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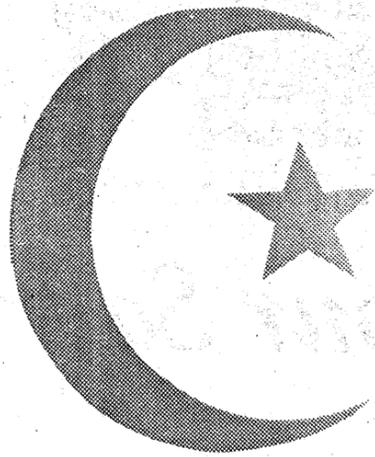
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THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN newspaper

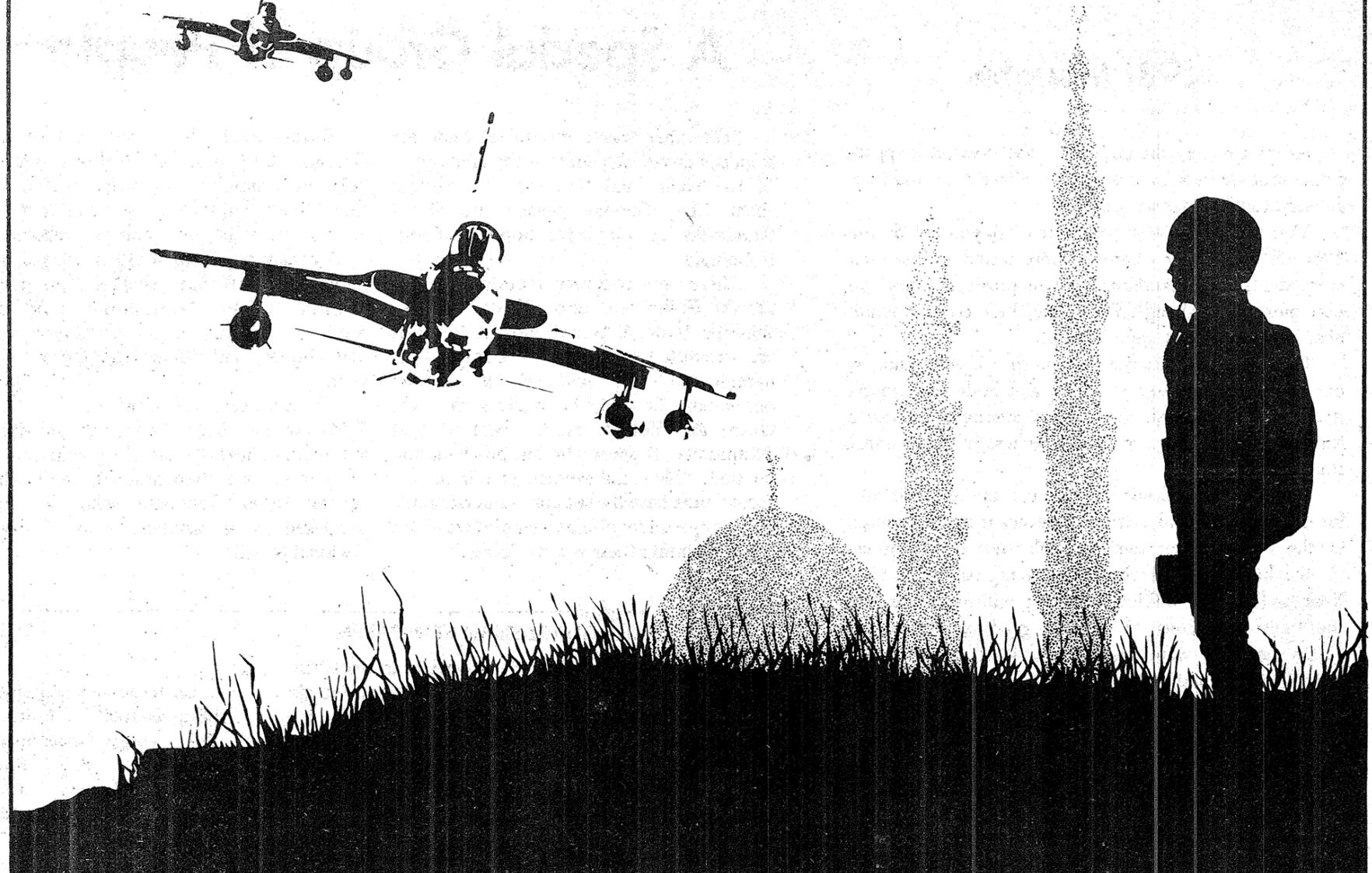
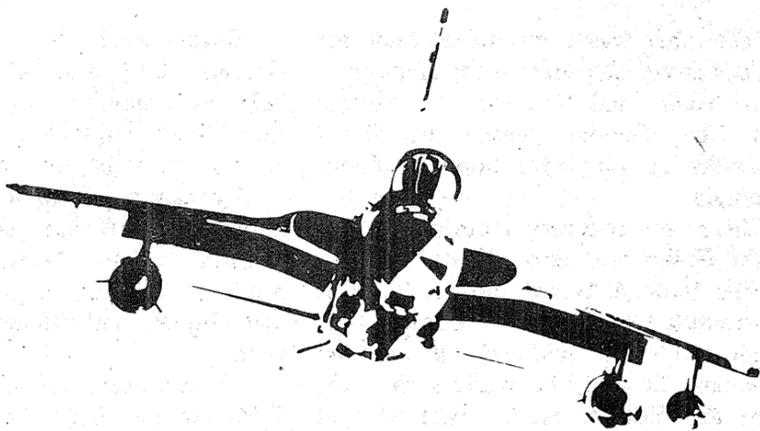
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Our Say

The journey

By Maj. Barry Smith

On Sept. 26, 1980 at one minute past midnight, eight F-105Gs from Marietta's 116th Tactical Fighter Wing left the runway of Dobbins Air Force Base to complete a rite of passage from a simple fighter unit to one of the most sophisticated specialized search-and-destroy units in the Air Guard — the Wild Weasels.

The initiation requirements were tough:

For the aircrews it meant flying non-stop to Spain. Eight air-refuelings and hours in a seat measuring 19 inches across. A short layover and then back into the air to Murted, Turkey and be ready to fly again on NATO missions the next morning.

For the support personnel it meant deploying the necessary equipment and supplies to keep aircraft, crews and technicians working at top efficiency.

For command and control it meant planning and coordination with NATO and Turkish officials.

For all it meant a test of skills and learning. Experiences and more experiences.

Tent city living. Dust, Cold mornings and hot days. Great food.

Turkish hospitality, culture, language and customs.

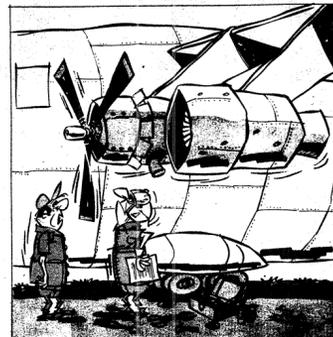
Finally the rite of passage meant turning around and getting home safely. More logistics. More air-refueling and long distance flying. More command and control requirements.

Could the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing accomplish its mission after a long grueling flight to a site half-way around the world?

It can and it did!



"I don't care if you did feel a few rain drops, Clayton, we're not cancelling the maneuvers."



"We had to pull an engine change, sir; and that's the only new one we could find."

Your Say

Dear General Jones

I am pleased to support Project 40 commemorating the 40th anniversary of the mobilization of the National Guard for World War II.

The National Guard has a long and proud tradition. Guardsmen have served with distinction in every U.S. conflict from colonial times through the Vietnam War. This year, it is particularly appropriate that we honor those dedicated members of the Guard whose sacrifices and contributions were so crucial to our victory in World War II.

I am proud to join with all Americans in paying tribute to the past and present members of the National Guard. You have my best wishes and support for the Project 40 events that will take place in Georgia. I hope that these activities will not only focus deserved attention on the many contributions of the Guard but will serve to encourage additional support for the Guard.

