

Louisiana Guard

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 9 JULY 1987

*Guard celebrates 200th year
of the Army under the Constitution
See Page 10*



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Louisiana Guard



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The Good News and the Bad

By CPT William C. Ratcliff
Education Services Officer

When Congressman Montgomery of Mississippi urged the new GI Bill through Congress on 1 July 1985, it was initially a three-year experiment. Since then, however, the new GI Bill has been successful in demonstrating its effectiveness as a means of providing educational assistance to those soldiers who qualify.

On 1 June 1987, President Reagan and Congress transformed the new GI Bill from an experiment into a permanent program. The only change to the bill was its name: "The Montgomery GI Bill". Qualifying National Guardsmen and other soldiers now have a viable replacement for the Vietnam Era GI Bill. Criteria for eligibility and entitlements are the same as when the new GI Bill was in the experimental stage.

However, as good as the Montgomery GI Bill is, it does have its problems. Implementation of the Montgomery GI Bill has been and continues to be plagued with problems. The National Guard supplies the administrative data to the National Guard Bureau who provides

this information to DoD for processing. DoD gives their results to the National Veterans Administration which transmits this data to the VA regional offices across the country. This process takes 60-90 days per cycle making it sluggish and hard to control with so many different agencies responsible for its execution.

In May 1987, the LA National Guard was provided a list of 258 Guardsmen that were at some degree of risk in having their payments stopped. That list has been reduced to 84 and corrections are still being made.

Procedures are presently being implemented in the LA National Guard to correct some of the GI Bill problems before they can occur with new enlistees. Retention NCOs are visiting units to gather necessary documents on individuals that are still having difficulty. The Regional VA office for Louisiana is assisting where it can.

Despite these problems, the Montgomery GI Bill is here to stay. Cooperation and patience will be the keys to making this program an excellent one for assisting our soldiers in achieving their educational goals.

Expanding Off-Duty College Programs

By CPT William C. Ratcliff

In today's National Guard, advance technology demands more educated soldiers to run it effectively. The National Guard Bureau responded by establishing educational requirements that must be met for continued or progressive participation. The present educational requirements and goals are:

Enlisted Personnel —

1. Master basic educational skills needed to perform duties of MOS/SSI.
2. Earn a high school diploma or GED before completion of first enlistment. (Also see NGR 600-2 with latest changes.)
3. Earn an Associate Degree or complete 60 semester (90 quarter) hours in a field related to one of their specialties before the 15th year of service.

Warrant Officer Personnel —

Earn an associate degree in a field related to their specialty before the 15th year of service. (Also see NGR 600-101 with changes).

Commissioned Officer Personnel —

1. Earn an associate degree or 60 semester (90 quarter) hours before 1 Oct 89. (Required by NGR 600-100)
2. Earn a baccalaureate degree by the 8th year of commissioned service or by time of consideration for promotion to O-4. All commissioned officers appointed in the ARNG after 30 Sep 83 must have a bachelor's degree before promotion to O-4. (Required)
3. Earn a graduate degree in a field related to one of their specialties.

OCS Personnel — (See NGR 351-5)

The Education Services Office is striving to assist our soldiers in meeting their requirements. A Civilian Educational Survey is being presented to every Guardsman to be completed during July's normal unit drill assembly. Everyone is urged to complete this survey since it will be the basis for determining what programs are needed where.

The Cumberland University program will be expanded while other in-state institutions are being contacted for providing other areas of concentration. All applications for these schools will be provided upon request by writing to:

La. Army National Guard
Attn: LANG-DPA-MD
Bldg. #36, Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, La. 70146-0330

or by calling: Autovon 485-8355 or Commercial 504-278-6355.

Efforts are currently being made to increase from one course offered this summer to four courses this fall in New Orleans. Pre-registration for those courses will be announced in July. The results of the Civilian Education Survey will help us start similar programs in other cities by spring semester. Those interested in participating in this program should start collecting certificates of completion for all military and non-military courses successfully completed and documenting work-life experiences for their evaluation upon applying for admission.

In order that we may better manage our educational efforts, all soldiers should apply through the Education Services Office at the above address.

FRONT COVER:

The public roams the grounds of the Governor's Mansion during a recent equipment and weapons display sponsored by the LA. National Guard in celebration of the Army's 200th birthday under the constitution. See story on page 10. (241st Pub Aff Det Photo)

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S COLUMN

HEADQUARTERS
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Dear Fellow Guardsmen:

On July 1st, all unit armories were reopened. They will remain open as long as state funds are available to accommodate operating expenditures at these facilities.

It is imperative that strict energy conservation be observed so that budget requirements can be met in fiscal year '88. It will be the responsibility of each individual to practice being energy conscious. Look for instances of wasted energy and eliminate them. Be aware of unnecessary utility consumption and curb it.

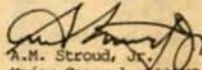
On another note, in a two week period, accidents associated with AT periods have resulted in ten Army National Guard fatalities.

Two were killed in a helicopter accident. Two were killed in fixed wing aircraft. One was killed when run over by a truck while sleeping. Two were killed in an AMV roll over. One was killed in an ACV crash. One was killed in a POV accident.

Louisiana has not experienced any of the above fatalities; however, current training at AT constantly presents the opportunity for our soldiers to become victims of such a catastrophe.

We have had a good start, but only through diligent awareness of safety procedures can we complete this year without serious accidents. For many of you, AT is the culmination of year long intense training. For some, it is just the fulfillment of your two week military obligation. But for an unfortunate few it could mean the beginning of a life of disability, or the end of life itself.

Practice safety. It's a deadly serious matter.


