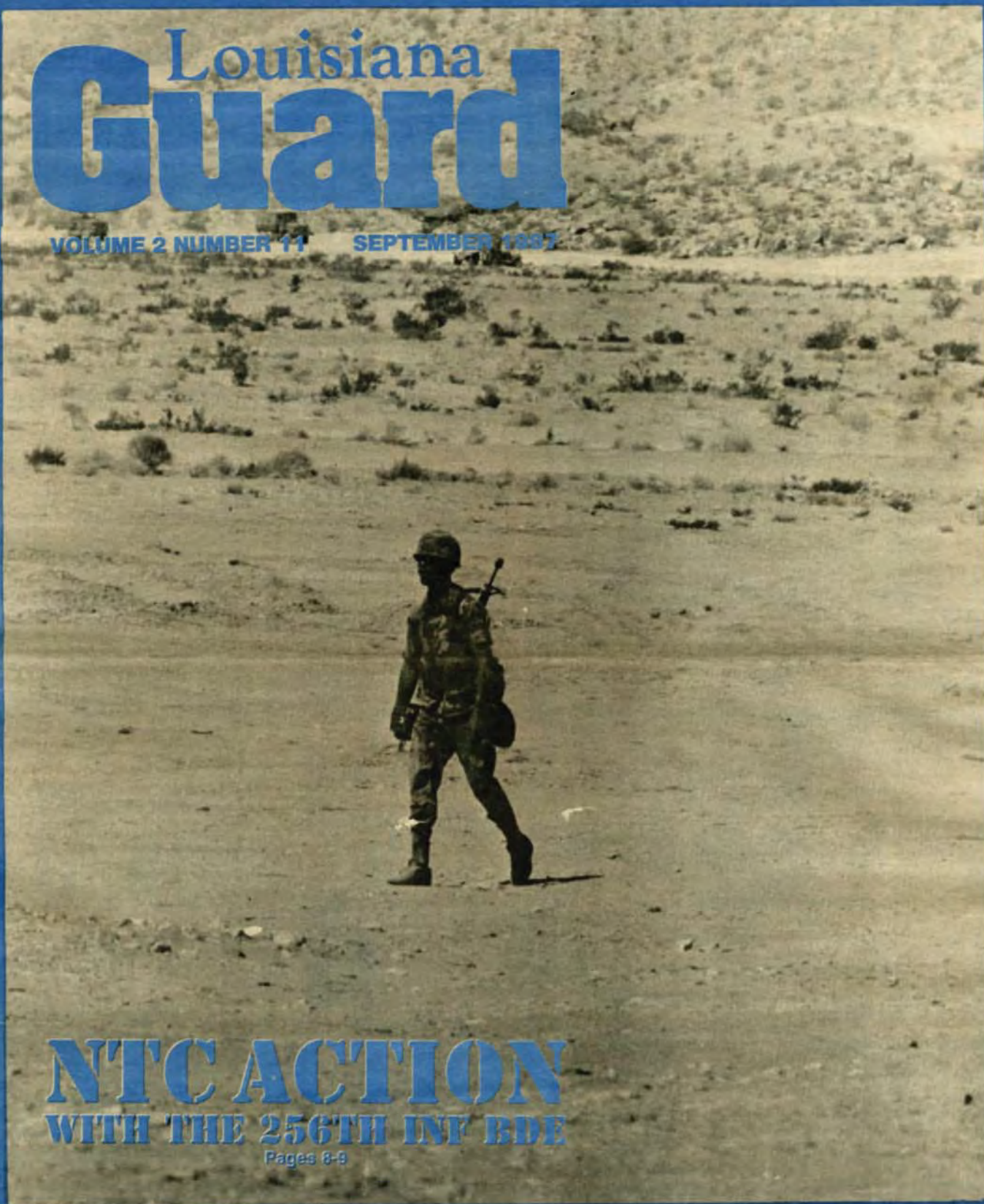


Louisiana Guard

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 11 SEPTEMBER 1987



NTC ACTION

WITH THE 256TH INF BDE
Pages 8-9

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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 Affairs Officer, Louisiana National Guard, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146. Articles from units should be submitted via the unit Public Affairs Officer or unit public affairs personnel, to the address above.

LETTERS

LOUISIANA GUARD welcomes letters from our readers. Letters may be sent to **LOUISIANA GUARD**, Public Affairs Officer, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70143. **LOUISIANA GUARD** reserves the right to edit all letters prior to publication.

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The Montgomery Amendment

(UPI)—U.S. District Judge Donald Alsop ruled Tuesday that the Montgomery Amendment allowing the federal government to send National Guard troops out of the country without governors' approval does not violate the U.S. Constitution.

Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich, who challenged sending National Guard troops to Central America for training said it invaded states rights to supervise militia training, said Minnesota will appeal Alsop's ruling.

Ten other states joined Perpich in his suit challenging the constitutionality of the federal action.

Judge Alsop ruled that Congress had authority to pass the Montgomery Amendment because it has "plenary authority over the training of the National Guard while the Guard is on active federal duty."

The judge said the federal government "must share with the states authority over training of the Guard only while the Guard is not employed in the service of the United States."

He said that "Congress acted within its authority in providing for the active duty training of the Minnesota National Guard in central America" without Perpich's consent.

