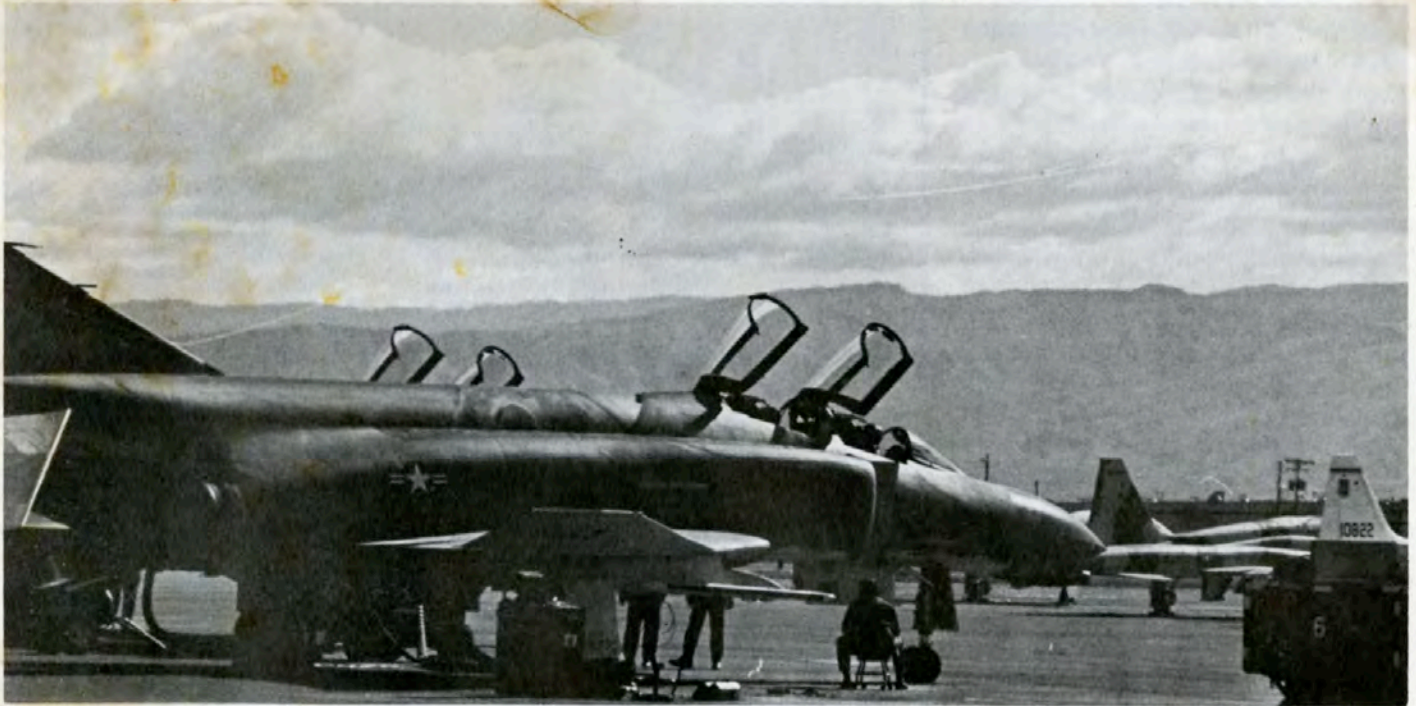




# PELIGRAM

Vol. 4, No. 3

May-June 1981



## Air Guard wages war In Operation 'Border Star'

by Capt. Barry W. Zander  
159th Tactical Fighter Group

Huddled in two tents were a handful of airmen. It was cold and wintry in "Camp Caliche," but these airmen had braved the hostile late night air for good reason: M\*A\*S\*H was playing on both of the 45-inch color TV sets.

These airmen, members of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group were part of a unique military exercise called "Border Star 81," held at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico; Ft. Bliss, Texas; a host of supporting military installations,

and over much of the surrounding desert area.

