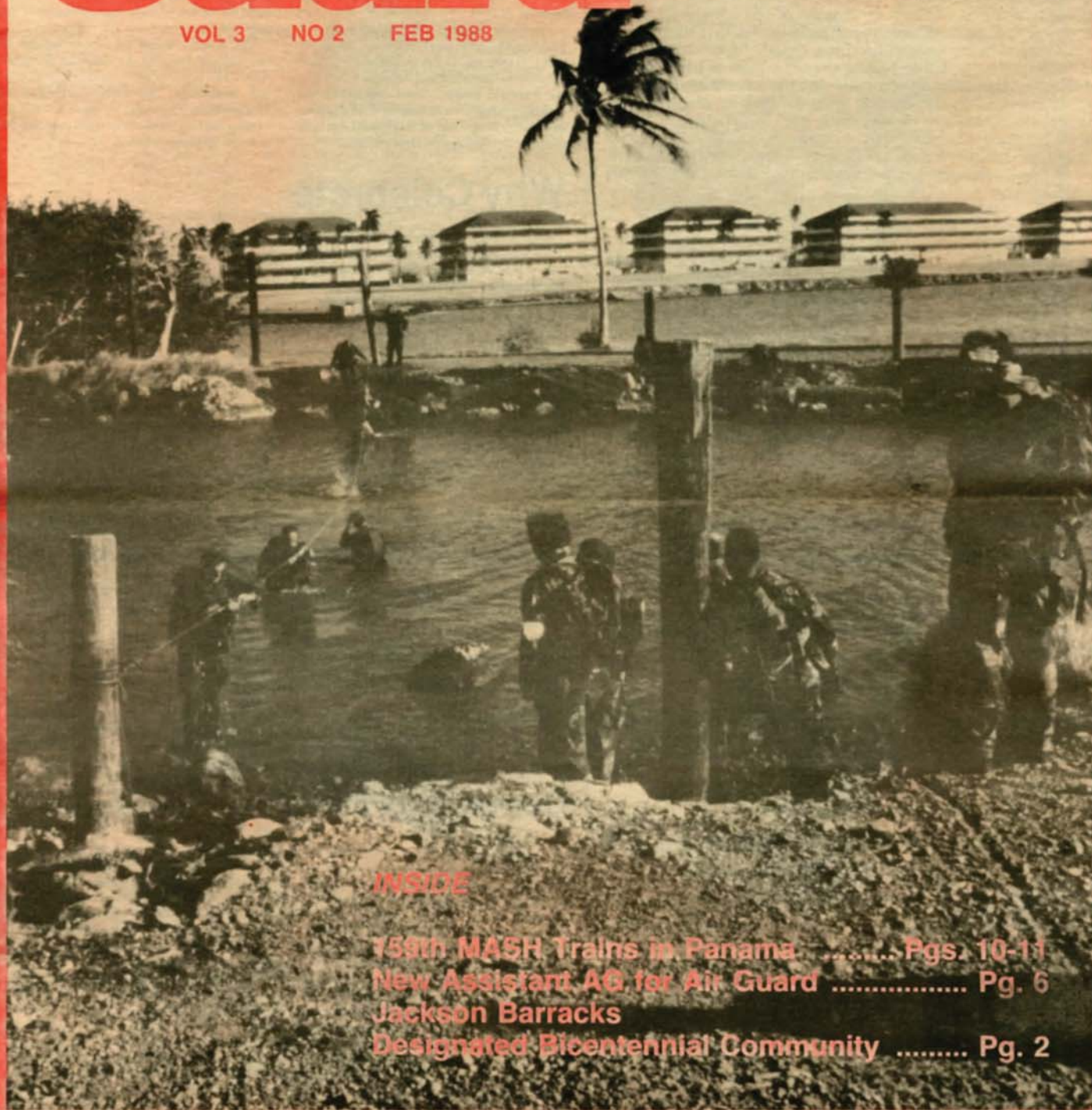


Louisiana Guard

VOL 3 NO 2 FEB 1988



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A single rope bridge in the lagoon at Fort Sherman, Panama. (Photo by LTC Charles M. Hammons, Secretary General Staff)

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Jackson Barracks Designated Bicentennial Defense Community

By MAJ Lloyd Lacoste

Jackson Barracks, Headquarters of the Louisiana National Guard, has been recognized as a "Bicentennial Defense Community" by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The recognition of Jackson Barracks has pushed the total of such communities to 129.

