Vol. 10, no. 3 SUMMER 1990

PAGE 1 - • GA. NATIONAL GUARD RESPONDS TO GULF CRISIS (units deployed).
• GA. GUARD TRAINS NEAR & FAR (locations)

PAGE 2 - • Madain promoted to Colonel at 116th TFW.
• 118th PSC member finalist in Mrs. Georgia contest
• CMS LARRY CANNON NAMED Senior Enl. Advisor.

PAGE 3 - 48th Bde. wages 'desert war' in Mojave.

PAGE 4 - • 'Decon' platoon waits for word.
• 1/108th's TANKER'S GOAL AT NTC.

PAGE 5 - • At the NTC, The MP's (48th Bde)
• Guardswomen of 1/108th.
• The Retiree, CW4 Charlie Lockhart.
• A piece of Elberton, GA granite commemorates 148th NTC VISIT.
• CSM Jerry Slade remembered by unit.

page 6/7 - LRSU's jumped at Ft. Stewart, night & day.

page 8 - • The Medics are there! (138th)
• "C", 148th - "Everything else stops when the whistle blows".

PAGE 9 - Ground trembles as Bradleys Roll.

PAGE 10 - 560th ENGINEERS in Middle East.

PAGE 11 - • Covington Guardsmen ("B", 1/122) greeted by families.
• High school diploma may not be enough (Reading/WRITING courses given)
• Don V. Hubbard, 116th, earns star.

PAGE 12 - • Awards / RETIRED.
• Nat. Guard SERVICE, job rights.

THE GEORGIA
GUARDSMAN

Vol. 10 No. 3 Summer 1990

Georgia National Guard responds to Gulf crisis

By Beryl I. Diamond,
Ga. DOD Public Affairs Coordinator

Amid tears and cheers 178 troops of Atlanta's 190th Military Police Company and 176 members of Augusta's 1148th Transportation Company convoyed to Fort Gordon for active duty. The troops were mobilized Sept. 17, in support of Operation Desert Shield.

U.S. Army officials say the 190th MP Company has been deployed to an unspecified location. Presently, the transportation company remains at Fort Gordon.

Air National Guard volunteers from the Brunswick's 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron and Savannah's 283rd Combat Communications Squadron were the first Georgians involved in Operation Desert Shield. Some 20 aircrew members and maintenance personnel assigned to the 165th Tactical Airlift Group have also deployed to Southwest Asia to provide support for aircraft already in the area.

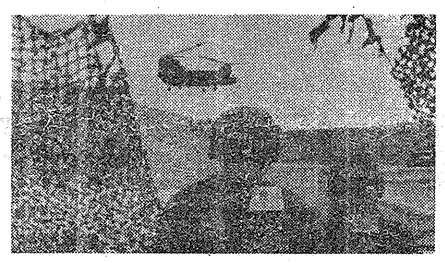
Approximately 50 vehicles comprised the military police convoy which was sent off from its Atlanta armory amid cheers and some tears by flag waving wives, parents, relatives and friends.

Small crowds of flag waving Georgians cheered the convoy on as it made its way to Augusta.

Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Griffin, the Adjutant General, spoke with members of the 190th prior to their departure and with members of the 1148th following their arrival at Fort Gordon. The General noted ironically that it was 50 years ago this year that Georgia Guardsmen were also mobilized for service in the Second World War.

On Oct. 11, the President called Savannah's 165th Supply Company of Georgia's Army National Guard to active duty. Friends, family members and government officials, including Savannah mayor John Rousakis, honored the 163-member unit during a tribute before the unit reported to their mobilization station, Fort Stewart. Further orders will be issued by the U.S. Army.

In this issue



48th Brigade waged war day and night, fighting OPFOR, scorpions, searing heat and fatigue
See story, page 3

Halfway around the world in desert heat, the 560th Engineers did the job
Story on page 10

'Chute, yeah, the LRSUs jumped at Fort Stewart, night and day'
See pages 6 and 7

After three weeks in the Mojave Desert, Guardsmen from the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor returned to Dobbins Air Force Base to find their families and friends waiting. Most were exhausted but excited to see loved ones waiting.

Ga. Guard trains near and far –

From Georgia, Texas and Alabama to Europe, from the Mojave to the Middle East

Members of the Georgia Army National Guard endured heat and long-hours this summer while sharpening their combat skills or working on construction projects in far-flung locations that took them to Germany, to two deserts and various military posts.

The 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry from Dublin and the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry of Albany spent nearly two weeks in the field at Fort Stewart, perfecting their skills with the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and other infantry weapons. During their two-week stay, they were plagued by high humidity and temperatures around 100 degrees.

The Georgia Guard's newest unit, the 117th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH), trained at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the 116th Army Band at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and the 277th Maintenance Company and the 122nd Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC) both trained in Germany.

The 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), headquartered in Macon, sent 1,400 troops to California's Mojave Desert for three weeks. Assisted by 2,600 of the 24th Infantry Division's soldiers, they battled an opposition force specially trained in Soviet tactics.

Also in the desert were members of the 265th Engineer Group and its 560th and 878th Engineer Battalions, who flew to the Middle East in July, living with sand, heat and "dust devils" while working on a construction project.

And for an encore next year? Stay tuned.

Spec. Francis Queely-Thomas displays her Top 15 Finalist plaque.

118th PSC member finalist in '90 Mrs. Georgia Pageant

By Beryl I. Diamond,
Ga. DOD Public Affairs Coordinator

Francis Queeley-Thomas wants to take another crack at winning the Mrs. Georgia title, especially after coming in fifteenth in a field of more than one hundred.

A member of the 118th Personnel Service Company (PSC), Spec. Queeley-Thomas entered the contest after seeing an advertisement. "I plan on running next year," she said, "the winner of the pageant received more than $100,000 in prizes."

More than 800 women entered the Mrs. Georgia Pageant, according to Queeley-Thomas, out of which 55--including herself--were selected to contend. The field was narrowed to 15 finalists during the contest.

Spec. Queeley-Thomas said many of her friends told her it took "a lot of guts to get in front of such a crowd." About 400 people watched the Mrs. Georgia aspirants model clothing and answer questions. "It was interesting," she said, "to meet the other entrants. Some were from different cultures. Very mature."

A native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Spec. Queeley-Thomas also aspires to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. To achieve that goal, she is working toward a bachelor of arts degree in criminology at St. Leo College.

The mother of a 5-year-old daughter, Spec. Queeley-Thomas and her husband, Gregory, reside in Atlanta.

Maclain promoted to Colonel at 116th TFW

Bruce W. Maclain, Assistant Deputy Commander of Operations for the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) has been promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Georgia Air National Guard (GaANG).

Col. Maclain, a 17-year veteran of the GaANG is also the Commander of the full-time support personnel at the 116th TFW.

After graduation from the Citadel in 1965, Col. Maclain received his commission and entered pilot training at Moody AFB, GA, where he received his pilot's wings in 1966. He later attended F-4 training enroute to Cam Rahn Bay AB, Vietnam, where he served a combat tour and flew 140 combat missions in the F-4D fighter.

After serving in Vietnam, Maclain was assigned to the 391st Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS) at Misawa AB, Japan, before returning to the U.S. as a Forward Air Controller assigned to Shaw AFB, SC. After leaving the Air Force in 1973, he joined the 116th TFW and in two years became an Air Technician with the Marietta unit. Col. Maclain was appointed Deputy Chief, Operations in 1989 and later 116th TFW Commander.

Col. Maclain is married to the former Ann Bolling Spalding of Atlanta. The couple has four children.

I'M A NEW GUARD MEMBER

I see you at Drill, but you never say "Hello".

You're busy all the time, with those you already know.

I sit amongst the members and yet I'm all alone.

The new ones are as lonesome, but you veterans feel at home.

When I was enlisting, the recruiter was glad to greet me.

But now when I attend the drills, It seems no one wants to meet me.

Why can't you nod and say "Hello" or stop and shake my hand?

Then go and sit among your friends ... Now that I'd understand!

I'll be at the next drill, another weekend we will spend.

I hope you'll introduce yourself, I'd like to be your FRIEND.

- reprinted from ON GUARD magazine, April 1990 issue

Chief Master Sgt. Cannon succeeds Chief Master Sgt. Clyde Harper.

Chief Master Sgt. Cannon Named Senior Enlisted Advisor for Georgia Air National Guard

By Kenneth Davis, Editor

Chief Master Sgt. William L. Cannon, of Clarkston, recently took over as State Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Georgia Air National Guard (GaANG).

