

MAY 1986

Louisiana Guard



The Real MASH



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Reader contributions to this publication are heartily solicited, as are contributions from all units of the Louisiana National Guard and Louisiana Air National Guard. Articles from individuals may be submitted to the State Public Information Supervisor, Louisiana National Guard, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146. Articles from units should be submitted by the unit Public Affairs Officer or unit public affairs personnel.

LETTERS

LOUISIANA GUARD welcomes letters from our readers. Letters may be sent to LOUISIANA GUARD, 4860 General Meyer Ave., Suite 201, New Orleans, LA 70114. LOUISIANA GUARD reserves the right to edit all letters prior to publication.

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FRONT COVER: Private 1st Class Sherman C. Williams and Sgt. Aaron Henderson medivac a wounded soldier during the 159th MASH Mass Casualty exercise held at Camp Villere, Sildell. Helicopters and pilots from the 813th Medical Detachment stationed at the State Aviation Command assisted in the exercise. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Jonkers, State Public Affairs Supervisor)

The Adjutant General's Information Line

The Adjutant General's Information Line is a positive means for The Adjutant General to better understand the feelings of Guard personnel, and to directly receive suggestions for improvements to the Guard's conditions.

Each question will receive a personal reply from The Adjutant General, and those of a broad-based interest will be printed here in LOUISIANA GUARD.

CALL (504) 278-6213
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DURING DUTY HOURS
(0730 - 1600 WEEKDAYS)

A letter was received recently by the Public Affairs Office concerning the perceived lack of coverage of the guard units in northern Louisiana. The Louisiana Guard staff is in complete agreement with the lady who wrote in to us. In reference to the TAG Info Line, dated November 1985 where a similar question was asked, it was reported that if unit public affair representative's fail to send us stories concerning their unit's activities, we consequently cannot publish them.

The staff consistently gets information from some units, and consistently gets nothing from others. We know that training is taking place in Bossier City, Shreveport and Monroe. Let's hear from you guys. You, as your unit's public affairs representative may not feel you have anything worth writing about concerning your unit, but the rest of us around the state would like to hear from

you. Tell us about your mission, or your commander. Where are you going for AT? How are you training? There's a lady in Bossier City who wants to know why her corner of the state is not being represented.

You can reach us at AV 485-8281, or Comm (504) 278-6281 if you have any questions concerning what we as editors and press supervisors are looking for. We're available five days a week, and during drill weekends during normal hours. Give us a call!!

Q: When is this AID's testing I've been hearing about going to start?

A: As of October 1985 all new applicants have been tested for the presence of HTLV-III anti-bodies. All in-service testing will begin to take place 1 April 87. For more information on AID's testing watch for an upcoming issue of the Louisiana Guard.

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LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
1000 PINE BLVD., SUITE 100
MONROE, LA 70502

April 30, 1986

Dear Fellow Louisiana Guardsmen:

Recently I received a message from the National Guard Bureau concerning ARNG strength and retention.

For the third year in a row, ARNG strength has started off at a pace that is far too slow to reach required end strength. I believe that reducing our enlisted losses is probably the single most critical element in ARNG strength success.

Retention is a command responsibility up and down the line. In this environment of "Grass-Roots" we cannot continue to waste our most precious resource.

There are as many ideas for keeping good people in our Louisiana Guard as there are good leaders. I urge all commanders to share those ideas and use them. The report cites several examples of the kind of leadership that keeps good people in the Guard. The squad leader who checks with his squad members before every drill to make sure they haven't forgotten the drill date; the first sergeant who contacts his soldiers the first time they miss a drill instead of the ninth time; the unit commander who takes the time to talk to the employers in the community; and the battalion/brigade commander who makes retention a priority concern and uses it as a measure of success or failure for his commanders.

The good leadership needed for good retention starts at the top. If your soldiers and airmen feel that you as their commander are not interested, they in turn will not be interested.

Establish goals for your units. Look at the people you are losing and look for ways to keep the good ones. In order to maintain our "Commitment to Excellence" we must maintain our commitment to keeping quality and experienced soldiers and airmen in our Louisiana Guard.