Sincerely
Sam Nunn

A Special Group of People

September was a month set aside for a special group of people — the employer's of the Guard and Reserves. In honoring them Gov. George Busbee proclaimed September as Employer Support Month in Georgia.

There were two very important reasons for the Governor's action. First, he knows that the National Guard and the Reserves are absolutely essential to our national defense and has said so on repeated occasions. Second, he realizes that the Guard and Reserve cannot exist without community support. In his proclamation he said, "Men and women in our reserve forces must have the support, understanding and cooperation of their employers if we are to maintain these reserve forces."

During September, every unit of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard held an Employer Appreciation Day to show those employers just what it is we do to maintain our combat readiness.

We cannot afford to acknowledge the importance of our civilian employers just one month a year, however. We all need the support of our employers and communities and families throughout the year.

It has been said that the National Guard is the most important part-time job in America. We all know that this is true. It is time to continually show this to all other Georgians who are not privileged to be members of the Georgia National Guard.

THE GEORGIA GUARDSMAN NEWSPAPER

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

TOW battalion opens for business

The newest battalion in the Georgia Army National Guard, an elite infantry unit armed with the world's most sophisticated anti-tank weapon, was activated in a whirlwind ceremony conducted by Brig. Gen. Dan Bullard, Command and Control commander.

The 1st Battalion, 122nd Infantry, with headquarters in Winder and units in Washington, Eatonton and Covington, was officially opened for business Oct. 4.

The distinctiveness of the new unit was noted by Maj. Robert A. Reitz, formerly of 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry in Dublin, who now commands the new battalion. "This is the most elite unit in the Georgia Army National Guard, the only one of its kind east of the Mississippi," Reitz told troops at the Winder armory after assuming command. "We are going to lead the way and set the example," he added, "we will unite as a family and grow as a family."

He noted, as he did in subsequent remarks to assembled troops in Washington, Eatonton and Covington, that members of the new unit "have come from outstanding battalions and communities," that in the past have demonstrated strong support for the Guard and its mission.

His remarks were followed by Bullard, who alluded to the unit's uniqueness and vowed to emphasize it with distinctive camouflage fatigues and unit patch. "You are the elite of the infantry," he said, "the role you play will be highly relied on in the event this country ever needs to go into combat."

The eliteness of the new battalion was a theme stressed repeatedly. Capt. William A. Jacobs, who assumed command of Co. E in Washington says it is with good reason. On active duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, he commanded a company with TOW missiles. "It is the most sophisticated piece of equipment in the hands of any infantry anywhere in the world — far and away," Jacobs said. Georgia is one of only four states with similar units.

For the new battalion, the transformation to infantry will pose a challenge. Units in Winder and Covington are converting from signal, the unit in Washington from artillery and the unit in Eatonton from engineers.

Because the battalion now has a front-line combat role, 32 females will be re-assigned. Women, by law, are not permitted in combat units. "We've got places for them and we have units that want them," said Robert H. Little, CAC's command sergeant major. "It's a matter of their preferences." Guard units in Lawrenceville, Monroe and the Atlanta area have offered them slots, he said.

The activation ceremony demonstrated

the support that exists for the Guard. In each community, civic and political leaders gathered to witness the changeover and in some of them, receptions were held afterwards.

In Eatonton, for example, wives and other relatives of Guardsmen — Jane Carson, Faye Fowler, Francis Turk and Shelia Barlett — prepared sandwiches, punch and other refreshments for visitors.

There, Bullard injected a bit of humor into the activation ceremony. "When I commanded the 265th Engineer Group" he told the troops and visitors, "we went to the field and everybody said I was trying to make engineers into infantrymen."

"Well," he smiled, "now you are."

Viet vet Reitz to lead TOW battalion



Maj. Robert A. Reitz has been appointed commander of the Georgia Army National Guard's newest unit, the First Battalion, 122nd Infantry TLAT (TOW Light Anti-Tank), by Maj. Gen. Billy M. Jones, the adjutant general.

Reitz is the president of Buck Personnel in Atlanta when not working at his Guard job.

He entered the Army in January 1962 upon his graduation from Virginia Military Institute as a distinguished military graduate. He served in the active Army until 1979 when he joined the Georgia Army Guard.

Reitz served in Korea from 1965-66 and spent two tours in Vietnam from

1967-68 and 1970-71. He was with the Berlin Brigade in Germany from 1974-76.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Virginia Military Institute and a master of arts in Education from Ohio Christian College in Columbus, Ohio.

The new commander's awards include the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with 7 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Reitz lives in Marietta, Ga., with his wife and two children.

Powerful TOW gives Georgians heavy fire

It's a cinch that if Georgia's 122nd Infantry goes into combat, enemy tanks will be on the receiving end of the Army's best equipped tank killers.

Armed with the TOW (Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided) the men of the 122nd can destroy enemy armor nearly two miles away.

The TOW is a guided missile which can be launched from a ground mount, or from an armored personnel carrier, or jeep.

It operates with a crew of four and consists of several parts — mounting kit, launcher and most importantly the TOW missile.

The TOW crew consists of a squad leader, gunner, assistant gunner and a driver. Each has his specific duties ranging from hand carrying the launch tube to camouflaging the firing vehicle.

When in action the gunner acquires the target in the center of the cross hairs in the launch system's optical sight, just as a hunter does with a rifle's telescopic sight, then presses the trigger to fire.

The gunner continues to track the target, in effect guiding the missile optically, until the missile strikes.

An all weather weapon, the TOW missile provides the Georgians of the 122nd Infantry unequalled fire power on today's battlefield.



A jeep mounted TOW anti-tank missile launcher and crew.

41 years in the Guard

In 1938 a fella needed the money

By B. I. Diamond

It started as a way for a Georgia boy to get into shape for the 1936 football season and became a career spanning three wars.

That Georgia boy was Gene L. Hodges, a kid from Statesboro, Ga., who took his coach's suggestion and later found it paying dividends when he dodged shells in the Pacific during World War II.

"My football coach requested that I go to a CMTC — which was a civilian military training corps; they had one month long camps every year, military camps — for me to get into shape for the next season.

"After four camps you could be commissioned as an officer, but, after the second one, my coach, who was an officer in the National Guard, talked me into joining the National Guard," says the now retired Army colonel.

So in 1938 Hodges joined Battery A of the 264th Coast Artillery in Statesboro and photographs of the unit taken that year show the cocked hats, webbed belts and leggings of the time. There are also a few mildly disinterested stares in the formal unit portrait captured by a National Guard photographer three years before Pearl Harbor.

MORE MONEY

"The most attractive reason (for joining the Guard) was to make some money," Hodges said. "Back in 1938 a fella needed all the money he could get.

"I had a job after school, but it didn't pay much...neither did the National Guard, but the combination of the two paid my way through high school and two years of college."

Hodges and his unit underwent two summer camps including one at Pensacola, Fla., honing their skills as coast artillerymen. After the second camp the 264th was reorganized as the 214th anti-aircraft regiment and that's when Uncle Sam stepped in.

"They inducted the Guard in 1940, consequently, just being reactivated as an anti-aircraft unit, we went on active duty with hardly any equipment."

In fact the entire Army and National Guard found itself short of equipment; and federal programs targeted at remedying the lack of materiel in every area were still incomplete. As the Axis powers began to march victoriously through Europe additional funds were appropriated by an anxious Congress to modernize and build anti-aircraft guns, aircraft and tanks.

In 1940, however, new anti-aircraft equipment was in short supply. "Before we went on active duty," Hodges remembered, "we got some equipment, for instance a height finder. It's an instrument that measures altitude

of an airplane and the azimuth. And an old, mechanical type director. Those two things would use correct mathematical data to compute the speed of the plane and the height so that you could fire — but we didn't have any guns."

Hodges left his unit for a five-month "height finder" school before rejoining it, at Fort Stewart using "logs" as stand-ins for the non-existent anti-aircraft guns. "We were serving our hitch for a year, then going home and I think everyone felt that way, of course prior to the end of the year we knew something was wrong and that they weren't going to turn us loose.

