



# PELIGRAM

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## Project-40: Looking back Four decades



**New CSM identifies goals**

# TAG Comments

## Strength, MOS Qualification Must be improved in '81



Every organization worth its salt works to reach specific goals which each person in that organization can identify with. The Louisiana National Guard is no exception.

I have set several goals for the Guard to achieve this year and I consider them extremely important. I am committed to doing everything I can to reach these goals and I am sharing that commitment with you.

First, we must achieve specific goals in our strength. The Army National Guard must be at 93 percent of its authorized strength by the end of September this

year. The Air Guard must reach 95 percent of its authorized strength in the same period.

I am confident these goals can be met if

we work with steady persistent efforts in recruiting and with a renewed emphasis on retaining good members in the Guard.

The success of this effort must rest with each unit and its chain of command.

The National Guard Bureau reports that individuals who voluntarily leave the

Guard by choosing NOT to re-enlist average about one percent of a unit's strength each month nationwide.

In Louisiana we are averaging about two percent in the same category each month. So, you can see, we are about twice the national average, and I can only consider this

a reflection of the way our units are commanded and the quality of Guard members we have recruited.

Therefore we must work to correct this

shortfall and we must improve our skill levels at the same time.

I have set a goal for the Army Guard to be 86 percent MOS qualified by the end of this fiscal year and for the Air Guard to reach a skill manning of 80 percent for all assigned officers and airmen.

Again, these goals are realistic and can be obtained if we work together to attain them. They are absolutely essential if we are to improve our readiness and that is

one area which we MUST be successful in improving.

The job of reaching these goals rests with each of us. We must indeed work

together and now that the goals have been identified, I am confident we can get to work to that end.

## AT-81 dates Are revealed

The dates for annual training, or AT as it's more widely known, have been released for the Louisiana National Guard.

The Louisiana Military Academy, home of the Officer Candidate School and the Non-commissioned Officer Academy, will have their AT August 9 through 23rd at Camp Beauregard.

Taking their annual training at Fort Polk from May 30 through June 13 will be the 256th Infantry Brigade

(Mechanized), the 199th Support Battalion and the 418th Ordnance Battalion.

The 3673rd Maintenance Company will also be at Fort Polk for their training this summer, from June 13 through the 27th.

The 159th Combat Support Hospital will move to Fort Benning, Ga., for AT this summer from May 2 through the 16th. The 813th Medical Detachment will go to Fort Sam

(See story page 3)

## On the cover

These members of the 205th Engineer Battalion provide the lead color guard for the observance of Project 40 commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the mobilization or WW II.

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# 10-year Guardsman wins Medic Badge

A ten-year Guard member who fought off a 101-degree temperature and a persistent virus to tackle the challenge of a 12-mile forced march in three hours, has become the first member of the Louisiana National Guard to receive the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge.

Staff Sergeant Wayne Ponsaa, assigned to the 812 Medical Detachment as a Training Specialist called his testing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, "gruelling" with the challenge from seven to nine tests daily in categories which ranged from field hygiene and sanitation, to emergency medical treatment, and from signal communications to NBC protective and medical treatment measures.

Ponsaa explained that the course included subjects in seven categories with both written and performance tests in each.

**"The land navigation day course gave us a five percent margin for error, and, in the night course, we got only ten percent margin for error, he explained recently.**

Included in the PT challenge were a forced march of 12 miles in three hours or less, as well as a requirement to score more than 400



**Ponsaa**

on an Army PT Test that is far from the regular four mile march on which members of the Guard are tested each year.

"There was so much to cover," Ponsaa added. "I studied most of each night so I could be ready for the tests the next day. You cannot go in there haphazardly and hope to

breeze through," he commented noting that he had to review his study of military intelligence carefully before completing that portion of the course.

Of the 14 individuals who began the course with Ponsaa, only eight received the badge. "This percentage is more than the

average," he explained noting that only ten percent actually complete the course and receive the Expert Field Medical Badge.

**"You have to know your SQT skills, that's for sure," Ponsaa said indicating the course was structured toward medical subjects with plenty of general subjects included.**

What about a similar course for the Medical Guard members in Louisiana?