"This new category of Bicentennial Defense Communities gives more Americans the opportunity to take part in the bicentennial celebration," said Commission Chairman Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. "Those men and women who have taken an oath to defend the constitution surely deserve to be recognized for their efforts in celebrating this bicentennial."

The commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution has focused in 1987 on the writing of the constitution and will focus in 1988 on the ratification by the states, in 1989 on the formation of the first federal government under the constitutional system, and in 1990 and 1991 on the writing and ratification of the Bill of Rights.

LTC Karl N. Smith, Jr. is the chairman of the Jackson Barracks Bicentennial Commission. "The task of this commission is to plan and coordinate bicentennial activities at Jackson Barracks," LTC Smith said. "We are looking for any suggestions from our citizens to assist us in this endeavor."

Why Celebrate

What should the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution mean to modern Americans? Why should we take time out to remember the signing and ratification of this faded document and the formation of our federal government?

The reasons to celebrate are numerous. It is an opportunity to inform all Americans about their Constitution and their system of government. Most probably do not realize that two-thirds of the world's constitutions have been adopted since 1970. In fact, only 15 predate World War II — and none predates our own. Recent studies show that:

-Nearly half of American adults (46%) do not know that the purpose of the original Constitution was to create a federal government and define its power.

-Fully 59% do not know what the Bill of Rights is.

-Almost half (49%) thought the President could suspend the Constitution in times of war or emergency.

The Bicentennial offers an opportunity to celebrate the constitution for its role in American history and its significance in the continuation of our government. And it is a reminder to Americans that the basis of their personal freedoms rests with the Constitution. People must know and understand their rights if they are to protect them.

The Constitution's revolutionary concepts of checks-and-balances, freedom and justice were - and still are - the fundamental reasons for the arrival of tens of millions of people to our

shores over the last two centuries. In recent decades, the U.S. has experienced a resurgence of immigrants seeking to make a new life here. But many of these new Americans may never have experienced the basic liberties and rights associated with America. The Bicentennial offers an ideal opportunity to help this large segment of the population comprehend the importance of the Constitution.

It offers a chance for Americans to reaffirm the principles for which the Constitution and the country stand, those rights and liberties which we tend to take for granted. Two centuries after early national leaders completed their struggle to produce a uniquely American Constitution, we have an opportunity — indeed a duty — to gain a new appreciation of their idealism and their genius, and to recommit ourselves to their values of freedom, justice and equality for all. An understanding of the basic principles of a republican form of government is important for future state, national and world leaders.

The Bicentennial of the constitution is more than an anniversary, more than a celebration of a single event. It is a unique opportunity for this nation's citizens to learn more about their precious system of government and to pay tribute to the document that produced a way of life envied the world over.

Note: Above article is an excerpt from "The Guide to Celebrating the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution" published by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Commemorating the Bicentennial

Two centuries ago, in May 1787, representatives from 12 American states convened in Philadelphia to amend the Articles of Confederation. Rhode Island sent no delegation. Four months later, on September 17, 39 of the 42 delegates still in Philadelphia signed the newly created national Constitution — a document that laid the foundations for a democratic society, establishing a federal government of the people, by the people and for the people.

200 years later, the United States is commemorating what has become the oldest written instrument of national government in the world. The Constitution is the cornerstone of the American republic, the document which has come to symbolize our national ideals of freedom, justice, equal opportunity and hope.

The years 1987 through 1991 have been designated by Congress as the official period for commemoration of the Bicentennial of our Constitution. It will be a memorable period, with many commemorative activities. On September 17, 1987, Americans everywhere joined together to honor both the signing of the Constitution and the free society which it helped create. While the Revolution gave us independence, the Constitution gave us the

means to keep it.

Congress has given the Commission a lifespan through 1991 to recognize the 200th anniversaries of the signing of the Constitution, the ratification process, the formation of the federal government, and the adoption of the first ten amendments, now known as the Bill of Rights. The Commission has announced several commemorative themes during the period. The first year, 1987, focused on the writing of the Constitution. Since the Constitution was ratified in 1788, 1988 has been set aside for an examination of the ratification and debate of the document in the states; as 1788 also saw the first congressional elections, 1988 should be devoted to an examination of the legislative branch too. In 1989, we can celebrate the establishment of the federal government and especially the executive branch. We would then examine the Judiciary in 1990. While the Bill of Rights and other amendments could be studied in 1991.

NOTE: Above article is an excerpt from "The Guide to Celebrating the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution" published by the Commission on the Bicentennial of The United States Constitution.