The Assistant Adjutant General - Air appointed Chief Cannon to succeed Chief Master Sgt. Clyde Harper, who retired in May after 13 years on active duty in the Air Force and over 25 years in the GaANG.

As State Senior Enlisted Advisor, Chief Cannon is responsible for matters pertaining to policies and actions for the Air National Guard enlisted force consisting of over 3,200 men and women. He previously held this post from 1977 to 1982, having been the first State Senior Enlisted Advisor appointed in the GaANG.

Born in Atlanta, Chief Cannon enlisted in the GaANG in 1953 prior to graduation from North Fulton High School in 1954. He also attended Georgia State College (now Georgia State University). During his 37 years in the GaANG, he has completed numerous technical military courses throughout the United States.

Among the many military awards and decorations Chief Cannon has received are the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Georgia Commendation Medal with two Bronze Boars Heads.

He is a former president and current member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia, an Area Director of the Enlisted Association of the United States, a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association and a deacon in his community church.

Chief Cannon married the former Ruth Hamby of Atlanta and they have one son and four grandchildren.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

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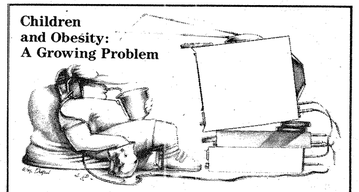
Children and Obesity: A Growing Problem



Help Your Heart
American Heart Association

48th Brigade wages 'desert war' in Mojave

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

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- With a scorching sun beating down and the temperature approaching 120 degrees, a group of Georgia Guardsmen shuffled to the rear of an Army truck for a dinner of lasagna and beans in the Mojave Desert.

Nearby, a dozen M-1 tanks prepared for a battle, kicking up clouds of choking dust as they raced across the desert floor. In the shade of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, a Guardsman grimaced with pain as medics treated him for a scorpion sting.

Nearly 1,400 members of the Georgia Army National Guard spent three exhausting weeks in the California desert this summer defending the imaginary country of Mojavia against "invaders" with black berets.

The soldiers, members of Georgia's massive 48th Infantry Brigade, were assisted by 2,600 members of Fort Stewart's 24th Infantry Division.

They waged war day and night, living with scorpions, sidewinders and coyotes on a moonscape of sand, rocky peaks and searing heat.

The Georgians were dispatched to Southern California in July to block an invading force from the country of Krasnovia. The 1,500 Krasnovians - U.S. Army soldiers who use Soviet tactics and wear Soviet-style uniforms - attacked relentlessly, often with tear gas that forced the defenders to remain in sweltering gas masks and chemical suits for hours.

"This is the toughest environment you can subject our troops to," noted Brig. Gen. Al Holland of Dalton, the brigade's commander. "It has been demanding, hot and stressful."

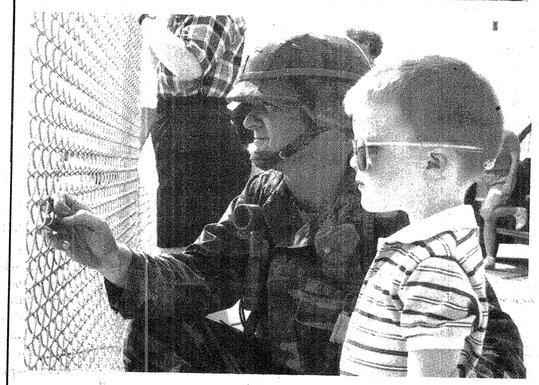
The battles raged for two weeks at the Army's National Training Center (NTC), a 1,000-square-mile desert outpost almost the size of Rhode Island. The NTC, located about 40 miles from Barstow, Calif., is one of the largest Army posts in the nation with enough land to accommodate large-scale exercises and long-range weapons systems.

Maj. John M. Wagstaffe, a Fort Irwin spokesman, said the NTC's isolation permits the use of smoke, gas, radio jamming equipment and low-altitude jet and helicopter flights to create realistic battle conditions without the risk of disturbing civilians.

Maj. John Paulk, a Fitzgerald postal worker, said soldiers learn fighting and survival skills while living in the Mojave.

"I would not want to carry a unit into combat that has not been to the NTC," he added. "Out here death sanctions every thought. If you don't eat or drink water or sleep, you're not going to make it."

The Guardmembers drank up to 12 quarts of water a day to avoid dehydration, they survived on dry or canned rations and got to know such places as Port-a-Potty Pass, John Wayne Pass, the Valley of Death, Coyote Canyon and Dead Man's Pass.



After three weeks in the Mojave Desert, members of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, returned to Dobbins Air Force Base, where they were greeted by family and friends. (TOP) Staff Sergeant Larry Cole of Rockmart, a member of Company B, is welcomed home by his wife, Bonnie, and daughter Larra. (CENTER) Maj. Allen O'Rouke of Buford and his son, Matthew, watch as other members of the battalion deplane. (BOTTOM) Sergeant First Class Yancey Moore of Cedartown, a member of Company B, talks through the fence at Dobbins with his wife Jean and daughters Amy and Meril. (48th Inf. Bde. photos)

Guard units taking part in the exercise were the brigade's headquarters company from Macon, a signal detachment from Hawkinsville, the 848th Engineer Company from Douglas, the 148th Forward Support Battalion with units in Macon, Jackson, Forsyth and Metter and the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor with units in Dalton, Canton, Calhoun, Douglasville and Rome.

Guardmembers departed for Fort Irwin on July 7 and most returned during the weekend of July 28-29. They spent about a week drawing equipment, preparing it for turn-in and restoring the desert to its original condition.

During NTC battles, soldiers wear sensors that sound an alarm when hit by a laser bean. Sensors also are attached to vehicles. The M-16 rifles and cannons fire blanks to provide realistic battle sounds, but also safe laser beams that trigger the sensors. "Dead" and "wounded" soldiers have to wait in a "bone yard" for up to 12 hours before returning to the battle.

Sgt. Don Daniels, an intelligence specialist from Macon, spent several days working in a van parked in Port-a-Potty Pass before moving deeper into the desert.

"We stay up 20 hours and sleep four, he noted, "we take hardly any showers and there are no home-cooked meals. The training is excellent."

Sgt. Melody Goodwin of Americus sent messages on a radio nearby.

"There aren't many women. There's very little privacy," added Sgt. Goodwin, a student at Georgia Southwestern College.

She showered every other day beneath a bag of water with ponchos tied around the area for privacy and once had to sidestep a small desert rattlesnake during an early morning stroll.

With only sand, rocks and small bushes for miles, many guardmembers said they missed the pine trees, hot meals and rivers back home.

PFC Dawn Doyle, an operating room technician with a Macon medical unit, had some definite plans for her return.

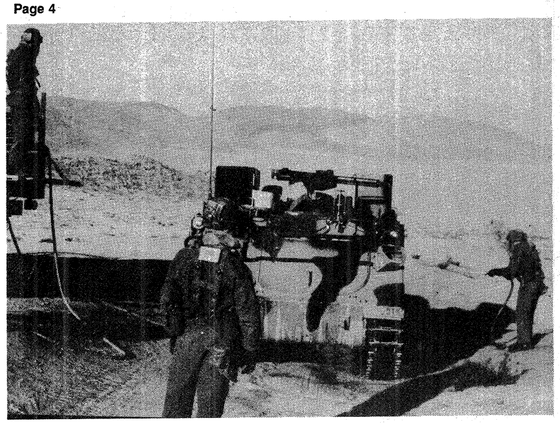
"I'm going to spend three hours in the shower and then sleep for about 24 hours," she said. "Then I'll think about going out for a pizza."

The medics stayed busy treating Guardmembers for heat exhaustion, lacerations and kidney stones. Georgians are susceptible to kidney stones because of high calcium levels in their water. Doctors said dehydration and possibly the rough ride in Army trucks seemed to trigger dozens of painful kidney stone attacks.

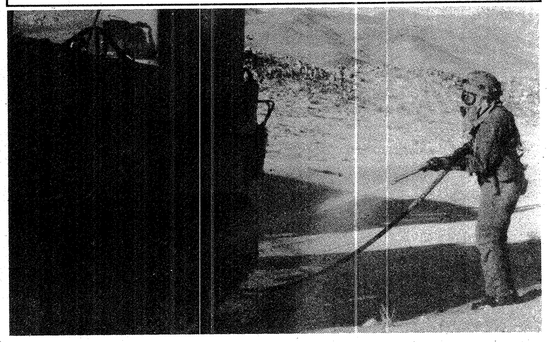
Staff Sgt. Roy Butler, a member of the 848th Engineer Company, enjoyed desert living. He and other Douglas Guardsmen sat around a camp stove one evening, cooking rice, tomatoes and lima beans flavored with ham hocks. Then they went to sleep under a clear desert sky studded with millions of stars.