"And, of course Pearl Harbor came along on December 7. From the day that we heard about Pearl Harbor, everybody's attitude changed. Everybody had mixed emotions, a little bit scared and frightened wondering what's going to happen. That's about the time you started separating some of the soldiers from the boys. Some of them were showing their instability, I guess you could call it; they would accidentally fire their rifle...there for a while we were scared of each other, but everything settled down."

FARM BOYS

The 214th was a group of men, not unlike other units from other small towns across the nation. "It was mostly farmers and farmers sons, about 89 percent of'em were high school students."

In the months after Pearl Harbor Hodges and the Statesboro unit trained with renewed vigor and in early 1942 they were sent to California to set up an anti-aircraft defense around the Kaiser Ship yards. "We stayed out there nine or ten months," said Hodges.

"Then they shipped the whole regiment, a gun battalion, an automatic weapons and a searchlight battalion, to the southwest Pacific. We landed in New Zealand and after some intensive training there of about three months they (the Army) sent us up to New Caledonia." At that point the Army, which was about to replace a tired group of Marines on a little island called Guadalcanal selected Hodges and several other NCOs to go there and act as liaison between the G.I.s and the Army. "We replaced them (the Marines) by sections. When I got there I took over the Marine sergeant's duties. We stayed there about two or three weeks before our unit got there. It wasn't secure when we got there. We had daily bombings from the air.

Those daily bombings were the work of Japanese pilots dubbed "Louie the Louse" or "Washingmachine Charley" or "Maytag Charley."

"Charley" is described in the U.S. Army's History of the Guadalcanal offensive as "a

difficult target for the anti-aircraft guns since he usually flew high and maneuvered violently when searchlights and guns went into action."

The advice his Marine predecessor gave Hodges was "keep cool." "That was the most scared I've ever been, I hated to see the dark fall, because during the day, we didn't get any raids.

"The second or third night I was over there one of the Marine (airplane) trackers for me says, 'Hodges, me and you and so and so are the only ones that know exactly where that plane is and whether we're gonna get hit or not, you ought not to be worried.' I never thought about that when I was practicing, who cared where the plane was, I was just reading altitudes.

"The first time I read the altitude of an airplane and saw the bombay open I froze just as stiff as a board. After then I was scared to death, but I never did freeze up.

"I stayed there for an additional nine or ten months then I was selected to go to OCS. So in 1943, I left there to come home and go to OCS.

"On the way from the southwest Pacific I stopped long enough to marry my wife and came down with Malaria.

"I think everyone who was on Guadalcanal came down with Malaria. Within a hour after I reported the Marines handed me an atabrine, a little yellow pill, I took one of those every day. You turn yellow and everything and you look like you got Malaria, but you don't realize it because everybody else is that color. And, I didn't know I had it till I got home.

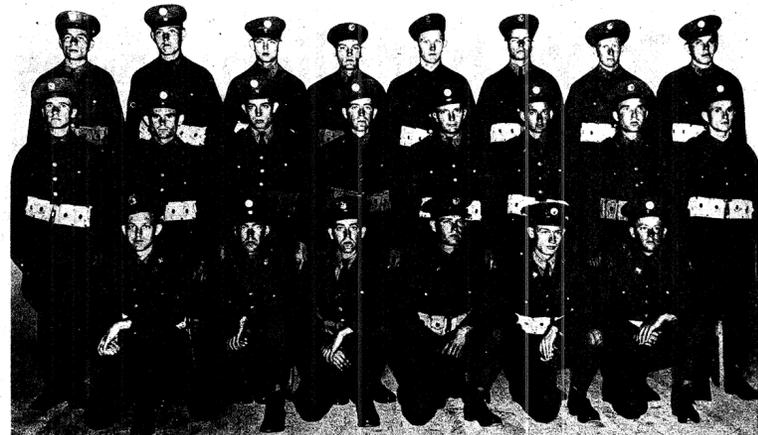
"One of the lessons learned by the Marines was that you have to make the men take the pills, 'cause some of them just wouldn't take it. So that's one of the first things I told our commander when my unit got there was that you gonna have to make the men take these pills: 'Oh I'm not gonna have to make 'em take them' but after awhile you find out that some of them wouldn't take them."

TO EUROPE

Hodges arrived in San Francisco from the Pacific and only "when people looked at you kinda funny" did he realize that he had come down with the disease.

Following OCS Hodges joined an anti-aircraft battery at Fort Stewart, and later transferred to a combat engineer unit and served with them in Germany following the end of the war.

Following his discharge in 1945 when he once again joined the National Guard in Statesboro. This time he stayed with the military until his retirement in 1979, some 41 years of Guard service, a career that began with a football coach's suggestion.



In this group shot Hodges is on the extreme right on the second row.

Communications award

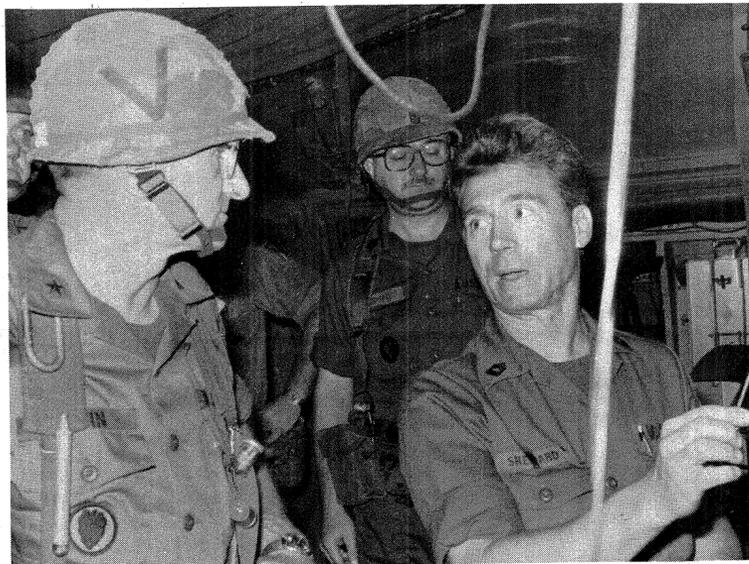
Air Guard names 202nd nation's best

The Georgia Air National Guard's 202nd Electronics Installation Squadron of Macon has received the Air National Guard Distinguished Communications Electronics Meteorological Unit award for 1979, making it the top unit of its kind in the country.

The award was presented Oct. 5 during a ceremony held at the Lewis B. Wilson Airport in Macon. Lt. Col. David Bartholomew, commander

of the Southern Communications Area, presented the award to unit commander, Lt. Col. George Finison. The honor recognized the squadron as the best electronics installation unit in the Southern United States.

Bartholomew also presented the unit a trophy honoring them as the best in the nation. This is the second consecutive year the 202nd has received the national award.



Brig. Gen. Joseph Griffin receives a briefing on Cast Lightning at Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry.

48th joins 24th in Cast Lightning I

By Capt. John C. Whately
Public Affairs Officer
48th Infantry Brigade

The 48th Infantry Brigade, started October by participating in a joint Command Post Exercise (CPX) Cast Lightning I with the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart.

Cast Lightning I tested the efficiency of the command elements "in coordination and control of their immediate subordinate units while in a combat environment." In a Field Training Exercise (FTX) all respective troops are actively involved in the exercise, but in a CPX only enough troops to support the respective Brigade staffs are involved.

"Controllers" representing the re-

spective Brigade staffs and company commanders, played a wargame against the "enemy", — 24th Division personnel at Camp Oliver, — passing on the plays to units through communication channels.

While the controllers were wargaming on the big board at Camp Oliver, the brigade and battalion staffs in their respective Tactical Operations Centers (TOC) followed the action with their tactical situation maps.

Participating in CPX Cast Lightning were the staffs of the 48th Infantry Brigade, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry; 1st Battalion, 230th Field Artillery; and, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor; with the 48th Signal Platoon for communications.