The states that joined Minnesota in the suit were Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The states said the Montgomery Amendment, passed by Congress last November, prohibited the governors from controlling the use of state militia in times of peace, which they contended was guaranteed in the Constitution.

Perpich contended the amendment overturned previous law that allowed governors to veto certain uses of the National Guard.

"We feel very strongly about the states' rights issue, and that is why we will be appealing this ruling," Perpich said.

"This is a clear example of the federal government encroaching on state powers that have worked effectively in the past."

NGB Rebuttal

(National Guard Bureau)—The decision of the U.S. District Court, Minnesota reaffirms the National Guard Bureau's position that the "Montgomery Amendment" is both legal and enforceable.

This decision in no way abrogates the historic State-Federal relationship which has been the foundation of the Guard over its 350-year history. What it does do is to provide to the American people the national security they demand of their military forces and to assure our

Guardsmen the training that will permit them to achieve their military missions and to survive in battle, should the nation ask.

The judge's decision is highlighted by the statement that, "the court concludes that Congress may exercise plenary authority over training of the National Guard while the Guard is on active federal duty, and must share with the states authority over training of the Guard only while the Guard is not employed in the service of the United States."

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FRONT COVER:

A soldier of the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mech) is dwarfed against the background of the Mojave Desert. The LA Brigade made history during its rotation through the National Training Center 1-21 Aug 87. For a full story see the center spread. (Photo by SSG John A. Sullivan, 241st PAD).

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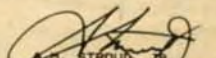
Hardly a day goes by without some environmental issue or concern being called to our attention as citizens of Louisiana. Whether it be gypsum dumping in the Mississippi River or the closing of a landfill in our town, environmental problems are of increasing concern to the citizens of our State.

Louisiana National Guard operations, both Army and Air, have the potential to cause problems if not closely monitored. As one of the largest organizations in our State, possessing large numbers of motor vehicles, aircraft, chemicals and fuel we must always be alert to our State's environmental laws.

Bone are the days of indiscriminate dumping of chemicals or petroleum products. Where we train and how we train can now come under the scrutiny of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality. Our daily operations are also subject to both federal and state environmental rules and regulations.

As concerned citizen soldiers and airmen entrusted with the protection of the people of Louisiana, we must also be increasingly concerned with the protection of the environment of our State. All Guardsmen throughout the nation will be receiving environmental training in the coming months and years.

Thus far the environmental record established by the Louisiana Guard has been excellent. We must all strive to keep it that way. With the quality of personnel in our organization I am confident we will do so. I know I can count on each of you to do your part.


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NGALA

UPFRONT

By Roger A. Bacon, Sr.
President, NGALA



COL Roger Bacon

The United States is once again engaged in a military operation designed to support our strategic and military interests abroad. In order to insure the protection of U.S. registered Kuwaiti tankers, the U.S. Navy is escorting the vessels through the Strait of Hormuz to its ports in the Persian Gulf.

There are those nations, and indeed many fellow Americans, who oppose the escort duty and even the U.S. presence in that region. The opposition centers on the right of the U.S. to impose itself in a region so distant from our mainland, the danger of becoming involved in the Iran-Iraq war and the reluctance of our allies to become involved in protecting their greater interest in the oil flow from the region.

The action of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf is certainly necessary to protect its interests. The danger of becoming involved in the controversy and having to use military assets against an adversary are prudent risks which a super power must take in order to insure its freedom of movement in international waters, a right which every nation can, and often does, exercise.

With our limited numbers of naval craft, geographically scattered and often limited land bases, and increasing areas of tension in the world, it is imperative that we, and our allies, have the mobility required for timely responses. Our ability to uphold the provisions of the numbers of treaties and alliances to which the U.S. is a signatory nation, requires unmolested access to the sea lanes of the world.

Potential choke points such as the Strait of Hormuz, Panama Canal, and Strait of Malacca cannot be allowed to fall into hostile hands.

The U.S. depends upon raw materials and commodities from throughout the world. Any restriction on free access to the world's marketplaces will impact adversely upon both the U.S. and its allies. Our negative balance of trade vividly portrays the U.S. dependence upon not only energy, but many other products which are imported. While the loss of some of these may only affect our quality of life and not necessarily be life threatening, there is no justification for us to forfeit our right, only because it may place us in danger.

It has often been said that peace is not simply an absence of war. As the oppressed people of the world will attest, freedom is not free. It comes often at a very high price in terms of loss of human dignity, hunger, and even death. Indeed, the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans have come at a heavy price, in terms of direct costs and in loss of life in our war of independence, the Mexican border, both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and many other encounters. Giving up any of our freedoms because their exercise may place our vessels or military personnel in danger would dishonor those who suffered and died for their very existence.

As members of the military, we must not only be prepared to shoulder our share of the military response of the U.S., but to use every opportunity to explain why a strong U.S. response is necessary. We must articulate the

importance of the U.S. presence in remote areas of the world in order to provide a formidable deterrent against potential aggressors.

History has proven that seldom will the weaker aggressor attack a superior force. We know that to be true if we read the events leading up to World War I and II, Korea and

Vietnam, none of which were we prepared to fight at the outset. Not only must we possess a formidable military response, but exhibit a national resolve to protect our interest, at whatever the cost, for failure is too high a price to pay.