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Dear Fellow Guardsmen:

The National Guard family is recognized as perhaps the single greatest contributor to the National Guard member's ability to train, mobilize and deploy in support of State and Federal missions. Based on this recognition that a partnership exists between the National Guard and its members' families, Family Assistance Programs are being established in each Louisiana Army National Guard Unit.

The purpose of the National Guard Family Program is to emphasize the importance of the family in relation to the Guard. The Guard is committed to a family program which will ensure maximum exposure of the role of the family, the nature of benefits and entitlements and provide a source of information for the family both in their current status and in the event of mobilization. The family has the need and right to know as much as possible about those things that affect family life; therefore, information and education are the foundation and framework of the Louisiana National Guard Family Program. A well-informed family is committed and supportive of the National Guard member, whereas the lack of information causes anxiety, conflict and discontent with the National Guard lifestyle.

The National Guard Family Program is one of the most effective avenues we have for developing a plan of action which will keep the family informed. Commanders at all levels must take the guidance provided and develop an effective and viable family program. A conscientious commander can turn this into an important morale building tool for his unit. Invariably, the extent to which we make families feel good about the National Guard and the more actively involved they are, the more effective the soldier is, which in turn bridges the gap between guard families and guard readiness.

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The Fighting Black Sheep: Co C, 2/156 INF

The Fighting Black Sheep By SP4 Sharon Dixon

During a weekend drill at any army, a National Guard unit is training hard to protect our future. In Houma, the "Fighting Black Sheep" also known as Company C, 2nd Battalion, 156th Mechanized Infantry are busy studying and training for their role as professional fighting men.

As a round out unit their mission is to engage in combat to defeat the enemy as the front line of the division. Their training objectives are based upon the 5th Division's Mission Essential Task List which includes maintaining a good safety record, equipment accountability, driver and leadership training, NBC tasks and community involvement, according to Acting OIC, 2LT Samuel Baley, a 24-year old engineering student at Nichols University.

"In 1986 we trained in the field constantly," he said, "but since the recession hit the local areas, budgetary restraints have limited funds available to transport troops to perform specialized training in the field, so we concentrate on training in garrison. Our enlisted members and officers alike care about this unit. Officers are staying in longer and this helps support the NCOs."

According to SGT Joseph Vanderpool, a full-time technician and supply sergeant, while field training is the ultimate goal, training at their home station is more difficult. "Training in garrison taxes NCOs to become more creative. We simulate the use of weapons with toy models, use scenarios in classroom instruction, and often give spot quizzes to ensure that platoon members know their jobs," he said.

SFC William Bartlett, a platoon sergeant and commander of a carrier team, instructed his platoon on breaching obstacles, a defense tactic in which a lead squad dismounts from a track vehicle to set up security with breaching kits, tools to sever constantine wire and enable them to remove and disarm land mines. Later Bartlett will spot-quiz soldiers with "chow-line questions". Questions answered incorrectly will cause that soldier to go to the end of the line. "I ask questions related to their tasks and 65% of my squad answers them correctly. Most of them are new to the unit, but they learn fast," he said.

In another classroom, SGT Franklin Martin instructs a platoon on putting a radio into operation. "Most people are afraid to get on the radio and talk, so we practice until everyone knows the proper procedures for opening and closing a NET," he said.

Another platoon sergeant, SFC Loren Richards, said he has seen the unit grow in the past five years into better quality troops. "This unit trains with interest and commitment in preparing for combat," he said.

According to Vanderpool, training in garrison offers Guardmembers more visibility to the public. "Communities get a chance to see what the National Guard does," he said. "People can drive by or stop in and visit and see soldiers performing drill and ceremony; performing vehicle maintenance and training maneuvers."

The unit also received a bronze plaque donated by the National Guard Association of Louisiana commemorating surviving members of the unit activated during World War II. The plaque is mounted in the armory along with other memorabilia honoring the unit's distinguished and varied history.

Among the valuable benefits available to Guardmembers, C company finds the tuition exemption benefit the most popular. One mechanic, PFC David Fuesting plans to attend Nicholls University using the tuition exemption. "The training is fun and good regimenta-

tion for college. I joined the unit to go to school, be with my battle buddies, and I even get free food and clothes," he said.

Radio telephone operator, PVI Kyle Domangue, a student at LSU studying architecture, also had his tuition paid by the National Guard. "I like the training, and working with the friends I've helped to join the Guard," he said.

Squad leader SSG Gary Ermatinger believes being a Guardmember helps him in his profession. To prove it he reenlisted for six years during unit formation.

SP4 Gregory Smith, a sniper, said he likes the "challenge of learning new skills," while studying education at Nicholls University with tuition paid assistance from the Guard.