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Major General, LAANG
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MG A. M. Stroud, Jr.
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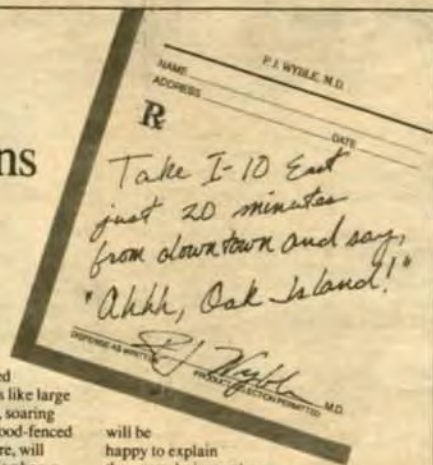
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Oak Island North's Plan 18 features this family room with a fireplace to warm up cool evenings and a sloped ceiling. The three-bedroom home, priced at \$83,200, also offers built-in plant shelves in the dining room and a separate downstairs powder room.



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Wanted: Warrant Officers

By CPT David Stoltz

The Louisiana Army National Guard is presently experiencing a shortage of warrant officers. This shortage is due to recent changes in the regulation governing appointing of warrant officers. Prior to 1985, when there was a need to fill a warrant officer vacancy, commanders would select an NCO with experience in an MOS related to the warrant officer SSI. Overnight the NCO would become a Warrant Officer. In 1985 the Army instituted a program which requires individuals being appointed as warrant officers to complete courses in general and special military education.

In June 1986 the National Guard Bureau published NGR 600-101 which contains a three step process for appointing warrant officers. Individuals are selected for appointment to warrant officer based on experience in a related MOS. Individuals requesting appointment as warrant officer are required to be high school graduates, achieve 110 or higher on the general technical (GT) aptitude area of the ASVAB, have understanding and proficiency of the English language and be between 18 and 46 years of age.

Units will complete an appointment packet in accordance with NGR 600-101 and submit it through command channels to LANG-DPA-O. A federal recognition board will convene and determine if the applicant meets all the eligibility criteria except for completion of the Warrant Officer Entry Course (WOEC) and Warrant Officer Technical Course (WOTC). Former commissioned officers and warrant officers with experience in a related MOS are not required to attend WOEC or WOTC.

Once the board determines that an individual is qualified for appointment as a WO, WOEC and WOTC must be completed. The WOEC is a general military course which is considered a basic training for warrant officer candidates. Attendees are required to meet rigid physical and mental standards and must develop good leadership abilities. There are two methods for completing the WOEC. They include a six week active component course and a reserve component course designed for National Guard and Army Reserve members. This course requires completion of 140 hours of correspondence and a two week active phase. AGR and military technician personnel will complete the active component WOEC.

The next step in the appointment process requires completion of a Warrant Officer Technical Course (WOTC) which must be completed on active duty. These courses vary in length from eight to thirty weeks. Three-SSI's, Repair Shop Technician (441A), Armament Repair Technician (421A) and Automotive Maintenance Technician (630A), allow for certification by board review.

During the next few months the Officer Procurement Section will be reviewing unit manning rosters and contacting individuals with MOS's related to vacant warrant officer positions to determine their qualifications for appointment. The State presently has a need for qualified individuals in the following areas:

- Automotive maintenance
- Armament repair
- Supply
- Personnel
- Missile maintenance
- Engineer equipment repair
- Food Service

Individuals with experience in any of these areas who are interested in seeking appointment as a warrant officer should contact the Officer Procurement Section at (504) 278-6386 or 1-800-442-2751. Additional information concerning appointment can be found in NGR 600-101.

From Point A to Point B: Unit Movement Officer's Course

Story and photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers
State PAO

Guardsmen gathered from units all over the state for a six day Unit Movement Officer course held in Chalmette, La.

"The purpose of the course is basically to teach UMO's how to move their unit from home station to mob station," said Mr. Frederick Cone, Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, 5th Army.

Agencies which participated in the instruction of the various courses were 5th Army; Fort Hood; the Arkansas Army National Guard State Area Command (STARC); Readiness Group, Fort Sill; the 1190th Deployment Control Unit and the 1191st Transportation Terminal Unit from Baton Rouge; and the 425 Movement Control Agency, Kansas.

The need for trained unit movement officers has become more and more apparent as Louisiana Guard units begin to deploy more frequently to the National Training Center in California, and overseas to Germany and Central America.

LTC Carroll Frederick, HQ STARC, was instrumental in arranging this course by asking Ft. Sill to provide instructors for the two weekend class. Approximately 25 students enrolled in the first course offered a few months ago, and 45 students were enrolled in the course held in May. In addition to La. soldiers there were students from Arkansas STARC, New Mexico STARC, the 102nd AARCOM out of St. Louis, the 89th AARCOM out of Kansas, and Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

Several intensive blocks of instruction included sea-loading, air loading and rail loading

with a hands-on rail loading exercise.

MAJ Mariano Hinojosa of the 1190th DCU taught the rail loading block. Students loaded an APC, 2 1/2 ton truck, and a jeep onto DOD rail cars. They received training in the blocking and tying down of vehicles securely.

"If a unit wants instruction or help in rail loading we'll come out and teach them," Hinojosa said. "This is our purpose. To train units."

There were also courses of instruction in convoy operations, Unit Movement Planning, Blocking/Bracing/Packing/Crating/Tie-down, and a segment on the proper way of filling out a unit COMPASS report.

"I used to fill out the AUEL report for my unit cause it had to be done," said one lieutenant who attended. "But I didn't even know what half the terms meant, or if I was doing it correctly. Now I understand how to fill out this report, and in the long run, my unit will benefit when we have a smoother mobilization."

"This program right now is being offered only 5th Army wide. We're looking to expand it to other areas," said Cohn. "We need general officer approval."

"This course by no means certifies you as a UMO," said LTC G.H. Rowe, Readiness Group, Ft. Sill. "We've only scratched the surface during these six days. But without a doubt you men and women of the La. National Guard are the best trained UMO's in the nation."

The La. National Guard is the first state to have received this type of training. Special thanks to CPT William C. Ratcliff for the time and effort involved in making this course a possibility.



