

PELIGRAM

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Call me SARGE! *Stripes — and much more!*

Sergeant Ambros G. Ard, assigned to B Battery, Washington Artillery, watches as his wife Thomasa pins his new chevrons to his sleeves after his

completion of the Basic NCO Course at the Louisiana Noncommissioned Officer's Academy.

... from the flagpole

Whenever people gather at parties nowadays, the conversation often drifts to politics. It seems everyone has a complaint about something that they feel should be changed. Some believe that unresponsive policies in government are the biggest problem. Others feel the problem is bureaucratic red tape. Many say that it is wasteful and corrupt practices. The sad part and biggest problem is that folks fail to exercise their right and responsibility to vote.

Guard personnel have taken an extra step by volunteering to serve their state and nation in peace and war. It is this unselfish attitude which should spark members of the Guard to serve as examples for their peers by participating fully in the election process.

Unfortunately, many people say that their one vote will get lost in the masses and theirs has no effect on the final results.

In Louisiana, opportunity is offered this October and November to elect a slate of state and local officials who will greatly influence the lives and livelihoods of the state's citizenry. In particular, Guard personnel will be given the opportunity to select their new Commander-in-Chief, the next governor.

As citizen soldiers, Guard members have expressed a keen interest in the welfare of their state, now they have an opportunity, a right and responsibility to vote. Guardsmen and women throughout the state should encourage others to join in learning more about the candidates, study their policies, ideas and platforms, take the time to become informed and exercise the precious right. . .the right to share with others in the shaping of their government and their future. . . with their vote.



As the old song goes, "Letters, we get letters". Only it isn't necessarily so.

There has been a dry spell for letters to ol' Bill and perhaps rightly so. It just might be, that all is well in the Guard today and no one has any gripes.

It's like being in a baseball game with no score. No runs, no hits, no errors, and apparently everyone is satisfied with the status quo.

Afterall, for everyone who might find something wrong with the Guard, or for everyone who might have a valid suggestion which would assist and improve the Guard, there is no chance taken if they simply choose to keep their thought to themselves.

The sad part is that some individuals are genuinely concerned about the Guard and their role in it. They have legitimate gripes, or suggestions about the manner in which things are done, and they are interested in helping improve the Guard itself.

For the most part, these are the individuals for whom this column has been created. It is not for the flippant blowhard who has a gripe only because he or she does not do

his job, or does not like the repercussions that result. It is not for the individual who can only gripe about having to do something for his drill check every month, yet cannot justify his existence or his work with the Guard.

No, this small and personal segment of YOUR newspaper is for YOU the concerned Guardsman. Letters to Bill are kept confidential and no names are used in the *Peligram*, but the letters must be signed when they are submitted.

If you have a thought which might be beneficial to the Guard why not share it with others? And why not let YOUR fellow Guardsmen know throughout the state by telling them in YOUR publication.

For gosh sakes, folks, WRITE!
BILL



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Mom, Dad, Son enjoy Guard and Army

Editor's Note:

The PELIGRAM takes its hat off to Captain Sharon Bannister, Unit 10 for the Headquarters Detachment, 199th Support Battalion for her interesting human interest story concerning the Claude's and her industrious photographic coverage of the 199th's activities in Alexandria. Her work has been published in the Alexandria "Daily Town Talk" and the PELIGRAM welcomes her story.

It's not every twenty-year-old soldier who has a mom and dad in the National Guard, but Gregory West is one that does. His parents, Julia and Caleb West of 120 Oak Street, Alexandria, are both staff sergeants in the 199th Support Battalion, Alexandria. Prior to joining the Louisiana Army National Guard, Julia and Caleb served six years in the U.S. Air Force.

Julia wanted to leave her small hometown to "be in the service or do something for the public." Her dream came true when she joined the Air Force and went to England. She was then sent to Eglin AFB in Florida, where she met her husband, Caleb. Julia was out of the service from the time of the birth of her first son until she joined the Louisiana Army National Guard, 14 years later.