**Border Star 81 was a war. Good guys defended their positions against the bad guys, and both sides were made up of Air Force, Army, Marine, and Navy units. It was a test of air defenses, and the teamwork which must accompany them. However, in this exercise, the 159th men were the "bad" guys.**

Camp Caliche, or "Tent City" where the "combatants" lived, was made up of 300 tents, each housing five or six participants cut into the desert of Southern New Mexico in a mere two weeks. It was during one

of the more choking dust storms that one Air Guardsman predicted that if the exercise lasted an extra week, it would take a team of archeologists to find him.

The mission of the 159th and its 122nd Tac Fighter Squadron was simply to "kill the Blue Team," as detachment commander Lt.Col. Denny Hugg explained.

**Hugg marveled at the way the exercise was conducted saying it used "everything but the Titan Missile, and we might see some of those before this thing is over." Making up the Red Team, according**

(See BORDER, page 3)



Checking the cockpit

## 'Border Star'...

(Continued from page 1)

to Hugg, were the Air Guard's F-4Cs, fighting alongside an assortment of other high performance aircraft as well as helicopters, tankers, and cargo planes.

Similar aircraft were flown against them, plus modern, sleek F-15s and A-10s.

"Border Star is a mock war. It's not orchestrated. We fight big battles under changing conditions," said Hugg. But for the Louisiana crew, there was more to fighting a war than just attacking and evading enemy aircraft.

Hugg felt it was only incidental that the unit's six aircraft posted 42 kills of F-15s in five days. Overall, the Red Team out-gunned the Blues three to one.

"I can't say enough for the aircraft maintenance folks who got us off the ground in good shape," he said. "Out of 61 scheduled flights, we had four scrubbed because of weather, four cancelled by Headquarters and only one cancelled because of maintenance problems."

For several days, high winds posed a real problem to the flightline crews. On the third day of the exercise, winds toppled a work platform onto an F-4 wing. In less than five hours, the aircraft was repaired and waiting for the next sortie.

## Guardsman, friend pull man From burning automobile

As a member of the 156th Army Band, Sgt. Ernest D. Peterson Jr. is accustomed to performing on "cue" from his director. But he didn't need a "cue" April 10th to go into action when he and a friend, Ellis Chesire saw a three-car collision which resulted in two people being trapped in the burning wreckage of their automobile.

Peterson and Chesire had been waiting for traffic to move through a

congested area in Monroe, when a tractor trailer rig on Interstate 20 swerved to avoid the slower moving traffic and rammed, instead, into a car driven by William H. Irons of Oklahoma.

The car's gasoline tank ruptured spewing its contents onto the roadway, and, when the trailer struck a second car, the gasoline caught fire engulfing the Irons' automobile with Irons and his wife, Muriel, trapped inside.

Peterson and Chesire rushed to the Irons' car, and managed to pull William Irons from the burning vehicle, but they were unable to reach his wife because of the flames. Muriel Irons was pronounced dead at the scene. Her husband was rushed to St. Francis Medical Center, where he was later reported in critical condition.

Quick action by Peterson and Chesire was credited with saving Irons' life.



Checking the cockpit

## 'Border Star' . . .

(Continued from page 1)

to Hugg, were the Air Guard's F-4Cs, fighting alongside an assortment of other high performance aircraft as well as helicopters, tankers, and cargo planes.

Similar aircraft were flown against them, plus modern, sleek F-15s and A-10s.

"Border Star is a mock war. It's not orchestrated. We fight big battles under changing conditions," said Hugg. But for the Louisiana crew, there was more to fighting a war than just attacking and evading enemy aircraft.

Hugg felt it was only incidental that the unit's six aircraft posted 42 kills of F-15s in five days. Overall, the Red Team out-gunned the Blues three to one.

"I can't say enough for the aircraft maintenance folks who got us off the ground in good shape," he said. "Out of 61 scheduled flights, we had four scrubbed because of weather, four cancelled by Headquarters and only one cancelled because of maintenance problems."