The next day they packed their gear into tan trailers and trucks and disappeared in a cloud of dust. As he bumped along in the heat, Butler was moved by the Mojave's vastness and beauty and began to sing an old Baptist hymn.

"We need a Savior. In times like this, we need an anchor," he intoned.



Members of the 24th Infantry Division's 91st Chemical Company and the 48th Brigade's decon platoon work hand-in-hand cleaning a contaminated vehicle at NTC.



'Decon' platoon waits for word: '. . . Gas!'

Story and Photos
By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Driving at a top speed of 60 mph across the Mojave Desert floor, the M-1 tank commander spots a cloud of white smoke as they lurch into battle.

"Gas!" he shouts.

Quickly his crew dons their protective masks as they continue further into the smoky haze.

Once the battle lulls, the tank and crew must be "de-gassed" by the 24th Infantry Division's 91st Chemical Company and the 48th Brigade's decontamination platoon before they can continue.

This procedure prevents exposed personnel and equipment from contaminating others.

The chemical unit moves with the battle, staying three to six miles behind the lead element."We monitor the radios and wait," explained Capt. Harmit Randhawa, the chemical company commander.

"Usually within 10 to 15 minutes after a battle, we get a call for decon. Our job doesn't start until we get a request for assistance."

Once they start, no time is wasted. At the National Training Center (NTC), the battles are fast-paced, so only a hasty 'decon' is performed. This allows the contaminated vehicles and personnel to return to the battle within minutes.

The smoke and 'decon' platoons work closely to insure the safety of the Guardsmen being washed down. While the five-man team is pressure-hosing the vehicle, a smoke screen is engaged surrounding the operation. Once the vehicle is clean, the Guardsmen exchange their chemical protective suits and are ready to roll.

" 'Decon' is a unit I'd love to have as part of my active force," said Capt. Randhawa. "It's unbelievable what they're capable of doing. It's like they've always been active duty. Truly a well-disciplined group of soldiers. The bottom line is we work as a team."

Sgt. 1st Class Royal Andrews of Forsyth, the 'decon' platoon sergeant, agreed the teamwork made the effort easier.

"It's been exciting working with the 24th Division's chemical company," he said. "We've done a lot of cross-training and have learned a lot from these guys. As a team, our work really comes together."

Work for the 'decon' platoon doesn't stop with cleaning the vehicle and personnel. Working in full chemical protective gear consisting of suit, gloves, boots and mask, the team must clean their own equipment, themselves, and mark the wash area.

The area is roped off with chemical tape and marked with the time and type of chemical agent present. This alerts other units not to enter the area until it is clear.

At NTC, only tear gas is used, but the war scenario represents all agents known to be used in chemical warfare.

1/108th tanker's goal at NTC

'Hustle always, fight regardless of the odds'

Story and Photo
By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif.-- It had been a tiring exercise -- three long weeks in the Mojave Desert. And for the tankers of the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, the time seemed even longer.

"NTC (National Training Center) is a no-win situation," explained First Sgt. Charles C. Seay of Canton's Company D. "It's like a stacked deck. These guys (the opposition forces) do this all the time; they know it all. But there is a reason for this. It forces us to make more tactical decisions."

In spite of overwhelming odds, the battalion did well at NTC. "Being mentally tough was the number one thing that helped my people make good at NTC," explained the battalion commander, Lt. Col. William D. Evans of Rocky Face.

"We started our build-up for this exercise three years ago," he said. "Five goals helped everyone to maintain high morale, even in times of defeat."

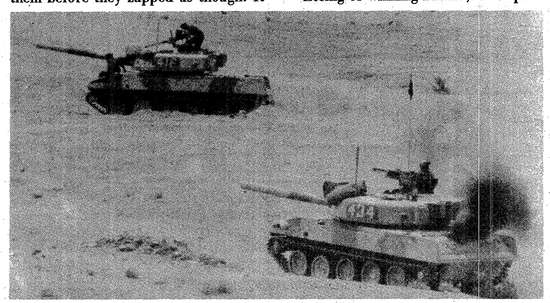
The goals drilled into the minds of the Guardsmen were to have a safe rotation, to learn from everything, to maintain a positive attitude, to hustle always and to fight regardless of the odds.

The first big battle was overwhelming. "We basically got walked over by a superior force," said Sgt. James Burke of Calhoun, a member of Dalton's Headquarters Company. "We got two of them before they zapped us though. It was awesome. There were hundreds of them. They came out of everywhere."

"What we thought was going to be an easy battle turned out to be an impossible battle to win," said PFC Tom Kerby of Calhoun, speaking from their "dead" tank, which they had dubbed "The Slayer."

"They beat us this time, but next time, we'll be ready."

Losing or winning battles, the experience provided an opportunity to learn. "The learning curve from Fort Stewart to NTC is very high," said Lt. Col. Evans. The terrain, extreme temperatures, sometimes as high as 120 degrees, the constant pressure of battle, fatigue, and the duration of the 14-day exercise all played a part.



OPFOR (opposing forces) tanks seek "prey" in the Mojave Desert.

'Believe it or not, Vietnam was easier. The realism here is great. Once we get started you forget about being hot and tired. All we want to do is make the (opposing forces') lights go off.' – Platoon Sgt. William Graham, Co. B, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor.

"At the end of the exercise, we were about 80 percent as effective as the regular Army soldiers who do it all the time," said Lt. Col. Evans. "Within four weeks, we could equal them or even surpass them."

At the NTC...

. . . The MPs

By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- On a main post, the military police (MPs) are known for their "blue light specials."

Here, in the Mojave Desert, it's another world and a radically different mission for the MPs of the 48th Infantry Brigade.

"At Fort Stewart, we usually do traffic control points," explains 1st Lt. Matthew J. Schlosser of Duluth, MP platoon leader. But here, our biggest challenge has been to try and kill the enemy."

Armed with Dragon and Viper anti-tank weapons, the 18-man platoon operates in three-man teams to search out and destroy enemy vehicles.

They also are responsible for preventing enemy infiltration of convoy movements, running reconnaissance missions much like a scout platoon and performing as a reactionary force.

Maj. Cassel Nutter Jr., the brigade's provost marshal, says that "with the level of training they have, these guys have done outstanding. They're working hard, sometimes getting only two to three hours of sleep a night."

Despite the hardships, Sgt. Johnny Gober of Macon, a squad leader, likes the desert training. "Heat doesn't bother me," he says. "Here we don't sweat as much and don't have bugs like Fort Stewart. The mountains are impressive, too. This is tough duty, but I can handle it."

Like other commanders, Maj. Nutter regards the National Training Center (NTC) as a valuable learning experience. "Too many times units come to NTC with the feeling that it is the National Testing Center instead of the National Training Center. My guys have learned a lot here and at times have done the impossible."

. . . The Women

By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Combat arms is, and probably always will be, a man's world.

But seven women were among the Guardsmembers from Calhoun's 1st Battalion, 108th Armor at the National Training Center (NTC).

"We have seven slots in headquarters that belong to State Headquarters in Atlanta," said Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) Dale Hice of Calhoun, battalion personnel supervisor. "We are attached to the battalion and do everything they do, short of being mobilized."

If mobilized, the seven soldiers would inventory all armories belonging to the battalion and then report to any state-side unit with shortages.

Sgt. Jean Peel of Resaca hardly looks the field soldier type. "This is my first trip to the field ever," she said. "I've always had a desk job. This is really different -- I even brought my hair dryer. I thought I could hook it up to the generator."

Spec. Robin Spear loves the field. Housewife and mother of two girls, Spec. Spear has been with the unit two years. "I love it here," she said. " I like roughing it, but I don't think I want to come back. Even still, this experience has been great."

The women work in a personnel support section processing the mail, completing required reports, working the switchboard and assisting the medics.

. . . The Retiree

By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Chief Warrant Officer (CWO4) Charlie Lockhart of Macon voluntarily extended his retirement one month to accompany the 48th Brigade to the National Training Center (NTC) for the grueling desert training exercise.

Why? "He had the kind of experience I needed to be successful here," says Capt. Rebecca Suddath of Warner Robins, Maintenance officer for the 148th Forward Support Battalion in Forsyth.

"I knew his retirement would really hurt our operation," she said, so she convinced him to extend his 40-year career by one month.