UMO'S from all over the state practice blocking, bracing, packing, crating and tie-down during a rail load exercise offered as part of the UMO course held in Chalmette, LA in May (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)

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205th Engr Bn Training a Blast

By Cadet Rawlin Carter
205th Engr Bn, Co B, UPAR

As any craftsman must work to maintain his "professionalism", likewise, a Combat Engineer must activate his skills to maintain that "professionalism". A Combat Engineer, whether Active Army, Army Reserve or National Guard, is equipped with the skills of engaging explosives and demolition for defense. These skills are taught at Combat Engineer Training, but to master these tactics, experience is the best instructor.

Recently, selected members of Co B, 205th Engr Bn were reinforced in Demolition and Explosives training at Cp. Shelby, Miss. What are Demolition and Explosives? This is the

firing of explosives for demolition and training purposes.

The training, held in April, was supervised by 2LT Clements from Co D in Hammond. Assistance was provided by the 5th Army Divisions's SFC Chan and SFC Brault, stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Members from Co B were SFC Jack Whaley, NCOIC; SP4 James Davis; SGT Larry Clark and CDT Rawlin Carter.

Upon arrival at Cp. Shelby, a safety briefing was conducted by 2LT Clements concerning the danger and capabilities of C-4 (plastic explosives), M-1 dynamite, TNT, Bangalore Torpedoes, and the Claymore mine. Following the briefing participants detonated the explosives.



2LT Clements, D Co, 205th Engr Bn, delivers a safety briefing before the participants go "down range" to "fire up" the explosives. (205th Engr Bn Photo)

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Army Gets New SMA

HQ, Dept. of Army — Command Sergeant Major Julius W. Gates has been selected to succeed Sergeant Major of the Army Glenn E. Morrell. CSM Gates is presently serving as command sergeant major, Eight U.S. Army.

CSM Gates brings to this important position unique qualifications as a field soldier. He is a veteran of over 28 years of active service, has served two tours in Vietnam, and three tours in Germany. He has served as command sergeant major of the 2nd Battalion, 50th Infantry; 2nd Armored Division (Fwd); and 3rd Infantry Division in Germany, as well as being assigned at the CSM, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Ft. Bliss, Texas.

CSM Gates will report for duty as the Army's top enlisted soldier on 1 July 1987. He is especially representative of the outstanding noncommissioned officer corps he will lead.

*One country, one constitution,
one destiny*

— Daniel Webster

I never discussed the Constitution very much, and I never made many speeches upon it, but I have done a good deal of fighting for it.

— LTG Philip Sheridan
September 1987

NTC Update

156th Armor Trains in Combined Arms Live Fire

Stories and Photos by CPT Eric P. Jensen
256th Bde, PIO

"I don't want to get any messages saying we are holding our position. We're not holding anything - we let the enemy do that. We are advancing constantly and we're not interested in holding on to anything except the enemy."

Using that Gen. George Patton maxim, 1st Bn, 156th Armor Task Force ploughed through an obstacle to seize not one but three objectives during a recent weekend live fire exercise.

As part of its train-up program for the National Training Center rotation in California Aug. 1-21, the Louisiana National Guard unit participated in a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise at Peason Ridge just north of Fort Polk.

"We're not interested in holding on to anything except the enemy."

Splitting up into two teams - Team Panther, a mechanized infantry heavy team with elements of 3/6 Infantry of regular Army troops, and Team Snake, a tank heavy team composed of mostly Shreveport area tankers - the units maneuvered on parallel axis to seize similar objectives while firing live rounds at pop-up targets.

The mission, according to Task Force Commander LTC Robert L. Jones, was to "advance quickly, find and destroy the enemy with direct and indirect fire weapons and attack helicopters. Maintain momentum and seize objectives before the enemy can reposition forces."

As the battle commenced at 9 a.m. Saturday, battle reports were quickly radioed to the Task Force Tactical Operations Center (TOC) located slightly to the rear of the battle.

"Come on! We're losing our momentum!" a regular Army colonel shouted into the radio when the battle slowed. "The Air Force is gone. We need to get this thing moving and go get the enemy!"

Radio reports continued to stream into the TOC, giving headquarters personnel a picture of the battle. Quartered in three large armored personnel carriers, the operations and intelligence sections quickly paced up and moved forward to be closer to the battle.

Intelligence officer CPT Jimmy Hagle of Lafayette continued to monitor radio reports and update his mapboard inside the swaying, bouncing armored vehicle.

As the two task forces pushed forward, they encountered a large obstacle composed of a tank ditch, concertina (barbed) wire and a minefield. The breaching process began with a smoke platoon obscuring the obstacle with smoke. The teams established security at each end of the obstacle and engineers began the breaching process using Bangalore torpedoes.

The obstacle was quickly breached and within three hours after the battle started, all objectives were taken by the tank-infantry teams.

"I think the offense went real well," LTC Jones said afterward. "It was high adventure, big time. The movement was dangerous. We had a lot of people out there with live weapons, but it worked out well. I'm pleased."

The Atlanta, Texas colonel said that if the NTC rotation were held next week, 1st Bn, 156th Armor would be ready to go.

PFC Philip Clay, a tank loader from Bossier City, said he had to work fast during the CALFEX exercise.

"It was better than our regular training," he said. "The chance to live fire is much better."



THE WILD BUNCH: An M-60 tank crew taking a break between missions. Two of the "Wild Bunch" crew members, PVT James Pruitt (left) of

Minden and SGT Charles Boatman of Natchitoches, ready their tank for the next CALFEX mission.



OBJECTIVE SEIZED: M-60 tanks and M-113 armored personnel carriers pause on the edge of a ridge after taking the final objective.



UPDATING THE BATTLE: CPL William Southard of Shreveport, an intelligence analyst with the S-2 section

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"Crazy Horse" Company Trains at Fort Polk

By PFC Renee Falgout
241st PAD

Four camouflaged bodies slammed onto the ground. Fire support rang out on both sides of the sweating, dust-covered guardsmen — members of the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry (Mech).