Julia is a Supply Control Supervisor and "puts people on the right track" when they have problems with supply requests. When not wearing her uniform one weekend a month, she is a homemaker, full-time beautician at a local salon, mother of four sons, and also works part-time in her home as a beautician. Julia received her beautician training through the GI Bill, is Vice President of Twin City Local Beautician 21, and attends an average of eight beautician workshops state-wide annually. When not busy with sons George



FAMILY AFFAIR—The West family, Caleb, Gregory and Julia enjoy a quiet moment together as they reminisce about their family ties. Mom, dad and son are living proof of the Total Army concept, with both Guard and active Army representation.

12, Michael 17, Caleb 19, she enjoys crocheting and listening to jazz.

Caleb, a Material Supply Repairman in the 199th Support Battalion, issues parts for military vehicles during his monthly weekend drill, while in civilian life he is a custodial worker in the Rapides Parish school system.

Son Gregory is stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, as a cook, loves basketball and plays on his company's team. He is also interested in music.

"We influenced him in joining the Army since we were both associated with the Guard," Julia said, "but he made the final decision. He was very inquisitive about basic training. We told him the truth and he was determined to

take on the challenge."

She added, "He asked a lot of questions then, and still does!" Gregory is active in a Baptist church near Ft. Hood.

Julia says she "gave him motherly advice concerning a future promotion" and hopes he'll take it. He is proud of his parents being in the Guard and likes to show pictures of them to his friends.

"I can accept problems better because of my military training and discipline. I am probably somewhat stricter than the average mother, too!" Julia added.

Both Caleb and Julia plan to stay active in the Guard until they retire with 20 years of satisfactory service.

WHAT'S YOUR "PAIN IN THE NECK?"



- RED TAPE?
- DUPLICATIONS?
- DELAYS?
- POOR PLANNING?
- WASTE OF MATERIAL?
- INFERIOR PROCEDURES?

Suggest A Better Way!

Call me Sarge!

NCO Academy picks up steam

A new cry is being echoed more and more in units of the Louisiana Army National Guard these days, and that cry is "Call me Sergeant!"

And there is good reason for it.

With three classes of its basic NCO academy course graduated in the past same number of years, with 2 courses graduating from the senior NCO course, and one from the advanced NCO course, the Louisiana Noncommissioned Officer's Academy is showing that it is going into high gear.

"Leadership and training are the big problems we face in the Guard," remarked Sergeant Major Norvin Schexnaildre, the Commandant of the Louisiana NCO Academy and one of the principal people credited with the development of the NCO educational system in the Louisiana National Guard.

The Sergeant Major went on,

"The people we graduate will, now go back to their units and they will now know what it means to be an NCO. They have been taught the leadership they need to solve the problems in their units and now they can go to work to solve the major problems of the Guard."

His comments were echoed by State Command Sergeant Major John K. Saleeby when addressing the graduating members of the third class of Basic NCO students at the academy.

"We have taught you the responsibilities of being an NCO. You now know those responsibilities and you know how to perform as an NCO in your units," Saleeby said. "While we have taught you something about training, administration, logistics and maintenance, the major thing we have attempted to make you

aware of has been your responsibilities as a noncommissioned officer."

"Through the NCO Academy," explained Schexnaildre, "we have worked to insure the NCO knows that he or she is responsible for the training of the individual Guardsman or woman in the basic skills, that help them accomplish their job and stay alive on a battlefield."

"We hope," he added, "that we can get the officers out of the individual training area and let them concentrate on developing their units' training. The training of the individual soldier has always been an NCO responsibility and should be emphasized as such."

Working with cadre from the Army Reserve's 95th Training Division during its initial inception, the Louisiana NCO Academy has grown from a meager beginning to a point today at which additional federal funds have been made available for its continuance and expansion. In addition, Louisiana Adjutant General, Major General O.J. Daigle, Jr. has committed himself and his staff to the construction of comfortable and adequate classrooms and offices to make the NCO Academy a viable, distinctive entity in the state. The construction of the classrooms and offices was expected to be completed this month in an area near the Camp Beauregard Exchange.

