



PELIGRAM

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*Eatin' out
at
Engineer
AT-80*



First award

*Air Guard Sergeant a hero,
Receives LA Distinguished Service Cross*

A Louisiana Air National Guardsman who risked his life to pull a St. Bernard Parish fire official from a burning building has become the first recipient of the Louisiana Distinguished Service Cross for his outstanding heroism.

Staff Sergeant Clement A. Lescale, a member of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group, had battled a blaze at one structure in the parish as part of an Air Guard Task Force called into State Active Duty following a walkout by most of the firemen in the parish over a labor dispute in November 1978.

Lescale and his fellow Guardsmen had watched Assistant Fire Chief Roy Letort enter the building after it seemed the fire had been extinguished in order to check the extent of damage.

Soon after Letort had entered the building, however, the roof burst in flames once more and Lescale and his fellow Guardsmen began shouting for the fire official to return from inside the structure.

When they got no response, Lescale rushed into the burning building and found Letort overcome by smoke and disoriented. So, he quickly grabbed Letort and hauled him from the building within moments of the burning roof and debris crashing into the location where Letort had been found.



HERO REWARDED—Staff Sergeant Clement A. Lescale receives the first award of the Louisiana Distinguished Service Cross from Brigadier General Carl Trippi, Assistant Adjutant General for Air during ceremonies at Alvin Callender Airfield.

Brigadier General Carl L. Trippi, Assistant Adjutant General for Air presented Lescale the Louisiana Distinguished Service Cross in ceremonies in August this year held at Alvin Callender Air Field near New Orleans. The Louisiana Legislature had approved the creation of the new medal for

outstanding heroism following Lescale's heroic acts and he became the medal's first winner.

Later, Lescale, who lives in Gretna, LA was made an honorary citizen of St. Bernard Parish during a crowded open meeting of the St. Bernard Police Jury.

On the cover:

Pretty Dejuana Downey, a Specialist-four with the 528th Engineer Battalion had no problems getting with the "cuisine" of Annual Training during her unit's field training at Camp Beauregard. Here she "samples" some of the distinctively "AT" foodstuffs.

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Engineer AT-80, now in the past But definitely not forgotten

It is all over. The dirt, the sweat and grime are gone. So are the scorching days, the night sounds of huge equipment moving and the occasional sound of someone bumping into an immovable object in the darkness.

Gone too is the methodic tap-tap-tap of a hammer on a nail, the whine of a grader engine and the billow of smoke from the exhaust of a steam roller as work progressed on another road at the Guard's Camp Beauregard.

These were but a few of the sights and sounds of AT-80 for members of the 225th Engineer Group as they labored through summer training at the National Guard Training Site.

The 205th Engineer battalion, headquartered in Bogalusa, kicked-off the intense engineer Guard effort in early June and was followed by the 769th Engineer battalion, the "Tigators," from the Baton Rouge area. Following a brief reprieve, the 527th Engineers from northwestern Louisiana took their best shot at the field and numerous projects which the engineers were tasked to complete for this summer's training. Finally, the Monroe based 528th Engineers battalion wrapped up the effort with their AT work as the dust settled on F-Street and the last engine was shut down.

Yes, it was over, but not forgotten. The war stories and the memories would remain of the C-ration eating champion, the smell of sweaty fatigues and diesel fuel, the sight of camouflaged faces and uniforms, the feel of load bearing equipment and a weapon in one's hands, the irritation of tear gas during a simulated attack, and the cleansing feel of a hot shower after the field training was done.

The sometimes-monotony of a convoy winding its way back to home station, the blaring of the



TONY TIGER SEZ—"THEY'RE GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRREAT!"—The look on Staff Sergeant James Drewery's face tells a different story about AT. Staff Sergeant Drewery was doing his annual training with the 528th Engineers at Camp Beauregard when his cot decided to "take a break". Oh well, Sarge!

company radio net, the distinctive odor of cleaning oil and carbon coated cleaning rags as weapons are finally cleaned and once more stored in the unit arms rooms. These too are no longer there. But the memory will linger, for they were part of the sights and sounds, and the feel of engineer training during AT-80.