He did, though he modestly denies that he was essential to the unit's success at NTC. "The captain has a good handle on things," he said.

Upon retirement, (CWO4) Lockhart plans to travel with his wife and take it easy. "I'm going to miss the Guard," he said. "I've got lots of good memories and I'm glad I came out here. It will be a good thing to go out on."

The staff of the 148th Support Battalion stand in front of their rock in the "painted rock heaven" of NTC, just outside of Fort Irwin, Calif. The rock was painted by Capt. Chip Jenkins and transported to the sight from Elberton, Ga. (Photo by Capt. Suellen Reitz, 48th Inf. Bde.)

A piece of Elberton, Georgia granite commemorates 148th's visit to NTC

By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- For Forsyth's 148th Support Battalion, having a piece of the rock means more than an insurance policy.

The rock is a 4-by-8, 1,400-pound piece of Georgia granite painted with the unit crest and placed in "painted rock heaven" at Fort Irwin's National Training Center (NTC).

It is the only rock among hundreds that has been shipped in from another state.

Painted rock, an area just outside Fort Irwin's main gate, features hundreds of rocks hand-painted with unit crests. The tradition of leaving behind a painted rock started after World War II for all units training in the Mojave.

The stone was donated by the 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery of Elberton, the Granite Capital of the World.

Lt. Col. Robert Kennemer of Morrow, the battalion's material management officer, took the initiative to find the rock.

"Lots of folks were talking about doing a rock, but there wasn't any action," he said. "I have friends in Elberton, so I was able to get the rock down to Forsyth."

The crest was painted by Capt. Chip Jenkins, the battalion's supply officer, who runs a silk-screen business in Griffin.

"We loaded it on my pickup and I drove it home where I painted it in my garage," recalled Jenkins. "I used sign painters' enamel and five coats of polyurethane, so it should be permanent."

"This rock is for the soldiers of the 148th," said Maj. Moulton, a Macon resident. "It says something for us and the Georgia Guard. Everyone who sees it will know we've been here and done well."

"With a granite rock from Georgia, we leave not only a little of the 148th, we also leave a little of Georgia," added Lt. Col. Kennemer.

Unit remembers Command Sgt. Maj. Slade

By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- A flag from his desk and a rock from the Mojave Desert pay tribute to a former Command Sergeant Major of the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech), who died unexpectedly as the brigade was gearing up to go to the National Training Center (NTC).

A small desk-top American flag from the office desk of Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry D. Slade of Cordele was taken as a "sort of memorial to him," said Maj. Larry McClendon, the brigade personnel officer. "He was really looking forward to coming back out."

"We wanted a little bit of Jerry with us, said Sgt. Sharon "Leroy" Smith of Jackson.

Not only did his soldiers take a "little bit of Jerry," they brought something back as well.

Since rocks and sand are about all that exists in the Mojave Desert, bringing a rock seemed appropriate to Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) Sonny Johnson of Griffin and Master Sgt. WIlliam "Skipper" Seabolt of Macon, both members of Headquarters Company.

"We want to put this rock, with the name of our unit, NTC, and the date; on his grave back in Cordele," said Master Sgt. Seabolt. "He was so close to his troops, it just seems like he needs a little of us in his final resting place."

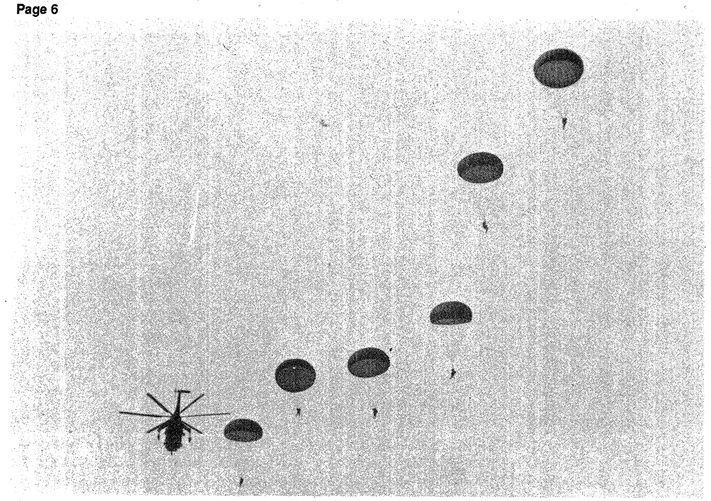
The rock, a miniature boulder weighing approximately 100 pounds and three feet in diameter, was found high on a hill overlooking the Brigade Support Area.

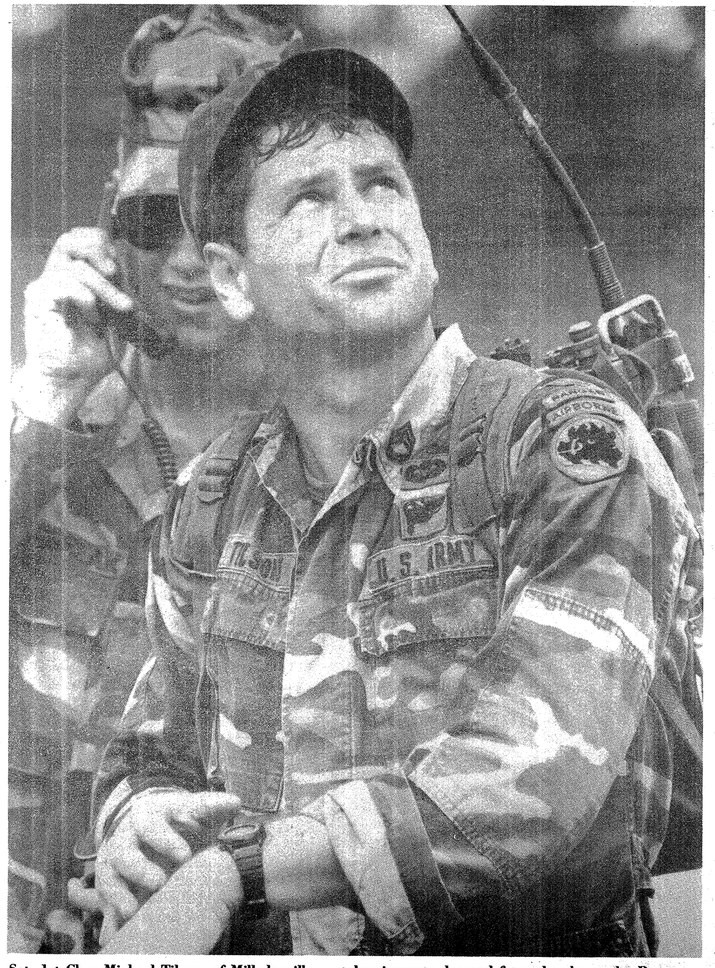
"We started looking for a good rock as soon as we got here," Seabolt explained. "The one we found is kind of like slate with a smooth surface to write on. It will look real nice."

Before becoming brigade command sergeant major, Slade was Command Sergeant Major for the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry. "He was the kind of guy everybody likes," said Sgt. Smith. "You could always count on him to have a story about everything. We all miss him."

His contributions to the Guard will always be remembered by those who knew him and even by those who didn't. The Jerry D. Slade Leadership Award is given in his honor to the outstanding NCO in the Primary Leadership Development Course taught at Georgia Military Institute in Macon.

"Jerry was one of the finest NCOs I've ever known," said Maj. McClendon. "He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten.





Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tilson, of Milledgeville, watches jumpers descend from the sky at the Remagen Drop Zone, while Cpl. Paul Longgrear, of Thomaston, radios the information to the unit's point man.

'Chute yeah, the LRSU's jumped at Fort Stewart, night and day'

Although he's jumped several dozen times during his military career, "I still get nervous parachuting out of an aircraft," says Sgt. 1st Class Dale Simpson of Duluth.

And while at Fort Stewart, Sgt. 1st Class Simpson and other members of Company H, 122nd Infantry, Long Range Surveillance Unit (LRSU), from Cartersville and Summerville, had ample opportunity to get nervous. They jumped at least twice from CH-54 helicopters and once, at night, from a C-130.

Spec. Darrell Walker of Tennga, describes the feeling of jumping from a C-130 as being "like an empty Coke can thrown out of a speeding pickup. All this wind goes 'swoomph' and you are sucked out."

Jumping from a CH-54 helicopter, on the other hand, "is complete Hollywood," says PFC 1st Class William Towery of Sharpsburg. "It's like walking off your back porch. I like the CH-54."