Sincerely,


A. M. Stroud, Jr.
Major General, LAARNG
The Adjutant General


MG A. M. Stroud, Jr.

New SATO office at Barracks

The Scheduled Airlines Traffic Office (SATO) has finally arrived at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, and is located in the USPFO building.

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SAFETY SEZ**Realistic training brings higher risks**

By Major
Mattie L. Caldwell

Realism. How often that word is used when describing training in the Total Army Force of today. Consequently, as a part of this endeavor toward an Army of Excellence, the training frequently has higher risks and more simulation toward a more "realistic" battlefield scenario.

With Annual Training approaching for most Louisiana National Guardsmen, it is fitting that Pyrotechnic simulators be looked at with an eye toward safety.

Pyrotechnic simulators come in all sizes. The M80 explosive detonation simulator is less than 2 inches long and contains 0.1 ounce of charge. The M142 atomic simulator comes in a 55-gallon drum and weighs up to 199 pounds. It has a 3.9-pound explosive charge and 109 pounds of smoke composition.

These two simulators represent the size extremes, but their primary purpose is the same — to safely simulate the effects produced by ammunition and explosives on the battlefield. Although their purpose is to simulate, both items are shipped and stored as Class A explosives, the same classification used for fragmentation grenades and dynamite.

As we review our records for FY 84 and FY 85, we find that the problems that existed in FY 82 and FY 83 are still with us. Personnel using simulators are being injured.

It's about time we started to give simulators the respect they demand. We need to know how to handle them, their condition, the environment they are to be used in, and, most important, how to use them safely.

Following are a few cases that illustrate what happens when we do not take the time to know our simulators.

Simulator, projectile, ground burst M115A2

The simulators were being prepared for the day's mission. The cardboard box was removed from a wooden box aboard the unit's armored personnel carrier (APC) and placed to the right of the commander's

cupola. The first simulator was removed and placed near the front of the cupola several inches from the cardboard box. As the ammunition handler reached for a second simulator, the first functioned, causing burns to the right side of his face, his neck, and his right arm. Investigation showed the simulator functioned because of cookoff. The ammo handler had placed the simulator on a surface that was between 200° and 1300° F. The engine was running; therefore, there was sufficient heat to cause the simulator to cookoff and function. This type of incident is preventable if the handlers will learn not only how to operate the simulator but also its limitations.

The soldier was on a training exercise. He had three M115A2 simulators with him. The first simulator functioned normally; the second malfunctioned. He injured a finger on his right hand because he was not wearing the prescribed safety gloves. He stated that when a simulator failed to function (a dud), he either cut it open and removed the powder or he buried it. Again, human error and malpractice were the cause of the injury.

Simulator, bobby trap M117

During an infantry training exercise, the user stated that he had set up the first simulator in accordance with TM 9-1370-207-10. As he walked away, it functioned, causing fragments to injure his eye. What really happened is as follows. Four other simulators were previously set up without incident. The one that functioned prematurely was not emplaced as directed by TM 9-1370-207-10. The simulator was fastened to a log lying on the ground rather than being attached to an object 10 feet high. When the simulator was pulled tight rather than having some slack left in the pull cord. At this time, the simulator was armed and probably would have functioned without incident. However, the operator decided to tie another knot around the spring. When he attempted to tie the second knot with no slack in the

Continued on Page 17

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Mass casualty exercise successful for 159th MASH

By Sgt 1st Class
Chris DePascual
1st Sergeant, 159th MASH

Imagine an army trauma

and surgical unit treating wounded soldiers at Camp Villere, Louisiana. Well, that's just what happened on 19 April 1986, when the 159th

Mobile Army Surgical Hospital mobilized to Camp Villere Louisiana to conduct a Field Training Exercise.

The 159th MASH convoyed to Camp Villere on Friday night 18 April 1986. The unit went into operations as a field hospital at 1300 hours on 19 April 1986 and conducted Mass Casualty Exercise. During the next four hours, some thirty seriously injured patients were medivaced by air and ground ambulances to the training site. These patients both men and women of the unit were dressed with lifelike wounds and given the treatment needed for their injuries.