Loosely-grasped sticks explored the dirt, searching for mines. The guardsmen slowly wormed their way toward a barbed-wire obstacle, probing the ground inch-by-inch.

"Let's go, let's go," cried 2LT Andre H. Vige, commander of D Company, 2/156th Inf.

Breaching obstacles such as barbed wire and land mines were part of the units' training, according to 2LT Brently S. White, XO of the "Crazy Horse" company.

"This is a rehearsal attack with breaching of obstacles included," White said. "We must find all the mines and remove them as we reach the barbed wire. Then we must make a visual and physical inspection of the wire before we cut it and pull an opening to pass through."

Breaching obstacles was just one of the training events scheduled for the "Crazy Horse" company as part of their annual training.

at right:

Soldiers of the "Crazy Horse" company, Co D, 2nd Bn/156th Inf are on the alert as they speed by during maneuvers on Fullerton Range, Ft. Polk, during Annual Training in June. (Photo by SSG Adrian Lamkin, 241st PAD)



NTC Training Pays Off for 3rd Bn, 156th Inf

By SSG John Sullivan
241st PAD

Annual training for the members of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry (mechanized) has been termed a success by its officers and men.

That success can be traced back to 1985 when the battalion was the first Louisiana National Guard unit to take part in exercises at Ft. Irwin, Calif. home of the National Training Center.

"The troops who were junior soldiers at NTC two years ago are now in key positions throughout the battalion," said CPT Jay Mayeaux, with HHC, 3/156th from Lake Charles.

"The training they received at the NTC is being carried back to their units at all levels and I think it has really paid off at Ft. Polk this year," Mayeaux said.

The 3rd Bn is a mechanized infantry unit that is made up of units from Lake Charles, DeQuincy, DeRidder, Jennings, Leesville and Oakdale.

The battalion, along with its sister battalion, the 2nd Battalion of the 156th Infantry (M) both conducted their annual training in the fields of Ft. Polk during the first two weeks of June.

Mayeaux said members of the 3rd Bn spent their first week in live fire exercises where guardsmen took over positions while firing live ammunition at targets to simulate combat. The battalion members worked with their active duty U.S. Army counterparts during AT.

"This really helps out by developing the coordination between National Guard units like ourselves and our regular Army counterparts," Mayeaux said.



PFC Patrick Johnson, and SP4 James Thomas, both of 3rd Bn/156th Inf keep watch from their position in front of their company. (Photo by SSG John Sullivan, 241st PAD)

MPs: They're more than just cops in camouflage

BY PV2 Bernard Chaillot

What do you think of when you hear "MP"? If you think all MPs are cops in camouflage, you've got a lot to learn.

Today's MPs do more than ever before to support the mission accomplishment of their unit. As MAJ Daniel Curran, Brigade Provost Marshall of HHC, 256th Inf Bde said, "MP stands for Multi-purpose."

Military Police Section Sergeant, SFC Allen Anderson agreed. "Sure, we handle the law and order side of things, but that's not all we do. MPs these days are more combat oriented. We're like infantry scouts."

Anderson explained that MPs enter areas even before unit advance teams. "We're the advance teams' advance team," he noted.

MAJ Curran reported that MP's duties at NTC will be primarily battlefield circulation control, or controlling the roads and security in the areas to the rear of the actual fighting. This includes escorting convoys, and keeping the main supply routes open, safe and secure from enemy troops.

"We've never operated in the desert before, so it will be a really valuable experience. We have to make adjustments," Curran said. "For instance, the MPs will all wear goggles."

A private walked by with goggles perched on top of his helmet. Curran nodded toward him. "We won't be wearing them like that, either. Goggles reflect sunlight. The enemy could see that for miles."

MPs may also be required to handle EPWs, enemy prisoners of war. It is a very time consuming mission, but it is only a small part of what will be expected of them.

SGT Michael Spear explained how the MPs will be working in three-man teams, often-times away from other teams and the command post for days at a time. "We have to secure live-firing ranges, set up traffic control points, secure impact areas, landing strips and a lot more," he said.

Spears works as the editor of the University of Southern Louisiana student newspaper.

The MPs had to polish skills that will be especially essential in the desert, starting with map reading and land navigation.

"Ft. Irwin has more than 1,000 square miles of training area," explained SGT John Baker. "We have to be able to go right to any point on the map, and what's just as important, be able to get back. Our particular area of responsibility won't be a thousand miles; but it will be vast and in many cases, trackless."

Six 3-man teams of MPs will represent the 256th Bde in California. They feel they are ready for the challenge.

"When I put on all my gear and shoulder my weapon, something happens to me," said SP4 Don Thomas. "I want to do well, to execute my job in the most professional and conscientious manner possible, so that no one can say I didn't give it my all. By the way, I also want to win."

"If anything goes down," said SFC Anderson, "we will be the first to see the enemy and know something's up. Besides their M-16's, each jeep will be outfitted with an M-60, and team leaders will also have grenade launchers (203's).

"We'll be able to hold off an enemy advance pretty well until word gets back to our main party. Another duty will be to check the credentials of anyone wanting to get from the "Dust Bowl" training area to Ft. Irwin. You'll have to have a pass," Anderson said. "There won't be any casual visiting. You can't go in for a cold one anytime you feel like it."

Several troops nearby groaned. Anderson's brother Willie, a squad leader in the MP section outlined yet other MP duty. "We have to pick any stragglers and get them back to their people," he said. "We also have to make a daily report of activities.



Several troops nearby groaned. Anderson's brother Willie, a squad leader in the MP section outlined yet other MP duty. "We have to pick any stragglers and get them back to their people," he said. "We also have to make a daily report of activities to the Ft. Irwin Provost Marshall's Office."

