th Brigade's desert-tan trucks and Humvees left town.

Dozens of communities hosted send-off ceremonies, that featured school bands, local dignitaries and beauty queens.

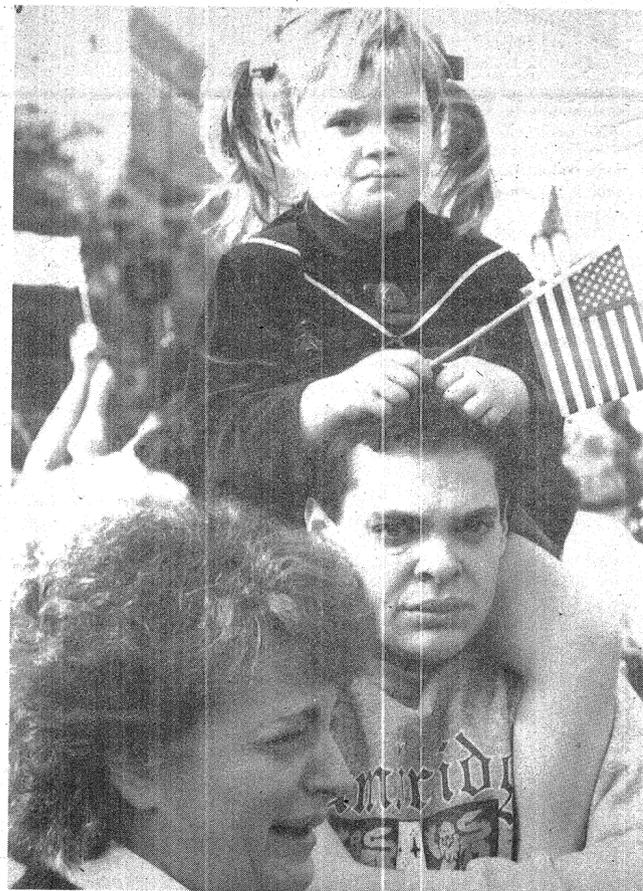
Vietnam veterans serving in the brigade said the community support means a lot to soldiers who may have to go into combat.



AN EMOTIONAL FAREWELL -- In Macon, thousands cheered their support for departing National Guardsmen. Those who said good-bye to loved ones found the outpouring especially painful. (Photo by Lt. Col. Jim Wooten, PAO, GaARNG.)



YOUTH SUPPORT -- In Blackshear, as the sand-colored convoy of the artillery rolled past, schoolboys in patriotic hats waved their support. (Photo by Spec. Stephanie Frank, 124th PAD)



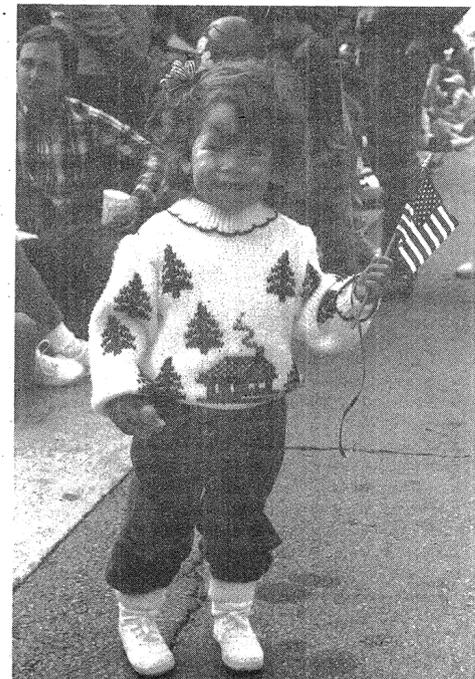
HARD NOT TO CRY -- A woman weeps as National Guardsmen convoy through Macon, while a young girl and man look on somberly. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, 124th PAD)



TEARS OF SEPARATION -- 2nd Lt. Troy McNeely, of Dahlonega, finds leaving his fiancée, Laurie Pirkle, of Cumming, very hard. She had rushed into the street to touch him during the parade through Macon. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, 124th PAD)



SUPPORT FROM ALL AGE GROUPS -- As the National Guard convoy rolled through Macon, flag-waving, tearful patriotism ran rampant through the crowds of cheering supporters. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, 124th PAD)



THE LITTLEST FLAG-WAVER -- Caitlyn Camacho, 2, shows her patriotism by waving a small flag as soldiers from Perry's Company D, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry parade by. (Photo by Spec. Emory Minor, 124th PAD)



ONE LAST THING -- A young boy gets a wet hug from his favorite Guardsman as the convoy leaves Macon for Fort Stewart. (Photo by Lt. Col. Jim Wooten, PAO, GaARNG.)