NGAUS AND NGALA Membership

Our membership drive for both associations is progressing, but not as rapidly as I expected. The relatively late AT periods this year and the demands of the trainup requirements have lowered the priority for the membership program. Now that all ATs are over, we anticipate

that the momentum will pick up. All members and potential members are encouraged to send in their checks without delay. A recap of membership, by command, for the associations follows:

Unit	NGALA			NGAUS	
	*Officer Strength	Members**	Percentage	Members**	Percentage
HQ STARC (-)	136	120	88	127	93
Det 1, STARC	12	0	0	12	100
Det 2, STARC	9	9	100	9	100
Det 3, STARC	13	11	85	11	85
241 PAD	3	0	0	3	100
159 MASH	62	26	42	27	44
399 Med Det	12	0	0	12	100
812 Med Det	18	17	94	17	94
Det 1, HHC, 256 Bde	5	0	0	0	0
Det 1, HHC, 225 Gp	9	0	0	0	0
1/244 Air Bn	66	20	30	24	36
2222 Med Co	1	1	100	1	100
2224 Med Det	1	1	100	1	100
Total Trp. Cmd.	347	205	59	244	70
256 Bde Sep Units	56	40	71	50	89
199 FSB	57	45	79	47	82
1/141 FA	44	41	93	42	96
1/156 AR	49	0	0	1	2
2/156 IN	37	26	70	29	78
3/156 IN	34	29	85	23	68
Total 277 Bdes	283	181	65	192	69
HHC, 225 En Gp (-) []	22	22	100	22	100
205 EN Bn	40	35	88	32	80
527 EN Bn	42	38	91	40	95
528 EN Bn	44	42	96	42	96
769 EN Bn	33	33	100	32	97
Total 225 Gp	181	170	94	168	93
HHC, 204 ASG	36	36	100	33	92
165 Trans Bn	22	20	91	19	86
773 Maint Bn	36	29	81	24	67
2223 En Bn	24	20	83	17	71
Total 204 ASG	118	105	89	93	79
Total ARNG	923	661	72	697	76
ANG	130	18	14	121	93
State Total	1053	679	64	818	78

* Includes attached personnel

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COMMAND NOTES



By BG James J. Hourin
Commander, La ANG

ANG Topics from
Headquarters
Louisiana Air
National Guard

Take Note of Recent Smoking Policies

By BG James J. Hourin

In April 1986, the Air Force and all other Services initiated anti-smoking campaigns in an effort to cut the number of military smokers. Since that time, the Air Force has taken several steps to implement its anti-smoking campaign.

All men and women entering the Air Force and the Air National Guard now get a mandatory class on the hazards of using tobacco products. Professional Military Education courses are being modified to include similar course material. By making these changes, we're trying to educate all Air Force personnel on the health risks of smoking.

To provide help for every person who wishes to quit smoking, the Air Force Surgeon General directed the development of on-base smoking cessation classes at every medical treatment facility in the Air Force. Lastly, a major public affairs push was initiated to support the program.

Even though all of these actions have been taken during the last year, an Air Force regulation, AFR 30-27, Smoking in Air Force Facilities, has existed since 1978. The basic regulation was changed this past July to bring it in line with guidance on the anti-smoking campaign.

AFR 30-27 clearly defines the policy on smoking. Smoking is permitted in facilities

only to the extent that it doesn't endanger life or property, or risk impairing nonsmokers' health.

The regulation prohibits smoking in all auditoriums, elevators, conference rooms, classrooms, shuttle vehicles, buses, and vans. Additionally, nonsmoking areas must be designated and posted in all eating facilities, and smoking is prohibited in patient areas of all medical care facilities.

The smoking policy for common work areas is slightly different. Smoking is not allowed in common work areas shared by smokers and nonsmokers unless adequate space is available for nonsmokers, and ventilation is adequate to provide a healthy environment.

Supervisors will determine if adequate space and ventilation exist, and must decide in favor of the nonsmoker in the event of conflicts. In areas and buildings where the air flow is measured at less than 10 cubic feet of fresh air per minute per person, smoking is prohibited.

The rules on smoking in Air Force facilities are very clear. For common work areas, the policy is determined based upon adequate space and ventilation. In some cases, smoking is prohibited because of inadequate air flow, and in other cases, the supervisor makes the decision.

Consult the regulation when in doubt.

159th TFG Outstanding Airmen

By TSG GAIL WILLIS
159TH WSSF

The 159th TFG recently announced the recipients of the Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter for the period April - June 1987. The recipients are recognized for their contributions and achievements both in the military and their communities.

The Outstanding Airman (E1 - E3) is AMN Abraham Layani. AMN Layani is assigned to the 159 WSSF as a Security Specialist. AMN Layani attends LSU full time, is Vice President of Zeta Beta Tau, a member of the 159th TFG Honor Guard, a member of the Circle K Club, a member of the Young Israel of Metairie Club, and volunteers with Food Collection Program. AMN Layani is a Beta Honor student at LSU and has earned the Expert Ribbon in weapons qualification.

The Outstanding NCO (E4 - E6) is SSG Randall Breaux. SSG Breaux is also assigned to the 159th WSSF as a Security Specialist.

SSG Breaux is a full time student at UNO, a member of the Beta Alpha Psi National Accounting Honor Society, a member of the 159th TFG softball team, and has earned the Expert Ribbon for weapons qualification. SSG Breaux was recently selected as the team leader for the Air National Guard "Peacekeeper Challenge" Team which competed in international competition for the Air Force. He has also received the Louisiana Commendation Medal.