According to Warrant Officer Lowell Bradford, Jr., of the 159th

Combat Support Hospital, the major obstacle is the fact that a field grade officer graduate of the course must

certify the completion of others who may take the challenge. No one has qualified for that task as of this date.

## AT-81 dates are revealed

(Continued from page 2)

Houston, Texas, during the same dates for their training.

Moving to Fort Chaffee, Ark., will be the 1086th Transportation Company from June 27 through July 12.

Headquarters Company of the 204th Area Support Group will travel to Fort Hood, Texas, for training this summer, from July 25 through August 8. The Headquarters Detachment for the 165th Transportation Battalion will also be at Fort Hood, from July 25 to August 9 along with the 1083rd and 1087th Transportation companies.

From July 11 through the 25th, the 812th Medical Detachment will be going through AT at Fort Polk.

Headquarters Company of the 225th Engineer Group will be at

Camp Beauregard from June 6 through the 20th for summer training this year.

At Camp Beauregard from June 13 through the 27th will be the 527th

Engineer Battalion, HHD of the 2223rd Engineer Battalion,

Detachment 1 of the 239th Military Police Company and Detachment 1 of the 3671st Maintenance Company.

Attending Camp Beauregard for their annual training from July 11 to the 25th will be the 528th Engineer

Battalion, the 2228th Engineer Company, the 39th Military Police Company (minus Detachment 1),

the 3671st Maintenance Company (minus Detachment 1) and HHC the 773rd S&S Battalion.

The 205th Engineer Battalion and Detachment 1 of the 39th Military Police Company will be at Camp Beauregard from July 25 through August 8 for summer training.

The 769th Engineer Battalion along with the 239th Military Police Company (minus Detachment One) will be at Camp Beauregard from May 30 to June 13.

# Looking back :

## 100 WW II Veterans Celebrate Project 40

Project 40, an observance of the World War II callup of National Guardsmen throughout the nation was observed in Bogalusa recently as some 100 veterans of the 105th Coastal Artillery Anti-Aircraft battalion joined members of the present-day 205th Engineer battalion to honor the largest mobilization in our nation's history.

**Lt. Col. Frank Denton, commander of the 205th Engineer battalion, called the veterans "a shining example to today's Guardsmen of the meaning of personal sacrifice."**

Most of the veterans were called to active duty in January 1940, a full year before the United States entered the war in Europe. For many of them, it was a period of intense training and adjustment. Eventually, part of the 105th found itself in the Pacific on Christmas and Canton Islands providing air defense for key installations in that theater. The remainder were shipped to the European theater and finally headed for North African shores where they participated in the battle for Tunisia.

Later the battalion would protect units landing on the shores of Italy as the Allied effort in Europe shifted to the European mainland. Names such as Venafro and Cassino, two of the most heavily and bitterly fought battles of the war would be added to the battalion's mission logs, and the unit would sustain high casualties as it lived up to its reputation for blasting German aircraft from the skies.

The battalion would re-equip itself, re-build, and enter the war effort once more, pushing to the northern Italian Alps and the Po River Valley before shifting to yet another theater.

**C.P. Verger, Mayor of Bogalusa was one of those WW II veterans who could reflect on the training for war then, and the training afforded the Guard today. "I think our country has learned from the mistakes of World War II," he said noting how his unit often trained with sticks instead of real weapons.**

And, while the celebration was intended to honor members who served in World War II, veterans of another "war to end all wars" were also recognized. They included Joe Foret, Will Alford, and the Rev. Bob Lambright, all members of Company G, First Infantry Regiment, another fore-runner in the unit's lineage, who served in World War I.



**SPACEMAN? — No, this member of the 205th Engineer Battalion was merely presenting a formidable appearance when he demonstrated modern chemical protective clothing to former members of the battalion celebrating Project 40. (LANG Photo by Donna Morales).**

# WW II Commander, Fox, Remembers

For 87-year-old former Louisiana National Guard Colonel Frederick H. Fox, recalling memories of the mobilization of the Guard for World War II comes almost as naturally as the twinkle that appears in his eyes when he delves into his memories of that period.