Women fill vital roles as mobilization looms

Compiled by the
124th Public Affairs Department

FORSYTH, Ga. — With the activation of the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), women could again be headed for trouble spots. They served as nurses in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and one commanded an MP unit that came under fire last year during Operation Just Cause in Panama.

From privates to company commanders, women perform important jobs in the once male-dominated profession of soldiering.

PFC Prisma Rainey is relatively new to the Georgia Army National Guard. She joined for experience to accompany the degree she was earning when she was abruptly pulled out of college.

"I really don't know what I will be doing," said Rainey, "but because I'm a private, I know it will be whatever I'm told."

Rainey was trained as a telecommunications operator, but since there was an excess of them in her unit she was assigned to the supply room of Headquarters Company, 148th Support Battalion.

"My parents are proud of me. They are being positive to keep me in a positive frame of mind," said Rainey. "My father tells me that when and if I get to Saudi Arabia, I had better be ready to fight."

Capt. Elizabeth Ryder, finance support officer for the battalion, will be leaving her teenaged son. As a section leader, she serves in a completely opposite role from the enlisted women. Ryder will make all the decisions for her section. It's an especially difficult time for her. Her father recently passed away.

"I don't feel anything. This is what we signed up for. You made a commitment and now you have to live up to it," Ryder said. "You condition yourself and pray. I never thought that when I joined the



IT'LL HURT ME MORE THAN IT HURTS YOU — A soldier in Company B, 148th Forward Support Battalion flinches as he gets a shot from Spec. Denise Prashaw and Edward Davison. (Photo by Spec. Mattie Jones, 124th PAD)

Guard I'd be going to war."

Her son wants to attend the Air Force Academy upon completion of high school. Ryder maintains that she will not discourage him from being a part of the military even if she has to go to war.

"Always stay one step ahead," advises Capt. Rebecca Suddath, commander of the battalion's Company B in

Jackson. Suddath feels that women in the Army have to do it faster and better.

"If you take no crap, you'll go far. You have to prove yourself," she adds. Suddath will be leaving her husband behind. "At this moment I'm numb. I try not to think about what's happening to us."

Will home fronts be left in chaos?

Guard wives take up the slack



FAMILY SUPPORT — Deniece Kennemer and Ann Olsen prepare information packets for their family support briefing. (Photo by Spec. Mattie Jones, 124th PAD)

Compiled by the
124th Public Affairs Detachment

FORSYTH, Ga. — As the 148th Forward Support Battalion's last vehicle rolled out of town, a cloud of uncertainty rolled in to replace it. Now that the unit has deployed to support Operation Desert Shield, spouses are pulling together to salvage their lives.

Velma Hofer, leader of a Forsyth outreach program, said her group is ready to pick up the ball and run with it.

"We have been working the same number of hours as our husbands preparing for this deployment," said Mrs. Hofer, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Chester Hofer. "We already know that we will be playing Santa Claus."

Deniece Kennemer, wife of Lt. Col. Marshall Kennemer, commander of the 148th, said she worries most about the wives who don't know much about the military.

"If there's a problem, they don't know where to go to get help," she said. "I've worked around the military for a long time so I have an advantage because I know a bit more than the average wife."

Mrs. Kennemer thinks that the Army is doing everything it can to help the families. "I think there are a few bugs that need to be worked out," she adds. "I've found that with the Army once a problem has been identified, it will be corrected."

"It will take some adjusting. But once you recover from the initial wave of emptiness, the aftershocks will begin to smooth themselves out," said Susan Watson, another Guard wife.

Vietnam vets support comrades

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

FORT STEWART, Ga. — Vietnam veterans in the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) enjoyed the patriotic send-off and they believe their combat experience will be useful if they have to fight in another war.

"These people have touched my heart and my soul."

Staff Sgt. William Harvey, a medic, said the strong show of support means a lot to veterans who fought in an unpopular war and were ridiculed upon their return.

"I came through Vietnam and this is a lot different," he said, during a send-off ceremony in Macon. "These people have touched my heart and my soul."

Another Vietnam veteran, Chief Warrant Officer James Wharton, said he was heartened by the response.

"This is the best thing that's happened to me in 19 years in the military," said Wharton, a physician's assistant who is the chief medical officer for the 148th Forward Support Battalion in Forsyth.