The Outstanding Senior NCO (E7 - E9) is MSG Joe Reach. MSG Reach is also assigned to the 159th WSSF as a Security Specialist Supervisor. MSG Reach is a full time student at UNO, a member of the Laubach Literacy Action Program, a member of the Air Guard Honor Guard, and a member of the Enlisted Association. MSG Reach has earned the Expert Ribbon for weapons qualification and is a volunteer tutor for Operation Mainstream. He is also the recipient of the Louisiana Commendation Award.

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Protecting Your Hearing From Damage is Sound Advice

By CPT Barbara Lowe

Wearing protective clothing and equipment is nothing new for National Guard personnel. Hearing protection likewise has been around for a long time. During the revolutionary war, soldiers used cotton and pieces of fabric coated with wax to protect their ears from the ringing sensation caused by a day in battle. Somewhere about the time of World War II, the army came up with the single flange ear plug, and then later the triple flange ear plug. While this protective equipment has been available for many years, it has not been until recently that the

military has actively advocated its use and stepped up conservation measures.

Like protective clothes, you wear hearing protection when there is something you should be protected from. Anything over 85 decibels has the potential for causing tinnitus (ringing in the ears), headaches, and temporary or permanent hearing loss. For example:

- M-16 Rifle 156 dB (peak)
- Grinder 95 dB
- Radial saw 108 dB
- Caterpillar Grader 107 dB
- 2 1/2 Ton Truck 94 dB
- utilith Offset Press 85 dB
- Helicopters all between 94 and 110 dB
- Tank, M-551 106 dB
- Command Post, M-577 120 dB
- Howitzer, 105mm 189dB

Hearing protection comes in several forms. The Army still has available through the system, cotton balls impregnated with wax. How-

ever, the yellow or white sponge-type ear plugs are much better for the job and are much more comfortable (and less messy) on a hot Louisiana afternoon. Better yet are the single flange and triple flange ear plugs. These ear plugs are made of soft plastic and can be washed and reused for a long period of time, unlike the yellow/white sponge-type.

The single and triple flange ear plugs must be fitted under medical supervision by trained personnel, but once fitted, offer longer wear and durability. Good protection depends on a good seal between the surface of the skin and the surface of the ear protector. Any small leak can destroy the effectiveness of this protection, therefore, good fitting and proper insertion is vital.

The single flange ear plugs come in five sizes: Extra small, white plugs; Small, blue plugs; Medium, orange plugs; Large, blue plugs; and Extra Large, red plugs. These plugs

are inserted into the ear with the tab at the bottom of the ear. The ear plug is then inserted into the ear canal as the tab is moved to the back of the ear.

Triple flange ear plugs come only in three sizes, small, medium and large. Whether single or triple flange, the colors indicate the same sizes, therefore a green ear plug indicates a small size where blue would indicate large. When properly fitted, triple flange ear plugs should have a slight suction and have an elastic or bouncy feel as their tabs are pulled slightly after insertion.

All ear plugs, when inserted correctly should give the wearer the sensation that they have a head cold or have their ears plugged up. One quick test is to put the hands over the ears, or finger tips over the ear canal. When the ear plugs are inserted, they should provide the same muffling of sound and tone quality.

If hearing is dramatically better in one ear than the other, or if the indicators discussed above are not present, the hearing protection measures are not working properly. Reassess your hearing protection. Is it inserted or worn properly? Is it the proper size? Has it been a long time since initial fitting of hearing protection? Maybe the ear canal size has changed. If after a reassessment of your hearing protection, difficulties still persist, call the safety office. We are here to help and would be happy to assist with refitting or hearing assessments.

Only you can prevent hearing loss. Be aware of your hearing status and protect yourself. It is a needless aggravation to always have to ask, "What'd you say?"

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BRIGADE MAKES HISTORY AT NTC

By The 256th Infantry Brigade (M) Public Information Section

It didn't take the men long to realize what the dust trails meant. First glimpsed two kilometers away and closing fast, the dust trails signaled a sunrise onslaught of at least two companies of enemy tank and infantry.

The Opposing Forces' (OpFor) objective on this hot August morning was a road intersection. Standing in its way was Battery A of the 141st Field Artillery.

"Well, are you going to duke it out with them here or what," an observer controller asked the battery commander.

Within moments the battery commander issued a march order for the battery to retreat, all the while firing direct support missions. But just as the big 155mm guns kicked into gear, the Soviet column was already upon them. Only a handful of vehicles and men escaped alive.

Experience is a harsh teacher in the swirling sands of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. For three weeks in August, the 256th Infantry (Louisiana) Brigade went up against the OpFor Soviet Motorized Rifle Regiment. While the brigade didn't win all the battles, it did come away wiser in the ways of war.

"Our initial meeting with the OpFor proved to be a rude awakening," said LT COL Robert Jones, commander of 1st Battalion 156th Armor and head of one of the two task forces going up against the regiment. "It exceeded any threat force we encountered in our year-and-a-half training. This Russian Motorized Rifle Regiment is the best Russian regiment in the world."

The first two or three battles were quite decisive on inflicting casualties on our side," Jones added. "As we progressed in the rotation, the commanders and leaders began to adjust to the shock tactics and extreme high temperatures and were able to be a more respectable adversary to the OpFor."