The winners

170th MPs net 1979 Eisenhower Trophy

By Spec 5 Suellen Griggs
124th Public Affairs Detachment

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Trophy, awarded annually to the year's outstanding Georgia Army Guard unit, has been presented for the second consecutive year to the headquarters and headquarters detachment, 170th Military Police Battalion.

The unit was accorded the honor for training year 1979. It won last year for training year 1978. The award was based on drill attendance, assigned strength, training readiness rating and weapons qualifications. The unit graded out no lower than 97 percent in every area of competition. Headquarters, Georgia Army National Guard made the presentation.

Capt. James A. Bruno, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, credits the caliber of people in the unit for the award. "The people are here because they want to be. Everyone does their job and more, they're professional and enjoy what they're doing."

The detachment is responsible for the command and control of the two MP companies within the state. "Our training program is good," added Bruno. "It keeps people interested. Much of our time is spent in tactical training in the field. I think the challenge helps keep the morale up."

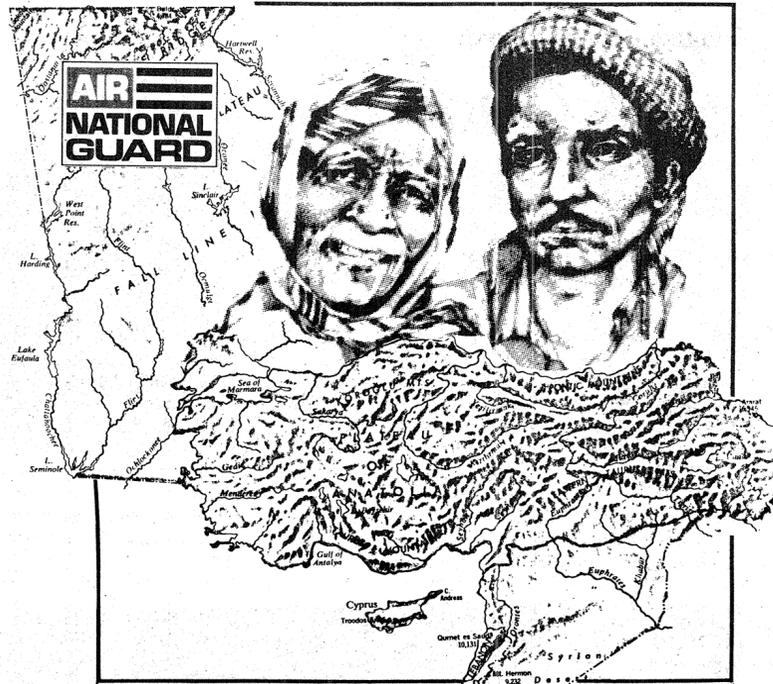
Riverdale, Ga., resident Spec. 5 John Golden, said he believes the detachment earned the trophy through teamwork: "It (the trophy) helps the unit as well as the individual build together. I think the taste of winning the Eisenhower Trophy (last year) has been a real incentive for us to put out 100 percent."

The six women members of the unit share the same view: Pfc Dorothy Thompson of Bainbridge, Ga., observed, "We (the women) really worked hard for this honor. Sometimes I wonder if the men could have done it without us. We sort of gave them a shot in the arm for that extra push."

Bruno is confident about next year's competition noting, "I fully expect to win it again because our retention rate is so good. Good people make all the difference."

Spec. 5 Don Godby backs up his commander's opinion: "I think winning this thing has been a great honor and well deserved at that. We're going to retain the trophy...no one will take it from us!"

It will be May before the 1980 award is announced, but if enthusiasm is the key, the 170th will be hard to beat.



Weasels fly to Turkey on NATO exercise

Eight "Wild Weasel" aircraft of the 116th Tactical Fighter Wing at Dobbins AFB, left Marietta, in late September for Murted, Turkey to train alongside America's NATO partners.

More than 200 airmen, including aircrews, maintenance and support personnel, deployed to Turkey to participate in NATO's "Display Determination" exercise. While in Turkey, the Georgians operated alongside elements of the Turkish Air Force.

In combat the F-105G "Wild Weasels" mission is to seek out and destroy enemy surface to air missile installations and radar sites.

Aircrews flew non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean, refueling in flight from Strategic Air Command KC-135 Stratotankers. Accompanying the Weasels on their trip across the ocean was an EC-135 tactical deployment control aircraft. Support personnel followed aboard Military Airlift Command C-141 Starlifters.

The 116th returned in mid-afternoon, Oct. 12.

Brig. Gen. Ben L. Patterson, commander of the 116th noted that the trip "was a real professional challenge for every member of the unit."

As in the case of other short overseas tours by U.S. based Tactical Air Command Air Guard and Reserve units, the deployment was part of a larger program in which these units deploy for short periods to Europe, Alaska, and the Pacific.

The purpose of these short-term deployments, which began in 1975, is to familiarize US-based air crews with the unique aspects of operating outside the continental United States.

Upon their return Admiral W.J. Crowe Jr., commander-in-chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, thanked the participants:

"Exercise 'Display Determination 80' provided the first opportunity for me, as CINCSOUTH, to observe the performance and capabilities of the Southern Region NATO Forces. I am impressed and I salute the professionalism of all exercise "Display Determination" commanders and their men. You have successfully executed a complex, integrated military exercise of major importance through team effort and personal dedication.

I was particularly impressed with and send my special thanks and appreciation to those who

provided forces, training areas and the logistic support for the exercise as well as the capable planners who put the exercise together.

During my visits to exercise forces it was gratifying to observe the obvious individual enthusiasm, the Esprit De Corps and the overall military readiness of participants. By way of the combined air, land, maritime and amphibious maneuvers, we have learned valuable lessons which have improved the efficiency, effectiveness and readiness of the NATO team in the Southern Region.

My personal congratulations and a hearty well done to all hands."

And from 16th Air Force at Torrejon, Spain: "I wish to express appreciation to all participants of the recent 'Display Determination' exercise. The professionalism and dedication to mission demonstrated by each individual, from flight line mechanic and logistical support personnel to staff officers and aircrews, were instrumental in all exercise objectives being met or exceeded.

Your individual and collective efforts provided one of the finest exercises to date. Thanks to all involved for a job well done."



An F-105G makes a bomb run (left) on a range about one-half mile from the 116th encampment. In center Weasel drops bomb (in circle) then heads off after finishing run (right).

Turkey trip precisely orchestrated

By Maj. Barry Smith
Public Affairs Officer
116th Tactical Fighter Wing

Flying missions alongside America's Turkish allies in NATO's Display Determination exercise was the name of the game for the 128th Tactical Fighter Squadron air crews. But the real challenge was the transoceanic journey from Dobbins, AFB to Murted, Turkey, 6,500 miles away. And return home safely.

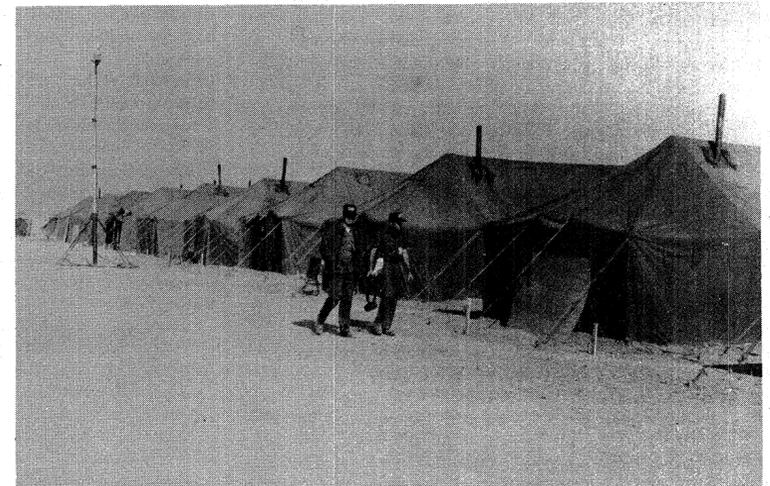
The deployment of the F-105G's was a carefully orchestrated maneuver. Air crews received special briefings, crew rests and specially prepared dinners prior to launching.