For several days, high winds posed a real problem to the flightline crews. On the third day of the exercise, winds toppled a work platform onto an F-4 wing. In less than five hours, the aircraft was repaired and waiting for the next sortie.

## Guardsman, friend pull man From burning automobile

As a member of the 156th Army Band, Sgt. Ernest D. Peterson Jr. is accustomed to performing on "cue" from his director. But he didn't need a "cue" April 10th to go into action when he and a friend, Ellis Chesire saw a three-car collision which resulted in two people being trapped in the burning wreckage of their automobile.

Peterson and Chesire had been waiting for traffic to move through a

congested area in Monroe, when a tractor trailer rig on Interstate 20 swerved to avoid the slower moving traffic and rammed, instead, into a car driven by William H. Irons of Oklahoma.

The car's gasoline tank ruptured spewing its contents onto the roadway, and, when the trailer struck a second car, the gasoline caught fire engulfing the Irons' automobile with Irons and his wife, Muriel, trapped inside.

Peterson and Chesire rushed to the Irons' car, and managed to pull William Irons from the burning vehicle, but they were unable to reach his wife because of the flames. Muriel Irons was pronounced dead at the scene. Her husband was rushed to St. Francis Medical Center, where he was later reported in critical condition.

Quick action by Peterson and Chesire was credited with saving Irons' life.

# War relics, history abound In Barracks museum



**Doughboy**

A 1938-vintage Russian 122 millimeter Howitzer; a rapid-firing Hotchkiss three-pound deck gun from the cruiser, the U.S. New Orleans; a two-man, six-ton French Renault tank of World War I fame; and, a muzzle loading cannon tube similar to those in the Battle of New Orleans.

What do these items have in common?

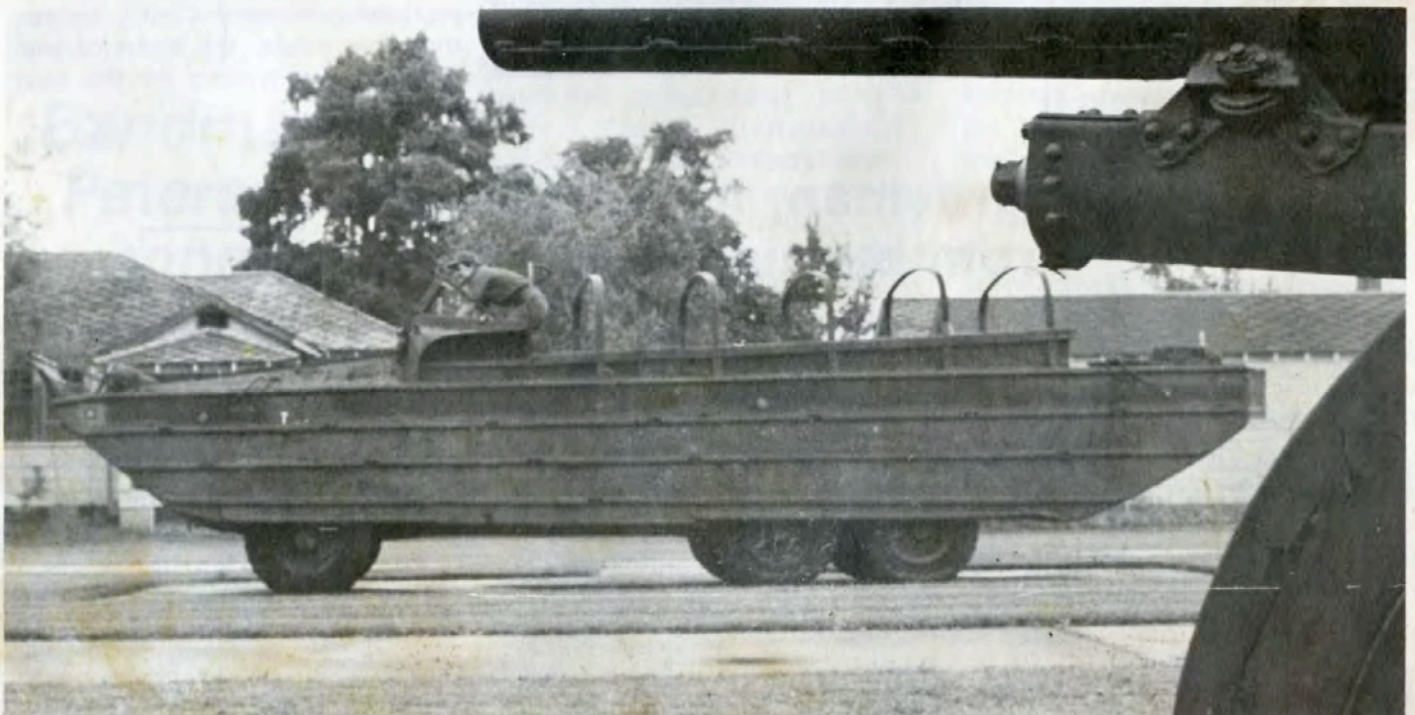
**They are all exhibits found at the Louisiana Military Museum at Jackson Baracks, New Orleans, and they reflect not only part of the military tradition of the state, but the history and tradition of the Louisiana National Guard as well.**

