

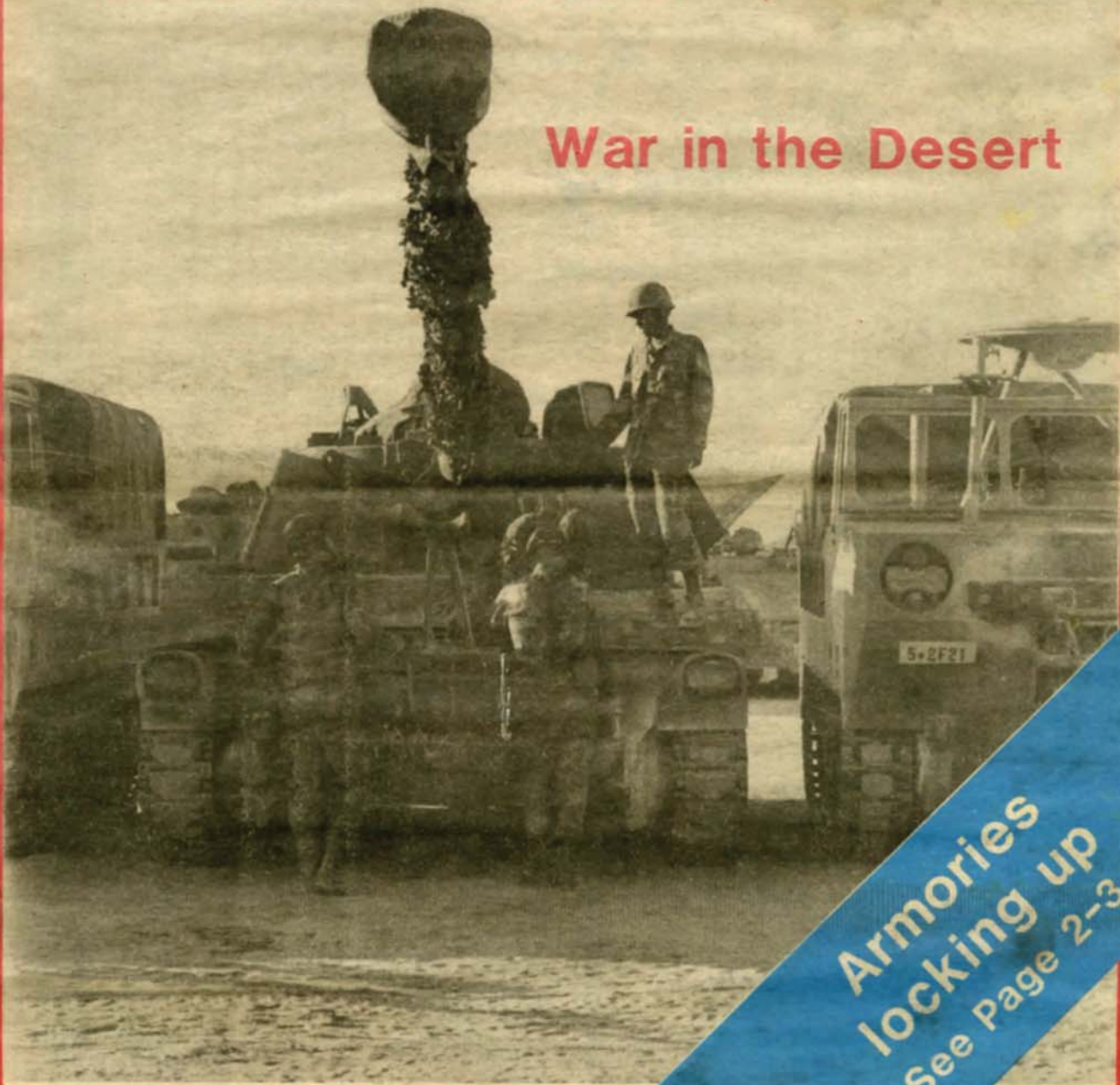
Louisiana Guard

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

JULY/AUGUST 1986



War in the Desert



Armories
locking up
See Page 2-3

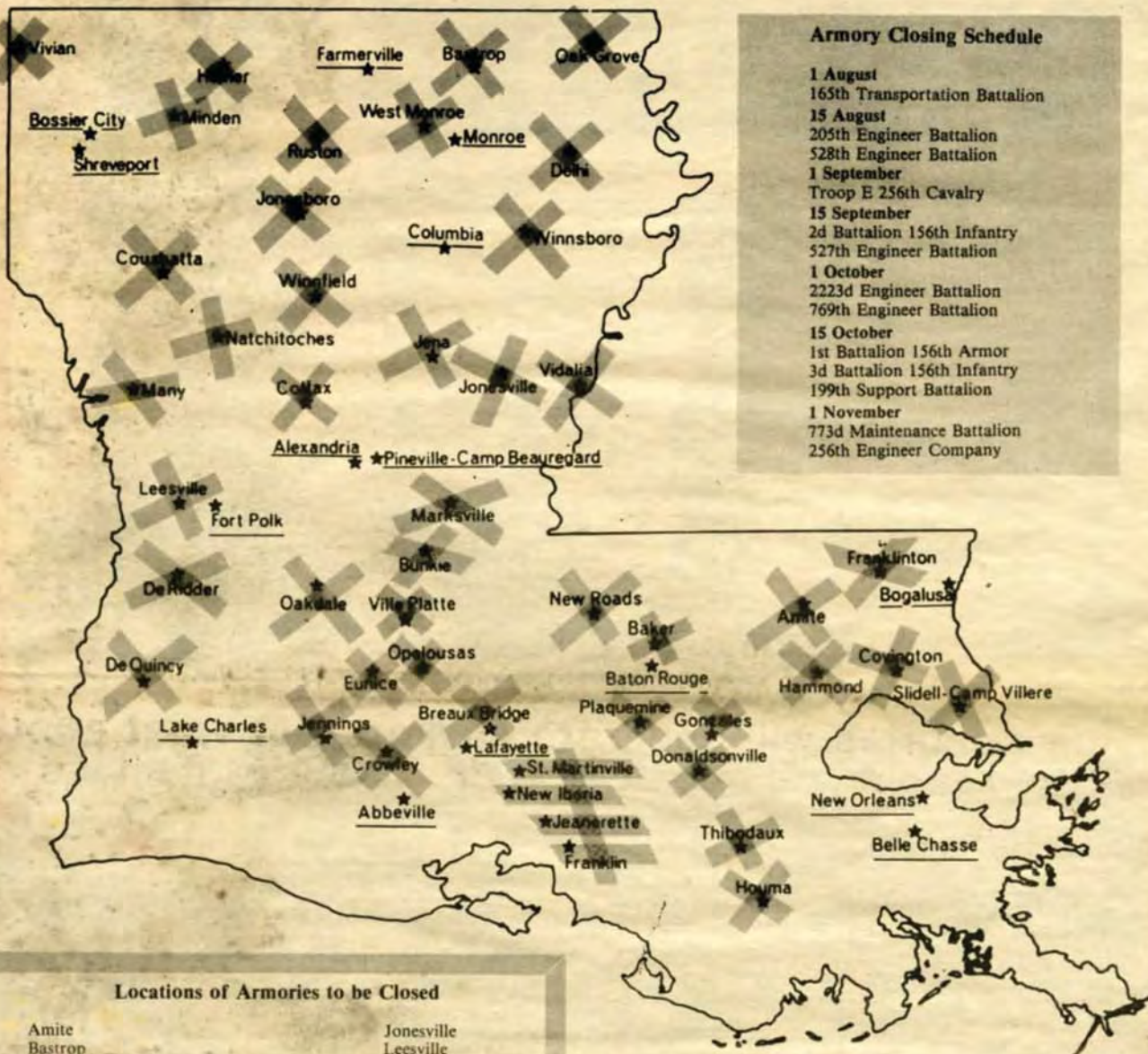
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Budget cuts locking up armories in Louisiana



Armory Closing Schedule

1 August	165th Transportation Battalion
15 August	205th Engineer Battalion 528th Engineer Battalion
1 September	Troop E 256th Cavalry
15 September	2d Battalion 156th Infantry 527th Engineer Battalion
1 October	2223d Engineer Battalion 769th Engineer Battalion
15 October	1st Battalion 156th Armor 3d Battalion 156th Infantry 199th Support Battalion
1 November	773d Maintenance Battalion 256th Engineer Company