During a Mass Casualty Exercise, hospital units receive numerous patients within a very short time span. The thirty or so patients received by the 159th MASH were inprocessed similar to that of civilian hospital Emergency Rooms. While the extent of the patients injuries were being determined by Triage/EMT personnel, Patient Administration (PAD) gathered personal data. These patients were then moved through specialized areas, such as Lab, X-Ray, Pre-Operative Intensive Care Wards, Surgery and Post Operative Intensive Care Wards. They remained in the Intensive Care Wards until arrangements could be made to evacuate them to a more definitive health care facility.

Training of this type is needed by the 159th MASH and other field hospitals to insure the smooth operations of the critical services they provide.

Also conducted on this date was the unit's first Family Day in a field setting. Approximately 200 family members and friends of the 159th MASH went to Camp Villere to observe the exercise being conducted. These spectators were briefed on the scenario under which the hospital was operating and then taken on guided tours through the various areas. Many were amazed and impressed to see their son's, daughter's and spouse's performing in a field hospital environment. The Family Day was a success in that it gave relatives and friends an opportunity to see what their soldiers do on their weekends away from home.

Colonel Marion G. Simpson, Commander of the 159th MASH has exerted much time and effort in exercises of this nature to prepare his troops to perform their mission when called upon. He has been instrumental in the unit's Train-Up for Annual Training 1986

which will include an 8 day Field Exercise in which the unit will undergo an External ARTEP to be administered by the 95th MTC. The 63 Officers

and 197 Enlisted personnel's positive attitude is reflected in the success of this type training and the capabilities of the 159th MASH.



Sgt Lily Smith comforts a wounded soldier as she studies the patient's chart. The realistic make-up and fake blood for the various wounds and deformities was applied

by Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Vincent, and Sgt. Louis Youngblood. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Jonkers, State Public Affairs Supervisor)



Both enlisted and officers assembled the various tents of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in less than 24 hours. Among the tents in operation were two operating rooms complete with air purifying

generators, a post-op and pre-op tent, an x-ray lab, a supply tent, a medical supply tent and an administrative headquarters. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Jonkers, State Public Affairs Supervisor)



Col. Marion Simpson, 159th MASH Commander (left), and Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Adjutant General (right), observe the MASH in operation. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Jonkers, State Public Affairs Supervisor)



(Left to right), Sgt Johnny Edwards, Sgt Aaron Henderson, Private 1st Class Leroy Victoriano and Spec 4 George Dixon medivac a badly

wounded soldier to triage during the Mass Casualty exercise. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Jonkers, State Public Affairs Supervisor)



Sgt Ernest Etheredge lies quietly on a cot in the Emergency Medical Treatment (EMT) tent. Many of the "patients" were instructed to

moan, scream and thrash about adding to the realism of the exercise. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Jonkers, State Public Affairs Supervisor)



(Bending) Maj. James Whitmore and (kneeling) Spec 4 Merlin McCurdy perform triage on Spec 4 Anna Singleton. Triage is the process of sorting victims to deter-

mine priority or appropriate place of medical treatment. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Jonkers, State Public Affairs Supervisor)

Louisiana Guard vs. National Training Center: Round 2

By SGT BadgerCoreil
256th INF Bde (M)
Public Affairs Office

"This will be one of the National Guard's greatest challenges," said Major General A.M. Stroud. The Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard was referring to an upcoming training exercise in the Mojave desert where approximately 850 Acadiana guardsmen will participate in state of the art combat training.

The 2nd Battalion of the Louisiana Brigade is one of several National Guard units in the United States selected for vigorous training at Fort Irwin, California. The desert terrain is home of the U.S. Defense Department's National Training Center.

The battalion which consists of units from Abbeville, Jennerette, Breaux Bridge, Eunice, Crowley, Houma, Thibodeaux, New Iberia, Franklin, Ville Platte and Opelousas will depart for the three week maneuver on May 31st. The group of citizen soldiers from south Louisiana eagerly began preparing for the special training mission over two years ago. While working closely with active duty soldiers from the 5th Infantry Division, at Fort Polk, Louisiana, the part time soldiers spent weekend drills working to perfect their combat skills.