The museum is located off St. Claude near the Orleans-St. Bernard parish line, and includes both an outdoor exhibit of weapons and vehicles, and indoor displays of historical weapons, a World War I touring car, and a variety of uniforms and equipment which have

been donated by individuals from throughout the nation who are interested in preserving the military history of the members of the state who fought in its major conflicts.

**The building which houses the majority of displays was once a powder magazine, built in 1837, about two years after the first antebellum homes at Jackson Barracks were completed. Some say the walls still bear the "pock" marks of miniballs from distant conflicts, and that reputation has stayed with a structure through countless decades.**

During its early years the structure was used to store ammunition and dry powder for troops manning the numerous forts along the Mississippi River. It fell into disuse and was abandoned for several years, but was placed back into use in the early 1950's when the Louisiana National Guard used it as an indoor .22 caliber rifle range. In



**WWII Duck**

1961 it was once more used as an ammunition storage facility by the Guard. But, in 1975, as part of a program to upgrade Guard facilities at the "Barracks" it became the focal point of efforts to build a truly "military" museum for the state.

At that time it was the oldest unrestored military brick building in the state, in fact in the Mississippi Valley. But, using inmates assigned to the Barracks under the Work Maintenance programs the renovated structure quickly took shape and was transformed into 3600 square feet of display area with two upper floors, or balconies.

**The displays found in the museum reflect nine conflicts in which the United States has been engaged, including the American Revolution, War of 1812, War with Mexico, War Between the States, the Spanish-American War, World War's I and II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War.**

There are more than 165 weapons on display in the museum ranging from rifles and machine-guns, to the rapid firing three-pounder deck gun from the naval cruiser named after the city of New Orleans.

To one side of the museum, for several years a 1917 Cadillac Touring Car similar to those used by general officers during World War I has captured the attention of museum visitors.

The car was returned from France at the conclusion of World War I and was put into use by the Louisiana National Guard until 1930. The State of Louisiana purchased the car from the Federal government and eventually loaned it to the Cabildo in New Orleans for use as an exhibit, in 1941.

When renovations to the Cabildo were begun in 1961, the car was returned to the Louisiana National Guard, and efforts were begun to restore it to its original state.

**The restoration work was completed in 1963, and the car was then used for military parades as a touring sedan for dignitaries visiting Jackson Barracks. It became a**

**display at the Military museum in 1977. One official ventured a claim that General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces which fought in World War I, used the car in France during the conflict. But, that could not be proven.**

Most of the displays found at the museum have been developed to reflect some aspect of service rendered by members of the Louisiana National Guard during the nation's history.