The first night jump was from an Air Force C-130 at 1,200 feet. The day jumps were from an Army CH-54 flown by Savannah's Company G, 244th Aviation Battalion.

"Jumping from a CH-54 for most people is a fun job," says Capt. Al Fracker, commander of Company H. "At 1,500 feet, you don't really worry about bumping into somebody, and there's not a tremendous shock when the parachute opens."

From the C-130, the Guardsmen were jumping from an airplane flying in excess of 140 miles per hour. The helicopter was roughly half that speed.

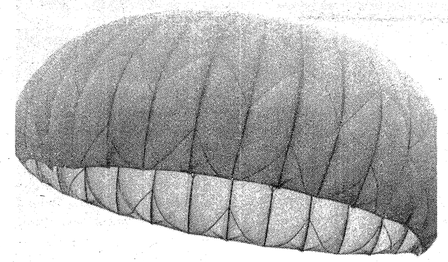
Jumping from a C-130 is like jumping into a hurricane. A good thrust from the back of the plane is required to avoid twisted lines, as jumpers twist and tumble in the wind.

Capt. Fracker sums it up best. "It's part terror and part pleasure to jump from a C-130, especially at night."

Story and photos by Spec. Jerry DeAvila 124th Public Affairs Detachment

Rolling up his parachute, Pvt. 2 James E. Shumaker prepares himself for another successful jump at Fort Stewart's Remagen Drop Zone.

'I still get nervous parachuting out of an aircraft."



After parachuting from a CH-54 helicopter, Spec. Michael Ayres of Cartersville marches back to the staging area knowing he's done his job well.

The Medics are there!

When a parachutist lands too hard or lightening strikes a missile

By Spec. Jerry DeAvila,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT STEWART, Ga. -- When a Georgia Guardsman landed too hard while parachuting at Fort Stewart's Remagen Drop Zone and suffered a concussion, medical help was there.

When lightening struck a TOW missile and electrical current travelling through the guide wires shocked a crew member while on a training mission at Fort Stewart, medical help was there.

The crewman, Sgt. Clifford J. Reisig of Company B, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry, Tow Light Anti-Tank unit (TLAT), suffered no injuries. "I guess the lightening is a better shot than our crew," he joked later.

Sgt. Reisig was attended in the field by Maj. Marvin E. Stracener of Duluth, the battalion medical assistance officer. "Our medics were on the scene before the accident took place," said Maj. Stracener, administration resident at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

"We do it everyday," says Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) Robert Munoz of Atlanta's 138th Medical Company, who uses his medical experience as a physician's assistant to help Guardsmen when they are injured in training. CWO3 Munoz of Marietta, who works at a family practice in Dunwoody, realized something was wrong at Remagen when "somebody started waving to us from way across the field. We jumped into the ambulance to see what was wrong."

When CWO3 Munoz arrived at the site where a jumper from Company H had landed too hard and hit his head, the Guardsman, "a combat veteran", was delirious. He thought he was still in Vietnam and was hollering to get his troops into cover," according to CWO3 Munoz.

Medics quickly diagnosed and administered first aid. "You don't take chances with a life-threatening injury," said CWO3 Munoz, who decided after diagnosing the Guardsman's condition to medevac him by helicopter to the hospital.

With the help of the regular Army medical staff, he was able to evacuate the injured Guardsman quickly. It took less than 20 minutes for the helicopter to arrive, which according to CWO3 Munoz is very good considering that the Remagen Drop Zone is the farthest training area from the main post.

(LEFT) An injured Guardsman is taken by helicopter to Fort Stewart's Winn Army Hospital. His injuries were not serious. (Photo by Spec. Jerry DeAvila, 124th PAD) (RIGHT) Battalion medical assistance officer Maj. Marvin E. Stracener of Duluth checks the blood pressure of Sgt. Clifford J. Reisig of Company B, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry (TLAT). Reisig of Powder Springs, was taking part in a TOW firing exercise when lightening struck the missile as it headed down range. Reisig, operating a field telephone as part of the crew, was shocked, but not seriously injured. (Photo by Spec. Mike Hubbard, 124th PAD)

CWO3 Robert Munoz, left, of Atlanta's 138th Medical Co. and Staff Sgt. Darryl Owens, center, a 24th Infantry Division flight medic, administer first aid at Remagen Drop Zone to a parachutist who landed too hard and suffered a concussion. (Photo by Spec. Jerry DeAvila, 124th PAD)

Co. C, 148th camps, but . . .

'Everything else stops when the whistle blows'

By Capt. Suellen G. Reitz,
48th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Piercing the constant drone of the generator, a loud whistle is heard. Everything stops.

For Forsyth's Company C, 148th Support Battalion, the whistle signals the arrival of "mascals" or mass casualties.

Casualties are recognized by the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) beeper worn by every soldier training at the National Training Center (NTC). This alarm goes off when "hit" by another weapon equipped with the same system.

Soldiers carry casualty cards predesignated with the type of injury, ranging from walking wounded to killed in action.

If the "wound" is serious enough, the casualty is evacuated to Company C, the medical clearing station for the 48th Brigade, where triage is performed.

"We utilize all of our people in triage," said Capt. Dale Foster, the commander. "The cooks and admin support folks are put on litter teams to move the patients, while our medically trained personnel treat them as quickly as possible."

In addition to the mock casualties and war scenario, the medics must perform the obvious task of caring for the soldier who actually is hurt or becomes ill while in the field.

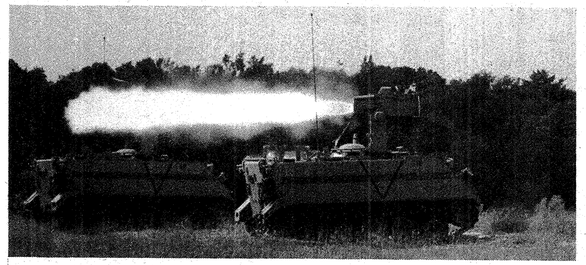
Treating an average of 25 patients a day, treatment ranges from heat casualties to kidney stone attacks to blisters -- whatever the soldier needs.

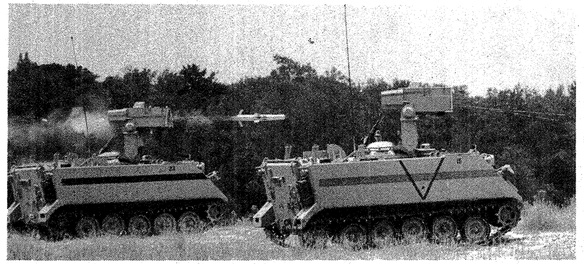
"Overall, I'd say heat is our biggest problem" Capt. Foster said. "The desert is a dry heat, far different from our humid summers in Georgia. Unless soldiers force themselves to drink up to 12 quarts of water a day, they get dehydrated before they realize it."

Even in the extreme conditions of NTC, morale was high in the unit. "The training here in the Mojave Desert is what we need," said Capt. Foster. "Fort Stewart is so routine, it's gotten to be old hat. Here the temperature, terrain, distance and number of troops needing heat treatment, provides us with the hard-hitting stuff we need to be sure we can always provide support."

Maj. Terry Caper, a 24th Division physician attached to Company C, praised the unit. "I've been involved in a lot of mascals, war games and real world emergencies. I have never seen triage run as smoothly as it has been done here."

Members of Company C, 148th Support Battalion perform triage during an NTC battle exercise. (Photo by Capt. Suellen Reitz, 48th Inf. Bde.)





Capt. James M. Clements, Commander of Tifton's Company E, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, watches as his company fires the TOW missile during their two weeks of annual training. The best crews are usually given the honor of firing the TOW at the end of the two weeks. (Photo by Spec. Jerry DeAvila, 124th PAD)

Ground trembles as Bradleys roll

By Spec. Stephanie Frank,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT STEWART, Ga. -- The sun beat down on the vast, sand-covered field as faint dust clouds rose on the far side. Slowly the ground started to tremble, a faint signal of the intruders.

Then they appeared -- armored vehicles speeding from the surrounding woods.

They moved forward with determination intending to surround their opponent defending the berms opposite the woods. They released smoke screens to provide cover for their teammates.