MPs are well known for the brassard they wear on their left shoulder. "It sets them apart," said MAJ Curran. "It lets people know the MPs are patrolling and on the job. Like civilian police, visibility is important. It acts as a deterrent. Have you ever noticed how people straighten up their act when a policeman is around - whether they're doing anything wrong or not? It's the same thing in the military. When they see that brassard, they stand a little taller and watch their P's and Q's a little more."

A total of 21 MPs will be at NTC: 18 in the field and three at the Command Post. Vehicle and equipment maintenance is a big part of the job.

"We have to keep on top of things as far as our vehicles and equipment goes," said PFC Charles Sturgis. "That will be vital in the desert

environment. It's almost opposite to what we encounter in Louisiana with our high humidity and rainfall, so it will be educational as well as challenging."

The MPs will set up OPLDs, observation and listening posts, and may even set up ambushes to test enemy defenses.

"When we don't have specific orders from Brigade to act on, we have our own little mission," SFC Anderson said. "We move out with decontamination units prior to the main body of troops, make sure areas are secure, guard supplies from unloading points to the BSA [brigade support area], guide convoys, man traffic control points, handle prisoners, do our garrison duties, act as reconnaissance, control traffic and security in the rear, and set up ambushes to test enemy defenses."

"We're the first on the scene and usually the last to depart. We have our work cut out for us, but we're ready."

Military Citizen Award Finalists



SSG Edward Lewis Jr., 159th Tac Ftr (extreme left) and SFC Roderic P. Sanchez, Det 3, HQ STARC (extreme right) of the Louisiana National Guard were chosen as finalists to represent the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army in the N.O. Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Day Luncheon. (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers
State PAO

SSG Edward Lewis, Jr., 159th Tactical Fighter Group, and SFC Roderic P. Sanchez, Jr., Det 3, HQ STARC were chosen as finalists to represent the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army

at the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce 38th Annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon.

SSG Lewis is active with the Jefferson Parish Jr. Deputies Program and is presently involved in forming the first Vietnam VFW Chapter. SFC Sanchez has worked for several years with Explorer Post 935 and assists with the NRA

Jr. Shooting Programs. He has also worked with Cub Scout Pack 393.

Each branch of the Armed Forces had a finalist representing it at the luncheon.

The overall winner was PNI Candance Hogencamp of the U.S. Navy who received an all expense paid weekend in New Orleans.

Stay Guard

Guard Celebrates 200th Year of the Army Under the Constitution with Display at the Governor's Mansion

The Louisiana National Guard celebrated 200 years of the Army under the Constitution with an equipment display at the Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge on June 15th. The public was invited to view the vehicles, weapons, aircraft and equipment on display. Active Army also had the Bradley Fighting Vehicle,

M-1 Tank, the Apache and Black Hawk helicopters on view. Later in the afternoon the 156th Army Band put on a concert for legislators and invited guests in the yard behind the mansion. The guests were treated to a barbecue and an F-15 flyover by the 159th Tactical Fighter Group.



COMMAND NOTES

ANG Topics from Headquarters Louisiana Air National Guard



By BG James J. Hourin
Commander, La ANG

I have been informed by the Director of the Air National Guard that there is a definite need to improve the participation rate of ANG personnel in SURE-PAY (direct pay deposits). We are all aware of the many advantages of this program, and I believe increased management efforts will improve your unit's participation.

SURE-PAY provides an annual savings to the Air Force of several million dollars in mailing and check processing costs. In addition, SURE-PAY members are "financially ready" when required to deploy on short notice. They do so without having to worry about their financial needs, because they will have immediate access to their pay. They can then concentrate on mission readiness as opposed to being preoccupied with financial woes. Other advantages to members include being able to use

automated teller machines when banks are closed, no stolen or misplaced checks, no waiting for 45 days to replace a missing check, no standing in check-cashing lines, and no check-cashing fees.

Considering the many advantages of this program, I support it totally and request your personal involvement to ensure that your unit's participation rate improves. The current rate of participation for the Air National Guard is 43 percent. A goal of 65 percent for FY 87 and 88, and 85 percent for FY 89 has been established for ANG personnel. In comparing our current rate of participation to that of other Air Force members, it is obvious that this is not an unsurmountable task. Request your support and immediate recruitment of nonparticipants to join this worthy program. Sign-up forms (SF-119-A) are available at your military payroll office.



Members of the Confederate Air Force fly in formation past the 236th mobile air traffic control tower. (236th CSS Photo)



LOUISIANA
NATIONAL GUARD
MARATHON TEAM
1987

Army and Air Guardsmen of the Louisiana National Guard Marathon Team participated in the Fourth Annual National Guard Bureau Marathon held in Lincoln, Nebraska. The marathon also served as a trial race for those whose time merited their acceptance into an All-Guard Team which will represent NGB in the Marine Marathon, Navy Marathon, and Infantry Marathon during the next twelve months. Top Row, left to right: CW3

Ernest D. Peterson, COL James K. Corley, LTC Brett L. Grayson, TSGT Norman Martin, TSGT Charles Kucera, LTC Gay Reese, SMS Joseph Griffin; Bottom Row, left to right: CPT Vernon Jiles, SGT Gary Blanchard, SP4 Debbie Simon, CW3 Stanley Sirgo, CW3 Allen Couvillion, AMN Marc Sartelet.

The Cajun Communicators Dedicated to the Community of Hammond

By CPT James Nugent
236th Cbt Comm Squad

The 236th Combat Communications Squadron in Hammond continued its tradition of community service during May by providing both personnel and equipment support to the Louisiana Special Olympics held at Southeastern La University.

In addition, the unit once again provided air traffic control services to the annual Hammond Airshow and Balloon Festival.

During the Special Olympics, the 236th provided communications equipment and operators, ensuring that proper levels of safety were maintained on the site for the competitors, and erected several tents in the area to provide needed shade.