For example, in the outdoor display area, the amphibious truck called the "Duck" reflects efforts during World War II to develop a "go everywhere" carrier which could provide commanders the capability of transporting large amounts of supplies and ammunition, as well as troops from naval transports to beachhead assembly areas under combat conditions.

The "Duck" proved itself a valuable vehicle on the beaches of Normandy and during island-hopping combat in the Pacific, in spite of its "waddling" appearance on dry land and its slow progress in the water.

**After World War II, the "Duck" became part of the Louisiana National Guard and was used extensively as an emergency vehicle to "pluck" flood victims from**

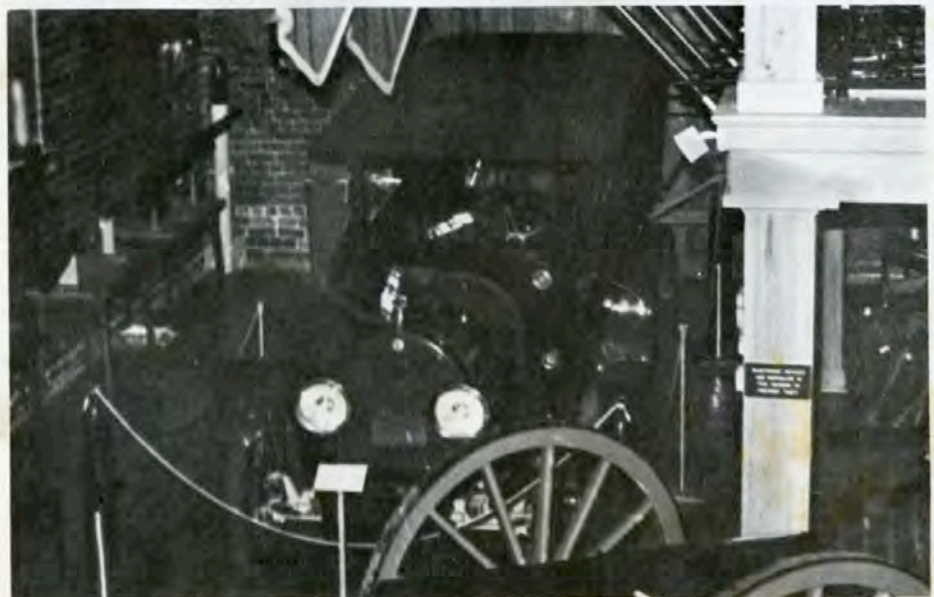
**stranded locations and transport them to safety. And, in 1959, when the Guard converted its Marksville unit from a heavy mortar company to a transportation unit, the "Duck" was one of the unit's basic vehicles.**

Much the same could be said of the full-tracked armored infantry vehicle, the M-75 which is also found in the outdoor display area. Used as a tactical carrier during the Korean Conflict, the M-75 moved troops and supplies to forward battle areas and was a key element with artillery crews during that conflict.

From 1959 to 1963, it was part of the basic equipment for Guard units in Alexandria, Leesville, Winnfield, Jena, Eunice, and Ville Platte.

The Louisiana History and State Weapons Collection Museum was the first in the nation, recently, to be designated a Provisional Army National Guard museum by the Army's Chief of Military History, Brig.Gen. James L. Collins.

Lt.Col. (Ret.) Francis Thomas, Historical Activities Officer for the State Military Department indicated the military museum is currently open on an appointment basis. Individuals or groups who want to arrange for a tour of the facility should write the Office of History, Heraldry, and Museum, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146.



**Vintage tour car**

# Infantrymen hone their skills

When the members of Company C, 156th Infantry (Mechanized) trained recently for their Skills Qualification Tests (SQT) they didn't play around.

And, Houma neighbors or anyone driving near the armory would have been startled to hear machine-gun fire or see squads of men running around the building outfitted in helmets and protective masks.