Sgt. 1st Class Chester Hofer, communications sergeant for the 148th believes his combat experience could save lives.

He admits he's afraid at the prospect of going into combat again, but said he's able to control his fear and make it work for him.

Hofer looks forward to the brigade's desert training at Fort Irwin, Calif., and his advice to less experienced Guardsmen is:

"Listen to what you're being told and pay attention to what you're being taught because, if you don't, one day it will come back to haunt you."

Sgt. Frank Mills, an administrative specialist with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st



Vietnam veterans show their support during the Macon parade. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, 124th PAD)

Infantry in Albany, said there were no cheers or flag waving when he went to Vietnam.

Mills said his mother and sister took him to the airport in Albany. In San Francisco, he saw a group of protesters while waiting to board his plane.

At least two Albany veterans believe their experience will help Guard members who have never been in combat.

"I'm sure they've never seen someone who has stepped on a mine, yelling 'medic, medic,'" said Sgt. Gerry Green, 41, a medic with the Albany unit. "It's a scary situation. You can't panic. You've got to remember everything you've been taught and go on and do it."

Staff Sgt. Hosea Brinson, 41, a squad leader in the Albany unit, said he and other experienced

Guardsmen have been trying to prepare the younger soldiers for the possibility of war since the crisis began.

"The majority of these soldiers know they might eventually have to fight or go to war and they accept it," said Brinson, whose 18-year-old son, Eldred, is a medic. "We're hoping and praying we won't have to fight, but if we do, we will prevail."

Among the well-wishers at the brigade's Macon send-off were 30 members of the Vietnam Veterans of America. They were dressed in Vietnam jungle fatigues and carried banners.

"There were no parades sending me off or welcoming me home," said spokesman Tom Stevens, 44. "We're not going to let that happen again. When you're over there in harms way it's nice to know

The second time around

Does saying 'good-bye' get any easier?

By Spec. Mark Owens,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

CALHOUN, Ga. — For the spouses of soldiers being mobilized for Operation Desert Shield it is a time of great uncertainty. They don't know if they will ever see their loved ones again.

For Ellen Hester, this is the second time in 22 years that she has had to say goodbye as her husband went off on a military assignment. The adage about things being easier the second time around is not always true.

"When he went to Vietnam . . . I was 23 years old and it never occurred to me that he wouldn't return," said Hester, wife of Maj.

Henry R. Hester, executive officer of the Georgia Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Armor. "Now, I'm 43, he's 46 and our children are 22, 25, and 19. They're basically on their own. So, I don't think about the future as much now and it makes me realize that life isn't forever for anyone."

The time the couple has spent together since the last goodbye makes this one much more difficult. "Last night, we were reflecting on the last 25 years of our marriage and what the difference is between now and then," she said. "After living together that long, you truly become a part of one another. So . . . part of me is leaving."

"This morning, his leaving was real hard. It was harder than I imagined; harder than I'd prepared myself for," said Mrs. Hester. "I've been so busy, myself, that I haven't dealt with it. I told him today that it's winter camp instead of summer camp and he'll be home soon. He's just going to the desert now instead of during the summer."

Some of the experiences of Vietnam have helped Mrs. Hester to better deal with this mobilization. "A lot of his friends didn't come home from Vietnam," she said. "This is what carries me right now. I think about the fact that his very best friend didn't come home. Mine came home the first

time and, in my mind, I'm just certain that he'll come home this time."

One of the most difficult parts of this activation has been the uncertainty of everything. "The last few weeks, his plans have changed every day," she said. "It was so simple when he went to Vietnam. You knew three months ahead of your departure date and you came home virtually 365 days later."

"The community support and spouse support groups have made the affair much easier to deal with," she said.

"I guess I really don't have a whole lot to complain about," she said. "But . . . it still hurts."



PICTURE PERFECT — retiring 1st Sgt. Millard Joiner hugs Dixie Hammock, artist of the painting presented to him during his retirement ceremony as his unit was in the throes of mobilization. He was in the unit for 33 years. (Photo by Spec. Emory Minor, 124th PAD)

Retiring 1st Sgt. goes home; his old company goes away

By Spec. Mike Hubbard,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

EASTMAN, Ga. — In front of the company that he had served for 33 years, 1st Sgt. Millard Joiner had shown little emotion. But on the day his unit was mobilized for Operation Desert Shield, Joiner shed a tear.