Jones' 156 Task Force, a tank-heavy element fought the OpFor along with the 3-6 Task Force, the mechanized infantry-heavy unit, during the 14-day "war."

This rotation was unique in that this was the first time a National Guard Brigade was the controlling agent at the NTC. Louisiana Brigade Commander Brig. Gen Frank Denton and the brigade staff maneuvered the two task forces across the 1,000 square miles of Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin.

Approximately 4,000 soldiers participated in the rotation, dubbed "Desert Guard I." Of that number, 57 percent were National Guardsmen and 43 percent were Regular Army from the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Polk. The majority of the Active Army soldiers were members of 3/6 Infantry Battalion commanded by LT COL Lars Larsen and the others were slices of other 5th Infantry Division units providing support in aviation, air defense artillery, chemical, signal, engineering, intelligence and others.

Louisiana Brigade elements participating in Desert Guard I were 1-156th Armor, commanded by LT COL Robert Jones; 1-141 Field Artillery commanded by LT COL Urban Martinez; 199th Forward Support Battalion commanded by LT COL Richard Averitt; Headquarters, Headquarters Company, commanded by CPT Robert Bruno; and the 256th Engr Co, commanded by CPT James Fischer.

Upon their arrival, soldiers spent the first few days in the Rotational Units Forward Marshalling Area (RUFMA) better known as the "Dust Bowl." For those participating in previous NTC rotations, the "Dust Bowl" was a brighter place this year. Three large latrine areas along with shaded bay areas made "roughing it" a little less rough.

Troops spent the next three days drawing equipment and supplies and getting acclimated

to the 100 degree plus temperatures prior to move out.

The "war" officially began Tuesday night and units moved out of the "Dust Bowl" and into position. The 199th, along with support elements from each company moved to the "Valley of Death" and set up the Brigade Support Area (BSA).

Near the front lines, operational meetings were held among the two task forces, determining the tactics and operations to use against the OpFor. Both task forces made a movement to contact on the first day and then split off to fight separate battle.

Each soldier on Desert Guard I (and the OpFor) was equipped with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES). A device fitted on the end of an M-16 rifle shoots eye safe laser bullets at the soldier's target. Each man wore a MILES harness on his torso and sensors on the helmet. When the sensors detect a direct hit with a laser bullet, a tone is emitted from the harness. A yellow key is taken from the MILES rifle device and inserted into the harness and the tone ceases.

Likewise, armored vehicles and even helicopters are equipped with MILES, sensors, making them vulnerable to kills, as would be the case in actual combat.

When "killed," soldiers are sent to rear areas and "reconstituted" as replacements for the next battle. "Dead" soldiers are lost to their units for 24 hours.

Despite the simulated casualties of the exercise, there were real injuries, too. One such real case, a heat casualty was 1LT Richard Binderim scout platoon leader from HHC 1/156th Armor. Between sips of water from a canteen, Binderim said "Today's objective was to bring everyone through the choke point of the "Whale's Gap and mop up any resistance. We've done that."

Binderim received word that five of the vehicles in his platoon, along with 25 men, had just been caught in the open and destroyed by attack helicopters from the other side. The three enemy helicopters, visually modified to resemble Soviet Mi-24 Hind, were able to attack the Guardsmen from almost 4,000 yards away and escape.

While the two task forces bore the brunt of the fighting, rear areas and support personnel say their share of action. The BSA was hit with a tank attack not just once but several times. Support personnel were ready.

"The OpFor feared to tread our perimeter," said First sergeant Stanley Parker of Company D the "Delta Dogs" of the 199th Support Battalion. "We killed three tanks and had a near miss on a helicopter."

"Company D did sustain heavy casualties due to being overrun by T-62 tanks," Parker admitted. "However, the strong officer and NCO corps carried us through."

When not battling OpFor tanks, Company D's mission is maintenance, and soldiers like SSG Richard Caskey of Woodworth served as point men.

"We did a lot of recovery work, mostly of wheeled vehicles," Caskey said. "The training is fast paced, hot, different and under very adverse conditions."

At the conclusion of the first week of war, Task Force 156 was in a hasty attack while Task Force 3/6 went to live fire.

Tanks, infantry carriers, mortars, rifles and artillery fired live rounds at an oncoming motorized rifle regiment. Situated at Drinkwater Lake, a dry lake bed north of Fort Irwin's main post, the regiment was composed of tank and infantry carrier silhouettes.

Beginning at the far end of the lake, the first row of silhouettes would appear and be fired upon. The first row would disappear and the

next row closer in would appear, simulating forward movement. During the night phase, targets came equipped with flashing lights, simulating tank guns firing.

1/141 Field Artillery supported both task forces as they went through live fire, firing both live rounds and illumination rounds.

According to battalion commander LT COL Urban Martinez, the Washington Artillery fired 3,000 high explosive rounds.

"The men seemed happy," Martinez reported. "They liked the challenge and responded well. We were told by the controllers that we were the best TACFIRE unit and the best National Guard field artillery battalion that they had seen."

Following the 14-day war, brigade elements convoyed back into the "Dust Bowl" and prepared for the trip home. While the men maintained their vehicles and equipment and convoyed them to Yermo for the rail load, brigade and task force officers were collecting kudos for a successful rotation.