Take one part enthusiasm, one part skill, add one part of training and realism, and stir them together with a heaping helping of leadership and one can get an idea of the engineer effort which went into projects from a leader's reaction course, to a classroom for the Military Academy, not to mention

the roadwork done throughout the post.

For some of the engineer Guard members, this was "old hat." But for others it was their first taste of a real engineer effort, their first opportunity to apply their skills in a realistic setting. And, whether they performed their tasks at Camp Beauregard or at Camp Villere, near Slidell, for the men and women of the 225th Engineer Group, this was AT-80.

*More Engineer
AT-80 photos
on page 6*

39th MP's beat the heat at At-80

While the heat may have beaten some, according to officers with the 39th Military Police Company, stationed at Jackson Barracks, the men and women of their unit did their best to "beat the heat" and perform their mission while on annual training at Camp Beauregard.

First Lieutenant Joe Liquor said the heat "may have helped make this one of the best camps we've ever had." Liquor said he and the other officers expected some minor problems with the heat "but instead the troops seemed to have higher morale and be more ready to do the mission."

While in the field, the M.P.'s were spread out along about 15 miles of roads in two to three man teams to help direct a night convoy. The convoy, Liquor said, would be traveling under simulated combat conditions, which meant they would be traveling with "their blackout lights on."

The unit's officers asked the password, the convoy direction, and what to do if an unknown vehicle is reported.

Inspecting his company's performance, Liquor stopped each M.P. post and checked his platoon.

"I really felt like I was doing something," PFC Albert Robinson of New Orleans said while manning his radio. "I knew out there I was actually performing some of the duties I would be doing if I were ever called up."

Liquor noted the feeling of "actually being in the field doing things like this made this one of the best summer camps I remember."

While watching the convoys move past in the dark, long lines of trucks and soldiers highlighted by tiny pinpoints of light, the company commander, Capt. Frank L. Tridico said, "I've never seen the troops so gung-ho about this sort of training."

"I thought the heat would have had a bad effect on morale and the

men's ability to do their jobs," Tridico said. "Instead, it had just the opposite effect."

Tridico and his troops "played the game for real" as he put it, when they were informed a civilian truck, using its headlights, was blinding the drivers.

With one ear listening to the engineer battalion radio net and the other on a radio monitoring his own company, Tridico relayed information about the truck to his various posts and gave them the order "to stop and hold the truck and

tell the driver there were convoys in the area."

He smiled as he leaned back, "that was a minor problem for my people."

The rest of the convoy was uneventful as the men and women in the MP unit directed the lines of traffic safely back to their individual unit areas.

"We waited a few more minutes and then headed back to the base," Tridico said. "I think we did a pretty good job out there. When you've got good people, the job seems to be a lot easier and that's the case here."



WEDDING BELLS—Sergeant Major Edgar F. Thibodeaux and his wife, the former Jacquelyn Marino of New Orleans leave the Camp Beauregard Post Chapel following the first military wedding at the installation since the days of World War II. Thibodeaux, a 30-year Guard veteran is the top NCO for the post and decided to be married in the newly built chapel because he had "a lot of pride in the camp." (LANG Photo by CPT Dave Miller)



SWEARING-IN—Carol Ann Flick takes the oath of enlistment for the 159th Tactical Fighter Group, Louisiana Air National Guard, from the officer who recruited her, Lt. Col. James D. Flick, her father. (Photo by MSG K. Barlow)

Guard "family" grows

"All in the Family" is not only the name of a popular television show, but the way several families have viewed the Army and Air National Guard in Louisiana.

One such example is Lt. Col. James D. Flick, Deputy Commander for Resources of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group for the Louisiana Air National Guard, who had the honor of swearing Carol Ann Flick into the Air Guard.

Carol doubles as the lieutenant colonel's daughter, and the newly enlisted airman basic will be trained in the medical services career field.

Major Walter R. Weaver Jr., of the 225th Engineer Group, headquartered at Camp Beauregard also had a similar honor recently when he swore his daughter into the 225th Engineers.

Tammie Weaver entered the service as a Specialist Five since she is participating in the Simultaneous Membership Program involving Army ROTC cadets who also serve in the Guard. Specialist Weaver, a junior at Louisiana College, in Pineville, is majoring in biology and said she is interested in research and environmental biology.