"What we're going through is a practice SQT," Capt. D.L. Shiflett, commander for Company C, said while watching his troops go through their paces in a "round robin" set-up.

One team of men went through steps to load, fire, and clear a malfunction for the M-60 machinegun under the watch eyes of Cpl. Vick Vanzandt, instructor for this part of the training.

"At this station," he said, "you must load, fire and take immediate action with the M-60."

He watched each soldier load a belt of "dummy" ammunition, "pop off" several rounds then clear a jam that he had placed in the belt.

The men then went through a series of stations that brought them into contact with just about every aspect of soldiering that they would encounter in a formal SQT.

"Training of this kind is very important," Shiflett said. "It doesn't matter if it's CPR, or learning to assemble an M-16."

During the training, the men found themselves having to know how to handle the M-16, the M-60, the M-203, a field radio, the LAW and a variety of other military weapons and equipment.

"We've got to be ready," one soldier said after he finished the grenade throw. "This kind of training is a lot better than sitting in a classroom and it keeps us on our toes."

So, throughout the afternoon of a recent drill, the sound of machine-gun fire and the yells of military commands echoed around Houma, but for a good reason.

"We've got to always be ready," one sergeant said while watching a man don his protective mask in less than eight seconds. "I think we will be," he added.



## Weapons breakdown



With acquisition of 'TCS 4-45'

## Admin support moves into 'Space Age'

**Move over Darth Vader! Look out Buck Rogers! Here comes Space Printer!!**

While some people may scoff at those statements, members of the Administrative Support Section for the Guard's Directorate of Personnel and Administration certainly don't consider it a joke. They have indeed moved into the "Space Age" with the acquisition of a new high speed printing system called the TCS 4-45, a product of AM Multigraphics.

And, while the machinery may not compete with the Columbia space shuttle for the airways above Earth, the volume of paperwork which the printing section supports will definitely reach a new high with the system which boasts the ability to speed through 154 impressions a minute, more than 9000 an hour.

That means, if the system were loaded with an endless stream of paper and ink, it could print out 72,000 pages of copy in one eight-hour day, or 360,000 in a five-day work week, or 1,440,000. . . that's right, more than a million, impressions in a four-week month.

Of course these astronomical figures will probably not be reached

any time soon, but the variety of options within the system may be expected to quadruple the output of the previous system, which is now standing nearby like the Wright's plane parked beside a huge Boeing 747.

This, of course, means a reduced time for most printing products, and, since the system can also sort up to 120 pages at a time in its 60-slot stacking towers, the system's capabilities means less time spent in collating and sorting by hand the endless, or seemingly endless reams of paper which enter and exit the section each day.

Lieutenant Mike Bendich, officer in charge of the section wears a broad smile as he stands beside the mini-computer console which is the nerve center of the system and explains, "This is really great! Now we can get to more jobs faster, and with better quality than we could in the past."

But the person most thankful for the new system is probably Specialist Charles Hardges, who, since graduating the manufacturer's 16-hour school on operator functions is the "pilot" for the system.

Watching Hardges punch in a

computerized printing run and monitor the system as it makes the print "master" then slides it on rollers to the main printing drum where it is automatically inked, then mated with the paper from a 4000-sheet stack, is like watching a ship's captain manning the bridge of a sleek new sea voyager.

Gone are the smudges normally associated with most printers; gone are the endless delays from setting up and re-setting the printing drums and cleaning the blanket after each run. That is done by the system itself, leaving the admin section workers time for other jobs which must be done in support of the Guard.

So, with the new system meaning more and better printing support, there was little wonder when Colonel Roy I. Nomey, Louisiana Army National Guard Chief of Staff met with Multigraphics representative Ray Jones to cut the ribbon inaugurating the system into the Guard.

And, if Darth Vader was watching from nearby, he had probably resigned himself to the fact that his laser sword was no match for the likes of Space Printer!