It was some 40 years ago, but Fox still remembers the high points and some of the whimsical occurrences, although his association with the Guard as an active member had long since passed.

At the time of the call-up in January 1941, which eventually became the largest mobilization effort in the nation's history, Fox was assigned to the 108th Cavalry and was living at Jackson Barracks in one of the large antebellum homes for which the Barracks has become noted through the years.

"In those day," Fox recalls, "We had a large polo field which ran along what is now St. Claude Avenue and most of the cavalry officers played polo there on the weekends.

"When I took charge I did not get along with most of the officers because I did not like their attitudes," the former commander reminisced. "So, I offered them a chance to leave the unit if they would get one other officer to come into it," he continued.

His plan must have worked. By the time the unit, now called the 105th Coastal Artillery (Anti-aircraft) was ready to ship out to the war zone his organization boasted that it was almost all former cavalry members who found favor with their hard-charging commander.

"We had mostly expert duck and snipe shooters who were used to shooting on the 'wing', and who knew how to lead the birds and get them," said Fox, as he recalled the training which his unit received.

Once again, the craftiness of Fox's selection process must have paid off, soon after entering the Tunisian combat area his men began to routinely shoot German aircraft out of the skies, including some which were supporting



**REMEMBERANCES — Lt. Col. Frank Denton, commander of the 205th Engineer Battalion presents Col. (Ret.) Fredrick Fox a series of news clippings commemorating the anniversary celebration for the call-up to World War II.**

another fox of sorts, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox and the top field general of the German Army.

Other war zones also received the benefit of the training which Fox was able to give his 105th Coastal Artillery. One of his batteries was transferred to the defense of Christmas Island near Hawaii and another to Canton Island in the Pacific Theater, both performed well during the war.

In a lighter vein Fox recalled how his unit aided the evacuation of a British unit and narrowly escaped a German encirclement near Oran a few months after their successful landing in Tunisia. For their evacuation of the British, Fox was acknowledged in a telegram from the British Royal family. He was one of only a handful of American officers to receive the honor.

During the fighting, the battalion knocked 14 enemy planes from the skies and scored another nine "probables", bringing yet another accolade from another commander who became known for his own dynamic style, General George S. Patton, then commander of II Corps in North Africa.

During the campaign, Fox recalled how his men had received

British liquor rations since they were working closely with British counterparts and commanders.

"At one time we lined our tents with cases of scotch and gin to serve as a protection against small arms and scrapnel," Fox said, remembering the time he ordered his men back into the fighting to help the British before they were cut off by German Tiger tanks and moving within 800 yards of their positions.

Fox left the battalion following the Tunisian battles and returned to the states to teach anti-aircraft gunnery.

The 105th Coastal Artillery battalion moved from Africa to the

Italian coast landing at Paestum where it supported four infantry divisions in the securing of a beach-head. Later the battalion endured the bitter fighting along the Italian

peninsula, carving an impressive war record in support of the 34th Infantry Division in the heavily fought Venafro and the Cassino sectors.

Colonel Fox went on to become a prominent educator in New Orleans and resides in the Garden District of the city near Loyola and Tulane Universities.



**FIRST AND LAST** — Former First Sergeant Russell "Johnny" Major grasps hands with his first company commander (left), Brigadier General William F. Hogan of

the Louisiana State Guard, and his last company commander (right), Captain Ken Bueche, of Company B, 769th Engineer Battalion, Louisiana National Guard.

## Guardsmen, friends pay tribute to 32-year Guard veteran

Former First Sergeant Russell "Johnny" Major was a big man. Of that there was no doubt, especially when one stood before him and was dwarfed by his looming physical stature.

More importantly, however, Major made his mark on the Louisiana National Guard and his home community of New Roads in an equally "big" way through a career which spanned some 32 years with the same unit, Company B, 769th Engineer Battalion.

But the giant of a man also had friends who thought of him in a "heaping big" way and recently went out of their way to show Major their appreciation for his contributions to the Guard and their community.

Included in the gathering was the first company commander with whom Major served, Brigadier General William F. Hogan, Deputy

Commander of the Louisiana State Guard.