But the facilities, indeed even the instruction are only vehicles through which the development of the NCO corps for the Louisiana Army National Guard is being forged. To be developed to its fullest, the NCOs graduating from the courses at the academy are expected to return to their units and encourage other potential leaders to seek out the academy and its instruction so they, too, can say "Call me Sergeant!"



REMEMBERING—Sergeant Major Norvin Schexnaildre, Commandant of the Louisiana Noncommissioned Officers Academy since its inception, stands before the "Duce Mus" motto of the academy and reflects on its growth.

29 graduate Basic NCO course



SP4 Wise

The Louisiana National Guard NCO Academy graduated its third basic NCO Course class, August, in ceremonies which saw one Guardsman decorated for an act of valor.

Brigadier General Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., Louisiana Adjutant General presented Specialist Frankie S. Wise the Louisiana Commendation Medal with "V" for her heroism in an incident which occurred on July 21, 1979.

On that date Wise was cited for her quick and decisive action when she picked up an armed artillery simulator that had been tossed into a truck in which she and about a dozen other NCO students were riding, and threw it from the moving truck. Her response prevented the simulator from exploding amid the students and thereby prevented possible injury to her classmates.

The graduates of the course included Ambrose G. Ard, Robert J. Bookman, James D. Braadland, Maxwell A. Brandin, Oliver Brown, the Distinguished graduate, Richard E. Buisson, Cursey J. Calais and Emile K. Carter.

Also, Lionel Casiano, Guy E. Guerin, Ernest T. Hendrix, George W. Hulse and Clarence L. Hymon.

Other graduates included J.L. Kenney, Yoshiharu Lizanna, Clayton R. Meyer, Adean Pipes, recipient of the Leadership award, Joyce Smith, the Commandant's Award recipient, and Gaylor A. Spiller.

Also, Milton J. Square, Burton S. Stewart, Jr., Edward M. Taylor, Robert E. Turner, Jesse L. Warren, Robert L. Washington, Edward Williams, Jr., Patrick O. Williams, Adrian K. Winham and Frankie S. Wise.

Who; what is a sergeant?

Traditionally they have been known as the "backbone" of an army. Some have even been known to insure they were not confused by their underlings with being an officer by swearing they "worked for a living."

They are called different names in different services. Sometimes the stripes, their "badges" of leadership are worn differently and they work in different settings.

They are often called "Techs" in the Air Force. The Marines call them "Gunnies" and sometimes the Navy calls them "Chiefs." Most of the time, though, they are called Sergeant.

They are the first line of leadership in the armed forces and the Guard. For whether they represent the Air National Guard or the Army side of the house, these are the individuals who have distinguished themselves at an early stage by their devotion to being and bettering themselves as leaders at the basic echelons where

good leadership is tantamount to the training of good Guardsmen and women, and where most of the problems associated with any service are found.

Sergeants are "people" leaders. Their tools are the members of their squads and sections. Their challenges are seeing that those individual members are prepared to perform their individual tasks and their basic jobs well so that they can then apply those talents to accomplishing a unit mission.

It has been noted that sergeants can, at the same time, be both the strong link and the weak link in a unit chain of command. But mostly, they are the strong link. For when sergeants function well, the members of the teams, squads and sections also function well.

For the most part, the sergeant lingers on the border of the limelight, striving, if not actually being, the unsung hero of an outstanding endeavor on his unit's

part. Admittedly, most reserve the center of attention for their officers or for other senior sergeants, saying they prefer to concentrate on ways they can make their units even better.

Some go on to become officers through various commissioning programs. Others go forth doggedly committed to remaining a sergeant and working their way up the rungs of the sergeants' own ladder of success.

Whether they make it or not depends on many factors. But whether they are able to perform their much needed task of training individuals in their basic military skills and jobs depends, for the most part, on the sergeants themselves.

Backbone or trainer, leader or servant, the individual to whom the majority of men and women in the services and the Guard look for answers is the one who says "Call me Sergeant!"