MG James Taylor, commander of the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, observed the National Guard rotation and said, "I was impressed by the way a diverse group of people got together and did a well-organized rotation. Your level of expertise was a lot better than a lot of people expected."

Brig. Gen. Frank Denton, Louisiana Brigade commander, said the men performed to his expectations.

"We had a very low average accident rate and a better than average equipment draw and turn-in rate," Denton said. "No one ever quit. They validated the roundout and Total Army concept. The American people should be proud that they were Americans at their best."

-Reported By CPT Eric P. Jensen, SFC Kirk Barilleaux, SP4 Al Guidry, PVT Bernard Chaillot



BG Denton briefs visiting VIPs during a lull in the action

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers
State PAO

"I know some of the guys that work at the Monrow armory. I've always thought of them as guys whose job is to work for the Guard. But after seeing the training these men are going through out there, I don't think I'll ever look at a Guardsman the same way again."

Thus summed up Ms. June Taylor's impression of the Guard after touring the National Training Center. Ms. Taylor of KNOE-TV in Monroe admitted her previous impression of the Louisiana National Guard was based in part on the grossly inaccurate and unfair portrayal of Guardsmen in the movie "Southern Comfort" several years ago as heavy-drinking, trigger-happy, incompetent rednecks. To her, this portrayal in no way characterized the deadly serious and well trained young soldiers who participated in Desert Guard I at the National Training Center.

Taylor was one of 38 Louisiana employers, businessmen, and media representatives who visited NTC along with MG Stroud and staff members.

On the first day of the visit they were given an in-depth briefing by the NTC commander BG Pete Taylor. The next day began at 0300 hours for the civilians. They were familiarized with MILES, the OPFOR, the Star Wars Center, and VISMOS.

They dined with the "Soviets" for breakfast and were taken into battle in HUMMWV's.

With the friendly "American forces" on the left and the enemy "Soviet forces" on the right, the civilian visitors were often lost in a cloud of smoke. Tanks often passed only several yards in front of or behind the entourage of visitors, each clutching their hats and a camera. Noise, smoke and confusion added to the feeling of realism.

Later in the day, BG Frank Denton, Brigade Commander, briefed them in the Tactical Operations Center on the outcome of the battle they had witnessed.

Exhausted, yet enlightened, the civilians made their way back to their hotel room, after a day that had begun twelve hours earlier.

Participants

Mr. Edward Diefenthal - Southern Scrap Material
Mr. R. Kent Mitchel - La. Transit Company
Mr. Alfred Lamson - Lamson/Crocker Petroleum
Mr. Benton Wakefield - First Financial Bank
Mr. Joe Boreland - Mayor, Colfax
Mr. Warner L. Bruner - Federal Land Bank
Mr. T. R. (Bob) Monk - Shreveport Times
Ms. Reba Beard - Leesville Leader
Mr. Gary Lamson - Lamson Petroleum Co.
Mr. W. H. Sewell, Jr. - Kenner Car Cleaners
Mr. John Biggs - Hunt Engine, Inc.
Mr. E. J. St. Pierre - E.J.S. Enterprises, Inc.
Mr. Richard Zuber - Mayor, Jonesboro
Mr. Harold Holston - Police Jury
Mr. Leo K. Bruce
Mr. Tommy J. Harel, Jr. - Bank of Winnfield
Mr. R. L. Mayeaux - Russel Mayeaux & Sons
Mr. Bob F. Wright - Domengeaux and Wright
Mr. Wayne L. Denton - University of South La.
Mr. Henry Bienvenu - Teche News
Ms. June Taylor - KNOE-TV
Mr. James M. Kelly - Mayor Winnfield



Making a smoke screen

256th Inf. Bde. M.P.s Have Big Role at NTC

By SP4 Al Guidry
256TH BDE PIO OFFICE

Their police beat covered a 1,000 square mile area of desert terrain and nearly 2500 soldiers on an intense three week training mission.

The 25 military policemen of the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) participated in Desert Guard I, an exercise 57% National Guard and 43% regular Army soldiers in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, Calif.

They were engaged in mock war along with soldiers from Alexandria, New Orleans, Shreveport, Opelousas and numerous small communities surrounding these cities. The enemy was the OPFOR, short for Opposing Forces. The OPFOR are American Army soldiers stationed at Fort Irwin who dress like, train like, and fight like Soviets, using Soviet tactics.

The OPFOR used visually modified equipment to resemble Soviet tanks. This and the use of MILES, Multiple-Integrated-Laser-Engagement-System "kills" and "near misses" accurately recorded enhanced the gritty realism of combat. MILES uses eye-safe laser beams instead of bullets. The beams emitted from M-16's, tanks and even aircraft register on their targets as "kills" or "near misses". Soldiers, tanks, aircraft, and other weapons fitted with receptors would signal a hit with a shrill tone

or flashing light. This sophisticated-state-of-the-art system eliminated the subjective decision making of a human umpire. Within 24 hours the "dead" and "wounded" were reconstituted to fight another day.

"Spending three weeks in the Mojave Desert was definitely no vacation," said Pvt. Dwayne Guillot, an MP with the Lafayette headquartered Brigade. "The National Training Center was great training experience for the unit. By not knowing what to expect there were some uneasy thoughts going through our heads. When the realism of the training exercise was executed, everything started to fall into place. Mistakes were made and corrected almost immediately in most cases.

"To be able to train in an environment that was so close to real combat is the best experience to have in order to be productive and combat ready," Guillot concluded.