During the Hammond Airshow, the air traffic control section operated their mobile control tower. The operation combined community service with proficiency training for the ATC personnel, and made a major contribution to the success of the airshow.

The "Cajun Communicators" accept their responsibilities as members of the Hammond community, and are always willing to lend a hand when needed. The Special Olympics and the Hammond are the two latest examples of the hallmark dedication to unit and community displayed by the 236th Cbt Comm Squad.

Heard & Sons, Inc Recognized by DOD



MAJ Joseph Bondurant, battalion commander presents the DOD Employer Certificate of Appreciation to Loy K. Heard, Jr. of Jesse F. Heard & Sons, Inc. for their continued support of the Louisiana National Guard. (528th Engr Bn Photo)

By CPT Richard E. Bryan
528th Engr Bn

Loy K. Heard, Sr. and Loy K. Heard, Jr. of Jesse F. Heard & Sons, Inc. in Monroe received Department of Defense Certificates of Appreciation for their support of the National Guard.

MAJ Joseph B. Bondurant, battalion commander, 528th Engr Bn presented the awards on behalf of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Loy K. Heard, Sr. and Loy K. Heard, Jr.

were nominated by their employee, 2LT James W. Marshall III of the 528th Engr Bn.

The award is part of a program to recognize supportive employers of Guardsmen and Reservists. More than 1.4 million men and women serve in the Guard and Reserve, and support by employers is critical to their ability to respond to a national emergency. Dept. of Defense research shows that positive employer attitudes and personal policies are critical to the Guardsmen and Reservists making a decision about continued service.



CPT Jadwin Mayeaux, Admin Officer, 3rd Bn, 156th Inf (M) swore in eight new Guard lieutenants during McNeese State University's ROTC commissioning ceremony in May. Left to right: Joseph O. Ardoin, Charles C. Begnaud, Linden J. Bercegay III, Bradley T. Chapman, John P. Drouilhet, Simon J. Freyou, Koby G. Sellers, and Gerald W. Thompson. (McNeese University Photo)



LTC Lester R. Schmidt, Facility Engineer, HQ STARC, left, promotes Ernest J. Guerra, Assistant Facility Engineer, to the rank of Sergeant Major. SGM Guerra joined the Guard in 1955 and began his career with the 1st Bn, 141st FA. (LAARNG Photo)



In May a ground breaking ceremony took place at Jackson Barracks for the new Enlisted Club. Personnel in attendance were, left to right, SGM Ernest Guerra; SGM Michel Brondum Jr; SGT Rhoda Blair, Vice President, Army; SGT Denise Ryan, President; MSG Stephen E. Hric, Vice President, Air. The target date for the opening of the new Enlisted Club will be for the December 87 drill weekend.



William P. Schulz, Sr. HQ STARC was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Three in June by MG Ansel M. Stroud, left, and COL James Corley, Chief of Staff, right. CW3 Schulz presently works as a legal administrator in the State Judge Advocate's Office. (LAARNG Photo)



Construction begins on the Ville Platte Armory to be located in Ward 1, Industrial Park, off Highway 29. The \$772,000 armory slated for completion in April 1988 will house Co E, 2nd Bn/156th Inf. (LAARNG Photo)

Profile: CPT Vernon Williams

By CW2 Louis L. Joseph
205th Engr Bn, PAO

CPT Vernon Williams of the 205th Engr Bn was recently promoted to his present rank and as a result, is the highest ranking black officer in the battalion. CPT Williams serves as the Commander of Co D located in Covington.

He is a graduate of Southern University, Electrical Engineering, and presently resides in Belle Rose, La. with his two boys and girl.

He is employed full time as a Facilities Management Specialist with the National Guard at Jackson Barracks.

Prior to coming to the 205th Engr Bn he served as Detachment Commander of B Co of the 769th Engr Bn.



NGALA

UPFRONT



COL Roger Bacon

On the 15th of August OCS Class #27 will graduate from the Louisiana Military Academy. Of the 62 candidates who began the program in July 1986, only 33 remain. The attrition rate, which is about normal, says a lot about the demands of the course. It also says a lot for those who made the necessary commitment, set their goals for achieving a commission as a second lieutenant and meeting the challenges and hardships which are inherent at OCS.

In our world where mediocrity is often the norm, it is truly invigorating to observe the metamorphosis from officer candidate to officer. The year of training and leadership development places the candidates in positions of authority where they must plan and execute missions to the standards established by the staff. Close supervision and continuous counseling provides the pathway to excellence that they have chosen. They are certainly to be commended for their perseverance and accomplishments.

OCS Class 28

Orientation for the class of 1988 was held on 13-14 June. As a result of numerous mail-outs, personal contacts and unit screening, there were 93 potential candidates identified for Class 28. Of this number, only 68 attended the weekend orientation. Three resigned over the weekend, two were not recommended by the OCS Academic Board, leaving 63 candidates starting the program.

There are many reasons why the fallout rate is so high at this point. The reality of the program's demands conflict with the individual's lack of commitment, without which success in OCS is not possible. Some recognize their lack of maturity and ability to prioritize the demands of job, school, family, social life and OCS. The board also recognized the shortfalls of a few potential candidates. Nonselection is always accompanied by a frank discussion with the individual of the reasons for nonselection and recommendations are given for preparing for a future class. Many of these soldiers take the necessary steps, return as much stronger candidates and usually complete the course.

NCO Academy's Decade of Excellence

This year's graduation of the Primary Leadership Development Course marked a decade of continuous operation for the NCO Academy. From its meager beginning in 1977, it has grown to become the primary source of NCOES training for the state, teaching all approved TRADOC courses and special courses, including the Military Orientation Course.

It became apparent in late 1976 that if the Louisiana Army National Guard was going to improve its NCO Corps, professional training in leadership, supervisory skills and technical tasks were absolutely essential. As is often the case, resources for this purpose were meager. There was no staff, no dedicated classroom facilities or quarters and limited funds. What we did have was a demonstrated need and a wealth of talent in our NCO ranks who were eager to learn.