The graying sergeant was an honored guest as members of the Georgia Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment prepared for a possible combat role in the Persian Gulf crisis.

"It was mandatory," said Joiner, 60. "I would have never stepped down had it not been mandatory."

The unit's commander, Capt. Ronald L. Hammock, had a surprise for him. Hammock had gotten a snapshot taken during the early days of Joiner's military career. Hammock gave the snapshot to his sister-in-law, Dixie Hammock, a part-time artist.

Dixie Hammock spent three months turning the snapshot into a painting.

"It took quite a while to find the colors that I needed," she said. "The snapshot we had was black and white

so it was especially difficult to match the color of his eyes and his hair."

Capt. Hammock, who was the last of more than a dozen commanders that Joiner served under, said, "The National Guard is full of Millard Joiners. Men who have devoted themselves for years to the Guard. Because these people aren't usually remembered as they should be, I saw to it that Millard Joiner was remembered in a special way."

When looking at the painting, Joiner commented, "I've never been much of a cry baby, but when I saw this it brought a tear. There's no doubt that I hate to leave the company at such an important time. I feel like that I've been a daddy to these boys."

Joiner was given one last opportunity to stand before the company and offer some words of encouragement. "I tell you what Company C, you're one of the best companies in the Army. I want you to know that," Joiner said. "I want you guys to go get 'em and that's all I need to say."

For all concerned, mobilization changes lives

By Spec. Stephanie Frank,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

WAYCROSS, Ga. — Students at Waycross' Williams Heights Elementary School are losing their principal; a Brantley County school board seat is going vacant; a Cedartown welterweight boxer is not stepping into the ring in mid-December — all due to the current Middle East crisis.

The activation and mobilization of the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Infantry has affected employees and employers alike. Throughout the state, employers reacted with mixed emotions and various forms of support.

Maj. Randy Jones, intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery, has been the Williams Heights Elementary School principal for 15 years. His students and co-workers have and continue to support his National Guard duties. Fellow teachers took the initiative and divided Jones' principal duties among themselves.

"I think this will pull the school closer," said Jones. "They'll have to work unified." His employer, the school superintendent, is a former military man and understands the current demands, Jones added.

Capt. Robert Willis was recently elected to the Brantley County school board. He was sworn in on Nov. 30, one day after his unit, Headquarters Battery, 230th Field Artillery, reported for active duty. Since Willis is part of a five-member board, his departure is not too critical. The school board will keep his seat open for at least a year before making further decisions, Willis added.

Another industry hit hard by the mobilization is the Georgia Department of Corrections. More than 210 employees ranging from corrections officers to physicians' assistants have left to support Operation Desert Shield. Spec. Scottie Adams, of Jesup, is a corrections officer at the Georgia State Prison in Reidsville.

"The department hires on a regular basis which will cut some of the problems, but it will still be tough," said Adams.

Durmatix Products, in Glennville, sent Sgt. Keevie Simmons, a blade foreman, to Fort Stewart with extra benefits. "They gave me a certificate of recognition to say thanks for the work I've done and hope to see me soon," said Simmons. The company also gave him an early Christmas bonus and paid all of his sick leave to date to help his family.

For Staff Sgt. Martin Barrett of Cairo, the

send-off by fellow employees was emotional. Co-workers at the city's utilities company held a fish fry for Barrett and gave him a portable radio as a going-away present. The eight-year Georgia Guard veteran of Valdosta's Company A, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry said the local barber shop also gave him a free haircut the night before he reported for active duty.

Not all the departures were as well received. One soldier tangled with his employer. The company wrote a letter to the unit commander stressing his value to the company. However, federal active duty does not allow for exceptions such as these.

Spec. Lee Desfortune stepped out of the welterweight boxing arena for the next several months. The boxer is now part of a tank crew with Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor in Cedartown. Desfortune was preparing for a world championship bout in Washington, D.C. in December.

Members of the 48th Brigade now have a new employer, the United States Army. Upon completion of their "jobs" with Uncle Sam, they will receive the same support and encouragement as their civilian employers provided earlier.

Men of 'The Cloth' Arrive to Help

Soldiers trained in many different skills were transferred into the brigade to support Operation Desert Shield.

Among these soldiers was Capt. Larry E. Jones. He had been assigned to Headquarters, State Area Command, as the 1st Provisional Battalion's chaplain. Upon mobilization of the 48th Brigade, Jones was transferred to the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, headquartered in Dublin.