"This is probably the closest thing possible to real combat," said Private First Class Matthew Armentor of Delcambre. "When I joined the National Guard I wanted a challenge and I think this will be the best one ever. I know it will be tough but after all of those long weekends in the woods at Fort Polk, we're ready."

The climate alone is a challenge at the National Training Center (N.T.C.). Temperatures during the summer months often reach above 100 degrees and the mountainous terrain can be difficult to negotiate even in military vehicles.

The N.T.C. exercises are often referred to as "sophisticated war games". The U.S. Army uses a technically advanced system called MILES to insure realistic training. The Multi Integrated Laser Equipment System allows N.T.C. personnel to keep track of each soldier during training battles and how well he does in defending himself. Instead of using ammunition, guardsmen use laser signals to hit their op-

posing force during the combat training. Each individual weapon and weapons system is equipped with both laser receivers and transmitters.

If a soldier or tactical vehicle is hit, a loud buzzer or flashing light informs the soldier he would have been killed or seriously wounded if it were an actual combat situation. The buzzers are attached to harnesses worn by the troops and lights are placed on transports including jeeps, tanks and helicopters. When the National Training Center was constructed, it was designed to accommodate combined arms training. Combined arms is the use of several American defense systems including air, artillery, armor, infantry and mechanized infantry.

The appearance of the training battlefield is also realistic. N.T.C. personnel wear Soviet styled uniforms and use equipment modified to resemble the equipment of the Soviets and their allies. Active duty soldiers assigned to the N.T.C. are also trained in Soviet tactics.

2nd Battalion Executive Officer, Major Sans Broussard of Vermillion Parish said, "Even though we plan to win our training battles against the opposing forces, the most important factor is that we learn from any mistakes which we may make. After each battle we should improve and not only learn from our mistakes, but from the mistakes of the opposing forces."

The training battles are video-taped and recorded on computers for evaluation. During the 21 day exercise, the Acadiana Guardsmen will be critiqued by extensively trained Army evaluators. The mission will also reinforce logistical training. "I think I can be safe in saying the Louisiana Brigade 256th INF BDE (ME) is combat ready. You have to be well trained when you can efficiently transport ammunition, food, ice, water and other supplies several hundred miles from one end of the desert to the other without getting hit by mock enemy fire," said 2nd Lt. Tim Scott. Scott is a student at U.S.L. and works as support platoon leader while on duty with the National Guard.

For some Louisiana Guardsmen, the upcoming N.T.C. exercise will not be their first trip to Fort Irwin. In August of last year the 3rd Battalion of the 156th Infantry (M) of Lake Charles made history by being the first Army National Guard



FT POLK, LA — Lt Col Frank A. Catalano, Jr. (center) meets with other 2nd Battalion leaders and Fort

Polk personnel to discuss mock battles which are being held in preparation of a special training mission in the Cali-

fornia Mojave Desert. (Photo by SGT B. Coreil, LA National Guard)

unit in Louisiana to participate in the state of the art training in the Mojave desert. The 3rd Battalion consist of guardsmen from southwest Louisiana.

National Guard commanders say they appreciate the community support which has been expressed toward the 2nd Battalion. The N.T.C. exercise will last seven days longer than the traditional 14 day annual training which guardsmen are required to perform. "We realize this may be an inconvenience to some employees who will be releasing their employees for this training but we are attempting to be as flexible as possible," said Major Sans Broussard. "Traditionally employers have been very supportive of the Louisiana National Guard and without their cooperation the reserve components of the military would not be such an integral part of the United State's Armed Forces. The families of the guardsmen involved in this special mission have also been very supportive and we are grateful."

Brigadier General Frank Denton is commander of the 256th Infantry Brigade (M), referred to as the Louisiana Brigade, which is headquartered in Lafayette. The Commander of the 2nd Battalion is Lieutenant Colonel Frank A. Catalano, Jr. Both military leaders say they are confident that the Acadiana area Guardsmen will receive outstanding ratings at N.T.C. and will return to Louisiana as one of the best trained units in the nation.