Guard gets finest mini-t



PERSPECTIVES—With a side view of a M-60 Main Battle Tank in the right foreground, and a silhouette target in the left background, one can gain a perspective of the miniature buildings and even smaller tank silhouettes used for crew training at the Louisiana National Guard's new mini-tank range located at Camp Beauregard near Pineville. (LANG photo)

By CPT Thomas A. Reso

They call it the "World's Finest Mini Tank Range." And although that distinction will have to be earned by some objective judgment, all hands involved in the Army's newest armor training facility already behave like theirs is indeed the finest — even on the first day of operation.

Nestled in the back road firing ranges of Camp Beauregard in central Louisiana, the "Mini" range was open for business after a year of planning and construction which included a variety of active duty and National Guard personnel who provided assistance.

The term "Mini" applies to the range and targets, not the tanks. Full-sized M-60 tanks sit stationary in five bays that resemble a car

wash. The tanks face a range that is 192 feet deep, but has scale model buildings and models of Soviet tanks that produce a simulated depth of 3200 meters.

The full-sized tanks are equipped with a special mechanism called the "Brewster Device" which "Zeroes In" an M16 rifle mounted along the barrel of the tank's big 105mm guns.

So, instead of firing a large gun round which requires at least 1500 meters on a life size range, this miniature version offers targets at a 1-60 scale with M16 ammunition. The M16 firing mechanism is controlled by a cable connecting the rifle to the gunner inside the tank. Sighting is done through gunner periscopes, so the toy-sized Soviet T-62 looks to the tankers like silhouettes of the real thing.

Gunners have to be alert to any combination of the 50 targets located on the range, ten of which are mobile and run on scale model-sized railroad tracks. The targets also have 24 volt lights for night firing.

Five miles of electrical wiring connect the "Pop Up" and moveable targets to a control panel in the range tower where firing is coordinated and scored.

"This is just fantastic," said Captain Bill Patterson, range officer and operations and training officer for the Louisiana National Guard's 1st Battalion 156 Armor. "Our gunners get to practice on a larger number and variety of targets than on the full-scale range at Ft. Polk. We do less damage to the environment because of using M16s instead of the large turrent

-tank range ANYWHERE!

guns, and we save on the amount of land we need since everything is scaled down to 1/60 its size," he said, adding, "this is the finest facility I've seen."

"Not only do we save money on ammunition, but we can train year-round without using a lot of fuel to go to sites out of state," Patterson went on to say, he also stated that the mini range was good for teaching tactics, since moving and stationary targets can be used in combination, thus forcing gunners to decide on the spot which target is the greater threat and should be fired on first.

The range was designed by Luther Doiron, an engineering specialist at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. Major Earl Dickerson, an electrical engineer, also from New Orleans, designed the electrical layout, which operates with power from a primary electrical line from nearby Esler

Field, installed by the Louisiana Air Guard's 214th Electronics Installation Squadron, which also constructed the control panel for the stationary targets.

Cleaning, landscaping and creation of an earth berm impact area at the rear of the range was performed by Frank Smith, Camp Beauregard forest manager.

The metal building and moving target foundation was built by the construction firm of A.A. Gremillion of Alexandria at a cost of \$79,150 in federal funds. The work was personally supervised by Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Hubbard and Master Sergeant Roy F. Ashley, Army Advisors to the Louisiana National Guard's Armor battalion.