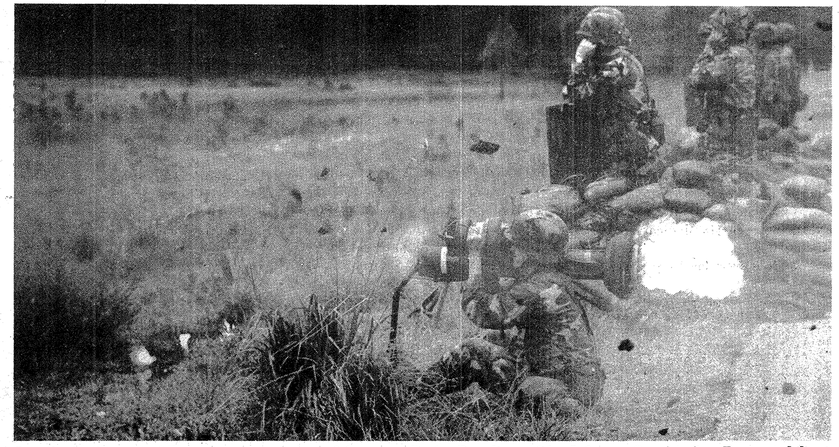
These first few "battle" moments for Company D, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry were intense for the Moultrie unit.

After training at home station to use their Bradley Fighting Vehicles, the thrill comes as infantrymen apply that training in a simulated attack environment. The vast expanse of Fort Stewart offers ideal conditions similar to those soldiers might face during battle -- the bright sun glare, intense heat, dust clouds and huge chunks of real estate.

Soldiers are taught Soviet-style tactics, such as use of heavy smoke screens and heavy assaults. Several of the attacking armored vehicles of Companies A and C were even adorned with red flags to add to the realism.

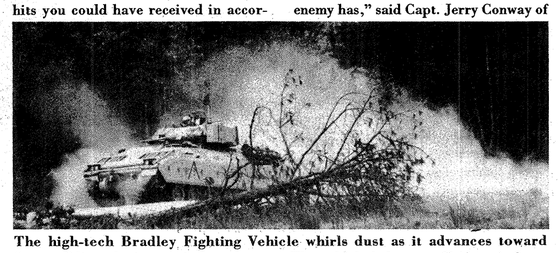
In this game it's hard to determine winners. There was a lack of prisoners, and troops were hindered from firing simulated rounds and grenades because of extremely dry conditions.

Instead each vehicle is laced with Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) equipment with lights that flash bright orange when hit by an enemy's laser.



Sgt. David Beeland of Thomaston, a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, fires his first Dragon while at Fort Stewart. The Dragon is used against tanks and other enemy vehicles. (Photo by Spec. Johnny Cain, 124th PAD)

"We determine loses by the number of hits you could have received in accordance with the number of vehicles the enemy has," said Capt. Jerry Conway of Valdosta, company commander.



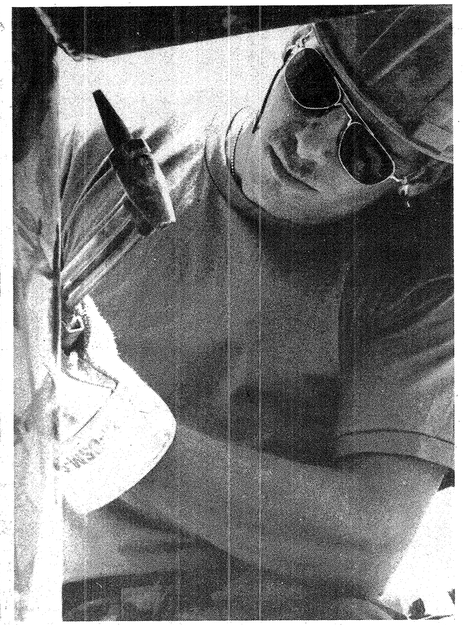
The high-tech Bradley Fighting Vehicle whirls dust as it advances toward "enemy" lines during tactical maneuvers. The vehicle belongs to Valdosta's Company A, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry. (Photo by Spec. Stephanie Frank, 124th PAD)

While D Company defended with nine Bradleys and 77 soldiers, Capt. Conway said the attackers "definitely have more equipment."

Winning the battle provides a thrill, but it is not the goal of the training exercise, according to Capt. Conway.

"It's a matter of tactical planning. The battle is not what matters; it's how you got there," he said.

Nearing the end of the battle that afternoon, Company D could not instantly determine a win or loss. But Capt. Conway believes the maneuver was a success. "Each part worked together; each tried to do its best," he said. "That's tactical planning."



(RIGHT) First, the foundation. Spec. Lee Rodriguez of Columbus, watches as Staff Sgt. Billy Rolison operates a drill to prepare the foundation for an obstacle course. Both men are members of Headquarters Company, 560th Engineer Battalion, in Columbus.

(FAR RIGHT) Spec. Scott Kitchen of Columbus, uses a cutting torch to fit metal pipes so they can be welded while working in the desert.

Halfway around the world, in desert heat, the 560th Engineers did the job

Photos and Story
By Spec. Emory Minor,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

"The hotter it is, the better I am," says Spec. Scott Kitchen, a member of Columbus, a member of the 560th Engineer Battalion.

He had occasion this summer to be at his best. He was among a group of engineers who flew to the Middle East in July, living with sand, scorching heat and "dust devils" while working on a construction project.

Spec. Lorenzo Walker, a member of Headquarters Company, tightens a nut while putting the finishing touches on an obstacle.

"The soldiers got a chance to see how their equipment would perform and how they would perform," said Lt. Col. William T. Miller of Stone Mountain, the battalion commander.

"You can't put a price tag on the work and the experience the soldiers have gotten," added Williams, an engineer with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Members of the 560th, headquartered in Columbus, were assisted by Guardsmen from the 265th Engineer Group of Marietta and the 878th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Augusta. The 560th has units in Bainbridge, Thomasville, Dawson, Reynolds, Montezuma and LaGrange, while the 878th has units in Lyons, Swainsboro, Sandersville and Louisville.

Maj. Ray Grant of Columbus, the task force commander, said the Guardsmen worked hard and did a good job.

The engineers worked on an obstacle course similar to one at Fort Benning and other training facilities.

Most of the construction was done with steel pipe and angle iron because wood is extremely expensive in the desert, where a large board costs $54.

The combat engineers slept in tents and ate Army rations. They worked for nine hours a day in the grueling desert heat.

The Guardsmen were told to pack their clothes in zip-lock bags because of desert sand that seemed to get into everything. Dust devils - small twisters that scurry across the desert - often raced through their camp and work areas.

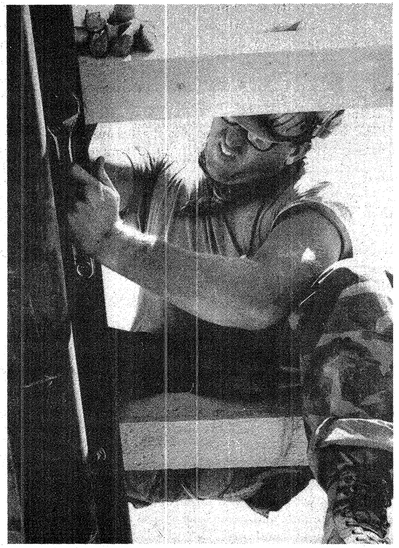
The workday began at 4:30 a.m. to spare the Guardsmen from the intense midday sun.

After a day in the sun and sand, the engineers were ready for the shower, or the "ice bath" as they called it.

"If you don't think about the sand and heat, there is not problem as long as there is food and water," said PFC Diallo Reed, a Valdosta State College student.

"At first all the construction doesn't make a lot of sense but slowly you get a better understanding and finally every little bit fits together," said Sergeant First Class Janice Moulton, a full-time Guard member from Marietta.

"I was going to hire someone to build a shed in my yard, but now with all I've learned I'm going to try it myself," said Sgt. Robert Carr, a manager of a sandwich shop in Columbus.



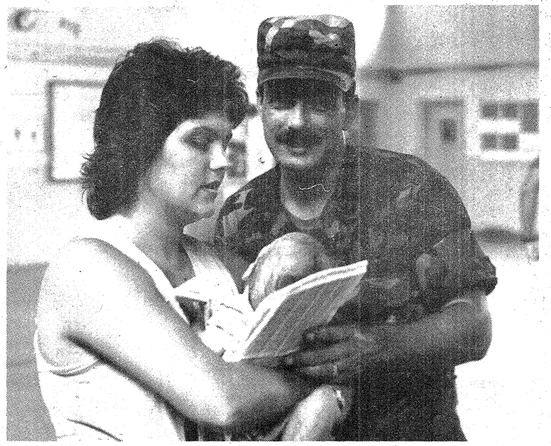
Spec. Ray Jones, of Headquarters Company, tightens one of the few boards used during the construction of an obstacle course. Boards are phohibitively expensive in the desert.