Locations of Armories to be Closed

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Amite | Jonesville |
| Bastrop | Leesville |
| Breaux Bridge | Many |
| Bunkie | Marksville |
| Coushatta | Minden |
| Covington | Nachitoches |
| Crowley | New Iberia |
| Dequincy | New Orleans (3) |
| Delhi | New Roads |
| Deridder | Oakdale |
| Donaldsonville | Oakgrove |
| Eunice | Opelousas |
| Franklin | Plaquemine |
| Franklinton | Ruston |
| Gonzales | Slidell |
| Hammond | St. Martinville |
| Homer | Thibodaux |
| Houma | Vidalia |
| Jeanerette | Vivian |
| Jena | West Monroe |
| Jennings | Winnfield |
| Jonesboro | Winnsboro |

Locations of Armories to be Open

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Abbeville | Jackson Barracks |
| Alexandria | Lafayette |
| Baton Rouge | Lake Charles |
| Bogalusa | Monroe |
| Bossier City | Shreveport |
| Camp Beauregard | |

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S COLUMN

Dear Fellow Guardsmen:

By now you're aware that the Louisiana National Guard's budget has been reduced by 22%. The Senate Committee requires that the \$728,000 come from armory operations.

In order to save that amount of money from armory operations, the only means possible is to close 46 of our 57 armories. They will remain closed except for the day before, during, and after drill. Eleven armories, battalion headquarters and higher, will remain open on a daily basis, and the 251 full-time technicians who work at the armories scheduled to close will be consolidated at these headquarters. For most of those individuals this means driving to another location to get to work and back every day. This is a tough situation, but we have no choice. Our other alternative is to keep the armories open and have the soldiers work in them without benefit of telephones or airconditioning. Understandably, we feel this system will not work.

Effective immediately, the armories will no longer be available for civic and social events. This may cause bad feelings in the smaller communities which depend on the National Guard armory for their Bingo nights, Old Folks dinners, and wedding receptions. Our weapons and equipment security will be jeopardized. Our response time during state emergencies will be degraded. The flying mission of the Air Guard will be severely affected.

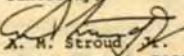
All telephones and airconditioning in the armories will be reduced to a level that provides only security, lights, and heat for the monthly training mission. This means a telephone not readily available when needed. This means working in heat and discomfort. This means our mission is hampered.

These closings will also certainly affect our strength. We'll lose those prospects who walk into their local armory to sign up. We'll lose those individuals who are reluctant to drive 50 miles to the nearest open armory to talk to a recruiter. If this continues, we'll lose the momentum that's caused the Guard to grow at a steady pace.

We're hoping this situation is temporary, and we're using these measures on a 90-day program. We'll see then what impact the armory closings will have had on our mission readiness and our strength.

This is an excellent opportunity to contact the legislators in your community and express your concern over the budget reductions and how they will affect the Louisiana Guard. Perhaps if enough individuals voice their concern we will have funds restored.

Sincerely,


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


MG A. M. Stroud, Jr.

Closing armories will generate savings, but what cost? Security, readiness, manpower all will suffer damage

By SGT Maria L. Jonkers
State Public Affairs Supervisor

In order to operate with a cut of 22% from their state budget, the Louisiana National Guard will have to close 46 of 57 armories.

A budget of \$3,884,350 was approved by the House, however the Senate reduced it \$728,000.00 with the requirement that the savings come from armory operations. MG Stroud, said, "The only way to reduce state expenditures at the armories is to reduce utilities and telephone costs. All telephones and air conditioning below battalion level will be reduced to a level that provides only security, lights and heat for the monthly training periods. This is expected to save \$308,000.00."

Save yes, but not without additional cost to the Guard with an already shrunken budget. LTC Urban Martinez, Recruiting and Retention Manager for the state said, "Pulling out the phones is going to cost us money. We figure about \$2,000.00. For recruiters to continue prospecting by phone in these small communities where armories once were open and phone lines available, they'll have to call from a battalion headquarters much farther away. We estimate this will result in an increase of long distance phone charges by \$6,000.00 a

year."

LTC Martinez adds that the longer distances recruiters will have to drive to complete inprocessing paperwork at the open armories will result in increased mileage of \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 a month.

Eleven strategically located armories will remain open on a daily basis. These include armories at Camp Beauregard in Alexandria, and Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. The 251 federally funded personnel working in these facilities will be consolidated at Battalion, Group and Brigade headquarters.

"We face the possible loss of some of these 251 federally funded personnel who would be consolidated," said MG Stroud. "A soldier who's worked at his local armory full-time and suddenly finds he has to drive 60 miles each day to get to work may consider looking for another job closer to home."

Terminating or leaving vacant 13 state employee positions will reduce costs by \$265,000.00. Reduction of the state share of federal/state cost agreement by \$65,000.00, and reduction of telephone and utility costs at the eleven open armories will provide another \$90,000.00.

These savings to the state will total the required \$728,000.00, but at what cost to the National Guard and the

Local citizens?

There will be increased security risk to the millions of dollars in weapons and equipment stored at the closed facilities. The ability of units to respond to local and state emergencies will be degraded. The present response time of two to six hours in a state emergency will be increased from twelve to eighteen hours. There will also be the immediate loss of \$195,000.00 in federal funds from the state/federal cost sharing agreement.

"Presently the Guard receives \$94,000,000.00 in federal operating funds annually," MG Stroud said. "Considering that this is matched by \$4,000,000.00 in state funds the return of federal dollars to state dollars is presently 24 to 1. In 1984 that ratio was 15 to 1. The reduction of our state funds will certainly impact on this growth."

It will not only impact on the growth of the Guard, but also the readiness mission of the units. Most severely affected will be the Air Guard. Although \$50,000.00 in state funds will be reduced from the Air Guard budget, this represents 50% of the total state funds provided.

Air Guard flying units, unlike Army units, must operate every day to maintain flying and mission qualifications. This reduction will affect the flying

program of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group in Belle Chasse which enjoyed the distinction of being the first Air National Guard unit in the nation to receive the F-15 Premiere fighter.

The armory closings will also adversely affect the strength of the Guard. Said LTC Martinez, "A lot of our recruits were walk-ins. They visited the armory in their community, got interested and signed up. We'll lose these types of prospects. Other interested individuals might be reluctant to travel 50 miles to the nearest open armory for an interview with a recruiter and then drive back. Our strength is the highest its ever been, but with these armory closings our recruiters will have to work harder and longer just to maintain the momentum."

Another of LTC Martinez's worries is that the Guard's image will suffer in these smaller communities. Many civilians depend on the local National Guard armory for all their civic and social events. In light of other unrelated services that are being eliminated or reduced the National Guard armory closings could be viewed as abandonment.

"Usually you can always see negative and positive in any circumstance, but in this instance I can't think of anything positive coming out of this," LTC Martinez said.

Louisiana Guard

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1 JULY/AUGUST 1986
 (Note: Due to late-breaking news concerning the closing of armories, the July issue of LOUISIANA GUARD was held over, and a combined July-August issue produced with the most up-to-date information available on how state budget cuts are affecting the Louisiana National Guard.)

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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.

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FROM COVER: The 2nd Battalion, 156th Inf returned from the National Training Center at Fort Irwin with an impressive 100% victory in battle. Rare for any opponent that goes up against the Awesome OPFOR, but rarer still for a Guard/Reserve unit. For full details see stories inside. (LaARNG Photo)



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The 156th Army Band headquartered at Bossier City performed at an outdoor lawn concert at Jackson Barracks during the 4th of July weekend to an enthusiastic crowd of residents, employees and guests. The band is under the direction of CW2 Leon Anderson. (Photo by SFC Tobias Mullen)



FIFTH ARMY'S '86 FORSCOM USAR/ARNG SOLDIERS OF YEAR — SFC Joseph G. King of HHC, 1st Bn, 156th Armor in Shreveport was one of 32 candidates from the eight-state area to reach the top level in Fifth Army's '86 Forces Command Best Individual USAR/ARNG Soldier of the Year Competition held in San Antonio. (U.S. Army Photograph)

IN BRIEF

Retirees SGLI

Members of the National Guard being transferred to the Retired Service are eligible for continued coverage under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance. The coverage is available in increments of \$5000.00 up to a maximum of \$50,000.00. Coverage is provided from the date of transfer to the Retired Reserve until the insured receives his first retired paycheck at age 60. Application is to be made on VA Form 29-8173 which is available at all VA offices. Application must be made in the 120 days following transfer to the Retired Reserve.