The Guardsmen will deploy for the California desert from the Acadiana Regional Airport in New Iberia on May 31st. Military equipment from south Louisiana will be transported via railroad prior to the exercise.

In addition to training for combat, the Louisiana Brigade accomplishes it's state service including hurricane and flood relief. Several guardsmen were placed on active duty last year when the state was struck by several storms.

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Chaplain's Corner

Choose the best

By Chaplain (Col.) Paul Durbin



I would like to share with you a legend of a shepherd boy. Each day this shepherd boy would lead his sheep to their food and water. He watched over them, protected them, tended to their every need. One day as he was leading the sheep to the field, he saw a very beautiful flower on the side, he saw a very beautiful flower on the side of the cliff. When he pulled the flower, a cave door opened before him. He was greatly surprised, for nothing like this hand ever happened before.

As he cautiously walked into the cave, he looked around. To his amazement he saw piles of sparkling diamonds, rubies, and other precious stones. He tossed the flower aside and filled his pockets and both hands full of these precious stones. As he started to leave, he heard a voice: "Do not forget the best." The boy thought, "Nothing could be better than these stones." As he walked out of the cave with his hand and pockets full, the cave door closed behind him and stones turned to dust.

You see, he had forgotten the best. What had opened the cave to the treasure? "The flower." The little boy had forgotten the best — the flower — for without the flower, nothing taken from the cave had any value.

The voice in the cave said, "Do not forget the best," and the challenge of Joshua to the children of Israel was, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Both of these statements call upon us to choose the best; to look for the important; to look for the meaning in life; to set our priorities in order; to make a commitment to God. God has left our wills free to choose or reject Him. In order to fulfill our potentials as human beings, let us choose the best, let us choose God.

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Hard work, fun for all at Enlisted Association Convention

By SSG Lawrence Hatch
Det 3 HQ STARC
NBC NCO

The morning of the 21st of March was nice and peaceful in Lake Charles. The Lake Charles Hilton was overrun with green army uniforms and blue air force uniforms. It was convention time again and the Lake Charles Hilton was the drop zone.

Friday the 21st of March was a leisurely day. We checked into our rooms and registered for the convention. Hospitality rooms were made available where one could meet fellow guardsmen and guardswomen from throughout Louisiana.

Friday night everyone met at the ballroom for a Luau. A great band had everyone dancing and enjoying themselves. But then came Saturday morning, the time to get down to the business at hand; getting the meeting started.

Around 0800, all the members were in the ballroom when the president called the meeting to order and asked the sergeant-at-arms to post the colors. The 3rd Bn supplied the honor guard.

After the roll was taken by the president, the sergeant-at-arms announced that the conference had an honored guest, Mr. Ed Godwin, representing the Mayor of Lake Charles. Mr. Godwin welcomed the enlisted personnel to the city of Lake Charles and wished everyone a good, safe, and prosperous conference.

When Mr. Godwin left the ballroom, the president spoke about the convention and what had to be accomplished to make it a success. The secretary read the minutes of the last convention that was held in Lafayette, and the vice president spoke to the body about membership and the mid winter conference which he attended.

Major General Ansel M. Stroud, the Adjutant General of Louisiana, was also in attendance and spoke about how far the National Guard has come and what is going to happen in the future. The guest speaker, Secretary of State Jim Brown, and a fellow Guardsman, spoke about the National Guard and the important role it plays in the defense of our state and nation. After the Secretary of State finished, everyone broke for lunch.

Afterwards, the president called the meeting back to order for the business meeting. Command Sgt. Maj. Harold

P. Cook, the state Sergeant Major, spoke to the body on the goals that the air and army guard need to accomplish in order to make the Enlisted



Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Adjutant General, addresses the attendees at the 1986 Enlisted Association Convention held in Lake Charles, La. (Photo by SSG Steve Brown, 241st PAD)

Association a better and much stronger organization.

When the State Sergeant Major finished addressing the body, both the president and the State Sergeant Major gave out the award to the six outstanding guardsmen in Louisiana. Three went to the army guard, and three went to the air guard.