Covington Guardsmen greeted by families, homecoming party

Story and Photos
By Spec. Stephanie Frank,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

It was a special Sunday for members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry in Covington.

Instead of returning to a cold, empty armory after two weeks of annual training in the piney woods of Fort Stewart, they came home to the anxious, proud faces of their families.



Spec. Raymond Robinson admires his wife and daughter upon returning from annual training. Families prepared the welcome-home party for members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry.

The Guardsmen's families spent several weeks preparing the unit's first annual training homecoming party. Brenda Raymer, wife of unit commander Capt. Ken Raymer, plans to make it an annual event.

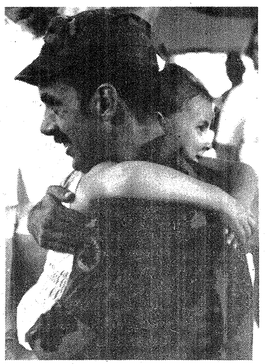
Red, white and blue ribbons and balloons were strung across the armory. Several children displayed their feelings on brightly colored posters saying "We missed you Daddy."

The Guardsmen also feasted on hotdogs, hamburgers, salads and deserts. There was even a sheet cake decorated with the American flag.

But food took low priority to the hugs, kisses and stories exchanged. Spec. Robin Richter's daughter, Shawna, just clung to her father's neck as he wandered through the armory. "I'm just glad to be back," he said.

During a short final formation, the unit got another surprise. The company commander was promoted from first lieutenant to captain. Although he had heard rumors, the new captain was both surprised and thrilled with the promotion.

With a final "dismissed" the troops cheered and headed for either the food or the front door.



Spec. Robin Richter of Oxford welcomes the hugs from his daughter, Shawna, after spending two weeks away. His Covington unit was returning from annual training at Fort Stewart.

High school diploma may not be enough
'Digging a foxhole... isn't all it takes to be an infantryman'

By Capt. Alan Fecteau,
124th Public Affairs Detachment

These days, the inability to read and write adequately is a pretty scary proposition.

Like many corporations, the Georgia Army National Guard (GaARNG) is gradually discovering some members lack adequate reading and writing skills, arguably stemming from sub-par primary and secondary educations.

Solution?

The Georgia Guard has begun crash courses in reading and writing skills. About 75 Guardsmen attend classes in lieu of annual training this year.

I think the Guard owes it to soldiers to afford them the opportunity to enhance their basic skills, and one of those skills is reading," said Capt. Laura Wickett, education counselor for the GaARNG.

"If the soldier can't read, he's a safety hazard," Capt. Wickett explained. "If the soldier can't read, he's an operations hazard. He can't follow an operations order in the infantry. Digging a foxhole and staying in it for 15 days isn't all it takes to be a good infantryman."

Several veteran Georgia Guard members, identified prior to enrolling in the Army's Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), have been asked to make the sometimes painful admission that they could not read or write at the 10th-grade level. Many of the Guardsmen attending reading classes hold high school diplomas.

"There's a system, when learned, that can be used to unlock or decode words," said Jim Williams, head of an Atlanta-based firm specializing in reading instruction. Mr. Williams is assisting Capt. Wickett and has assisted several companies, such as Coca Cola, with similar programs.

"Reading is the first intellectual task a young child is asked to master," Mr. Williams explained. "If someone does not master this skill early on, all sorts of problems can occur and can follow someone throughout the rest of his or her life."

Consistent with this view, Mr. Williams sees the classes as providing a "healing" effect, as much as anything else. "There are all sorts of emotional wounds that go hand-in-hand with the inability to master basic reading," Mr. Williams said.

Spec. Archie Mincey, of Swainsboro's Company A, 878th Engineer Battalion, has been trying to earn his high school diploma equivalence for a long time. "I've tried and failed at it for years," admitted Spec. Mincey, a 17-year Guard veteran. "My unit asked me if I would like to attend these classes, and I said I would like it."

The oldest child in a large family, Spec. Mincey dropped out of high school after 10th grade to join the work force in place of his deceased father.

Unlike Spec. Mincey, Spec. Michael Long graduated in 1979 from high school in a tiny, rural system in Alabama. "When I was in school, I just wanted to do something to pass," said Spec. Long, a communications chief with Atlanta's 190th Military Police Company. "I know my job well enough to perform, but I still need to know how to read better."

And with Georgia Guard units acquiring more complex equipment, with the associated complex training manuals and paperwork, the basics of reading and writing have never been more important at all levels.

So for everybody concerned, a little education can go a long way.

116th TFW's Hubbard earns star

Don V. Hubbard, Wing Commander of the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the Georgia Air National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Hubbard, a 17-year veteran of the Georgia Air National Guard has been Commander to the 1200-member Air Guard unit since January 1989. Under his command, the unit was recently awarded its seventh Air Force Outstanding Unit Award making it the only Air Force unit - - either active or reserve -- ever to be awarded this distinction on seven occasions. Additionally, the 116th TFW has been selected from all Air National Guard fighter units for participation in "William Tell '90", the realistic air-to-air competition which brings together America's bet Air Force fighter pilots from around the world.

Hubbard, a native of North Dakota, has spent more than 28 years as a combat fighter pilot. Brig. Gen. Hubbard served two tours of duty in Vietnam. His first tour was as a Forward Air Controller flying the 0-1 aircraft and assigned to the 1st Air Calvary Division at Ankhe.

Brig. Gen. Hubbard is a Command Pilot with more than 4300 flying hours in fighter aircraft.

A 20-year veteran of Delta Airlines with over 15,000 flying hours, Hubbard is a Captain on the DC-9.

Awards...

THE GEORGIA DISTINCTIVE SERVICE MEDAL
Maj. Donald N. Edmands, Jr., 224th JCSS, Brunswick
Capt. William S. Crowder, 170th MP Bn, Atlanta
Capt. Scott H. Turner, 128th TFC, Dobbins

THE UNITED STATES MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Col. Bernard A. Fontaine, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Col. David W. Gunn, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Col. Hugh L. Neisler, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
1st Lt. David E. Meyer, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer Hugh C. Cooper, Training Site Spt Det, Fort Stewart
Chief Warrant Officer Robert C. Smith, Sel Svs Det, Marietta
Master Sgt. Benny C. Daniel, HD, STARC, Atlanta

THE GEORGIA COMMENDATION MEDAL
Col. Thomas W. Boggs, HQ, STARC, Sacramento, CA
Col. Donald M. Damkaer, Senior Army NG Advisor, Fort Gillem
Lt. Col. Green Donald, SS Detachment 206, Marietta
Lt. Col. Gabriel L. Hudson, US Army Readiness Group, Atlanta
Maj. H. Gary Hobbs, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Jonathan D. Pelletier, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Capt. Margaret C. Johnson, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Capt. William A. Dent, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Capt. Charles A. Discher, Jr., HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Capt. Charles W. Lewis, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Chief Warrant Officer Ronald W. Sutton, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Strickland, HHD, 170th MP Bn, Atlanta
1st Sgt. Robert Leach, Co C, 1/121st Inf, Americus
Sgt. 1st Class Royce B. Derriso, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class James L. Hillian, 201st Main Co, Fort Gillem
Staff Sgt. Arthur B. Gibson, Co C(-), 2/121st Inf, Americus
Staff Sgt. David Green, Jr., Co C, 2/121st Inf, Americus
Staff Sgt. Charles F. Hogan, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt.Richard H. McNair, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Sgt. Anita James, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Sgt. Bobby D. Lark, 138th Med. Co, Atlanta
Ms. Rosa M. Baxter, Ga. Dept. of Defense, Atlanta
Ms. Gaynell T. Garrason, 24th Inf. Div, Fort Stewart
Ms. Sharon K. Robbins, Ga. Dept. of Defense, Atlanta
Ms. Sherry Sweat, Ga. Dept. of Defense, Atlanta
Mr. Lyle D. Zimmer, Eastern Personnel Center, Alexandria, VA

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Chief Master Sgt. William L. Cannon
Chief Master Sgt. William T. Ward
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Master Sgt. Patsy F. Carr
Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Koehlinger
Tech. Sgt. Donald R. Holsopple
Tech. Sgt. Patricia A. Obie
Tech. Sgt. Marcy A. Sweatman
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Jernigan
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Staff Sgt. Douglas E. Smith
Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Southerland
Staff Sgt. Frank R. Swails, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Frank R. Swails, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Frank J. Vargo
Staff Sgt. Terry D. Wilson
Mr. Robert G. Still