Flying at night, hitting rendezvous points with Strategic Air Command KC-135 Stratotankers and in-flight refueling; keeping in constant touch with each other and the EC-135 tactical deployment control aircraft which accompanied the F-105's across the ocean; hitting the time schedule for passage into or over foreign countries; and navigating — all were critical elements that the air crews had to accomplish.

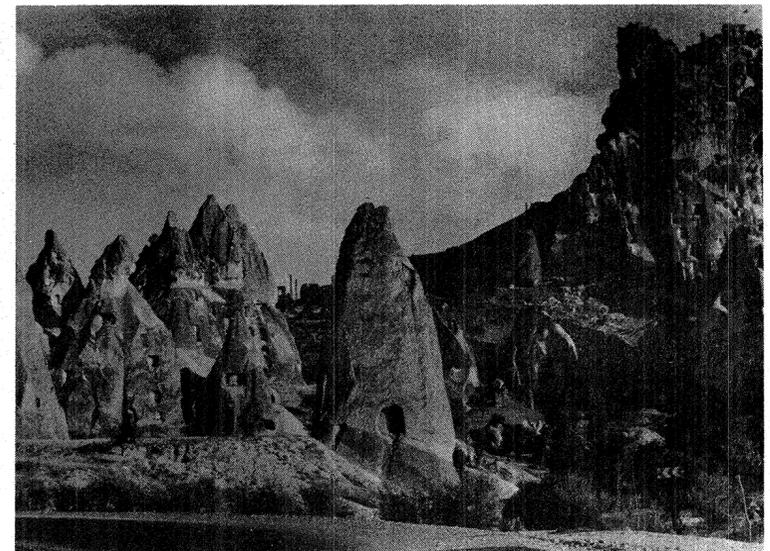
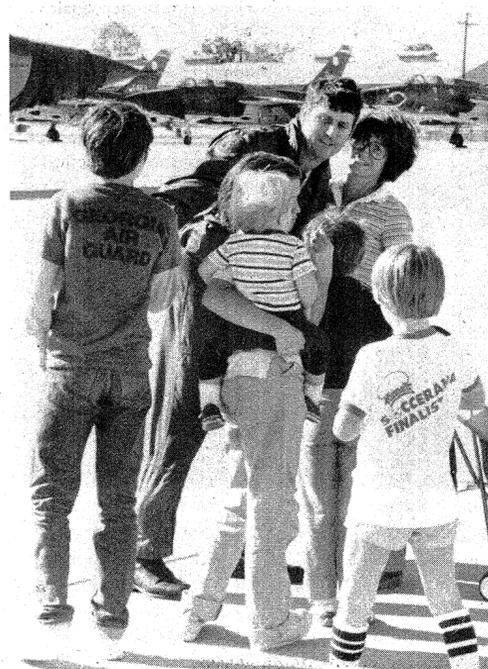
"All in all the transoceanic flight went smoothly," said Capt. David Jones, "but a couple of times things got really uncomfortable. The fumes from the air-to-air refueling really got bad once or twice. You can't open a window and get some fresh air at 21,000 feet in an F-105.



Brig. Gen. Ahmet Corekci (left), 4th Main Jet Base commander, visits the 116th. Accompanying General Corekci is 116th commander, Brig. Gen. Ben L. Patterson and vice commander, Col. Thomas N. Saffold.



Tent city (above) was home to the 116th for two weeks



Early Christians hollowed out houses in the rocks in the area around Goreme Valley, Cappadocia. While left Ann Maclane, wife of Maj. Bruce W. Maclane, welcomes home her husband after his flight from Turkey.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

116th 'adopts' orphanage

By Maj. Barry Smith
Public Affairs Officer
116th Tactical Fighter Wing

Along with the palletized support equipment transported to Turkey during the deployment of Marietta's 116th Tactical Fighter Wing was a special pallet chocked full of toys and games and playground equipment for an orphanage near Murted. The NCO's of each support unit worked hard to gather these toys.

Sergeants Rex Wood, Tommy Keheley, Ronald Gregory, Virlyn Asherbranner and John Briley took the toys to the orphanage.

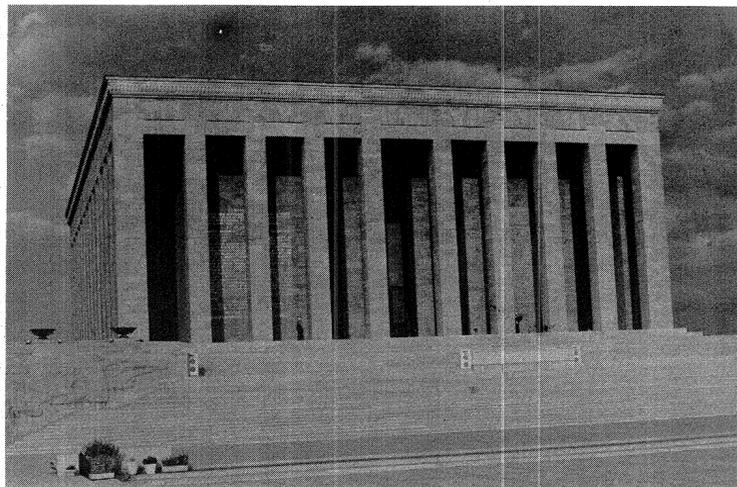
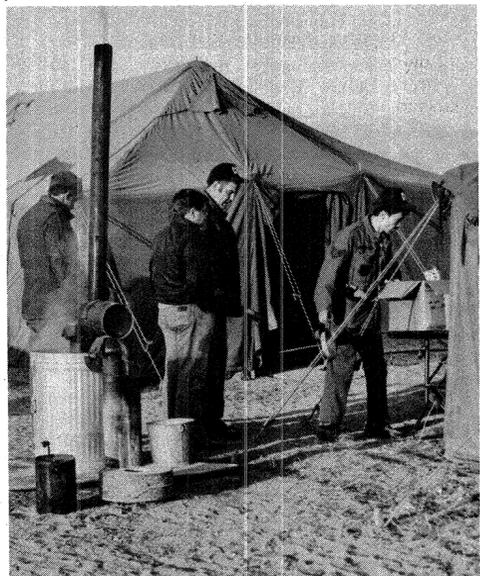
Master Sgt. John Briley represented the 116th Resources Management Squadron: "The kids faces lit up like a child's does on a Christmas morning. Full of happiness and light and laughter," Briley said.

"What was equally rewarding was the look on the faces of the senior NCO's who were there to present the gifts to the kids," said Maj. Bill Ridley. "Here were these top sergeants," he added "tough no-nonsense men. As the kids swirled around the playground kicking new soccer balls, playing frisby and showing each other their new toys — these NCO's grizzled faces melted."

Chief Master Sgt. Virlyn Asherbranner of the 116th Civil Engineering Flight summed it up for all; "It was great! An experience I'll never forget."



The F-105G's of the 116th TFW were parked in bomb proof bays when not flying missions. The bay (above left) is designed to protect aircraft and crews in a war environment. Members of the 116th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (right) start their day with a hot breakfast after dipping mess kits in boiling water.



The tomb of Kemal Ataturk (above), the father of modern day Turkey was visited by many of the 116th TFW personnel. (left) Members of 116th Civil Engineering Flight erect playground equipment bought through voluntary donations for an orphanage near Murted.

'I reckon I got out about a thousand times,
but didn't nobody know it but me.'

JACK BELL

He's THE first sergeant —
He's the mold.



Jack Bell sets a plug of tobacco in his cheek. If he was chewing, it was said, everything was OK.

By Capt. John C. Whatley
and Sgt. 1st Class James C. Conner
48th Infantry Brigade

Leaning back in his chair and pinching up a large chew from his tobacco pouch, Sergeant Major Jack C. Bell of Company A, 148th Support Battalion in Macon, Georgia, recollected how the National Guard had changed since he enlisted in 1937.