Major Weaver, the Command Administrative Assistant and

Adjutant of the 225th engineer Group, said he was happy his daughter enlisted and feels the Simultaneous Membership Program will provide "good leadership training."

For one family, the Guard has really become a family thing with all three members having been sworn into the same unit.

Capt. Marvin E. Stracener and his wife, Capt. Evelyn Stracener, recently had their son, 2nd Lt. Marvin Stracener Jr., enter the 399th Medical Detachment. "Mom" and "Dad" Stracener also entered the Guard in the 399th and "Mom" now serves as the officer-in-charge.

"Dad" Stracener has since then transferred to the infantry and is now the commander of Company B, 3rd Battalion 156th Infantry (Mechanized) located in Oakdale, LA.

Lt. Stracener, "Jr.", is assigned as a surgical nurse with the 399th.

Finally, Marion "Donnie" Garrett II, of Belle Chasse also followed a family member's footsteps when he recently enlisted in the Louisiana Air National Guard and was sworn in by his father, Colonel Marion D. Garrett, commander of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group.

"Blacksheep" look For the best

Members of Co. C of the 156th Infantry (Mech) have started a massive three month recruiting drive that has one goal according to the commanding officer.

"The goal of our recruiting drive," Capt. D.L. Shiflett said, "is to get the best people possible for the unit."

Shiflett said the "Blacksheep", as the troops have nicknamed themselves, "are going to do everything we can to get good people in the unit, and there are a lot of good people in the area."

"What we've got planned are displays at local malls and talks whenever possible," Shiflett said. "The Blacksheep are going to be putting everything we've got into this to make it the best recruiting drive in the battalion."

The word best continues to come up when talking to the members of the "Blacksheep," as witnessed by viewing the various training sessions going on during drill.

Even the "new guys" get training as a group of the recruits were given a lecture on the unit's armored personnel carriers.

Sgt. Larry Leonard of Houma pointed out the "finer points" of the tracks. "These are what you'd drive into a combat situation and fight from."

Leonard gave the men a walking tour of the track, showing them the engine, the driver's compartment, the track commander's position and answering a variety of questions from the recruits.

After seeing up close and having a hands-on demonstration of the tracks and several of the unit's other vehicles, the new troops were given a tour of the armory and sat in on one of the classroom lectures.

One of the new men remarked after hearing a lecture of vehicle recognition and identification, "man, these people really go all out, don't they?"

More Engineer AT



NCO Academy graduates Basic Course

The following individuals graduated the Louisiana Military Academy Noncommissioned Officer Basic Course at Camp Beauregard recently.

Charlie Cain, Jr., Stephen R. Dominick, Lee E. John Jr., Darrel C. Lewis, Wayne White, Kenneth Wyatt, Lenon Johnson, Lumes Broussard Jr., Eugene Paul, Bobbie Sibley, Milton J. Alexander, Richard

G. Allen, George W. Babers, Norman J. Batiste, Curtis J. Broussard, Raymond Cole.

Also, Bart P. Decoteau, Darrick M. Dees, John R. Diez Jr., Patrick J. Doguet, Kathy D. Flaherty, John S. Gibson, Foster Guillory Jr., Archie A. Jones III, John R. Joseph, Donald P. Landry Jr., Carl M. Leyva, Ruthie Moore, Robert G. Mullins, Patricia A. Payton, Joseph F. Petrocelli,

Phillip M. Roberts, Theodore D. Rogers, Daniel C. Searing, Aaron T. Sherrill, Ennis Simien, Edna M. Steptore.

And, John W. Webb, John H. Williams Jr., Patrick J. Zeno, Rhonda Rousseve, Stuart A. Briant, Edison DeMoulin, Arnold D. Hollingsworth, Mario J.F. Melancon, Ronald G. Tatman, James L. Matthews, Alpha Ray and Daniel P. Popillion.

Washington Artillery Sarge Is a military collector

There is on doubt that Sergeant First Class Clinton L. Lounsbury, a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard's Washington Artillery is a history buff.