"I'm here to get to know the soldiers, counsel them, listen to them and help them exercise their faith and religion," said Jones. "Primarily, I'm here to do for the soldiers exactly what their pastor would do for them at home."

This job is not one that Jones will have to handle



Sorting through a box of hymn books, Sgt. Randall Eichelberger (left) helps Chaplain Larry E. Jones prepare for their upcoming role in Operation Desert Shield. Both men are part of the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, headquartered in Dublin. (Photo by Spec. Emory Minor, 124th PAD)

entirely alone. Sgt. Randall Eichelberger transferred from the Florida Army National Guard to serve as Jones' assistant.

"As my assistant, he has two primary roles," said Jones. "He will help me with my job and be there for the soldiers when I'm not available. Also, since chaplains are

non-combatants, he will provide security for me while we are in a combat environment."

"I'm looking forward to finally putting my training and experience to work," said Eichelberger. "My main concern now is to keep Capt. Jones alive. It's not an easy job, but I'm ready to do it."

Over 200 corrections officers mobilized

By Spec. Emory Minor,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. — A corrections officer's job is to protect and to serve. More than 200 corrections officers have taken that a step further, they were mobilized in Operation Desert Shield.

Throughout Georgia, corrections officers have put aside their 12-gauge shotguns and pistols and picked up their Army issued M-16 machine guns.

"The department of corrections is military oriented," said Sgt. Kenneth Farley, a member of Headquarters Detachment, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry in Milledgeville. "That's why I think so many of us are in the Guard."

The state of Georgia employs 5,200 corrections officers in its prisons. More than 500 of them are Reservists or Guardsmen.

"It seems to me Corrections likes to hire prior military because they have a sense of discipline and they wear

uniforms with pride," said Spec. Robert Duggins, a corrections officer at Frank C. Scott Corrections Institute in Milledgeville.

These state employees were given 18 days of military leave with pay and also given the opportunity to use any leave and sick time accumulated.

In many corrections institutes, officers will be rotating shifts and working overtime to cover the loss of manpower to Operation Desert Shield, a corrections spokeswoman said.

48th's Call-up

Continued from page 1

forms and getting shots to bring their vaccination records up to date. When they finish processing into the Army, they will learn the joys of daily physical training, weapons qualifications and chemical warfare training.

Capt. Suellen Reitz, brigade public affairs officer, said the 4,200 Guard members will perform pushups, situps and 2-mile runs on certain days and 5-mile road marches on alternate days. They will arise at 5 a.m. and train at least, until 8 p.m. Officers will work even longer hours, she said.

The first wave of Guard members arrived Dec. 2 and immediately began processing. They got shots and visited the dental clinic.

"I saw several people walking around with gauze in their mouth from teeth being pulled," said Capt. Reitz.

The 36 communities with brigade units gave the troops a rousing, patriotic send-off, unlike the contempt many soldiers experienced when leaving for Vietnam.

Flag-waving supporters cried and cheered as the desert-tan vehicles left their armories, heading for Fort Stewart. Politicians climbed on platforms to wish them well.

Up to 10,000 cheering supporters lined the main street

of Macon, Dec. 2, as the first wave of desert-tan vehicles began the trip. Among the dignitaries on hand for the send-off were Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, the state adjutant general; Brig. Gen. William K. McDaniel, assistant adjutant general-Army; Brig. Gen. William A. Holland, the 48th Brigade commander, and top city and county officials.

"Wherever we go and whatever obstacles and hardships we face in the uncertain future, we will be sustained by memories of this place and the people whose values we represent," Holland said.

With an Army band playing "Georgia On My Mind," supporters rushed up to the trucks and Humvees to kiss, shake hands and hug the Guard members. One woman passed out red roses.

In Albany, the next day, members of the 2/121 Infantry got the same enthusiastic reception during a ceremony that attracted more than 3,000 supporters.

"We have come to send men from our community to a distant shore," said Albany Mayor Tommy Coleman. "These men are giving of themselves as good citizens. We've called on them as members of the armed forces to leave the comfort of their loved ones and become a part of the military discipline that is so urgently required when the world is not at peace."

Other ceremonies were held around the state as Guard members prepared to depart for Fort Stewart and the

beginning of their new lives.

Capt. Mark Jankoski, a protestant chaplain for the 2/121st Infantry, said the Guard members have been on an "emotional roller coaster" since August, when it became apparent that they might be mobilized because of the Persian Gulf crisis.

He said the callup can be unsettling for some Guard members, particularly mature people who are settled in their civilian careers. Younger ones view it as an adventure.