The first decision which had to be made was the course/curriculum to be conducted. After much research and deliberation, the Primary NCO Course was selected. It focused on the

SGT E5, providing a core of subjects which included weapons, tactics and leadership. It provided a core program which was augmented with additional FTXs, total integration of subject matter for maximum use of time, constant reinforcement of training, tough discipline and high performance standards.

The staffing problems were solved by acquiring a two man Mobile Training Team from Readiness Region VII's Readiness Group, Ft Sam Houston. These professional NCO's were totally committed to development of the staff personnel which were hand-picked members of the 95th Training Division, USAR. All trained twice a month for almost a year in order to prepare and conduct the course. The selected NCO's were a diverse mix of backgrounds, both civilian and military. Many had considerable active military experience and several were combat veterans. All had a tremendous amount of pride, the kind that simply wouldn't accept failure as an option.

With the POI and instructor staff problems solved and suitable facilities identified, the next decision was the development of a functional organizational structure, to include the selection of a Commandant. It was considered essential that the Academy remain under the control and leadership of the Louisiana National Guard.

The selection of SGM Norvin Schexnauldre as the first Commandant made the NCO Academy truly a "One-Army" operation with representatives of the active component, Army Reserve and National Guard committed to the program. His job was a tough one. He had to develop these strong personalities into a functional team, while building a foundation upon which the remainder of our NCO Corps could be accommodated in their appropriate courses. His leadership and demand for excellence met the challenges and paved the way for those who would follow.

To date, the NCO Academy has had eight commandants: SGM Norvin Schexnauldre, SGM John Saleeby, SGM Wally Renshaw, CSM (Ret) Jack Williamson, CSM James Cook, CSM Donald Hemphill, MSG Danny Fiebel and SGM Mabry Langlinais, the present Commandant. All of these men built on the success of their predecessor, maintaining the proven techniques and procedures, changing to meet current challenges, and providing vision for the future. To them and their staffs we owe our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

The subsequent courses for Senior and Advance NCOs and First Sergeants were all developed by National Guard members and Active Component enlisted advisors. No such courses were available through TRADOC in the early years so all had to be developed from scratch, to include POIs, instructor and student guides, etc. With the evolution of NCOES, we eventually saw the TRADOC approved versions become a reality and all have now been implemented.

The success of the NCO Academy has not gone unnoticed. The NGB Academy, which began operations in early 1984, is living proof that the NCO Corps is alive and well in Louisiana. It too serves as a model for the nation, both active and reserve component.

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CW3 Stanley Sirgo

SAFETY SEZ

By CW3 Stanley Sirgo,

Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents

Last month this column reviewed several important changes in the new AR 385-55, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents. Covered herein is a continuation of the more significant provisions of the reg.

Transport of Hazardous Materials:

c. Vehicles transporting ammunition, poisons (Class A or B), radioactive yellow-III label materials, and explosives on public highways will be:

(1) Loaded to meet hazard classification and compatibility requirements listed in current 49 CFR 390, except as permitted by international agreements or Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) such as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), AC/258-D/258.

(2) Offloaded before major maintenance is performed. Normal servicing and minor repairs may be made when unloaded if practical and necessary for safe movement. (There is no re-

striction on a tractor separated by 50 feet from an explosives-loaded trailer.)

(3) Inspected per AR 55-355 before being loaded and when entering an Army establishment before unloading, using DD Form 626 (Motor Vehicle Inspection). All unsatisfactory conditions found must be corrected before loading. An inspection point will be provided for, and in case of emergencies, a remote area designated as a suspect area will also be provided.

d. Vehicles carrying material described in c above should:

(1) Be fueled and inspected for proper condition before loading.

(2) Be the van type or be equipped with side stakes with the cargo protected by a tarpaulin or canvas top.

(3) Have brakes set and at least one wheel chocked during all loading or unloading and tiedown operations.

g. No person will be allowed to ride on or

in the cargo compartment of a motor vehicle transporting explosives, fuel, or other hazardous materials.

h. Explosives will not be transported in the passenger compartment of materiel-handling equipment or commercial AMVs. This restriction does not prohibit carrying basic operational loads for law enforcement weapons. Tactical or combat vehicles may have operational and basic loads of ammunition stored in crew compartments.

i. An assistant driver should be used when transporting hazardous materials.

3-2. Requirements for POV accident prevention



Most Army personnel killed or injured in POV accidents are involved in single-vehicle accidents at night as a result of excessive speed, alcohol or other drug use, or fatigue. Commanders will ensure that other factors in accidents that apply to their individual installations are

identified. They will direct their POV accident prevention programs to these factors. Their programs will include the following:

a. Training. Commanders will ensure that their soldiers know the main causes of Army POV accidents.

B-12. Pedestrian safety (HSPS No. 14) Pedestrian safety will be emphasized throughout DA as a part of the overall traffic safety program. Pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic will be kept apart to ensure maximum safe traffic flow through provision of adequate sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and bicycle paths. The inventory of pedestrian motor vehicle accidents required by HSPS No. 14 will be included in the analysis program established by paragraph B-8.

a. Particular emphasis will be placed on the protection of children walking to and from school, entering and leaving school buses, and playing in housing areas.

b. Appropriate fluorescent or reflective personal protective equipment will be provided to personnel who are exposed to traffic hazards. Particular emphasis will be placed on the protection of troops in formation as follows:

(1) Reduced speed limits will be enforced.

(2) Road guards with reflective equipment will be used.

(3) Lights will be used by the troop formation during periods of reduced visibility.

c. The use of headphones or earphones while walking, jogging, skating, or bicycling on installation roads and streets is prohibited.

Motor vehicle accidents are a major cause of injuries to National Guardsmen. It is everyone's responsibility to comply with AR 385-55 in an effort to protect ourselves, fellow guardsmen, and other motorists. You never know, the life you save may be your own.