## Guardsmen bring home trophies from rifle tourney

Guardsmen from units throughout the state were busy over the summer, bringing back a bag full of trophies from rifle and pistol meets held throughout the state.

Some members of the 527th Engineer Battalion banded together and came in as the winning team in the final match of the National Rifle Association's Indoor Rifle Tournament held at Camp Beauregard recently.

The highest score among the engineers was brought in by WO1 Robert Turner with a score of 689;

following him was Sp4 Joseph Estes who shot a 664; 1Lt. Terry G. Hammett brought in a score of 653; SSgt. Danny Toney shot a 612 in the competition while SSgt. Harry Wright shot a score of 610 to bring in a team total of 3,228 points.

A sixth member of the team, SFC Arsdale Harris shot a score of 604, but the score was not added to the team totals.

The second place team in the competition, which saw .22 caliber rifles used in the indoor shoot-out, were some members of the

Headquarters Detachment for the Louisiana National Guard, based at Jackson Barracks.

High scorer for the state headquarters detachment team was SFC Michael Brondum who shot a 723; MSgt. Ernest Guerra shot a score of 648; CW2 Michael Fisher shot a score of 587 in the shoot-out while Major Donald Bringhol shot a 564 and MSgt. Louis Ray shot a score of 360. The second place team captured their title with a combined score of 2,882.

(See RIFLE, page 8)

## New C.O. takes over 241st PAD

A lot of times the staff of the *Peligram* find themselves as observers at a change of command ceremony, whether it's held for the armor, engineers, artillery or any of the branches that make up the Louisiana National Guard.

That changed recently when we said good-bye to Major Peter Wyro, our commanding officer, as he left Jackson Barracks to take a position in Maryland with the National Guard Bureau.

Before Major Wyro, known to his friends as "Pete," left, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal by Major Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard.

We all feel that it was an award well deserved for the advances that he brought to the *Peligram* and the training that he has brought to the 241st.

Taking over as the new head of the Detachment is Major Michael L. Brown.

Major Brown has already said that he wants the *Peligram* to continue on its mission, which is to support the Guard throughout the state.

The *Peligram* has come a long way, developing into along a newspaper format that lets the troops around the state know about things that will affect them directly and indirectly.

We've carried stories about new pay schedules, training sessions carried out by troops that aren't part of the usual scope of their training and we've carried stories about the good times units have as they "dress" things up a bit with formal balls and dances.

The staff and management of the *Peligram* will continue to do that, provide support for the men and women who make up the Louisiana National Guard.



## Rifle. . .

(Continued from page 7)

The third place team came from the 1st Battalion of the 156th Armor, headquartered in Shreveport.

The five members of the third place team combined their skills to bring in a score of 2,808.

The individual high scorer for the competition was SFC Michael Brondum, from the state

Headquarters Detachment, who shot a 723.

The individual high scorer for the competition was SFC Michael Brondum, from the State Headquarters Detachment, who shot a 723.

Two members of the 1st Battalion, 156th Armor, came in to take the second and third highest scores in the shooting match that saw Guardsmen from across the state competing for the trophies and titles offered.

## 159th Gets New C.O.

A Belle Chasse guardsman recently took the reigns of the 159th Combat Support Hospital during a change of command ceremony held at Jackson Barracks recently.

Lt. James Hufft, the incoming company commander, has been in the 159th since joining the Louisiana National Guard in 1971. After graduating from USL in Lafayette, he attended the Graduate Officers Candidate School in Pineville where he was chosen as Distinguished Graduate when he finished there in 1978.

The outgoing commander, Capt. Kurt Schoenberger, is being assigned to a staff position as Health Services Material Officer at Jackson Barracks.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY HO LA NTL GUARD LANG - PAO JACKSON BARRACKS NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70146 OFFICIAL BUSINESS PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300 Do Not Forward Address Correction Requested	POSTAGE AND FEES PAID DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY DOD-314	THIRD CLASS BULK RATE 
--	--	---