"I remember when we first organized this unit in New Roads," said Hogan recalling his early association with Major. "We had two officers, a handful of NCOs and only 17 members of the unit. But it was a good unit and it has always been a good unit and one reason has been the work of Johnny Major."

Brigadier General Joseph L. Dabadie Jr., Commander of Installations for the Louisiana National Guard was another of Major's former company commanders to recall the early days and his own work with the former First Sergeant.

"Johnny Major has been with this unit through three major transitions in its history," Dabadie said, noting how the unit was first organized as an armored cavalry troop, later

became part of a signal battalion and in its last re-organization became part of an engineer battalion." In each of these periods he has made his mark felt on the members of the unit, and with the community here in New Roads," he said.

When the unit was called into Federal service for the Berlin Crisis, Sergeant Major, no play on words intended, became the acting sergeant major for the signal battalion serving in that capacity until the unit reverted once more to the control of the Guard.

Major's last battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel William "Ben" Waters said, "Johnny has made the system really 'tick' here, and he has done it through some of the most important periods for the Guard, especially during critical re-building years."

## NCO Academy

# Three classes graduate LAMA

In one of his first graduation addresses since becoming Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. A.M. Stroud Jr. urged graduating members of NCO Academy to work to solve the problems of recruiting, retention, and professionalism. His remarks came at the graduation of Advanced Course Class 4, Senior Course Class 5 and First Sergeant Course Class 2 at Camp Beauregard in January.

Advanced Course graduates included Willie J. Hymel, Jack F. Moran, Jimmey M. Ramsey, Joseph Riley Jr., Ronald S. Acosta, Michael J. Boos, Guy N. Campbell, Claude H. Chevalier, Clarence C. Matthews, Nathan L. Stogner, Billy R. Thorn, Billy R. West, Lawrence E. Wood.

Other Advanced Course graduates included Donald W. Colvin, Marvin R. Fife, Earl F. Lacombe, Leeman R. Wiggins, Ray A. Binion, Johnny Hall, Robert H. Hodge, Nelda A. Luening, Willie Odrick III, Jamie C. Smith, Thomas W. Stubbs, James N. Thorn, and Manuel J. Hernandez.

Also graduating the Advanced Course were Ivan J. Bourgogne, Johnny R. Compton, William Sudduth, Bobby J. Tinsley, Michael P. Casey, Joseph L. LaFleur, James A. Malbrue, Henry C. Sam, Gordan L. Swanson and Donald J. Wilson.

Leon Anderson, Arnold W. Brough, Percy W. Corkern, Edward M. Digiovanni, Raymond C. Dupuis, Brenton A. Gates, Bennie E. Hatten, Michael D. Haynes, Douglas S. Monk, Wade A. Scroggs, Jerry C. Stogner, L Blaz A. Troups, James M. Winderweedle and Bobbie K. Sibley also graduated the Advanced course.

Other graduates of the Advanced course included Robert E. Coy, William D. Mayo, Cementery Arnold, Floyd H. Causey, Tommy C. Gay, Bruce E. Holden, Leonardo V. Mastascusco, Mary L. McBreairty, John V. Noel III, Ronnie J. Seaton, William D. Spiller, Robert L. Turner,

George K. Windham and John Webb.

Harvey R. Hudnall, Edwin W. Guidroz Jr., Charles E. Varnado, Aaron C. Belgard, Bobbie R. Brown, James P. Chelette, Gaylan P. Duhon, George A. Hammett, Ricky S. LeBlanc, Eugene D. Lipscomb, Rhodell Montgomery, Bobby L. Payne, Anna E. Singleton, Bobby W. Stroud and Wilson J. Thibodeaux also were Advanced course graduates.

**Graduating the Senior Course were:** Ivan J. Dominique, Raymond A. Mayeur, William H. McKamey, Louis C. Bodin, Lawrence P. Everett,

Fred M. Lindsay, Malcom P. Baudin, Joseph W. Comeaux, Willard R. Harris, Lloyd A. Leclerc, John T. Spano III, Michael D. Baudry, Eugene L. Hoeltke III, Daniel R. Moore, Lewis V. Murray Jr., Peter E. Shielke.