Two from LA at Combat Nurse Course

By 2LT Patricia K. Moebus, ANC

Combat Nursing Skills. That's what the Combat Nursing Course (CNC) held at Fort Meade, Maryland, 5-13 April 1986 was all about. Thirteen National Guard nurses from different parts of the United States, including Alaska, attended. Louisiana Army National Guard (LANG) was represented by Major Carolyn Johnson, 159th MASH and 2LT Patricia Moebus, 159th MASH, attached to the 225th Engineer Group.

The pilot Combat Nursing Course was developed by the Office of the Surgeon, Army National Guard. The CNC was patterned after the Combat Casualty Course (C4). The C4 is the first choice for providing Army Medical Department (AMEDD) personnel the training required for combat. However, due to the need to train the Active Component tri-service personnel, there are few slots available for the Reserve Components.

Colonel A. Jane Carson, Chief Nurse, Army National Guard (ARNG), initiated the Combat Nursing Course. The pilot program will be evaluated as to the feasibility of continuing such a program on a regional basis for the Reserve Components. It is hoped that such a program would grow to include MC, DC, and PAs.

The pilot course followed the C4 Program of Instruction as closely as possible. Part of the CNC, a two day Advanced Trauma Life Support Course, was contracted with the University of Maryland. The first four days of the program were spent in the field. Instruction was given by a variety of instructors, including the 20th SFG, the 85th Med Bn, and the 400th Med Det (Aeromedical Helicopter). In garrison topics ranged from Mass Casualty Assessment to Combat Stress and Battle Fatigue.

The Combat Nursing Course is presently being evaluated to determine the feasibility of it being continued.

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**HISTORY
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BY
PAC THOMAS
(VH, USA)

Because of increased museum activities the History, Heraldry and Museum column will not appear this month.



Recently the Museum was the proud recipient of an F-86 Sabre aircraft. The picture above shows it intact, but it came in several pieces, and took two days to re-assemble. It is on display behind the Museum at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. (Photo by SP4 Tonya Hite)

Enlisted Association ready for convention

By SSG Lawrence Hatch

August is just around the corner. There isn't much time before we depart for Boston and the 15th Annual Convention of the Enlisted Association. For the people going to Boston, it will be a fun time with a lot of sights to see and lots of good restaurants to eat in. It will also be a lot of work for the officers and the delegates that plan to attend.

We are going to need everyone attending this convention to help the officers and delegates to better the National Guard, both Army and Air, with the upcoming resolutions and changes to the constitution and by-laws. So please try to attend the meetings if you are asked to be an alternate delegate. We need help, and there will still be plenty of time to have a lot of fun.

For anyone attending the convention in Boston, maps are available for the Boston area by contacting SSG Lawrence J. Hatch at the Jackson Barracks Mail Room. The map pinpoints such highlights as Fenway Park, Boston Gardens, Cheers, the Museum of Fine Art, the Museum of Science, and other sights you may be interested in seeing. We hope to see you in Boston August 6-10.

We need members. Everyone who isn't a member should contact the unit or area Director for what the Enlisted Association has to offer. There are discounts on hotel accommodations, car rentals, home and auto repairs, tuition for state schools, National Guard license plates, and many other benefits offered to you as a member of the Enlisted Association. Anyone interested in joining is urged to cut out the application below and see your unit or area director or the 1st Sergeant of your unit for assistance. Annual dues are \$7.00.



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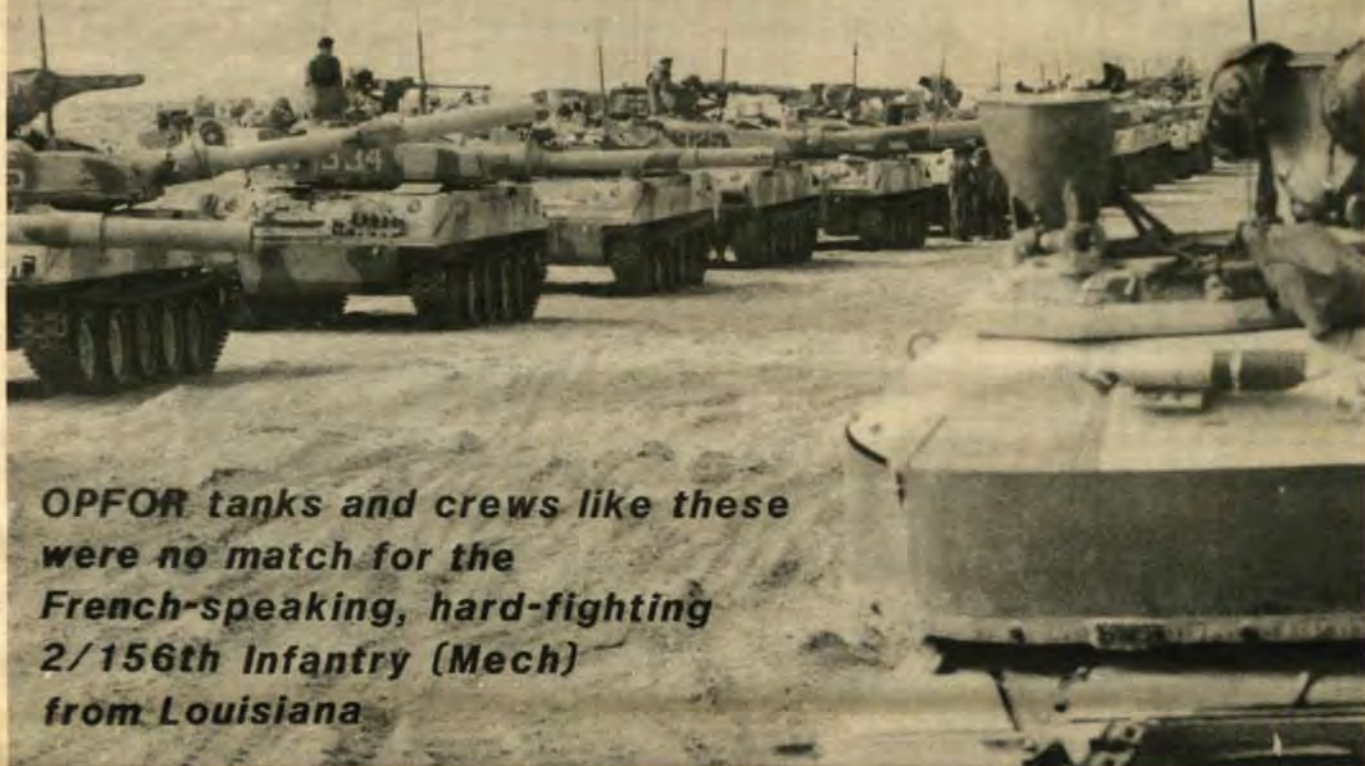
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OPFOR tanks and crews like these were no match for the French-speaking, hard-fighting 2/156th Infantry (Mech) from Louisiana

By 1Lt Eric P. Jensen
256th Bde, P10

The desert winds were beginning to blow harder again. Off near the ridge line, a kilometer away, two friendly A-10's were diving and swirling above the ground, providing air cover for the maneuver force.

At 0545, the sun had been up for nearly an hour on this, Day Three of the war against the Opposing Forces (OPFOR) of Fort Irwin's National Training Center (NTC) in California.

The Louisiana Army National Guard's 2/156th Infantry (Mech) was preparing to move out to fight the second battle of the 14-day exercise Steel Guard II. The battalion task force had won the previous day's battle, a defense of a battle position in which only eight out of 147 enemy vehicles penetrated the task force defenses.

"Once you start winning, people find they like to win so they try harder next time," said 2/156 Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Frank Catalano. "The force became stronger because of the will of the men and their leaders."

Company D Commander 1st Lt. Chris Craft moved the unit out after a brief delay. Craft maneuvered his mechanized infantry company with an attached platoon of tanks into place and began the attack at 0600 hours.

The company's mission was to secure an objective several kilometers

away by moving through valleys and hilly terrain.