If in doubt, all one has to do is look around at his collection of military patches and emblems.

Lounsbury boasts a modest collection of some 900 unit patches and more than 300 unit crests as part of his collection. But he also has accumulated hundreds of other military items in his collecting efforts.

His collection includes insignia of rank, as well, and according to Lounsbury, about the only rank insignia he is missing is the six-star rank of a general of the armies. And he is quick to point out that the United States Congress recently approved that insignia for a

posthumous promotion of George Washington, first President of this nation.

The ten-year veteran of the Active Army who now has some 8½ years in the Guard to his credit, began his patch collection in 1959, and over the years had collected some 1800 items for his display. However, most of those items were stolen so he had to restart his collection in 1969. One item stolen was a replica of a Medal of Honor.

Asked why he devoted so much time and effort to collecting the patches and other military paraphernalia, Lounsbury commented, "The Army has been like a family to me. I enjoy the military and its history, and especially being able to dig into its past," adding, "I hope my son will continue with this collection."



LTC Mialaret

Guard pilot Becomes Master Aviator

Twenty five years of unblemished flying paid off recently for a Metairie man who became the first commissioned officer member of the Louisiana Army National Guard to receive the coveted silver wings of a Master Aviator since 1965.

Lieutenant Colonel Gerard "Jerry" Mialaret was presented the distinctive wings in ceremonies at Jackson Barracks recently by Brigadier General Joseph L. Dabadie, Chief of Staff for the Louisiana Army National Guard.

To qualify for the award, Mialaret had to complete 15 years on flight status and record a minimum of 3,000 hours of flying while maintaining his instrument rating at the same time.

Mialaret qualified as a rated pilot in both airplanes and helicopters and in fact has qualified to fly more than 25 different aircraft during his flying career. He has never had an accident or serious incident during that flying career.



COLLECTOR—Sergeant First Class Clinton L. Lounsbury of the Louisiana Army National Guard's Washington Artillery points out some of the patches and insignia he has collected. (LANG Photo by Sgt Morgan Banks)

15 graduate OCS

In ceremonies held at Camp Beauregard recently, the Louisiana Military Academy graduated Officer Candidate School Class 20 which included fifteen men and women representing several Louisiana Army National Guard units. The graduation exercise wrapped-up some fourteen months of rigorous weekend training leading to a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Receiving awards for outstanding achievements were; Jadwin V. Mayeaux, the Adjutant General's Award for Honor Graduate, and the Academic Board Award for Physical Training; Michael J. Richardson, the Erickson Trophy for Distinguished

Graduate, the Association of the United States Army Award for Leadership, and the Louisiana National Guard Association Award for Academics; Jimmie J. Hagle, the Wilmer L. Bennett Memorial Award for Distinguished Graduate, presented by Mrs. Wilmer L. Bennett; Raymond E. Scott, the Colonel Jules H. Deshotels Award for Cooperation; and William F. Brown, the Commandant's Award.

The other graduates of Class 20 included Jon G. Bartlett, Clifton P. Couture, Duane E. Crnkovic, Douglas L. Jones, Orville K. Lavinghouse, Thomas S. McGinness, Gwendolyn Payne, Eric H. Rodney, Jack R. Smith and Paula N. Smith.



OUTSTANDING RECRUITER—Master Sergeant Quentin Johnson of West Monroe is presented the Army Commendation Medal and Louisiana Legion of Merit for his work as a Recruiting Area Supervisor by Brigadier General Joseph L. Dabadie Jr., Chief of Staff while Mrs. Johnson looks on. The awards were made upon Johnson's retirement from the Guard after more than three decades of service. (LANG Photo)

Kudos & Credits

Louisiana Legion of Merit
Master Sergeant Walton L. Girouard, Command Sergeant Major Grover W. Smith

Louisiana Cross of Merit
Major Walter R. Gay, Jr., Lieutenant Colonel Orleans A. Jambon, Major Earl P. Santos.

Louisiana Commendation Medal
Mrs. Virginia Dodge, Major Bryan A. LeBlanc

Next Issue . . .

A look at Europe courtesy the 204th Area Support Group, and the 159th takes an ORI.

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