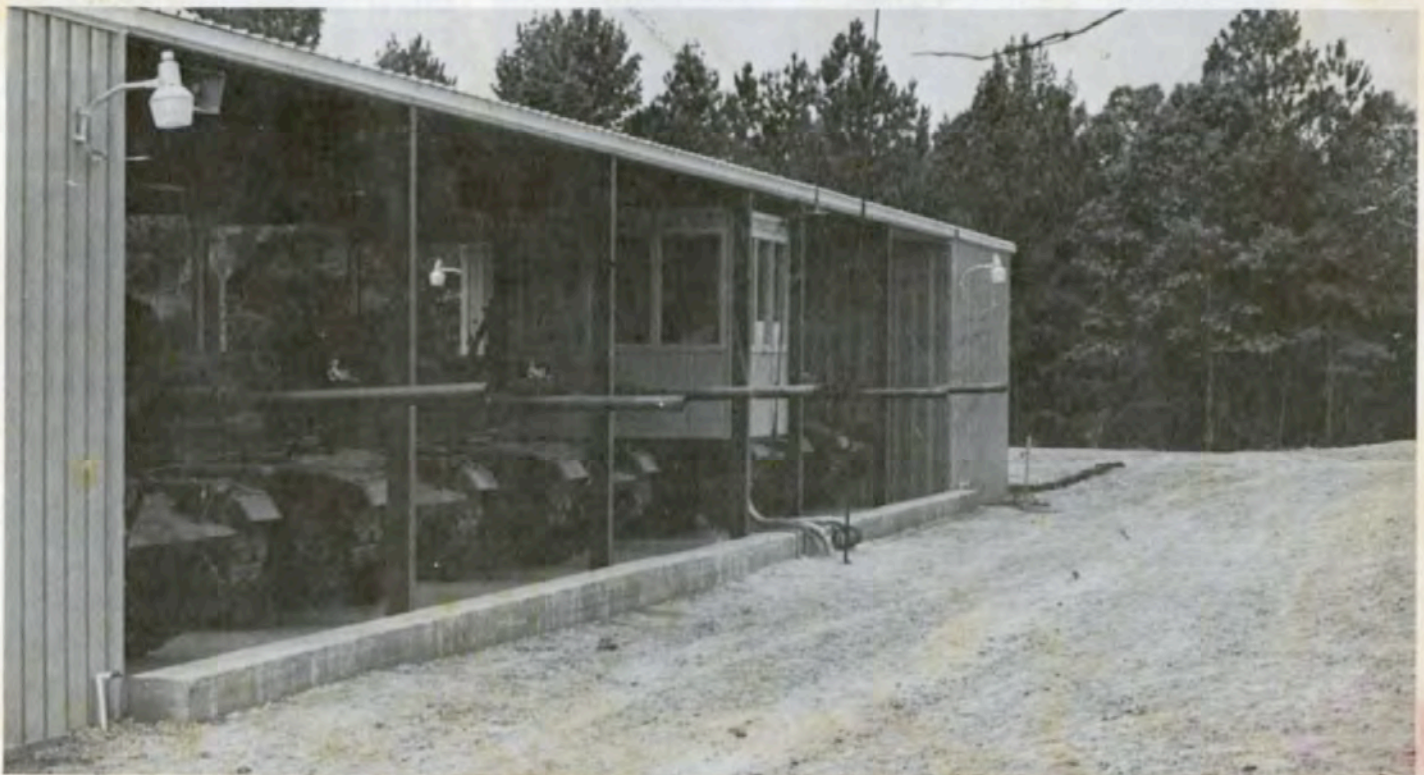
The range had its inaugural firing conducted by Troop E 156th Cavalry and Company A of the Louisiana Guard's 1st Battalion 156th Armor, both elements of the 256th Infantry Brigade. The 256th is

"round out" brigade of the Fifth Infantry Division (Mechanized) headquartered at Ft. Polk, and in the event of mobilization, would become the Fifth Division's third brigade.

Since both the active duty members of the 5th Division and the Guardsmen wear the same uniform and unit patch, it was difficult to tell them apart on that first day of firing, which attracted many observers from Ft. Polk. Plans are being made for training of active duty personnel on the range as well as Guardsmen.

But whether firing is done on a full-scale range or on this highly technical mini version at Camp Beauregard, some things will never change. Like the gunner who was tracking a moving target and attempting to talk with the man operating the turret; "There it is! Move to your left! Your left! No, your **other** left!"

Some things in the Army and the Guard never change.



READYLINE—Five M-60 Battle tanks are "ready at the firing" line at the Louisiana National Guard's new mini-tank range located at Camp Beauregard near Pineville. (LANG photo)

Two women graduate

LAMA graduates 25 from OCS

The first two women to complete the State's Officer's Candidate School were among the 25 graduates of the latest group of new Second Lieutenants commissioned from the Louisiana Army National Guard Military Academy, in ceremonies August 18.