On the move-out, a wrong turn off the attack route by the lead tank platoon leader put the force behind schedule.

Company D hit the dismount point and joined the battle by 0645. Infantrymen leaped out of their M-113's, moving forward by covering fire from .50 caliber machine-guns.

One squad quickly breached concertina wire entanglements and rounded a mountain corner only to come face-to-face with an enemy BMP armored personnel carrier armed with Sagger missiles. The squad destroyed the OPFOR vehicle with anti-tank weapons and charged up a hill. Reforming, the squad mounted their M-113 and rode to another part of the battlefield.

Pushing forward, Craft's force came upon a minefield scattered along a wadi. Mine-handling devices were not available so Craft borrowed a page from Soviet doctrine and rolled one of his M-113's through the field, detonating mines and opening a path for the other vehicles. This worked well until the wider M-60 tanks attempted to cross. The scattered blue mines were clearly in the path of the tank's tracks so the tank platoon leader selected an alternate route to rejoin Company D.

As the company reached the intermediate objective: a wadi alongside

the downward slope of a ridge, they were hit by an artillery chemical attack. The chemical was CS gas, which raised an alarm and had soldiers reaching for their protective masks and donning them within nine seconds.

After the "all clear" was given, soldiers removed the masks and re-consolidated their position. In the valley below, they could see OPFOR tanks and BMP's collecting their "dead and wounded" during a "time-out" phase.

This battle, one of ten fought during the exercise, was a victory though not an overwhelming one, according to 2/156 Operations Officer Major Jim Silverberg.

"The day attack was our worst mission though we seized the objective," Silverberg said. "Our best missions were defending a battle position and defending in sector."

Companies Alpha and Bravo were attached to 3/70 Armor Task Force and underwent the same training as 2/156 TF. Sgt. Frederick Guidry, a squad leader in Company A, Credited task force, company-level and subordinate leadership for a successful rotation mission.

"We got high compliments on everything we did," Guidry said. "Our tactical preparation was excellent, according to the operations people (at NTC). Morale was high and everyone was interested and enthusiastic down to the last man."

Guidry recalled one of the final missions in which his platoon conducted a dismounted night road march beginning at 2200 hours and ending at 0330 hours the following morning. His platoon marched over Tiefert Mountain, at 1,400 feet, the highest elevation on post. Following the march, the platoon set up a defensive perimeter ambushed an OPFOR tank platoon.

"We took them completely by surprise and annihilated them," Guidry said.

As an indicator of high morale, Guidry kept a personal kill record on his helmet. "Some of the officers who saw my helmet said they thought it showed a lot of fighting spirit; 'steel lightning' sort of stuff," he said.

Though a very real OPFOR was out there gunning for 2/156 troops, two other enemies presented themselves to the Louisiana Guardsmen in the form of weather and terrain. Temperatures topped 100 degrees for most of the 21 days the unit spent at NTC. The terrain at Fort Irwin varies from the desert floor to rugged mountainous areas with elevations up to 6,000 feet. The post offered a vast expanse of land for training: 1,000 square miles.

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Continued on Page 10



FIELD MASS — The Rev. Francis Dixon, the 2/156th Infantry chaplain, says Mass while out in the field during force-on-force maneuvers. When not performing services, Dixon, pastor of St. Edwards Catholic Church in New Iberia, handed out candy and spiritual guidance to the troops during the 21 day exercise. (Guard photo by 1st Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)

"This is not a game"

Combat priest from New Iberia ministers to Guardsmen in desert at NTC

By 1LT Eric Jensen
256th Bde, PIO

The front lines of combat may be the last place the troops expect to find their parish priest but he was there, handing out candy, encouragement, and spiritual guidance — all needed in the arid and harsh desert environment of Fort Irwin, Calif.

Rev. (CPT) Francis A. Dixon, pastor of St. Edwards Catholic Church in New Iberia, and a Divine Word Missionary priest, was recently assigned as chaplain for 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry. He made the trip out to Fort Irwin's National Training Center (NTC) for the three-week exercise, Steel Guard II.

"My mission is to provide ministry to all denominations and non-religious members of the unit," Dixon said. "This includes worship services, prayers with the troops and pastoral care to be a morale-building person as the battle continues or as the exercises permits."

The Delcambre native said the intensity of the NTC battles demands daily ministry to the troops although that doesn't always include worship services. Services were offered to many Guardsmen while encamped in the Dust Bowl before and after the exercise but Dixon found it difficult to give services for more than a few at a time during the battles.

"I move forward and make my visits to the companies as the mission will permit," he said.

As battalion chaplain, Dixon's visits to the units enabled him to study the men's attitudes toward the exercise and the environment.

"They were a little apprehensive about the heat but in spite of the heat, morale was very high," he said. "The battalion commander, LTC Catalano inspired his troops and the officers and NCO's have been diligently caring for the men under their command. This makes for good esprit de corps, unity and a 'steel Guard'."

Dixon also performed extra duties not listed in any chaplain's manual. On one occasion, he led a convoy of armored vehicles from one point to another and later helped sort out reconstitution problems. The New Iberia priest said he enjoyed being with the troops and helping out in other areas of the exercise.

Headquartering himself near the S-1's M-577 command track, Dixon visited line unit troops when he could and accompanied the S-1 and Combat Trains on their frequent moves. During one such move the second week of the exercise, Dixon carried the rear of the column on a 30-kilometer attack. As his jeep passed through the battlefield, Dixon stopped and offered candy and encouragement to "killed" task force troops and even to some "dead" OPFOR soldiers sitting atop their "destroyed" tank.

Caring for the men's spiritual welfare was only part of Dixon's job at the NTC. The troops' physical well-being was equally as important in the desert where temperatures often topped 100 degrees.

During the reconstitution process after one battle, some of the soldiers waiting to be reconstituted almost became heat casualties in the noonday sun. Seeing this, the chaplain offered his camouflage net to shade the men. The net was erected off the side of the S-1 track and soldiers waiting to be sent back to the front took refuge inside it from the sun.

Dixon, a priest for the past 17 years and an 11-year Guard veteran, joined at the urging of Rev. (MAJ) Andre Broussard, 256th Inf Bde chaplain. "He kept bothering me about joining and as he bothered me, I also had a pastor who controlled everything in the parish so I had to do something," Dixon said. "I had some free time so I joined the National Guard."

What others may see as a conflict of interest between God's law and the combat mission has never bothered Dixon.

"We deplore the fact that we have to go to war but we must in the sense of defending, protecting and safeguarding the rights of men," he said. "NTC is a good training exercise to have our unit be aware that this is not a game and that war is cruel. We are enduring some of that cruelty now so that because of it, we become stronger as an Army, a people and a nation."

Participating in the NTC war games has been an enjoyable and educational experience for Dixon but it hasn't come without a price. The chaplain was "killed" three times during the exercise. As quickly as he was "killed," Dixon was reconstituted and back on the lines ministering to the men

National Training Center Continued from Page 9

Sited throughout Fort Irwin's vast training ground are 44 solar powered "interrogator" relay stations. These stations send signals from the battlefield to the Operations Center base computer, located in the Fort Irwin garrison area. These signals record such data as to the type of vehicle, type of weapon fired, how many rounds fired, from what weapon and at what time.

Cameras and computers record the battle from start to finish and within three hours after the battle, a detailed, edited version of the fight is presented to battalion task force leaders in an After Action Review (AAR). These AARs are the equivalent of the "instant replay" on Monday Night Football. It gives commanders the "big pictures" of the battle and allows them to see their strengths and weaknesses in conducting the mission.

Every weapons systems, including armor, engineers, tactical air and artillery, is brought into play at NTC. Fire Support Officers from 1/141 Artillery were attached to the task force at company level on up. They plotted targets and called for fire missions from firing batteries. Observer Controller Officers (OC) on both sides are given the data and from that, casualties are determined. Read-out sheets tell how many casualties would be caused from a certain number of artillery rounds fired. If tankers button up and the infantry goes to ground, casualties will be light. If not, the OCs will "kill" the troops during the attack.

OCs accompanied the mech task force were known as the "Scorpions." Their sand-colored jeeps adorned with the scorpion insignia made them highly recognizable. The OCs served as coaches, umpires, trainers and assisted task force commanders whenever they could.