There were a lot of resolutions that were voted on. The outcome will be listed in the next issue of the guard paper. Elections were also on the agenda. The same officers were elected for another term.

A vote was taken to where the convention will be held in 1988. Bossier City will be the site. The meeting ended with the colors being put to rest by the 3rd Bn honor guard. Afterwards everyone prepared for the banquet that evening.

The 156th Army band was in good spirits as they played. The ballroom was filled with the sound of delightful music.

After the meal, the fun began. When the band started playing, the dance floor became packed with people doing the twist, gator, cha cha, waltz and various other

dances.

On Sunday morning the president held a meeting with the area directors. Meanwhile Enlisted Association members were saying their good-byes to one another until next year's convention.

A special thanks to Maj. Gen. Stroud for the use of the bus used to transport the people from New Orleans to the convention, and the 3rd Bn and the staff of people that worked so hard to make this conference a happy, safe, and successful one.



Attendees at the 1986 Enlisted Association Convention held in Lake Charles, La. got down, and got funky at the Luau on Friday night. (Photo by SSG Steve Brown, 241st PAD)

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A step closer to reality

Most of you are aware by now that the National Guard Bureau (NGB) has directed the implementation of a drug testing program throughout the Air National Guard. State and Group social actions personnel learned at an NGB sponsored conference held in April 1986 that implementation is just around the corner. Receipt of a revised ANGR 30-02, Social Action Program, and a revised AFR 160-23, Drug Abuse Testing Program, is expected at any time. NGB has issued guidance to be followed in the interim.

I'm sure some of you are thinking, "Why is a drug testing program needed and what does it hope to accomplish?" NGB's position on the issue is that drug abuse is incompatible with ANG standards of conduct. Standards of behavior, performance and discipline must be maintained to assure mission accomplishment. The illegal or improper use of drugs by ANG members can seriously damage physical and mental health, jeopardize an individual's safety and the safety of others, be detrimental to the ANG mission, and lead to criminal prosecution and/or discharge.

The ANG, therefore, is responsible for helping to prevent drug abuse among its members, and for identifying, disciplining and/or separating those who promote the illegal or improper use of drugs. The main goals of the program, then, are to discourage all drug abuse and, when drug abuse does occur, to reduce the adverse consequences to the ANG and the individual to a minimum.

What are the concepts that will guide program implementation? Since drug abuse can hurt both the ANG and the individual, the program should receive priority consistent with the potential adverse impact of abuse and should be administered from a firm and

direct perspective. NGB encourages the development of special emphasis programs to address unique drug threats. Should drug abuse be confirmed, cases should receive prompt evaluation and disposition. Since the ANG does not have the resources to implement a rehabilitation program, NGB directs that confirmed drug abusers and traffickers should be separated from the ANG.

How will we identify someone who is using drugs? Through an on-going drug testing program conducted in accordance with the guidelines established for active duty USAF personnel in AFR 160-23. Here's how the program will work.

Some members of State Headquarters, the 159TFG, the 214EIS, and the 236CISS will be screened for drug use each month. The majority of those screened monthly will be identified using a random selection technique managed by the social actions office. A major point to remember about the random selection process is that once one's card is selected, it is returned to the hopper immediately. Although the odds are against it, your card may be pulled again the very next month. Thus, one person may be tested more than once while another is never tested. That may seem unusual, but for a selection process to be truly random, that's the way it has to work. A commander may also order a member to take a urine test when (1) there is probable cause to believe that the member has ingested drugs, is drug intoxicated or has committed a drug related offense, or (2) there is reasonable suspicion of drug abuse because of a member's aberrant, bizarre or unlawful behavior, such as, unauthorized absences, violations of safety requirements, disobedience of direct orders, apprehension or investigation

COMMAND NOTES

ANG Topics from
Headquarters
Louisiana Air
National Guard



By BG James J. Hourin
Commander, La ANG

for drug offenses or intoxicated driving, involvement in crimes of violence, or other incidents involving repeated or serious breaches of discipline

We sincerely hope that no one ever tests positive since NGB has directed the separation of such individuals. Because the consequences are so severe, tests will be conducted under carefully controlled conditions developed by the USAF to insure the results, positive or negative, are valid. The taking, packaging, shipping and testing of urine samples are controlled every step of the way. Should a sample test positive at the first lab, it is shipped to another and subjected to an entirely different testing technique. Both tests must prove positive before a positive report is returned to a unit commander.