"This is a definite crisis period of life," said Jankoski, associate pastor of the Rockbridge Baptist Church in Stone Mountain. "They need to see that although they are in the Army now, they are still human beings under this suit," he said. "It doesn't matter whether you are a general, a colonel or a Pvt. 1, the emotional man is still here and we're going to have to deal with that."

Mel Thompson, a 1st Sgt. in the 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery from Waycross, said his unit and equipment are as ready as training can make them.

"I don't want to go," said the 51-year-old manager of a Waycross engineering and equipment company. "This isn't exactly what I had planned for this time in my life, but I'm going to go. I knew that the first time I signed up, there was a possibility of this. I think everybody in today's Guard knows that."

Key to endurance – support center network

By Spec. Emory Minor,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

DUBLIN, Ga. – Family support centers have been swamped with spouses and children of 48th Infantry Brigade members trying to learn the ins and outs of the military system.

Thousands of families throughout Georgia have become military dependents during the past few months with the mobilization of the brigade and other reserve units, opening up questions and concerns that members of the Georgia Army National Guard have not faced since World War II.

Many wives and children expressed concerns about the unstable conditions in the Middle East and whether loved ones would come back.

"I'm scared for all the soldiers," added Fae O'Neal, girlfriend of a Dublin Guardsman. "At first I didn't believe this

would happen.

"I don't want him to go," said 12-year-old Dwan Cantrell during a three-hour family support briefing in Albany.

Miss Cantrell, the daughter of Staff Sgt. Tommy Cantrell, a squad leader in Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry said she was afraid her father might get hurt.

The family support centers have been set up to provide a link between civilians and the military. They are supposed to make mobilization easier for the soldiers and their dependents.

"Family support has gone from next to nothing, to an overnight success with the call-up of the 48th Brigade," said Master Sgt. Billy Yeomans, head of the family support center in Dublin.

The 48th Brigade, the largest in Georgia, has a web of 43 armories that extends to 36 communities.

In Albany, Guardsmen and their

spouses learned about the military pay system, health care that is available to military dependents and other assistance that is available to military families.

The speakers included Albany psychologist Nick Carden, who discussed the emotional impact of the mobilization.

For a complete listing of Family Support Centers throughout Georgia, see page 5.

Carden said some relatives may need therapy to overcome anxiety and depression. An Albany hospital is sponsoring a support group for relatives and offering private counseling.

In addition, Carden has trained 100 children to provide peer counseling in the public school system.

Donna Gaines, who is active in the Guard's spouse support group in Albany, said spouses will need help while the 48th is away.

"It's lonely and depressing," she said. "But it's also exciting because you know your husband is defending his loved ones, family and friends."

Another wife who is involved in family support is Linda Branch, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Randall Branch, training sergeant for B Battery, 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery in Baxley.

"We want to get together and meet," she said. "If we have problems we want to work them out. I think we'll get together and cry on each others' shoulders."

"I have my family here and my job," she added. "But a lot of others don't have families or jobs."

Love finds a way; Guardsman marries in armory

Mobilization changed Staff Sgt. Larry C. King's life forever.

Like a lot of other Guardsmen, it provided the impetus to take a step

he had planned for the distant future – matrimony.

But in King's case, it was a company affair. He was married in the armory of

Company C, 148th Support Battalion in Macon by the battalion chaplain, Maj. Frank J. Powers.

"Most of my friends are here and I wanted a military wedding. Since we had to be here, I wanted the wedding here," said King.

His bride, Laura N. High of Forsyth, took the change of plans and the armory ceremony in stride. "We had planned to get married next year, but we didn't know he'd have to leave," she said. "It's rushed, but it's just something that happened."

As the bride and groom took their vows at an altar in front of a company formation, a bank of television cameras recorded the scene. Later that evening, the couple's wedding was shown on ABC's Evening News.

After the ceremony, members of C Company whooped it up in celebration. They even passed a hat to collect a wedding gift, which 1st Sgt. Wilmer Smith presented to the bride.

After King returns from active duty, he and his new wife have plans for a grander ceremony. "When I get back," he said, "we'll have the big wedding. That's what we both want."

Mobilization prompts vows

By Lt. Col. Jim Wooten,
PAO, Georgia Army National Guard

At noon, Spec. Troy Collins of Savannah's 165th Supply Company was a single man possibly headed to Saudi Arabia.