The OPFOR Motorized Rifle Regiment which fought against 2/156 is composed of personnel from 1/73 Armor and 6/31 Infantry, both passed

propelled howitzer and ZSU 23-4 anti-aircraft gun. Additionally, a Huey UH-1 helicopter modified to resemble a Soviet Hind helicopter gunship was also used in the battles. Friendly forces were frequently attacked by "enemy air." A-37 "Dragonflies" were used to portray Soviet MiGs ground attack aircraft while A-10's were used by U.S. forces as friendly air support.

Members and filler personnel of 2/156 received training in all areas — even rear area personnel saw combat action. On the morning of Day Seven, soldiers working in the Brigade Support Area (BSA) suddenly looked up to see Soviet T-72 tanks and BMPs roaring at them in a lightning attack through the rear areas. Machine-guns and antitank weapons chased the enemy away from the area. BSA troop quickly realized a lesson from Soviet doctrine is to hit rear areas to cause confusion and psychological damage.

Combat Trains personnel got an unexpected taste of battle the first day of the "war", before the rest of the task force faced the enemy.

While moving out from their first location, the forward elements of the Combat Trains made contact with two dismounted enemy OPFOR soldiers. Guards near the intersection fired as the OPFOR turned to run. Three captains and one sergeant in a jeep also drew their weapons. The OPFOR pair returned and there seemed to be some question as to whom saw whom first.

Soviet doctrine is to hit rear areas to cause confusion and psychological damage

at Fort Irwin. OPFOR soldiers wore an OD green uniform with the Soviet rank equivalent epaulettes and a black beret with a red star and infantry insignia.

They use U.S. equipment that has been visually modified to resemble Soviet-made equipment. Specifically, the U.S. M551 "Sheridan" armored vehicles have been modified to replicate the Soviet T-72 tank, BMP armored personnel carrier, 122 self-

Continued on Page 14

fighting the NTC war

Guardsmen garner rave reviews from Regular Army

By 1LT Eric Jensen
256th Bde, PIO

Winning battles produced some winning comments from regular Army general and field grade officers 2/156th Infantry's victories at the

National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, California.

BG David Armstrong, assistant Fifth Division commander for maneuver, said the troops of the 2/156 did extremely well.

"The task force grew very rapidly —

you have a lot of smart people, people who want to do their jobs," Armstrong said. "You grew. You started to function as a battalion. That didn't just happen without a lot of work on your part. The soldiers displayed an excellent spirit."

COL. Herbert Lloyd, 2nd Brigade commander at Fort Polk, said the 2/156 was one of the very best National Guard units to go through the NTC.

"That is not only my observation but also those of the evaluators, controllers and officers of Fort Irwin," Lloyd said. "What characterized 2/156 is a strong, aggressive spirit. They were constantly carrying the battle to the enemy. They seized the initiative and had the enemy reacting to them. From all accounts, the battalion exceeded every expectation."

"I'd say that Americans out on a Sunday afternoon cook-out or out on the beaches should not forget the citizen-soldier," Lloyd said. "He is deserving of their highest respect and support because it's not easy. There's no free lunch. For the last 20 days, this battalion has been demonstrating who pays for that lunch. They're tough Americans doing a tough job."

LTC Douglas Campbell, senior live fire trainer, said the 2/156 did well on the live fire phase of training. "I think they did really well and they should be happy and pleased with their performance," Campbell said. "The soldiers learned a lot about conducting combat operations and they

demonstrated a good level of training to begin with."

LTC Larry Crocker, Army Advisor to the 256th Inf Bde, said he was surprised at how well the battalion did on the offense.

"I thought the OPFOR was going to kick it to us, but we kicked it to them," Crocker said. "I'm particularly proud of the soldiers. They gutted it out. They always rise to the occasion."

Crocker said the NTC demonstrates the importance of integration of support systems: putting combat support and combat service support together into the battle plan. He said the battalions usually have the tendency to concentrate on the tactical situation.

MAJ Roosevelt Flanagan, deputy live fire trainer and a Shreveport native, said he was impressed with the battalion's performance.

"The soldiers really responded to criticism and comments," Flanagan said. "On the Combat Service Support, there were some holes and gaps we identified but there was nothing that couldn't be fixed."

MAJ David Murdock, Executive officer of 6/31st Infantry and XO of the OPFOR regiment, said, "Those guys (2/156 Inf) came out with a good attitude. They were well trained before they got here."

Murdock credits the 2/156 task force as being an "admirable foe" and said they did a lot of killing of OPFOR soldiers.

"They seemed to have a good plan and did a super job under adverse conditions," he said.



DESERT RAIDER — Sgt. Albert Hagan of Delta Company protects himself against the wind and swirling desert sands by wearing goggles, and a face mask cravat. Hagan is also wearing his MILES equipment during the force-on-force maneuvers. (Photo by 1 Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)

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Louisiana Guardsmen winners in desert war

- 1 BREACHING MINEFIELD — While in the attack, Delta Company, 2/156 confronted a minefield. Since no minefield breaching equipment was available, the company commander pushed an M-113 through the field detonating the mines and killing that vehicle. Other vehicles of the forces pushed the dead vehicle aside and through the minefield. (Photo by 1Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)
- 2 GAS ATTACK — A task force guardsman masks during a chemical attack. OPFOR artillerists used CS gas, simulating a deadly chemical attack. (Photo by 1Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)
- 3 THIS IS ONLY A TEST — Following an afternoon chemical attack, the 256 kit is used to determine if the air is safe to breathe. Here, a soldier displays the kit showing an "all clear" status. (Photo by 1Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)
- 4 SUPPORT CALL — 1st Lt. Chris Craft, Delta Company commander, calls for more support at his unit encountered enemy opposition. D Company eventually reached the intermediate objective despite the presence of a minefield. (Photo by 1Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)
- 5 TWO WAY TRAFFIC — NTC rotational battalions had over 1,000 square miles to train in at Fort Irwin, California. Occasionally, M-113 drivers would encounter another tracked vehicle on the road to and from battles. (Photo by 1Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)
- 6 RUSHING TO BATTLE — A soldier from the 2/156 task force mech rushes into battle on the desert plain. (Photo by 1 Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)

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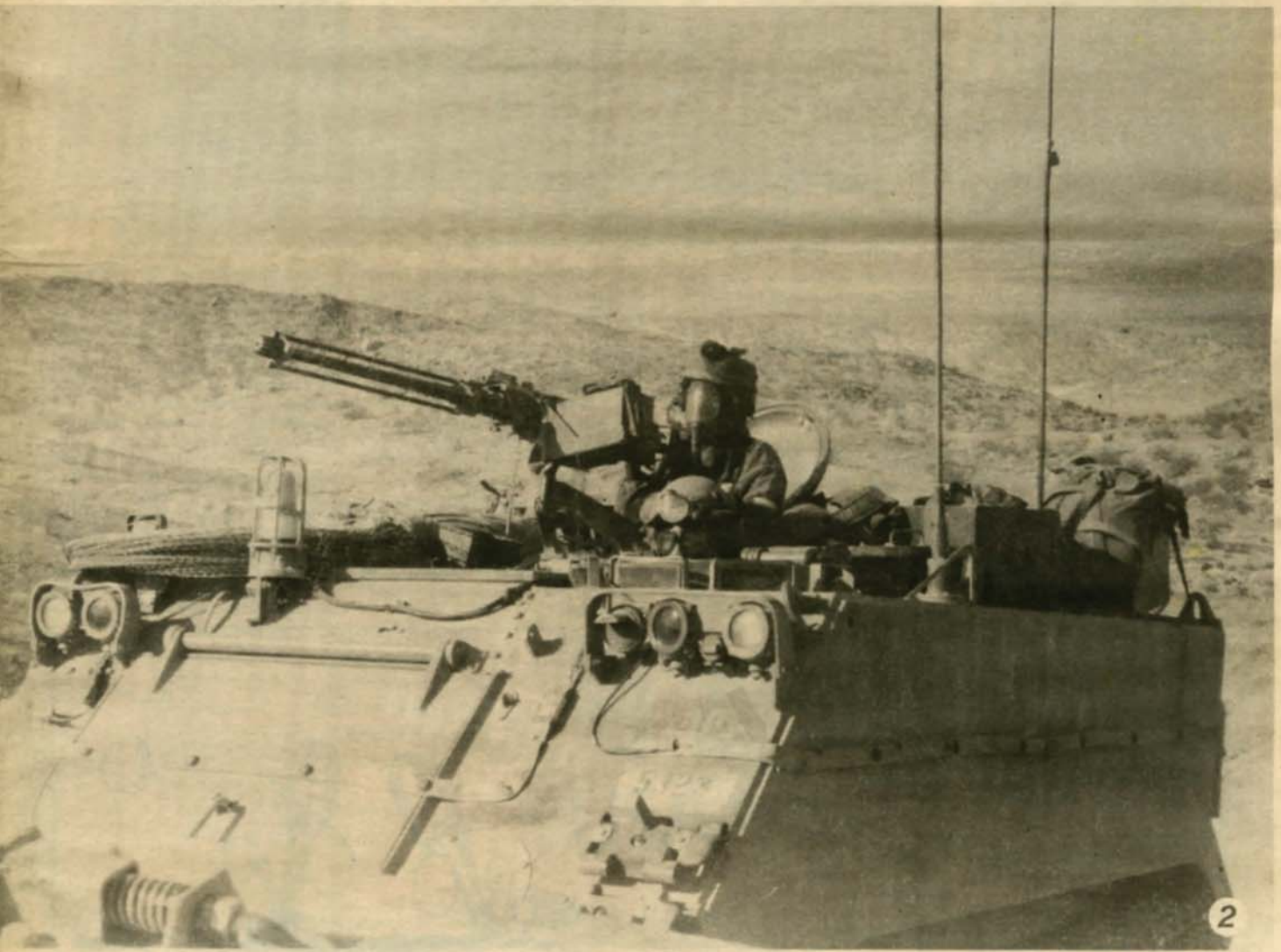
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National Training Center