Thomas A. Hill, Deputy Chief of the National Bureau's Organization and Training Division was the principal speaker for the ceremonies which saw the 25 new officers entering the ranks of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

The graduates of OCS Class 19 included Jerry L. Beard, the recipient of the Wilmer L. Bennett Memorial Award and the Association of the United States Award.

Also, Gayle W. Botley, Donald G. Burgess, Daniel C. Duckworth and Malcolm P. Ehrhardt.

In addition, David C. Entrevista, James E. Fisher, Myron M. Fonseca, Ricky L. Geren and Alfred C. Holder, Jr.

Lyle W. Jackson was the recipient of an award from the Louisiana National Guard Association, while Carselia Jones, one of the first two women to graduate the course was presented the Commandant's Award.

Wayne K. Knight, Jessie J. Landry, Jr., and James W. McCallon, the recipient of the Adjutant General's Award were other graduates. Also, Mark N.

Matthews, Robert A. Murphy, and William H. O'Neal, the winner of the Erickson Award. Arthur L. Patterson, Stephen A. Quinnelly, Brian K. Rolan, winner of the Academic Board Award, Victoria Sbisa, the second woman to graduate the course, Johnny R. Smith, Wayne A. Smith and Buddy W. Taylor rounded out the graduates before a crowd of almost 400 well-wishers.

Rivere is recognized

Who says people in the Guard never get recognition? The person who made that remark undoubtedly was not from White Castle and had not read the story done by the *White Castle Times* on Herman "Buck" Rivere, a Chief Warrant Officer assigned to Company A, 769th Engineer Battalion in Plaquemine.

Rivere, who has 31 years of service with the National Guard to his record, was the valedictorian graduate of White Castle High School's class of 1946 and joined the Guard two years later. He worked his way up the ladder in success in the Guard while he stayed in his home town and contributed to the community.

Rivere is considered a "lifer" by many of the young crowd, but he takes it in stride, noting that the Guard was allowed him to work at home and reap some of its benefits. He also notes that it could aid some of the young people today who are coming out of high school and faced with some of their first major decisions.

With the congratulations presented him by the *White Castle Times*, the *Peligram* adds it's "well done."



FIRST TWO—Newly commissioned Lieutenants Carselia Jones and Victoria Sbisa, the first two women to complete the Louisiana Military Academy Officer Candidate School congratulate each other on their success.



Horses put to pasture, but. . .

The Cav spirit lives on

By Sp4 Brad Gonzalez
241st PAD

They might have come charging out of a Frederick Remington painting, across a fruited plain, to send a menacing enemy reeling with just the sound of bugle blasts and their horses' hooves. But today their horses are Cobra helicopter gunships and M-60 battle tanks, their battleground the jungle and the plain, and their Indians wear no feathers. Still, the spirit of the cavalry lives!

After the War Between the States, the Army maintained 10 regiments of cavalry to augment the rest of its active components. By 1882, these 10 regiments of "horse soldiers" were spread across a vast frontier, garrisoned at some 55 outposts. Their mission: to protect the lives and property of the settlers in their expansion west. According to the ROC text *American Military History 1607-1953*, between 1865 and 1891 there were at least 13 campaigns and at least 1,067 recorded engagements with the Indians.

Probably, the one gaining the

most notoriety being between General George Armstrong Custer with his 7th United States Cavalry, and the Sioux led by Chief Sitting Bull. The outcome of this engagement, is of course, well known to both scholars of military science and to "buffs" of the frontier days, who hold the esteem of the "old west" high with fascination.

The cavalry survived through the "rough-riding" days of the Spanish-American War and forged on into World War I, where the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry, founded and organized under Captain Albert de St. Aubin, was incorporated into the 39th Division, then stationed at Camp Beauregard. The unit, comprised of volunteers from New Orleans and surrounding areas, saw action in France with both the 8th and 9th United States Army Corps.

The advent of World War II and the coming of highly mechanized warfare saw the United States Cavalry still existing as a highly mobile combat force, although it remained mounted on horseback.

And it was a cavalry unit, the First Cavalry Division, that was the 1st combat unit withdrawn from Japan after the war.

The "Cav" was back in the saddle again, when called on to serve its country in the Republic of Korea and again in Vietnam.