"It's a lot better now — better equipment, better people, better training. The education of the people is better now. The people in the Guard back then hadn't even finished high school. We didn't really know what it was all about."

Jack Bell, who will retire in December 1980 after only 42 years, 4 months, and 19 days of service, is one of the few remaining active Georgia Guardsmen who were mobilized in World War II. "We went to annual training for 21 days at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 1940, and then after that they told us we'd be mobilized for a year. We all thought it would be just a year." But before their year was up, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Before his six-year tour of duty was over, Bell had served in Northern Ireland, France, Luxembourg, and Germany with the 8th Infantry Division. He was awarded four campaign stars for his combat experience.

Forty years ago "there were only 60 men to a company," Bell noted. "If you wanted to get in the Guard, you were voted in. One blackball and you didn't get in. I had to wait 6 months on the waiting list to get in."

"We got a dollar a drill and we looked forward to those \$12 checks. That was when a dollar was worth a dollar. I was in Company C of the 121st Infantry and we met in a second floor over the laundry downtown on Mondays. We'd call roll and draw rifles — we had '03's then — and then go down on Third Street and do close order drill."

"We didn't have any equipment," he continued. "I made a mortar for training out of a stove pipe. We had one M-1 rifle in the unit that we trained everyone on. I cut many a BAR (Browning automatic rifle) out of a 2-by-4. We didn't have anything. New recruits coming in the Army for the War had more equipment than we had, and we'd been there six months. Socks and underwear and sheets for us weren't in short supply — they were in NO supply."

Annual training was also different back then. "We went to camp on the trains. The mess section would set up the kitchens on the baggage cars and feed us on the trains. Then we'd get off at the station and march to camp. We walked wherever we went."

There were no barracks at annual training, so "we pitched our tents on dirt floors to stay in. We camped out on the rifle ranges so you could run the whole company through easier. Camp Jackson (Fort Jackson, SC) wasn't but about 4 or 5 buildings then."

The food was also a change from today's fare. "The mess hall was a big rolling kitchen — a stove on wheels. The mess crew would dig the kitchen into the ground and cook 'slumgullion' — beef stew — or we'd get canned rations. The cans were like they are now, but the contents were not half as good."

Bell returned from the War as a Platoon Sergeant E-6 and was promoted to First Sergeant in 1947, long before most current Guard members were born. "Jack Bell was the first man I laid eyes on when I came in 1954," related Maj. Tommie Lewis, 48th Brigade S-4. "He was 220 solid pounds of man, tobacco juice in the corner of his mouth, and he looked at me and growled, 'Wot th' hell you want, boy?' He's THE first sergeant. He's the mold."

Frank Case, a recently-retired Guardsman with over 30 years of service, served in the same unit with Jack Bell and told how you could decipher the situation in the field. "You looked at Jack Bell. If he was chewing, everything was going good; but if that chew was bulging out, things were going bad."

"Have you ever seen Jack Bell spit?" asked Command Sgt. Maj. Homer Proctor, 48th Brigade Sergeant Major, the only other current member of the Brigade to be mobilized for World War II. "He doesn't. Once he gets that chaw set, he'll go all day without spitting. I don't know how he does it."

All the old timers say Jack Bell has mellowed lately. Mellowed? "Yes," agreed Master Sgt. Frank Freeman. In the good old days, "you never wanted to see Jack Bell. If you had to go see Jack Bell, you knew you were in bad shape. If I saw somebody coming after me and I thought they were going to tell me Jack Bell wanted to see me, I ran the other way."

"He's the meanest first sergeant ever," volunteered another, relating the story of the time five men decided to teach Sgt. Bell a lesson. "They decided they'd had enough of Jack Bell and attacked him in the shower one night. Jack Bell was the only one who walked out of the shower."

Sgt. 1st Class Fred Wade called Jack Bell "the dean of first sergeants. He's a good example for any enlisted person to follow. Why, he's probably trained more EM's than any sergeant in the National Guard." "He's raised many a soldier," concurred Sgt. Maj. Billy Long. "He's

hard and firm, but he's fair."

Soldiers come in all ranks, and Jack Bell is always ready. "Now lemme tell YOU somethin', lieutenant," Sgt. Bell began, stabbing his finger in the lieutenant's chest as he gave him some "hard and firm" Jack Bell "advice." After the session was over, a "mellowed" Jack Bell exclaimed, with a smile, "you have to go to school to eat 'em out like that."

"Before you said anything about Jack Bell in the old days," Sgt. Freeman continued, "you looked around to see if he was near. We called him all sorts of things behind his back, but when he came up, it was, 'yessir, first sergeant.'" Warrant Officer 2 Charlie Lockhart claimed Jack Bell wasn't just "a first sergeant back when the first sergeants had the power, he WAS the first sergeant."

After 42 years in the Guard, Jack Bell has seen it all — several times over. "No regrets whatsoever. It's been good." But not always that good. "I reckon I got out about a thousand times," he admitted, "but didn't nobody know it but me."

He always has suggestions for improving the Guard. "I'd like to see the Guard set up a training company to train our people. I get people all the time who'd like to join the Guard," he pointed out, "but they're already committed to jobs and can't leave for 6 months training. If you had a training company they could report to on drill weekends, then people with good jobs could keep them and still be in the Guard. You'd get all the recruits you'd want. You could pick your troops."

Jack Bell advises anyone to "get in the Guard, do your job, get to all the schools you can, do what you're supposed to, look neat, and be a good Guardsman. The promotions will come. A man ought to get in the Guard when he's 18 and stay in for 30 years and save his checks." Some people say Jack Bell never cashed any of his Guard checks. "Oh, I'd cash some every now and then and buy a house. I've still got the houses, so I guess I've still got my Guard money."

One of those houses is on Lake Sinclair, which is where Jack Bell is going to be on weekends when he'd normally have been at the armory. "I'm going to retire from Macon Tech next year," where he instructs classes in air conditioning, he said. "There's some big catfish in Sinclair and I'd sure like to catch one. Some divers the other day were saying there were catfish as big as them down there. They were afraid to dive anymore. I just might hook one of those."

That hardly seems a fair match: anything versus Jack Bell.

The 129th learns self-defense

ON THEIR OWN



With the convoy stopped on the way to "Hill 900," a recon squad of 129th troops fords "Tiger Creek" to trigger and clear a waiting ambush. This event, like others planned for the 129th, would be critiqued immediately after completion to add to the learning experience.

First daylight of Oct. 8, found Air Guardsmen of the 129th Tactical Control Flight (TCF) reporting to unit headquarters in Kennesaw. At 0645 the roll was called and mobility bags, weapons and blank ammunition distributed. A combat scenario was discussed and the weekend training assembly explained. The following 36 hours would hold an unusual training experience for this group of blue-suiters.

During the two-hour trip to the northeast Georgia mountains, the Flight's four squads conducted mini-classes in disaster preparedness, M-16 loading and de-jamming, cover and concealment, and other subjects common to the war-time survival business.

The men were preparing to learn how to move through enemy territory, repel ambushes, and set up and hold a defensive position with no one to help them, but each other.

Traditionally, the Army has provided security for units such as the 129th, allowing unit personnel to concentrate on their strategic mission, usually highly specialized and technically sophisticated to such a degree as to demand full attention to the equipment and its operation.

A revised Army policy has changed all that. According to Capt. John Patrick, security manager for the 129th, units like the 129th will soon be responsible for their own protection.

"The Army no longer promises to provide us with security," said Patrick. "It now falls upon us to provide for our own perimeter defense and self-protection."

The 129th TCF functions as a Forward Air Control Post, a mobile radar element of the Air Force that acts as an air traffic controller for military operations like air-to-air



Tech. Sgt. Neil Summerour (with M-60 machine gun) and Master Sgt. Jerry McGiluray conceal themselves among the foliage during the exercise.

intercepts, air strikes and aerial refueling. As such, the unit must move with the advancing troops and is usually the closest Tactical Air Control element to the enemy. This makes the highly sensitive electronic equipment vulnerable to small arms fire and the unit personnel subject to the hazards of war.