Continued from Page 10

The OPFOR soldiers were not wearing their Miles gear.

A scuffle followed in which the OPFOR weapons were seized and the two captives searched. As one of the OPFOR soldiers laid down on his back, Sgt. Robert Wait of HHB 1/141 Artillery warned the captive of a very real rattlesnake only inches away. The soldier quickly rolled to the side and the snake moved into a nearby bush seeking shade from the sun.

The Rev. Capt. Francis Dixon, 2/156 chaplain, spoke with one of the captives and gave him religious literature. Comfort was offered to another of OPFOR but was refused.

"You are trying to tempt me into capitalistic ways," the OPFOR soldier joked.

"Show em' Bourbon Street and he'll never come back here," one of the capturing sergeants said.

OPFOR personal effects were returned and the two enemy soldiers were driven to the rear by controllers. Following the brief action, combat trains personnel convoyed to a new location near the Barstow Road.

Further to the rear, at the BSA, Guardsmen dealing with personnel matters also received some valuable training in a combat environment.

Following the battles, Personnel Administration Center (PAC) soldiers wrote and addressed sympathy letters to the families of soldiers "killed" in action. Actual names and addresses of the soldier's next of kin were used as they would be if the unit went to war. The letter explains the circumstances of the soldier's death and how much he meant to the unit. They were signed for the battalion commander by WO1 Jeffery Breaux, the battalion personnel officer.

Medics also received training in two areas and received high praise for their efforts. The medical platoon of HHC 2/156 treated MILES casualties after battles and numerous "real world" injuries.

"Wounded" soldiers would be brought in with a card describing their injuries. Some were listed as "urgent" casualties. Those so listed had to be rushed to an aid station within two hours or they would "die of their wounds". After the death the soldier could not be reconstituted for another 24 hours.

Of the "real world" injuries, the most frequent seemed to be heat casualties.

"It's one of the fastest things that can make people go down for the count," said 2nd Lt. Chris Cargille, assistant medical platoon leader. "This is a harsh, dry environment. Drinking water out here takes a conscious effort of willpower — your body doesn't ask for it."

Following an early morning CS gas attack, one of the medics suffered stomach pains, a reaction to the gas. As he was being treated, another medic collapsed from heat exhaustion. Semi-conscious, he was given a salt-balance



GUARDED CONDITION — A soldier of the Opposing Forces (OPFOR) leisurely awaits his fate as a POW while Spec 4th Class Kennan Oubre of Delta Company guards the prisoner. (Photo by 1 Lt. Eric Jensen, 256th Bde, PIO)

intravenous solution by his medic buddies, working calmly and quickly.

The final three days in the field consisted of live fire exercises in which weapons systems of the entire task force were put into play. Task force units participated in a counterattack, night defense and day defense, with little or no restraints.

In the defense, the task force engaged a motorized rifle regiment represented by computer-controlled targets deployed in successive bands to simulate movement. All targets used in the live fire exercise were radio controlled mechanisms which mount either frontal or lateral silhouettes of Soviet equipment. Targets are supplemented by pyrotechnic firing devices which "shoot back" using Hoffman charges to simulate "steel-on-steel" hits and black smoke canisters to simulate burning vehicles.

During the night defense, the 2/156 Mech Task Force scored an impressive 86 percent kill ration, destroying 89 of 109 vehicles or 76 percent. During the counter-attack, the unit destroyed 30 or 44 vehicles presented, or 68 percent.

"That is significantly better than most units have done," said Capt. Ed Sullivan, S-3 of the live fire division. "But in this scenario, tanks (of 3/70 armor) did most of the killing."

Many of the battles were fought with a decidedly Louisiana flavor. Capt. Jimmy Hagle, 2/156 intelligence officer, reported that some 2/156 troops spoke French over the radio. "This was done more in teasing the enemy," Hagle

said. "They would say things in French like 'good to go' or 'steel lightning' (the battalion motto)."

During the final battle, tactical objectives were given names like boudin, gumbo, file, c'est trout. The final objective of the final battle was appropriately named "fini."

Following live fire exercises, the unit returned to the "Dust Bowl" area to bivouac and to maintenance and turn in vehicles and equipment.

"The soldiers were aggressive, they wanted to fight," Catalano said. "As a result, it made it easier to engage the enemy and kill them. The individual soldier appeared to be challenged, he answered that challenge and was highly motivated."

Silverberg also had high praise for the 2/156 soldiers saying that they seemed to do better and learn more while out in the field. "We challenged them continuously, the pace never let up," he said. "The success of this battalion rests on the shoulders of the soldiers. All the planning we did wouldn't have been fruitful had it not been for the soldiers."

The next Louisiana National Guard scheduled to attend NTC is 1st Battalion, 156th Armor, headquartered in Shreveport. The unit is expected to perform annual training there in July 1987. In the face of budget cutbacks resulting from the Gramm-Rudman Act, it is uncertain if other Louisiana units will accompany 1/156 in July.



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It is not uncommon for individuals searching for an honest answer to reach different conclusions after examining the same issue. There is, however, one issue on which virtually all experts agree — the American taxpayer gets his money's worth out of the Reserve Forces, in general, and the Air National Guard, in particular. More and more active missions are being passed from the Air Force to the Air National Guard as Congress seeks ways of getting the most out of available tax dollars.

Obviously, some Air National Guard units function better than others. Some have more experienced people, some have better teamwork, some have more modern equipment and some have better facilities. How do we in Louisiana measure up? In appraising ourselves, I imagine most would conclude we're giving the taxpayer his money's worth. The 159th Tactical Fighter Group has met the many challenges associated with its conversion from the F-4 Phantom to the F-15 Eagle. The first Air Reserve Forces unit chosen to receive the Eagle, the 159th serves as the pilot unit for all ANG units which will receive the F-15 in the future. The 236th Combat Information Systems Squadron has just completed a highly successful operational readiness exercise and is preparing for a European deployment later this year. Last July, the 214th Engineering Installations Squadron became the first ANG EI unit to be rated "Excellent" under the current management effectiveness inspection criteria and was the first ANG EI unit

to receive an overall "Excellent" rating in approximately ten years.

While we can and should feel proud of our accomplishments, we must realize that our self-assessment is subjective. Others appraising us may either agree or disagree. Since we may be looking at ourselves less critically than others, how do we verify our self-assessment? How do we determine where improvement is needed? Can we objectively answer the question "Are we giving the taxpayer his money's worth?" As taxpayers, each and every one of us deserve an objective reply to these questions. The Management Effectiveness Inspections (MEIs) and Operational Readiness Inspections (ORIs) conducted by gaining command IGs using standardized criteria to examine all regular and reserve units within the respective commands provide the most objective appraisal of our achievements and capabilities.