SP4 Daniel Long liked the feeling of the unexpected.

"Not knowing what was going to happen is such a change from the routine training of Fort Polk," Long said.

Long is a gunner on a reconnaissance team with the extra responsibilities of providing scouting missions and navigating his unit to the main objective.

Long hours, little sleep, days without a hot meal, the hot sun and breathing the desert air quickly determined the strengths and weaknesses of the unit.

"NTC has given us an opportunity to learn from our mistakes, and to have on hands experience," Long said. "With this type of training, the National Guard will definitely be useful and productive."

"This is the best training experience any soldier could participate in," said Sgt. Jesse Perry of the 256th Bde MP's. "This annual training in the Mojave Desert is so important in becoming a trained combat fighting soldier. It prepares you physically and mentally."

"The National Guard needs more extended training like this in desert terrain," Perry said. "By having more integrated training with regular Army in addition to National Guard training would help make the Guard extremely effective in real combat."

Sgt Perry is departing NTC with a higher degree of confidence in being a stronger leader. He also has an in-depth feeling of pride in himself and the soldiers in his unit.

Provost Marshall Maj. Daniel Curran sums it up as being an annual training that has been challenging, very impressive, unique and even enjoyable.

"At first we were all intimidated by the reputation of NTC, but we quickly overcame our fears," Curran said. "The 256th MP's showed a reflection of pride, high morale, and displayed the best that they can be."

CO B 205th BN Trains At Royal Air Force Base

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

The morning of July 11th will not be soon forgotten by selected members of the 205th's Co B in Franklinton. These troops, suited in civilian clothing due to security purposes, boarded the TWA 747 from New Orleans enroute to London, England's Gatwick International Airport. Upon arrival the men were transported via a bus to embark on two weeks of educational training at the Royal Air Forces' Weathersfield Base. The site is located 50 miles Northeast of London. Personnel from Co B included the following: 2LT (P) Joseph Danford, SFC Jack Whaley, SFC Tony Mizell, SSG Santo Spitala, SSG Linders, SGT Lester Jenkins, SP4 Michael Davis, SP4 Clay Sanders, and PFC Darren Schilling. These men were selected for the trip to England based

upon their MOS in relation with the projects to be accomplished.

The engineers from Co B were working in conjunction with other members of the 205th Engr Bn. The Bn, attached to the U.S. Air Forces' 819 Red Horse Unit, worked diligently to accomplish its mission.

During the first week in England, the men worked on miscellaneous projects such as the renovation of an obsolete structure, the installation of a drainage storm sewer, and the construction of a concrete slab. During week two, the Rapid Runway Repair System was introduced to members of Co B. The Rapid Runway Repair is used following an aerial attack on an airstrip. Although this repair system was new to Co B Engrs, they adjusted extremely well. Construction units should be able to complete the repair process in 4 hours. Our Engrs com-

pleted it in less than 3 1/2.

Two processes are practiced by the military in Rapid Runway Repair. The pre-fabricated aluminum mat method is the most widely used. After an aerial attack, craters are blown in the surface of a runway. The first step is to push all the crushed rock back into the crater hole until it is level with the runway. Should there not be enough to fill the hole, then coarse gravel is used. Upon completion of filling the crater, the mat is pulled by heavy equipment to be placed over the crater. Finally, it is anchored down to the runway. The runway is now repaired.

The next method, the concrete pre-fabricated slab, is constructed by cleaning out all material in the crater. Next, a liner is placed in the posterior end of the crater. The third step is to place the largest rocks in the crater, then the smaller ones. Next, the rocks are screeded down

5 inches below the surface of the runway. When this is completed, the 5 X 5 concrete slab is placed over the crater. Finally, the slab is rolled over by compactors until it is level with the runway.

Although the work was hard, there was limited time for the men to tour London and the area's surrounding villages. On July 22, the men headed for home-station, with exception of PFC Darren Schilling whom had extended duties in England. According to 2LT Joseph Danford, the trip was "quite an experience."

PFC Schilling welcomed the arrival of SGT Ruston Vismado and Kevin Allen from Co B in England. These three men are also attached to the U.S. Air Force along with other members of the 225th Gp. They are working out of Chestington, a suburb of London. They were re-wiring the electrical system in hospitals, and concluded their tour of duty in mid-August.

Practical Knowledge May Help Earn College Credit

By CPT William C. Ratcliff

It has come to my attention on numerous occasions that many Guardsmen often overlook or simply don't know about some of the best ways to earn college credit for what they already know. Two ways to get this credit are the College Level Examination Program, or more commonly "CLEP Tests", and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs).

The average Guardsman that contacts me for educational counseling before entering college level work has not considered what he or she can do to prevent starting college with zero credit hours. Why start at the bottom when you don't necessarily have to?

It's possible to earn up to 30 credit hours by passing the CLEP General Exams. These exams cover material taught in most freshman

and sophomore courses. The CLEP Subject Exams are an alternative to the General Exams. Most colleges award at least 3 credit hours for successful completion of these tests. Subject Examinations are compatible to the final exams, in particular, undergraduate courses. Subject Exams can be taken for areas that include Business, Data Processing, English Composition, Medical Technologies, Natural Sciences, Nursing, and Social Sciences to name just a few.