By 5 p.m., he was a married man heading to Metter, Ga. In between, his wife Starr, had organized a wedding and they received blood tests, a marriage license and a probate judge to perform the ceremony.

"I was a nervous wreck," she said. "Scared that he might change his mind or something might go wrong, and we wouldn't be able to go through with it" before mobilization.

Mrs. Collins says she and her husband had planned to marry sometimes after he returned from active duty. But as they talked, they decided "why not now?"

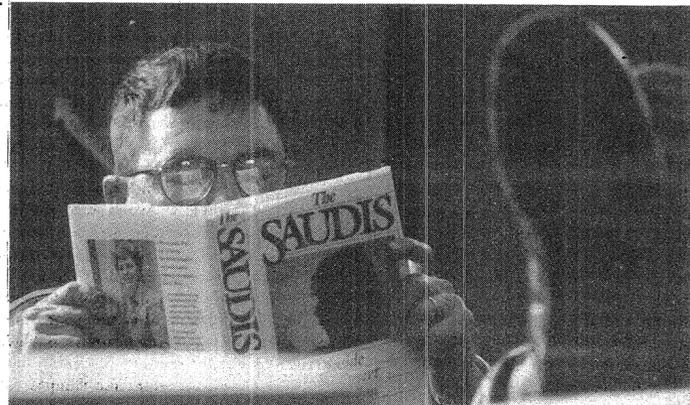
So in a matter of hours, with "strength and a lot of people helping us pull it off," arrangements were made and the ceremony was performed at the county courthouse.



WEDDING IN CAMO – Maj. Frank Powers (right) by the power vested in him, performs a wedding ceremony for Staff Sgt. Larry King and his bride, Laura High of Forsyth. The rushed-up wedding took place in the armory of Company C, 148th Support Battalion in Macon. (Photo by Lt. Col. Jim Wooten, PAO, GaARNG)

Culture Shock

DRY READING – Sgt. William Rivers, a member of Brunswick's Georgia Army National Guard unit, tries to absorb some culture about what may be his company's destination. He was taking a break between packing tasks for the communication section of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery. (Photo by Spec. Stephanie Frank, 124th PAD)



Guardsmen's letters describe desert duty

By Spec. Stephanie Frank
124th Public Affairs Detachment

"Day 6

26 October 90

Dear Sir, . . . " So the letter to Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, Adjutant General of the Georgia Army National Guard began.

. . . Right now we have about 600 MPs in about a 500 x 600 foot concrete area. We have built showers, toilets and the living area. It's a makeshift tent city made out of nets, ponchos and anything else we can get our hands on. We don't live as good as some do, but there are others living worse."

Capt. Joe Hoffman, commander of the 190th MP Company of Atlanta, wrote these words from Saudi Arabia nearly a month after his unit was called to active duty to support Operation Desert Shield.

The 178 soldiers of the 190th and 20 volunteers from Monroe's 178th MP Company were the first of Georgia's National Guard units to participate in the largest call-up of National Guard and reserve components since World War II.

On Sept. 20, the MPs reported to their home army in Atlanta to complete necessary paperwork and load their vehicles. They spent the next three weeks at Fort Gordon in Augusta training for their mission, preparing their vehicles – and themselves – for the hot, dry desert terrain.

"The heat has broken all the thermometers, so the mess section's cooking thermometer is being used to give readings. The sun comes up to 0500 and it's hot by 0930 . . . I hear it's not as hot as a month ago," Hoffman continued in his letter.

But the temperature is not the only thing soaring over the MPs' "makeshift tent city." The Georgia state flag has flown over his camp every day. A Texas National Guard unit took offense, however.

"We got into a war about the Texas State flag. We kept trying to go higher and higher until they came over and said we have won. We ended up continually adding poles. . . and had the flag about 60 feet in the air," Hoffman wrote. Once the Texans conceded, the Georgia flag was lowered to 40 feet.

Back home, flags and yellow ribbons continue to adorn homes, offices and cars as proudly and prominently as they did the day the MPs left Atlanta.

But flags and ribbons were not on 2nd Lt. Daniel Peabody's mind. The platoon leader's head was filled with visions of flowers, tuxedos and wedding cake. Upon receiving his call to duty, Peabody immediately called his fiancée, and the couple rescheduled their December wedding day to Sept. 21. Even under the strict time constraints, the ceremony proceeded smoothly, reported his wife, Carol.

On the morning of Sept. 24, as Carol held her head proud, along with hundreds of other distraught family members, Captain Hoffman reassured them. "Who I leave with is who I'm going to bring back."