Each of our units will be evaluated during the next 18 months, some more than once. The 214th Engineering Installations Squadron should have their visit no later than Jan. 88, the 236th Combat Information Systems Squadron expects an MEI in March 87 and an ORI in Jul 87, while the 159th Tactical Fighter Group will have an MEI in Aug 86 and an ORI, most likely, in May 87. As members of these units, each of us contributes individually and collectively to the MEI/ORI outcome. What you do and how you perform during these objective evaluations will, to one degree or

COMMAND NOTES

ANG Topics from
Headquarters
Louisiana Air
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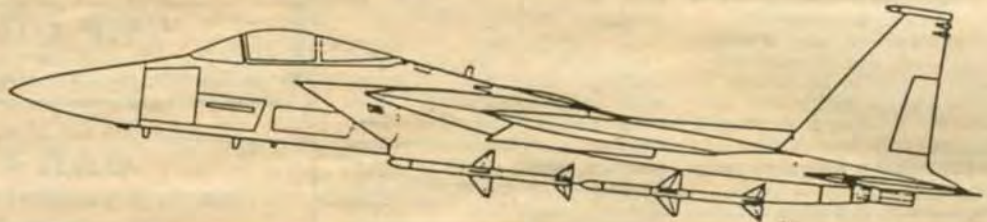


By BG James J. Hourin
Commander, La ANG

another, invalidate or confirm our feelings of accomplishment. Unit capability is the product of individual and team preparation and execution.

After the scream of the Eagle's engines wind down into silence at the 159th, after the 214th's cable trencher is returned to its bay, and after the last of the 236th's radios are switched off, the MEI and ORI results will be

known, and the question we asked earlier will be answered. Are we and all other taxpayers getting our money's worth from the tax dollars invested in the units of the Louisiana Air National Guard? Are we the professionals we like to think we are? Let's all be sure through preparation and execution that the answers to both question will be a satisfying "Yes!"



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Former astronaut Brig. Gen. Charles M. Duke presents Lt. Col. James Thibodeaux, 159th Tactical Fighter Group Deputy of Operations, with an autographed photo of his walk on the moon during his recent visit to the 159th Tactical Fighter Squadron to fly the F-15 Eagle. (LaANG photo by TSgt. Adolph Roscher)

159th gives astronaut a real flight to remember

By SSgt. Elaine Courville and SSgt. Nina Clites

After walking on the moon, flying an F-15 would seem to be somewhat less exciting, but not to Brig. Gen. Charles M. Duke, Jr., who fulfilled that desire last month at the 159th Tactical Fighter Group, Alvin Callender Field, Belle Chasse.

General Duke has been in the Air Force for the past 10 years, and is presently a mobilization assistant for Air Force Recruiting, Randolph AFB, Texas. He uses himself as a salable package since he was once a test pilot and participated in the space program from 1966 to 1975.

As an astronaut, General Duke was involved in mission control for the Gemini and Apollo projects, and worked on Saturn rocket guidance and the redesign of the emergency egress systems. On Apollo 10, the general worked to develop a lunar module checkout procedure, and during Apollo 11, he was the Mission Control Capcom (capsule communicator) while Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins participated in the first moon landing.

General Duke was also a part of Apollo 13, and as a member of Apollo 16, he, too, landed on the moon with

John W. Young, while Thomas K. Mattingly, II orbited the moon in the command module. They were the second flight to have a "car", and during their three-day mission, General Duke acted as the navigator, picture taker and guide. Also, as an integral part of their mission, they performed seismic, heat flow and magnetizing experiments.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, General Duke also holds a master's degree in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He advises young men and women just beginning military careers to "get all the education you can, hopefully in the sciences of engineering." The general explained that the space program is very competitive now, so he also advises prospective astronauts to plan their education goals around the field in which they would be happy if the space program was cancelled.

Before joining the space program, General Duke was a test pilot, and has flown the T-38 and T-33, B-57's. Of the fighter series, he has only missed the F-100 and F-105. He has also flown three types of helicopters and has accumulated almost 4500 hours of flying time during this 29-year military career.



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Air Force gives nod to uniform changes

The Air Force Uniform Board has approved more than a dozen uniform changes that will become effective later this month when a message change to Air Force Regulation 35-10 is published.

Two of the most significant changes involving women allow dark blue nylons with the service and dress uniforms and a plain black leather, or simulated leather, clutch purse with all uniforms. The purse must be at least 5 inches by nine inches and must not have any exposed metal.

The board also approved the wear of brown T-shirts with subdued and camouflaged fatigues for men and women. The olive-green T-shirt will be phased out and white T-shirts, if visible, will not be authorized for wear with fatigues.

Other changes permit:

A. Wear of plain white socks with utility uniforms and combat boots. However, during exercises and deployments, white socks cannot be visible and must be covered by black socks.

B. Wear of the Men's nylon raincoat by women. Smaller sizes of the raincoat are now being developed for women, officials said.

C. Wear of conservative round diamond earrings with the women's mess dress and ceremonial uniform.

D. Optional wear of highly polished chrome badges and insignia.

E. Wear of the gray beret by Air Weather Service parachutists.

F. Wear of the white beret by members performing Honor Guard duties.

G. Wear of flight suits off base for short convenience stops and eating at fast-food restaurants.

H. Wear of the olive green sweater or sleeping shirt under fatigues.

I. Wear of the dark blue utility jacket with dark blue fatigues. Enlisted members will wear chevrons on the jacket and officers will wear pin-on collar rank insignia.

J. Wear of a distinctive jacket by major command elite guard members and special mission people pending approval and availability of the newly designed lightweight blue jacket.

K. Wear of combat jump stars on parachute badges by people who have performed jumps during combat.

Additionally, the Board restricted wear of the dental smock outside the dental clinic, and authorized dental officers to wear on the smock standard blue plastic name tags identifying them as doctors. Also, enlisted dental specialists will wear the metal grade insignia centered one-half inch above the name tag on smocks.

The Board also announced that it will soon standardize the wear of chevrons or collar rank insignia and air force and name tapes for all fatigue uniforms, and no longer permit members to wear sage-green jungle fatigues once the existing stock is depleted.

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150 Louisiana Army and Air National Guardsmen marched down world famous Canal Street during the Lion's Club parade held last month in New Orleans. The International Lion's Club convention took place in the Crescent City and Lions from nations as diverse as Bangladesh, Korea, Chile, and France donned their national costume and paraded down the city's streets. (LaARNG Photo)



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
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FIFTH ARMY'S '86 FORSCOM USAR/ARNG SOLDIERS OF YEAR — CSM Ralph L. Phillips of HQ Fifth Army, Fort Sam Houston, with the Army National Guard winners of Fifth Army's '86 Forces Command Best Individual USAR/ARNG Soldier of the Year competition: SP4 Debra A. Branch of Det 2, HQ STARC, Cp. Beauregard won "private through specialist four" category, and SFC Gerald D. Morrow of Lebanon, Missouri Army National Guard. (U.S. Army Photograph)



Major General Raymond Matera, President of the National Guard Association of the United States, is about to present Lee Iacocca, Chairman of The Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation, with a \$35,000 check concluding the NGAUS campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. The presentation, in Boston, highlighted not only the 100th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, but also the 350th Anniversary of the National Guard. (NGAUS Photo)

In Memoriam

It is with profound regret that announcement is made of the untimely death of Colonel Thomas O. Tyra on 9 April 1986. He was 54 years of age.

Colonel Tyra enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard on 21 December 1948 where he served continuously until his death. From December 1948 until April 1957 Colonel Tyra served in the enlisted ranks of the Louisiana Army National Guard. On 9 April 1957 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant Infantry as a Platoon Leader in the Heavy Motor Company of the 199th Infantry. Upon the reorganization of that unit on 1 July 1959 he was reassigned to Combat Support Company 3rd Battle Group 156th Infantry, where he was assigned as Liaison Officer, Executive Officer and commanded the unit as Combat Support Company 3rd Battle Group, and as Headquarters and Headquarters Company 4th Battalion 156th Infantry. He was assigned as the Battalion S-3 of the 4th Battalion from 10 March 1967 until 14 March 1971, when he was assigned as Executive Officer of the 1st Battalion 156th Infantry. He served in that position until 14 June 1974. From 15 June 1974 until 5 July 1983 Colonel Tyra commanded the 1st Battalion 156th Infantry, the 165th Transportation Battalion, and the 528th Engineer Battalion with tours as Training Coordinator assigned to the Army National Guard Training Site. On 14 March 1984 he was assigned as the Director, Post Mobilization, Headquarters State Area Command. He served in this position until his transfer to the Inactive National Guard in March of 1984. During his service with the Guard, he served honorably and was well liked by his associates.