"We must train to do our jobs," said Patrick. "When it is done, it has to be done well. But, now we are in the survival business along with our regular assignment."

So, with an okay from the unit commander, Patrick contacted the Operations and Training Division of the Georgia Army National Guard in Atlanta. Capt. William Callahan was assigned as the Army Guard Training officer and would arrange for use of a suitable training site, develop an exercise scenario and coordinate each phase of the operation.

"We wanted to do two things during this training assembly: We wanted to give a feel for what it's like to be in combat and we wanted to give these men a capability to defend themselves if they were faced with the survival factor."

The Catoosa Training Reservation, operated by the Tennessee National Guard, although it is in Georgia, was chosen as the closest area where Callahan's men could use blank ammunition and move about with relative freedom to create a realistic combat atmosphere.

"It is rare that you get training in what it's like to be in a fire fight," Callahan said. "The confusion you have; how you suddenly feel alone even with 20 people around you."

"I wanted the junior leaders to know how they would lose control as soon as the first shot was fired and how important it is to stay together and constantly look for your team leader and maintain contact."

"It all looks good on paper," Callahan noted, "but there is a tremendous amount of pressure on everybody to do their jobs when they are under attack. That was reflected in our scenario."

The men of the 129th would learn by doing—and being done to. During the weekend, they would be guided through a tactical road march to "Hill 900", their strategic location.

On the way they would be ambushed. Later, their defensive position would be

probed by enemy scouts and then attacked. They would be harassed by enemy night fire and finally fall under a full attack with the hinderance of darkness. Through it all, they would be taught to react and survive.

To have such a war, you need an enemy. Callahan had arranged for the Scout Platoon of the Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Armor to provide some realistic aggression, fire power, pyrotechnics and noise.

"The toughest part of an exercise like this is to control your aggressors and get them to do exactly what you want them to do," said Callahan.

"The 108th Armor scouts were excellent. They were right where they were supposed to be and did exactly what they were supposed to do. There was no way this exercise could have been carried off without the outstanding performance of this group of professionals."

This is something new for the Air National Guard, says Patrick. These tactical exercises were not designed as tests. Each was used as training vehicles to enable Air Force personnel to see and get the feel of operating on the ground in a hostile environment.

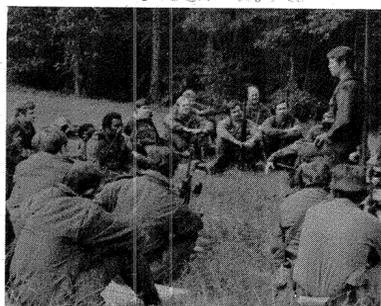
All exercise activity was strictly controlled and no "free play" was allowed. Callahan closely monitored and coordinated each activity.

After an event was over it was immediately critiqued with all personnel present "to review what happened, what went wrong, what went right, and how to do it better next time," said Patrick. "This immediate review and reinforcement of what transpired resulted in a high degree of learning and retention."

Although there are no written guidelines concerning the new Air Force responsibilities, Patrick plans to initiate a second such survivability exercise during the April, May 1981 summer camp at Ft. Stewart.

"We are an Air Force unit subject to combat conditions," says Patrick, "and it behooves us to learn what is necessary to do our job. If we don't stay alive, we're out of the radar business. So, our main job will be survival."

If the 129th is representative of other Air Guard units, teaching the skills of survival may be a lot easier than people think, according to Callahan.



Capt. William P. Callahan talks with 129th TCF members during a critique.

"The morale of the 129th is very high and the men are extremely motivated to do well. They seemed to learn a lot about survival and self protection from this exercise and seemed to enjoy doing it. I've been in training for a long time," Callahan reflected, "and I can truthfully say that this was the best training exercise I have been involved with in 14 years. If this is any indication, the Air Force is going to do just fine on its own."

Army Guard strength

UNIT	LOCATION	% AUTH STRENGTH	UNIT	LOCATION	% AUTH STRENGTH
CAC			HHC, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Albany	102.0
122d Spt Ctr	Decatur	100.0	Spt Co, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Tifton	116.8
HHD, 110th Maint Bn	Decatur	100.0	Co A, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Valdosta	109.0
166th Maint Co	Toccoa	109.1	Det 1, Co A, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Quitman	105.7
Det 1, 166th Maint Co	Lavonia	123.9	Det 1, Co B, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Cordele	132.8
HHD, 170th MP Bn	Atlanta	103.0	Co C, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Americus	102.4
HHC, 151st Avn Bn	Lawrenceville	100.0	Det 1, Co C, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Moultrie	101.9
HHD, 1st Bn, 122d Inf	Winder	110.1	Btry B, 1st Bn, 230th FA	Reidsville	126.0
			Det 1, Btry B, 1st Bn, 230 FA	Baxley	100.0
265TH ENGR GP			Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 230th FA	Brunswick	101.4
Co B, 560th Engr Bn	Reynolds	101.4	HHD, 148th Spt Bn	Forsyth	113.3
HHC, 878th Engr Bn	Augusta	101.9	Co A, 148th Spt Bn	Macon	102.3
Det 1, Co B, 878th Engr Bn	Louisville	103.3	348th Med Co	Macon	106.0
Co C, 878th Engr Bn	Lyons	107.4			
Co D, 878th Engr Bn	Swainsboro	104.5			
48TH INF BDE			118TH FA BDE		
48th Sig Plt Fwd Area	Hawkinsville	102.0	HBB, 1st Bn, 214th Arty	Elberton	111.0
Trp E, 348th Cav	Griffin	120.0	Btry A, 1st Bn, 214th Arty	Hartwell	101.0
848th Engr Co	Douglas	103.2	Btry B, 1st Bn, 214th Arty	Thomson	103.2
HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Armor	Calhoun	100.6	Btry C, 1st Bn, 214th Arty	Waynesboro	111.8
Spt Co, 1st Bn, 108th Armor	Douglasville	116.6	HBB, 2d Bn, 214th Arty	Statesboro	107.8
Co C, 1st Bn, 108th Armor	Dalton	108.6	Btry A, 2d Bn, 214th Arty	Savannah	100.0
HHC, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Dublin	106.1	Svc Btry, 2d Bn, 214th Arty	Savannah	100.0
Spt Co, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Milledgeville	101.2			
Co B, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Thomaston	113.2	HHD GAARNG	Atlanta	135.5
Det 1, Co B, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Perry	103.8	ARNG Tng Site	Ft. Stewart	139.2
			75th Engr Det	Ft. Stewart	103.4