The graduates of the **First Sergeant Course** were Cortez W. Bridges, Jerry D. Burnham, Anthony Catanzaro, Wayne O. Hagen, Ernie W. Hammons, Michael J. Hebert, Charles J. Laborde, Ronald J. Martin, Milam G. Perry, Jerry T. Richert, Charles R. Robillard, Roger Z. Toney, Michael E. Wilde, Patrick J. Tyrell.



**PROMOTION TIME** — Colonel Lucian J. Gras (left) receives the insignia of his new rank from Brigadier General Ansel M. Stroud Jr., Louisiana Adjutant General in ceremonies recently at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. Gras, a 30-year veteran of the Guard, is a native of Alexandria who commands the Guard's New Orleans-based 204th Area Support Group. (LANG photo)

## CSM identifies goals

# Harold B. Cook Command Sgt Maj.

Enlisted personnel of the Louisiana National Guard will have a new voice speaking for them with the assignment of 27-year veteran Harold Cook as State Command Sergeant Major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cook's assignment follows closely the appointment during the fall of Brig. Gen. Ansel Stroud as the State Adjutant General, and makes Cook the highest ranking non-commissioned officer in the Louisiana National Guard.

In noting that his goal would be to make the Louisiana National Guard units the best in the United States, Cook said, "My job will be to motivate the senior non-commissioned officers (NCO). They must utilize the NCO chain of command to look out for the welfare and training of their subordinates down to the individual soldier."

Cook said he believes Guard readiness to perform its military mission reflects the active Army's situation.

"We have become very permissive and a need exists to tighten up on

discipline and military courtesy," Cook said. "Our people are good people, but need to be re-directed in some areas," he noted.

Cook indicated that the weakest area, statewide, was "basic soldiering or the ability to survive on the battlefield. We cannot perform the common soldier tasks, so we must return to the basics.

"The leadership at all levels must develop a can do, will do, give a damn, sense of urgency. We must take pride in the Guard and ourselves as soldiers because the Louisiana Guard is needed!" Cook stressed.

Cook began his career in Natchitoches with the Second Battalion 199th Infantry. He moved to Many as a technician, then to Shreveport and Bossier City.

In 1972 he was promoted to sergeant major for the First Battalion 156th Armor, headquartered in Shreveport. In August 1973, Sgt. Maj. Cook moved to the newly created 527th Engineer Battalion as one of its "charter" members.

## Ruston engineers Celebrate

Members of Company D, 527th Engineer Battalion recently went "black tie" for their third annual military ball, held in Ruston.

Guest speakers for this year's celebration included Brig. Gen. A.M. Stroud Jr., Adjutant General, and Col. Roy I. Nomey, Chief of Staff, Louisiana Army National Guard.

Among the guests, according to 1st Lt. Robert Hudnall, were State Cmd. Sgt. Major Harold B. Cook, 225th Group Commander Col. Ralph Brown, Col. Floyd E. Byrd, commander of the 527th Engineer Battalion, as well as Lt. Col. David Cottingham, U.S. Army Advisor to the 225th Group.

Some of the local guests included Mayor John Perrit of Ruston, Mayor Charles R. Colvin of Dubahc, Mayor Ray Smith of Arcadia and Frederic Hoogland, president of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury.

Hudnall said this was the third straight year the unit had gotten together for a formal ball, which included a banquet followed by a dance. The uniform for the evening was formal with greens, with white shirt and black bow ties.

According to Hudnall, the military ball helps involve the wives of the Guardsmen in the activities and has helped in the units' recruiting and the retention programs.

## Short Subjects

### 4-MILE RUN

In a recent edition of the PELIGRAM, new PT tests for the Active Army and individuals attending active Army schools were presented giving some individuals the belief that the Army National Guard had changed its PT requirements. This definitely *not* the case, and, soon, Guard members can begin looking for their familiar 4-mile jaunt as part of their annual PT requirements.

### LANG LICENSE PLATES

In 1979 the Louisiana Legislature authorized the issuance of distinctive license plates for members of the Guard to display on their private automobiles. To date only about 1000 members of the Guard have taken advantage of this unique way of professing their membership in the Guard. LA ARNG Regulation 360-1 contains the guidelines for qualifying for and receiving the distinctive licenses.

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