Some of you may be concerned that while you personally do not smoke marijuana, friends who smoke the drug in your presence may cause you to test positive through your passive inhalation of the marijuana smoke. While testing techniques are so sophisticated that they are reported to be capable of identifying the active from the passive marijuana inhaler, a prudent person would avoid all contact with the drug. You may have seen a story which recently appeared in this publication about how a technical sergeant with 17 years of duty in the USAF was administratively discharged because he had witnessed, yet failed to report that several airmen from his squadron had smoked marijuana on at least 10 occasions at a home the

sergeant was sharing. The sergeant said he didn't turn the airmen in because he considered himself a guest in the home. The Air Force held, however, that NCOs have a responsibility to enforce the law against drug abuse and contended that, because of his rank, the sergeant was an involuntary conspirator and not an innocent bystander.

In summary, this article has attempted to explain why there will be a drug testing program in the LaANG, to familiarize you with how it will work, and to inform you of the consequences awaiting anyone who tests positive. Units of the La

ANG have never had more important missions, and, collectively, our people have never been more mission ready. Anyone who reads the paper or listens to TV knows that, world conditions being what they are, its vitally important that we be able to perform our mission as efficiently and effectively as we possibly can. Neither the La ANG, the USAF, nor any other active or reserve component can tolerate drug abuse among its members and perform its mission as expected. Avoid drug use and users as if your military career depended upon it, because it does.





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MAJOR RECEIVES MEDAL
 — Louisiana Army National Guard Major Drouet LeBlanc, right, received the Army Commendation Medal from 256th Infantry Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Frank Denton, at left. LeBlanc, of Lafayette, received the award for outstanding work as the brigade intelligence officer, especially during the unit's annual training, field training exercises and command planning exercises. (National Guard photo by SFC Kirk Barilleaux)

Safety Continued from Page 4

pull cord, the simulator exploded. Once again, human error was the cause.

• During a night training exercise, the soldier reached into his pocket, pulled out the simulator, and jerked the pull cord. The simulator functioned in his hand. He was not wearing the required safety gloves and received injuries to the palm, two fingers, and the thumb of his right hand. He was hospitalized for several weeks. What had happened is that he had two simulators in his pocket. One was an M116A1 with a delay of 5 to 10 seconds; the other was an M117 which has no delay. It was the M117 that he pulled out in the dark and activated. Why did he have two simulators in one pocket? Why did he have two different simulators? Were the simulators mixed up when issued? One can only speculate about how it

came to be. But one thing is certain; more training and respect for the simulators are required.

What to do with a dud

Do you know what to do when a simulator fails to function? If you don't, please don't handle it! Mark the location and contact EOD personnel. They know what to do.

Your operators manual gives you instructions; you should know when it's safe to handle misfires and duds. Your manual tells you how long to wait before you collect the dud and immerse it in oil. Each simulator requires a waiting period before any action is taken. When the simulator has cooled sufficiently, forward it to authorized disposal personnel. Again, if you're uncertain, let EOD personnel handle it.

And remember, don't ever cut open a simulator or

try to burn the contents. We don't need more statistics.

Don'ts for

Pyrotechnic Simulators

- Don't point or throw them at people.
- Don't place them near a fire or hot surface.
- Don't forget to give them the care and respect they demand.
- Don't pick up a dud.
- Don't forget to wear leather safety gloves.
- Don't forget to read operating instructions.
- Don't throw them near vehicles or equipment.
- Don't throw them from moving vehicles when avoidable.

Conclusion

LAARNG POC, CW3 Stanley J. Sirgo. AV 485-8315 (Comm) 504-278-6315. (Article reprinted from: COUNTERMEASURE, Feb. 1986.)



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National Guard

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