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Chief Master Sgt. Charles F. Ehlers
Senior Master Sgt. Frederick M. Harden
Senior Master Sgt. Vance E. Watson
Master Sgt. Ronald B. Greer
Master Sgt. William D. McGriff
Tech. Sgt. Jess Baker
Tech. Sgt. Robert K. Beach
Tech. Sgt. Johnny G. Crosby
Tech. Sgt. Jesse W. Davis
Tech. Sgt. Keith A. Graversen
Tech. Sgt. James S. Hinson
Tech. Sgt. Harry K. James
Tech. Sgt. Tommy R. Massey
Tech. Sgt. Clarence E. Maulden
Tech. Sgt. Lynford R. Seeney
Tech. Sgt. Milton B. Tucker
Tech. Sgt. James E. Vaughan
Staff Sgt. William J. Crooms
Staff Sgt. Timothy A. Lee
Staff Sgt. James W. Lyons
Staff Sgt. Clarence E. McElmurray, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Robert E. Sanders
Staff Sgt. Lorin L. Taylor
Sgt. John D. Beck
Sgt. Cheryl L. Bunn
Sgt. Gary W. Mallard
Sgt. Douglas K. Ware
Senior Airman Evert T. Austin, II
Senior Airman Donnie Johns
Senior Airman Ottis J. May
Senior Airman Arthur A. Trevino
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Airman James A. Bevins
Airman Michael J. Bourdette

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
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Lt. Col. William A. Hawkins, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Lt. Col. William A. Hawkins, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Waldrep, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Byron Cook, Jr., HD, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. George B. Culpepper, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Lacey D. Holton, 118th FA Bde, Savannah
Maj. John L. Lynch, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Robley S. Rigdon, HQS, 118th FA Bde, Savannah
Maj. James M. Thomas, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Maj. Norman E. Zoller, HD, STARC, Atlanta
Capt. Kenneth R. Vaughn, HHC(-), 2/121st Inf, Albany
1st Sgt. Billy L. Mull, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Master Sgt. Thomas C. Benefield, HHC, 2/121st Inf, Albany
Sgt. 1st Class Richard K. Bryan, Co E, 2/121st Inf, Tifton
Staff Sgt. David H. Barrett, 138th Med. Co, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Juan D. Davis, 116th Army Band, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Arthur B. Gibson, Co C(-), 2/121st Inf, Americus
Staff Sgt. John W. Yarbrough, 118th PSC, Atlanta
Sgt. Sallie R. McCoy, 118th PSC, Atlanta

GEORGIA MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
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Lt. Col. Garry C. Pittman, HHB, 1/230th FA, Waycross
Sgt. Major Charles L. Clarke, HQ, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. Larry J. Rittenberry, 201st Maint. Co, Atlanta
Sgt. Ernest L. Jones, Co D, 1/121st Inf, Perry

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Maj. Joseph P. Brennan
Maj. John H. Brunson
Maj. Albert F. Schuller, Jr.
Maj. Ronald N. Speir
Maj. Ted M. Stuckey
Capt. John D. Laros
Chief Master Sgt. Clyde E. Harper
Senior Master Sgt. Tommy D. Greenway
Senior Master Sgt. Calvin L. Kilby
Tech. Sgt. Robert R. Arrington
Tech. Sgt. James T. Walters
Staff Sgt. Alan R. Tebbetts

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Maj. Jimmy L. Davis, Jr.
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2nd Lt. William C. Burn
Chief Master Sgt. William T. Ward
Master Sgt. Manuel F. Canas
Master Sgt. Michael D. Chumley
Master Sgt. Willie G. Manning, Jr.
Master Sgt. Michael G. Ward
Master Sgt. Robert W. Wylie
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth C. Allen
Tech. Sgt. Jesse W. Davis
Tech. Sgt. Larry E. Dugger
Tech. Sgt. Randall A. Greer
Tech. Sgt. Perry K. James. Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Patricia Obie
Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Armstrong
Staff Sgt. Willie D. Claborn
Staff Sgt. Wiggins Gibbons
Staff Sgt. Wayne W. Hall
Staff Sgt. William K. Haynie
Staff Sgt. Frank King, III
Staff Sgt. Leonard D. Lemon
Staff Sgt. Jackson G. Oxendine
Staff Sgt. William C. Pryor
Staff Sgt. Curtis W. Taylor
Staff Sgt. Carl B. Wheaton, III
Staff Sgt. Cynthia D. Williams
Staff Sgt. Terry D. Wilson
Sgt. Vaughn A. Rowland
Sgt. John W. Vining
Senior Airman William D. Harper
Airman 1st Class Donnie Johns
Airman 1st Class Christine M. Schaaf

RETIRED
1st Sgt. Robert S. Rhodes, Sr., 1/214th FA, Elberton
Master Sgt. Robert S. Lynn, 110th Maint. Bn, Decatur
Sgt. 1st Class Ronald P. Farmer, Co A, 878th Engr Bn, Swainsboro
Sgt. 1st Class Goodfrey L. Finch, 116th Army Band, Atlanta
Sgt. 1st Class Walter F. Greene, Co C, 560th Engr Bn, Columbus
Sgt. 1st Class Joe B. Gregory, 1/230th FA, Brunswick
Sgt. 1st Class William F. Sikes, HQ, 148th Fwd Spt. Bn, Forsyth
Sgt. 1st Blass Bevis Simmons, HD & Svs Co, 151st ML Bn, Dobbins AFB
Sgt. 1st Class Chester H. Yawn, 848th Engr Co, Douglas
Staff Sgt. Charles M. Duncan, HQ Btry, 1/214th FA, Elberton
Staff Sgt. James P. Fields, Jr, Btry B, 2/214th FA, Savannah
Staff Sgt. Ralph S. Freidman, HQ Svs Co, 878th Engr Bn, Augusta
Staff Sgt. James A. McElmurray, Jr., HD, STARC, Atlanta
Staff Sgt. William G. McMullan, 448th Ordnance Det, Decatur
Staff Sgt. Bonnie L. Morrell, Co B, 560th Engr Bn, Reynolds
Staff Sgt. Oscar C. Paulk, 848th Engr Co, Douglas
Staff Sgt. Herbert P. Smiley, Det 1, Co D, 560th Engr Bn, Bainbridge
Sgt. Charles E. Bryant, Det 1, Co B, 560th Engr Bn, Montezuma
Sgt. Cleo J. Kendricks, Co A, 151st ML Bn, Dobbins AFB
Sgt. Ivory Roberson, Jr., 1/230th FA, Savannah

National Guard service provides job rights for members

By Kenneth Davis, Editor

Members of the National Guard requesting leave from civilian employers sometimes encounter problems that can jeopardize an otherwise good working relationship. The following information can help Guardmembers avoid or resolve these problems.

Employees must request a leave of absence when their military duty will conflict with their working hours. Guards members should provide their employer with a copy of the unit drill schedule at least every 90 days. This can be done with a simple written notification of drill or annual training dates, along with a request for leave to attend. After that, it is not necessary to formally request leave of absence prior to each drill weekend within the 90 day period.

It is important that the employer's copy of the unit drill schedule be updated regularly by the employee. Also, a new request for leave must be submitted whenever the date and time of regular drill periods are changed. It is, after all, the Guardmember's responsibility to keep his or her employer informed of military training dates as far in advance as possible.

Employees must report back to work at their first regularly scheduled shift after the completion of the training and the time required for return from the training site to the place of employment, unless delayed by factors beyond their control.

Private employers are not required to pay employees while they are away on military training. Some do as a matter of policy, or contract; some do not. Non-temporary employees of the State of Georgia, a county, a city, or any other political subdivision thereof, are entitled to be paid for 18 days of military training duty each year. Non-temporary Federal employees are entitled to pay for 15 days per year for active duty training. No employer is required to reschedule an employee for additional days to compensate him or her for lost time because of military training.

An employer must grant an employee's request to attend scheduled training assemblies even if the employee is not entitled to military leave with pay or has already received all the military leave with pay to which he or she is entitled.

The employer may not, without employee consent, require a National Guard member to use earned vacation time for military training; nor can the employee be denied retention, promotion or any other benefits or advantages of employment because of his or her National Guard obligation.

To resolve existing problems, the National Guard member should first advise the Unit Commander or First Sergeant of the problem. In the event the unit can not resolve the problem, then, the unit must contact Capt. Laura Wickett, HQ, STARC, toll free 1-800-282-4222, commercial (404) 624-6629, DSN: 338-6629. Each National Guard member should be prepared to provide a short review of the nature of the problem, to include names, and telephone numbers.