Colonel Tyra's awards and decorations include, The Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two devices; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Louisiana Longevity Medal (30 years); Louisiana General Excellence Medal and the Louisiana Emergency Service Medal.

Surviving are his wife Jennifer Tyra and one son Thomas Tyra.



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Moving? See Page 19

ROTC and the National Guard in Louisiana:

Demons go officer!

By CPT Brian Nye
Northwestern State University, ROTC

That's right. The Demons of Northwestern State University are being commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or ROTC. Many of them are guardsmen like you on weekends and NSU students during the week.

Northwestern State University located in historic Natchitoches is 102 years old. Despite its historic traditions, NSU has many modern features. The athletic and recreational facilities are among the finest in the state. The campus is characterized by a warm and friendly atmosphere among students, and most are active in many aspects of student life on campus, such as intramural sports, student government, fraternities and sororities, and entertainment.

Some of the most successful students are involved in a program known as the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. This program for full-time college students leads to a commission as a second lieutenant in the active Army, Army National Guard, or Army Reserve. The combination of a college education and ROTC training helps students grow to their full potential. Students take one Military Science class and a Military Science lab each semester. This course is designed to develop leadership potential and management ability, as well as teaching tactics, land navigation, military justice, and many other military skills.

The ROTC program broadens a student's college experience through social and competitive activities. Cadets can compete on the rifle team, drill team, orienteering team, and ranger unit. Advanced cadets attend a dining-in in the fall and a formal military ball in the spring.

A large percentage of the cadets serve in Louisiana National Guard units. They train with their units on weekends and during annual training like other guardsmen, but they receive E-5 pay and concentrate on learning the duties of a company level officer. They also have fewer financial worries than most students. Thanks to the Guard's tuition exemption program, they receive free tuition and almost \$400 a month in Guard pay, New G.I. Bill benefits, and ROTC subsistence allowance.

To find out if you qualify to become a member of the proud Demon ROTC battalion, write to the Professor of Military Science, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497, or call (318) 357-5156.

ROTC going strong in New Orleans

By MAJ Larry Bock
Assistant Professor of Military Science
Loyola University

The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in New Orleans has provided new Second Lieutenants for the United States Army for nearly forty years. The institution is alive and working to maintain its health.

Loyola and Tulane Universities established the first ROTC programs in New Orleans in 1947. The programs flourished for several years. The number of lieutenants commissioned reached the thirties at Loyola. When the draft ended the number of commissionees started to decline. In some years the commissionees dropped as low as eight. Changes were made in the program to bolster the number of lieutenants commissioned. Through the years, Xavier, Dillard, University of New Orleans, and Southern University of New Orleans were added to the rolls of schools who had ROTC on campus.

The most recent changes occurred in the last seven months. Throughout the early 1980's a consortium concept was employed among the six universities with ROTC. In January, realignment asserted the host school concept, with Loyola, Tulane and University of New Orleans the host schools. Beginning in the fall semester, there will be a combined host battalion of Loyola and Tulane. The other schools will be extension centers and cross-enrolled schools. These changes have taken place in order to improve efficiency, save money, and counter conditions on the campuses.

The college campus has changed since ROTC first appeared in New Orleans, and will make some of the most drastic changes in the next few



TEAMWORK — Cadet Ed Riehle attempts to get a firm grasp on the situation with a little help from his friends. (ROTC Photo)

years. Many of these changes greatly affect ROTC. Some changes are: declining enrollment, increasing part time enrollment, decreasing number of male students, and increased remedial instruction. Thus, for ROTC in New Orleans, a combine host battalion with extension centers and cross-enrolled schools will be the organization.

Tulane has become the most viable program in the city. The name of the school attracts ten to fifteen Army ROTC 4-year scholarship winners each year. This provides a sound base upon which to build a commissioning class. In four years the class will approach twenty in number, perhaps more. Dillard and Loyola have had the second largest number of commissionees, with approximately 10 (ten).

The program consists of several aspects. While not considered a major or minor by any school within the city a student completes enough hours to qualify for either, where they're available. Eight semesters of ROTC classes (or equivalent) are required, all for university credit. One hour a week of leadership laboratory is required. In addition, students complete courses in composition, military history, behavioral science, management, and national security, as part of their university studies. Scholarship students must also complete a semester of a foreign language.

Outside the classroom there are activities which augment the classroom instruction and appeal to a variety of interests. The most popular activity is the Cadet Ranger Company. This organization develops leadership skills and capri-



A group of 1986 commissionees pose in front of the ROTC Building (Northwestern State ROTC Photo)

de corps. Several field exercises are conducted as well as formal classes.

The Pershing Rifles is a nationally chartered military fraternity, and is conducted much like the Greek fraternities on campus. The PR's, as its members are called, pride themselves on their prowess in military drill.

The National Society of Scabbard and Blade is an honorary society. Its purpose is to closer unite the ROTC battalions of colleges and universities. This society also includes Navy and Air Force ROTC students. Membership is by invitation only, to cadets who meet the standards of admission.

The ARNG and USAR have a Simultaneous Membership Program available for ROTC cadets. In this program a cadet can join a unit and work as an officer trainee. In the local areas this program has provided its members with the opportunity to function as a junior staff officer, or more importantly as a platoon leader. Both of these being excellent learning experiences for the future officer.

Other organizations include Marksmanship Teams, Association of the United States Army, and Color Guard. These organizations are not as popular as the other three, but do have sustaining memberships.

There are other activities and functions which help develop a cadet. These include the cadet chain of command, military ball, dining-in, and awards ceremony. The cadet chain of command has become an effective vehicle for teaching command and staff operations, with cadets planning all activities. The military ball and dining-in give cadets a taste of the social life as an officer. The awards ceremony gives recognition to deserving cadets for a job well done.

When it is over after four years, the cadets are ready to be Second Lieutenants. It all culminates on commissioning day. They pin on the "Gold".

Our address is:
Professor of Military Science
Loyola University
Box 1
6363 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

Grambling State cadets attend Basic Camp

By CPT Donald J. Holmes

Army ROTC Basic Camp offers college students better than a money back guarantee. "Basic Camp gives students the chance to sample Army life before they make a decision on enrolling in the Army ROTC program," said Captain Donald J. Holmes, Assistant Professor of Military Science at Grambling State University. "It's better than a money back guarantee

because students receive top mental and physical training during Basic Camp and are paid for their time whether or not they choose to continue."

This summer more than 4,055 college students from across the country volunteered to spend six weeks at Fort Knox, Kentucky undergoing intensive Basic Camp training. In fact, the camp was oversubscribed, and some applicants had to be turned down. Those completing the course successfully are given the option to enroll in the Army ROTC Advanced Course and take advantage of ROTC's two-year program.

"Students who go to Basic Camp have either recently transferred from colleges that don't offer Army ROTC, are recent community or junior college graduates, or are men and women who, after two years, have decided to take a look at Army ROTC," said Captain Holmes.

Nine students from Grambling State University went through Basic Camp last summer. According to Captain Holmes, all of these students are now enrolled in our Advanced Program.

"Most of the students can't wait to enroll in the Advanced Course," Captain Holmes said. "They consider Basic Camp a great confidence builder and an excellent way to work themselves into top shape both mentally and physically. Equally as important, they like what ROTC can offer them both now while they are in school and in the future." If you'd like to talk about Basic Camp and what it takes to qualify, see Captain Holmes in the ROTC Building or call (318) 274-2490. Our address is Professor of Military Science, Grambling State University, P.O. Box 885, Grambling, LA 71245.



Not all training goes smoothly. An unidentified cadet gets hung up during repelling (ROTC Photo)

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privileges, low-cost insurance, and retirement benefits. All for two days a month, and two weeks a year. But while membership in the Guard is part-time, it takes a full time patriot to be a Guardsman.

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National Guard

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