The rich tradition and esprit de corps provided by the Indian Wars has been maintained as Active Army Units, such as the First Air Cav Division, the Sixth Air Cav; both at Ft. Hood, Texas, and other units stationed throughout the world.

At home in Louisiana, this heritage and spirit is carried on by Louisiana National Guard units such as Troop, 256th Cavalry in Natchitoches, Detachment 1 Troop E, 256th Cav in Many, and by the 1st Battalion 156th Armor.

The cavalry rides again, not with sabres drawn and shining, mounted atop thundering steeds, galloping across dew covered fields to glory, but instead with the rolling thunder of heavy armor, the work horse of the modern cav, as the Cav head down freedom's trail.

Patriotism makes a comeback

If Mom, apple pie and patriotism are indeed outmolded ideals you can save your breath trying to convince at least one Mandeville family that their life style is out of date.

At a time when many young people are entering the armed services and admittedly some are entering Guard purely for the benefits they may receive, the George Band family in Mandeville can look back and confess that their son, Willie Band's enlistment in the Louisiana Army National Guard had a traditional "ring."

"Willie was leaning heavily toward the Navy for some time before he signed up," his mother, Rosalie Band, said and added, "but I can safely say he didn't want to go into the services for any special program or benefits they had. It was something he had talked about doing for a long time, so we just assumed he would sign up when he got the chance."

Willie Band, now a private with

Company D, 205th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Covington, did not take a predictable route to his enlistment.

Master Sergeant Elmer Hataway, recruiter area supervisor for the National Guard New Orleans region sought out Willie a year earlier to tell him about the Louisiana National Youth Camp being held at Camp Beauregard near Pineville. Willie listened and quickly decided to give it a go.

"I liked the Youth Camp," he said, "especially the marching and obstacle course they had set up. So, when I got home, I started looking for Sergeant Hathaway to find out more about the Guard."

"I guess our meeting was sort of a collision since I had decided to go ahead and sign up for the split-training option after I completed my junior year of high school."

The split-training option for the National Guard allows an individual to join the Guard with parental

consent following completion of the junior year of high school.

Under the program, Band attended his basic training at Ft. McClelland, Ala. this past summer and began attending drill periods with his National Guard unit after his return.

"I tried to convince him (Band) to hold off until he completed his senior year," said Hathaway. "That way he would have been eligible for an enlistment bonus of up to \$1500. But he wanted to enlist this year instead."

"Willie is the only person I have seen who really enjoyed his basic training," Hathaway said. The two months of gruelling indoctrination at the active Army installation was a delight for the younger Band who admitted that he "liked the push-ups and physical training."

And, although he did not enlist for a long list of benefits, Band will find himself on the receiving end of some "bennies" anyway, and his parents find that encouraging.

"One of the best benefits," said his mother, Rosalie, "is the tuition exemption at the state colleges. Have you tried putting a child through college today at the prices they charge for tuition. And, of course, there is the cost of books, too."

For Willie Band, however, the benefits came secondary to his desire to belong to the Guard. "I didn't think about the benefits when I signed up," he said, "And many of my friends at school think I'm 'nuts' for signing up in the first place, but that doesn't bother me."

For George Band who served in Korea, for Rosalie, who admits to facing hard times growing up and knowing that patriotism often means dedication and sacrifice, the swells of pride were apparent as they spoke of son Willie who has committed himself to something other than himself. Instead, he has committed himself to Mom, apple pie and patriotism, a modern thought, for modern times.



SETTING UP—A member of the 1st Battalion, 156th Armor checks a target mechanism on the new mini-tank range.

Renshaw is new NCO Academy Commandant



SGM RENSHAW

by **MSG Addison Thompson**

God fearing, intelligent, dedicated, humorous, and outgoing are words some people use when describing the new Commandant of

the Louisiana National Guard Non-commissioned Officers Academy, Sergeant Major Walter D. Renshaw.

SGM Renshaw joined the Louisiana Army National Guard January 19, 1960, after a hitch with the regular Air Force. He entered the Guard as a Private and rose to his present grade of Sergeant Major, November 12, 1971.