units below 100%

UNIT	LOCATION	% AUTH STRENGTH	UNIT	LOCATION	% AUTH STRENGTH	NUMBER TO REACH 100%	NUMBER TO REACH 100%
CAC, HQ GAARNG	Atlanta	89.7	28	HHC, 48TH INF BDE	Macon	90.6	17
124th PA Det	Atlanta	92.3	1	Det 1, Trp E, 348th Cav	Newnan	79.5	18
116th Army Band	Atlanta	86.6	6	Co A, 1st Bn, 108th Armor	Rome	94.6	5
201st Maint Co	Atlanta	88.6	19	Co B, 1st Bn, 108th Armor	Cedartown	96.7	3
277th Maint Co	Atlanta	98.5	3	Co A, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Gainesville	95.8	5
178th MP Co	Monroe	95.1	8	Det 1, Co A, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Canton	96.1	2
190th MP Co	Atlanta	87.8	20	Co C, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Eastman	98.3	2
138th Med Co	Atlanta	98.5	2	Det 1, Co C, 1st Bn, 121st Inf	Hawkinsville	94.2	3
158th MI Co	Winder	96.6	8	Co B, 2d Bn, 121st Inf	Fitzgerald	98.3	2
159th MI Co	Dobbins AFB	92.4	18	Det 1, HBB, 1st Bn, 230th FA	Jesup	92.5	7
1160th Trans Co	Hunter AAF	92.5	11	HBB, 1st Bn, 230th FA	Waycross	92.9	9
Co A, 1st Bn, 122d Inf	Winder	53.8	42	Btry A, 1st Bn, 230th FA	Brunswick	98.0	2
Co B, 1st Bn, 122d Inf	Covington	98.9	1	Btry C, 1st Bn, 230th FA	Savannah	99.0	1
Co C, 1st Bn, 122d Inf	Covington	71.4	26	Det 1, HHD, 148th Spt Bn	Macon	92.1	6
Co D, 1st Bn, 122d Inf	Eatonton	74.7	23	Co C, 148th Spt Bn	Sparta	75.4	28
Co E, 1st Bn, 122d Inf	Washington	71.4	26	648th Maint Co	Jackson	60.0	48
				Det 1, 648th Maint Co	Forsyth	84.4	9
HHC, 265TH ENGR GP	Marietta	94.6	5	448th Ord Det	Jackson	11.1	8
HHC, 560th Engr Bn	Columbus	95.5	8				
Co A, 560th Engr Bn	Dawson	78.3	13				
Det 1, Co A, 560th Engr Bn	Columbus	86.4	10				
Det 1, Co B, 560th Engr Bn	Montezuma	87.8	9	HBB, 118TH FA BDE	Savannah	98.5	2
Co C, 560th Engr Bn	Lagrange	85.8	19	164th Maint Co	Hinesville	81.1	27
Co D, 560th Engr Bn	Thomasville	98.3	1	Det 1, 164th Maint Co HE	Glennville	97.4	2
Det 1, Co D, 560th Engr Bn	Bainbridge	98.6	1	165th Sup Co	Savannah	99.2	1
Co A, 878th Engr Bn	Augusta	61.7	54	Svc Btry, 1st Bn, 214th Arty	Elberton	14.2	60
Co B, 878th Engr Bn	Sandersville	59.1	47	Btry B, 2d Bn, 214th Arty	Savannah	94.6	5
1148th trans Co	Augusta	98.3	3	Btry C, 2d Bn, 214th Arty	Springfield	96.7	3

Air guard strength

UNIT	LOCATION	% AUTH STRENGTH	UNIT	LOCATION	% AUTH STRENGTH
165th TFW	Dobbins AFB	106	117th TCS	Hunter AAF	98
			129th TCS	Kennesaw	90
			202nd EIS	Macon	98
HQ GAANG	Atlanta	95	224th CMBTCS	St. Simons	92
116th TFW	Dobbins AFB	85	283d CMBTCS	Savannah	94

National Guard program aids Georgia Cadet

By Spec. 5 Suellen Griggs

Slaving all day over a hot stove, arms elbow deep in soap suds and dirty dishes, deadlines to meet in preparing food for a massive crowd which rarely appreciates the effort may sound like a punishment to some, but for Jill Nelson, it is a reward.

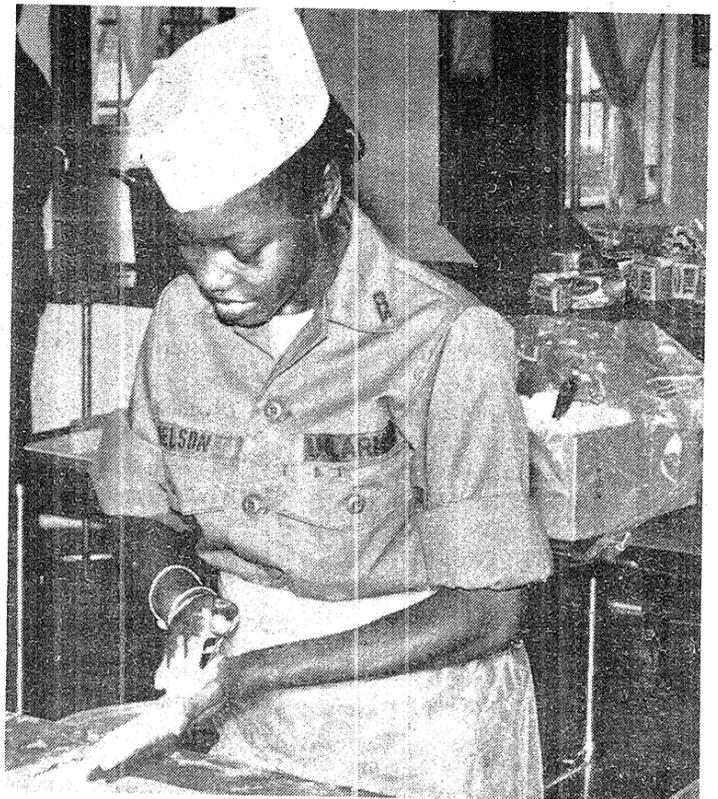
A cadet in the Georgia State University ROTC program, Cadet Nelson was given the opportunity to receive on-the-job training with the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) in a National Guard Unit while completing her studies in dietetics.

SMP gives the student an extra learning avenue in a real situation rather than just text-book theories. "I really like the program. It's a great experience to be here," said the attractive 22 year-old from Staten Island, New York.

Working with the 138th Medical Detachment, Jill will receive on the job training in supply, dining facilities and work in the motor pool. "I had three years active duty as a food specialist. I enjoyed it, but I wanted to have more responsibility," she explained. "Once I finish the program, I hope to return to active Army as a dietician."

To qualify for SMP, the student must be accepted in both ROTC and a National Guard unit. The cadet is placed in an officer slot and trained by a ranking officer familiar with the job duties. After two years in the ROTC program, the cadet is awarded his or her commission.

For more information on the Simultaneous Membership Program see your nearest National Guard recruiter.



ROTC Cadet Jill Nelson smiles as she prepares cookie batter for lunch. Nelson took advantage of the Simultaneous Membership Program. (photo by SP5 Willis Mitchell)



Carolyn Bush (c) jogs with her children: Chearae (l) and Jack Jr. (r).

Air Guard Service Brings family together

Sometimes service to the nation has broken up families, but in Savannah, Ga., service in the Georgia Air National Guard has brought a family closer together.

Carolyn Bush, an inventory management specialist at Savannah's 117th Tactical Control Squadron needed a change from "hitting the clock over and over, the same people," so she joined the Guard. The change, she said, has brought her closer to her daughter Chearae, 12 and Jack Jr., 10.

In fact the three all wear uniforms now: Carolyn's Air Guard blue, Chearae's Girl Scout green and Jack Jr.'s Cub Scout blue.

"We had a slight communications problem," Ms. Bush now says, "but since I've been in the Guard it's been fine. We're

doing more than sitting around and waiting for PTA meetings."

A lab technician during the week at American Cyanamide, Ms. Bush said she joined the Guard because it was a challenge. "The Guard has developed me. I'm stronger now. A woman can do it if she tries."

Try she did, by pure willpower, Ms. Bush says she lost 17 pounds in three weeks in order to meet the Guard's weight requirement.

As for her Guard job she says she now gets "more respect and for me to come around (at home) in a uniform, well, it's really something."

And to her kids, her Guard duty has meant that "we get more involved."

State offers 11 scholarships

Eleven full 4-year scholarships to North Georgia College in Dahlonega are now available to eligible students under the Georgia Military Scholarship Act of 1980.

These scholarships are specifically designed to provide a continuing supply of new officers to the Georgia Army National Guard. Individuals who accept the scholarships are obligated to accept a commission as a Second Lieutenant and serve not less than four years in the Georgia Army Guard.

Normally an interested individual would request an application from his or her local legislator and return the completed form to that lawmaker who

nominates the applicant. This year only, applications are available from Army Guard recruiters as well as from state legislators.

The completed application must be forwarded back to the state legislator.

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be a legal resident of Georgia, have at least a 3.5 high school grade point average, and a 1,000 combined Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score.

Completed applications must be received by the Georgia Student Finance Authority from the legislators not later than January 1, 1980.