"That's about all for now sir, I thought you . . . would like to know that they got us here with everything we needed.

Sincerely Yours, Joe Hoffman," he ended his letter.

Dear Command Sgt. Maj. Manning,

We wanted to let you know that the 190th MP Company is making Georgia proud in Saudi Arabia. The unit is located in a compound with the rest of the 89th MP Brigade; all six companies of the brigade are together. The base is named Griffin Base, and the Georgia flag that Maj. Gen. Griffin presented the unit flies high above the unit Command Post.

The unit has drawn security missions for the compound and a military airbase. The brigade commander is very pleased with our performance and the NCOs of the unit are ensuring that the missions are being completed and the troops are being cared for.

We have pit latrines, showers and wash basins for shaving. We are lucky to have a compound that is asphalt and doesn't have any desert sand or the insects that go with it. We've only had one heat injury, but he is OK. He is in the 3rd Platoon and has had a

heat injury before, which makes him more susceptible to heat.

Capt. Hoffman and the 1st Sgt. Dally are doing excellent jobs commanding the unit. The morale and esprit-de-corps are still running high.

Laundry services are being provided by a Saudi company which does an excellent job. The Army is trying to ensure that we are well taken care of.

Chow consists of two hot meals and a box lunch a day. PT is an interesting task at 35 feet above sea level and 90+ degrees, but the troops manage as best they can.

We are all thinking of Georgia, and maintaining our pride in our state and country. When another unit raised a Texas flag higher than ours, we wasted no time in adding poles to raise the Georgia flag higher.

We are all thinking and missing family and friends back home, and thank the Georgia National Guard for taking care of our families while we're away. God bless all of you and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Michael Goethals
SFC, USA
190th MP Company



Two well-wishers show their support of the 190th MP Company during its November mobilization.

Waycross gives 1/230th a patriotic send-off

By Staff Sgt. Toby Moore
124th Public Affairs Detachment

WAYCROSS, Ga. -- As word began to spread that the Guardsmen of the 48th Brigade were to be activated, community leaders acted quickly to make the local Georgia Army National Guard unit's send-off one to remember.

Members of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery, called to duty in the largest mobilization of Georgia Guardsmen since World War II, were treated royally as they prepared for what lay ahead.

Radio and television stations and the newspaper began urging citizens to support the force. The mayor and commissioners got into the act. Churches banded together for prayer.

Citizens offered words of support wherever the Guardsmen appeared in public.

Barth Thigpen, personnel director for the city, said that a local florist donated yellow ribbons for a parade that had been hastily organized for the troops as they left town in a convoy of desert-tan vehicles. Another merchant supplied small U.S. flags for people to wave during the early morning parade. Others offered their parking lots and restrooms for the throngs.

For the send-off, Waycross mayor John Knox and commission chairman Curtis Brantley read a proclamation dedicated to the unit. The mayor, himself a Vietnam veteran, spoke to dependents who attended a mobilization briefing in the armory. He assured them that the full resources of Waycross would be behind them.

The Okfenokee Chapter of the Retired Officers

Association volunteered its members' time to ferry dependents for medical treatment.

But for this town of 19,000, it was an ecumenical prayer service in the First Baptist Church that fully galvanized the community.

Ray Sullivan, pastor of the church built in 1882, said that the service grew out of a desire to do something for the Guardsmen.

"We were discussing whether to have coffee and donuts, and we talked about doing this," Sullivan said. "I called some of the local ministers and we planned it. This service is VERY ecumenical. We have 35 churches represented."

Sullivan said that the service shows that Waycross cares for its servicemen and will support them. "Because those men, they're us."



SCENES FROM THE MOBILIZATION - (Above) The top brass of the Georgia Army National Guard attended the send-off parade in Macon. Saluting are, left to right, Col. James D. Davis, deputy commander, 48th Brigade; Brig. Gen. William A. Holland, commander, 48th Brigade; Brig. Gen. William K. McDaniel, assistant adjutant general - Army; and the Adjutant General of Georgia, Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin. (Right) Perry Guardsmen fold "Old Glory" during a unit ceremony. (Lower right) High mobility vehicles cruise down the interstate highway. (Below) Spec. Boris Brown, a student at Albany State College, reports for duty with his pack and duffel bags. (Photos by Lt. Col. Jim Wooten, Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor, Spec. Gloria Barlay and Spec. Mike Hubbard; 124th PAD)