One of the more popular series of tests that are similar to the CLEP Tests are the DSSTs. DSST exams deal with vocational-technical subject matter. DSSTs are available in over 50 specific areas that include Law Enforcement, Auto Mechanics, Television Service and Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating.

CLEP General and Subject Exams and DSSTs are a good way to start college. The results of these tests are accepted by more than 2,000 colleges and universities nationwide. Successfully completing these tests will build confidence towards entering college level courses.

The best part about credit by examination is that the test can be administered at no cost to National Guardsmen. Tests are offered at scheduled periods and locations around the state at various times throughout the year. Hence, contacting the Education Services Office well in advance becomes important in order to order the appropriate test(s) for you, identify the location most convenient for you, and to reserve classroom space to take the test(s). Most bookstores carry workbooks that help to prepare you for CLEP tests at reasonable prices so that you can maximize your success.

Some important things to remember about credit by examination programs are:

*There is no substitution for personal motivation.

*Credit by examination is not always easy. *Obtaining credit requires an organized and disciplined study.

*Check with the school that you plan to attend before scheduling any examinations. While most colleges accept some subject area exam credits, some do not.

For more information on credit by examination, contact the Education Services Office at (504) 278-6355 or by writing:

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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.

What Can You Do To Help?

Tell a friend, neighbor, or relative what you know about the Air Guard and fill in and mail the attached coupon, or have them call the nearest Air Guard Recruiter. Someone will be available to tell them all about the many opportunities that can be tailored to fit their needs in today's Air National Guard.

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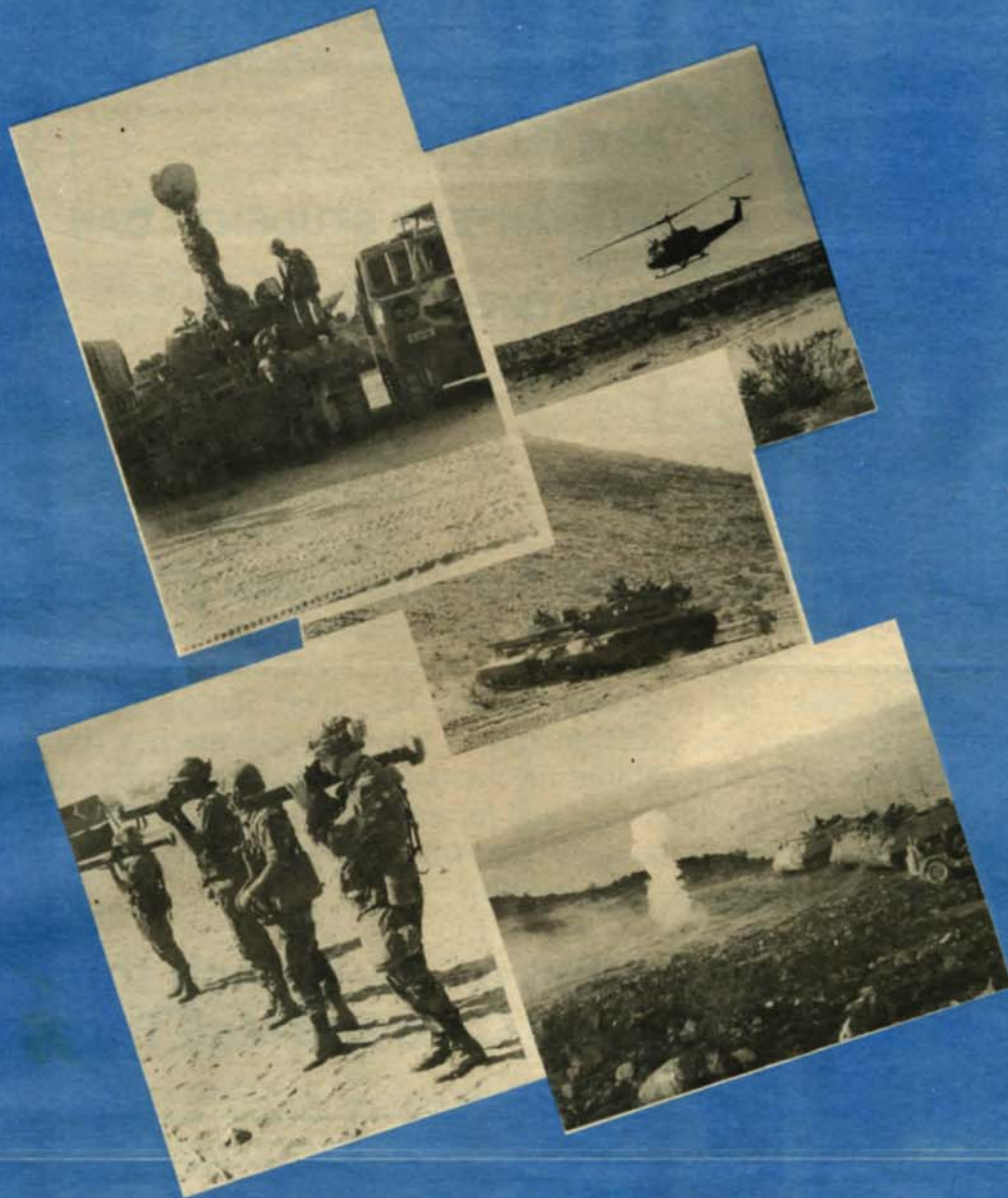
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