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member's pay can buy in a year. Let's say you are an E-5 with over eight years of service. Your Guard pay would be more than \$2,500 a year (including BAQ during Annual Training). That translates to about \$2,000 after taxes. And with that \$2,000 you could:

- Make a full year of car payments at \$150.00 per month
- Pay for a dinner out at a good restaurant once a week for a year.
- Buy a matching set of new appliances for the kitchen.
- Cover a year's resident tuition at many state colleges and universities.
- Pay for home improvements.
- Finance a vacation.

These are, of course, only a few of the ways you can use this extra income. And they represent only the direct financial benefits of being in the Air Guard. They do not include the savings you get from shopping at the BX and commissary; using base recreational facilities free or at a reduced

cost; space available air travel; low-cost group life insurance, or a free retirement plan you get when you reach age 60 with 20 years of creditable services. When you stop to think about it, you have a lot of good reasons to keep Guarding America's skies.

Note: For specific details on your current and projected Air Guard pay, retirement points and other important financial benefits, see your unit or Base Career Advisor.

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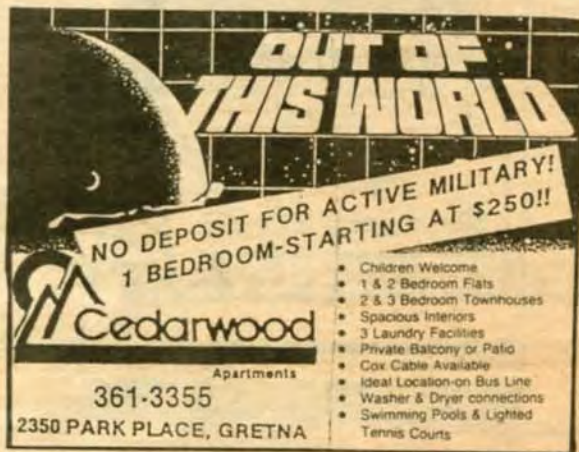
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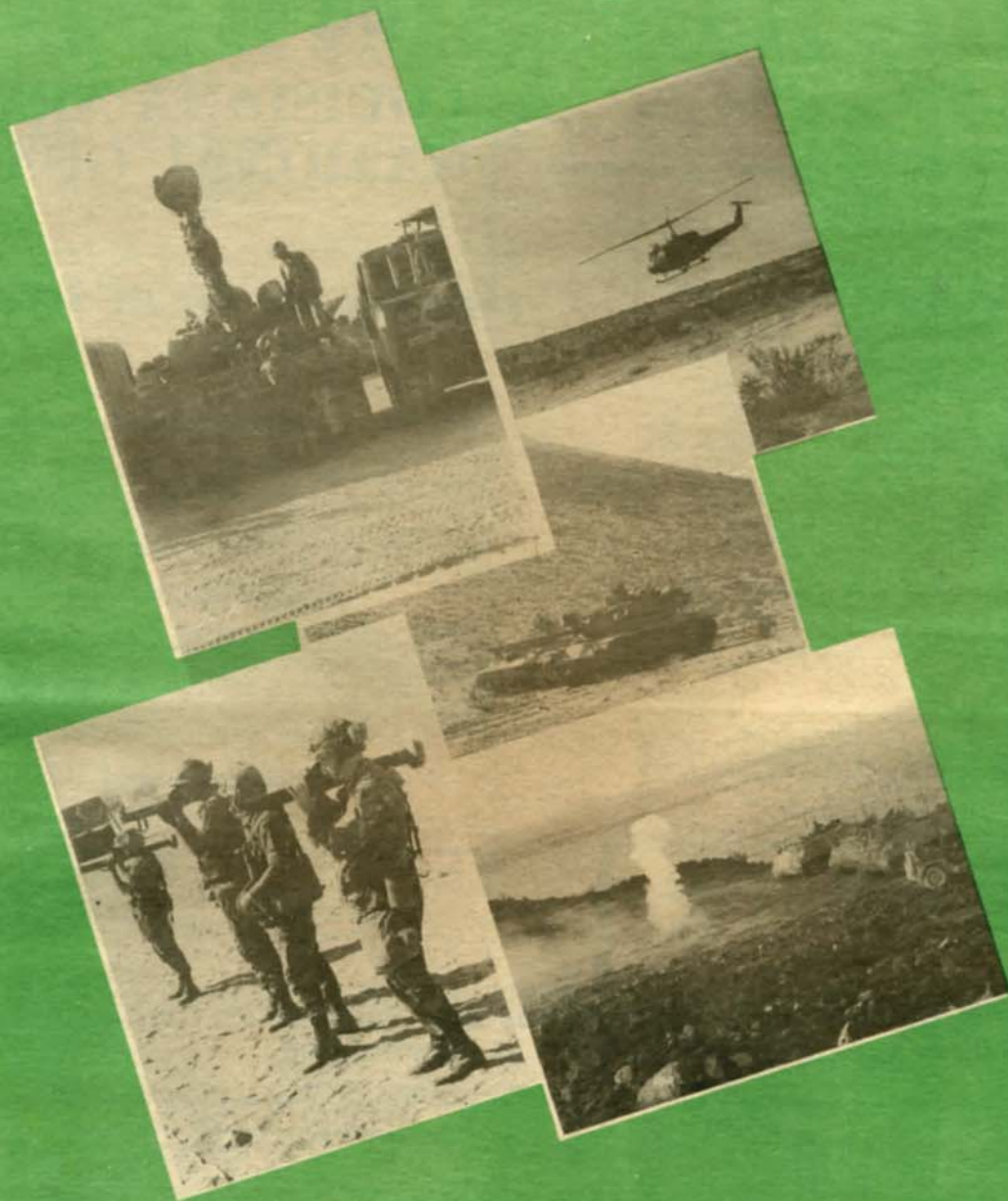
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