He and his wife Polley have two children, Carrie, 21, who is attending USL and majoring in merchandising; and Bobbe, 18, attending LSU majoring in hearing and speech therapy. Polley Renshaw is the Supervisor of Communications Skills for the St. Bernard School Board.

During his Guard career Renshaw has been a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment at Jackson Barracks, working in personnel administration which seems to be his best pursuit since he enjoys working with people.

He describes his new position as that of a "Team Leader" and "Coordinator" and says the credit for the success of the academy

belongs to the people involved, the State Sergeant Major, and staff and the students. Renshaw graduated from the first Senior NCO Course at the Academy in May, 1978, and in the spring of 1979 returned as an instructor.

He has also completed Ground Radio Operator School with the Air Force, has completed several courses through the Army NCO Education systems, and has attended classes at Loyola University in New Orleans.

His decorations and awards include the U.S. Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Louisiana Cross of Merit, Louisiana Emergency Service Medal, Louisiana General Excellence Medal, and Louisiana Longevity Medal.

He says that time is his main problem since he spends one weekend each month as the Personnel Management Supervisor for the National Guard, and one at Camp Beauregard near Pineville as the NCO Academy Commandant.

Both jobs take up extensive time, and often mean he must take a lot of his work home in order to meet deadlines. He does not mind, however, because he enjoys the challenge of doing a job well.

He lists staining glass as one of his new hobbies, along with golf and tennis, "I am really good at tennis," he said, adding, "I don't get much time to play. Busy—you know," he shrugs with almost an apology. "I enjoy reading and just doing things with the family."

Very active in church affairs at the First Baptist Church, 4301 St. Charles Ave., in New Orleans, Renshaw also lists the Louisiana Army National Guard Enlisted Association; Enlisted Association National Guard of the U.S. to his affiliations.

"Wally," as he is known by his friends, has taken the challenge of the commandant's job. They expect he will do an exceptional job.



Guardisman wears many hats

by SGM Mabry Langlinalis

SFC Francis E. Thomas, Army Career Counselor Supervisor, Headquarters Company 256th Brigade often visits the Lafayette Armory. But recently there was more excitement than usual as he updated everyone present on his favorite subject—the accomplishments of his 1979 Pony League Baseball Team.

Thomas coached the "Bob Fournet Co." team in the American League which emerged as city champion. He was selected to coach the All-Star Team which captured District and Section titles and won the Regional Championship. From the Regional Championships, Thomas took his team to the Zone Playoffs at Pasadena, Texas, pitting the four best teams from an 8-state area with the winner going to the World Series.

Although Thomas' team was eliminated in the Zone Tournament losing 2 games by one run each time, the team drew praise from coaches and fans alike and there was no doubt they would be back in 1980.

A guardsman for 17 years, Thomas coached youth baseball for 12 years; he coached the City-Parish youth football championship team 6 years straight, and served in scouting to include 2 years as a scout master. He is also active in the Knights of Columbus and served as Grand Knight of Council 3202 in Lafayette. Thomas is an administrative assistant for the City of Lafayette Public Works Department. He and his wife are the parents of two children.

SFC Thomas says he enjoys wearing the baseball, football and scouting caps and his work with youth activities. However, wearing the Guard fatigue cap once a month is still his first choice.



Coach, Guardsman—SFC Francis E. Thomas displays his coach uniform of the Lafayette baseball team, and at right wears his Louisiana National Guard uniform—still his favorite.

Combat pistol team wins

Louisiana Guard members representing the 1st Bn 156 Armor, won the combat pistol team match firing the .45 caliber pistol in competition at the ninth annual National Guard rifle, pistol and machinegun championships.

The Louisiana team fired a total score of 1159 edging out their closest competition by only four points to take first place. Members of the team included: SMSG

William P. Green, team captain; SSG Joseph King, team coach; 2LT Bobby Briggs; SGT James Comely; SFC Willie Washington; and SFC Danny Saxon.

Over 1,100 competitors participated in the two-week long matches. Two phases of competition, combat and composite, were fired with 47 states and Puerto Rico participating.