SGT Craig Theriot, chief mechanic, admits when he first joined he just wanted to come to drill and have a good time. Now he says, "when we come to drill we prepare to fight as a team."

Whether training in the field or at home station, Company C, trains as a team to protect our future, and to remain the "Fighting Black Sheep" of the 156th Infantry.



SGT Gilbert Smith, motor pool sergeant for Company C, 1/156th Inf. (M) in Houma performs maintenance on an armored personnel carrier. (Photo by PFC David R. Johnson, 241st PAD)

CSM Program

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers

Enlisted soldiers who attain the distinction of being selected by the Department of the Army for participation in the Command Sergeants Major Program are the epitome of success in their chosen field in this profession of arms. There is no higher rank, except Sergeant Major of the Army, for enlisted soldiers, and there is no greater honor.

The following soldiers were nominated to participate in the Command Sergeant Major Program: SGM Robert H. Bott, Jr, 225th Engr Gp; SGM Kenneth R. Womack, 527th Engr Bn; SGM William B. Levie, 528th Engr Bn; SGM Danny M. Feibel, Troop Command; SGM Mabry Langlais, La. Military Academy; SGM Stanley Rogers, 199th Forward Support Battalion.

The nomination to Command Sergeant Major has to occur within two years of being assigned to a Command Sergeant Major position. Soldiers in this assignment are given two opportunities to be nominated for the program.

The RCCSM Selection Board selects the individual on the basis of those who are the best qualified personnel possessing the highest qualities of leadership, integrity, dedication and professionalism to fill CSM positions. This rank is assignable to any billet in the Army and awards a MOS of 00Z50.

The CSM carries out policies and standards of the performance, training, appearances and



conduct of enlisted personnel. The CSM advises and initiates recommendations to the Commander and Staff in matters pertaining to the local NCO Support Channel.

Perhaps slightly wiser and more experienced than the first sergeant, the command sergeant major is expected to function completely without supervision. Like the old sage of times past, the command sergeant majors counsel is expected to be calm, settled and unequivocally accurate, but with an energy and enthusiasm that never wanes, even in the worst of times.

Sleeve Insignia for Retired Personnel

Headquarters, Department of the Army has authorized a shoulder sleeve insignia for wear by retired Army personnel, including retired ARNG personnel, on the Army green uniform. Wear of the Army uniform by retired personnel is limited to occasions of ceremony.

This insignia is also authorized for use on civilian clothing such as jackets, sweat suits, and caps.

The US Army Retired shoulder sleeve insignia is red, white and blue. Retired personnel may purchase this insignia at post exchanges.



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BG R. J. Melancon, New Asst. AG for LA AIR GUARD

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers

Ralph J. Melancon, a regional supervisor for Production and Development in the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region, is also the Louisiana National Guard's newest general.

He was promoted to Brigadier General in Feb by Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., the Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard. His promotion and assignment to the Assistant Adjutant General, Air position is the culmination of 30 years of service to the Louisiana Air National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Melancon's career began as an F-86 D/L pilot with the U.S. Air Force. He joined the La. Air Guard in 1957 after his release from active duty, and served as a F-86 D/L fighter-interceptor pilot. He later served

as a flight commander in the F-102 aircraft until August 1967. He continued flying the T-33, F-102, and C-54 until January 1969. From November 1969 through July 1982 he served as flight commander of the 159th Civil Engineering Flight located in Belle Chasse, La. In June 1987 before his present assignment as the Assistant Adjutant General, Air he served as Director of Plans and Programs for the Air National Guard headquarters.

In his civilian career Melancon is responsible for all federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico. He also teaches two advanced courses in property and oil and gas law in the Evening Division to graduate petroleum engineers and geologists at Tulane University.

Melancon holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and a juris doctor's degree from Loyola University.



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214th EIS

“Jack Of All Trades”

By SP4 Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr.

“I’m kind of a jack-of-all trades,” said SGT Paul Schowalter, a ground radio technician at the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron. “On any given drill weekend I’m expected to be responsible for anything that sends a signal.” The 214th is an Air Guard installation located at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. The squadron consists of an electrical division, an engineering division, a wire section, a motor pool and the administrative offices.

Schowalter is just one of the “jacks” in the Electronics division. The primary job of this division is to install, repair, modify and calibrate air to ground, and ground to air communications equipment.

“Everything we do on the weekend is applied to work during the regular week days,” said Maj. Noel J. Ricord, OIC of Electronics for the 214th. “We also assemble and maintain the machinery used during the week; this not only helps to train our personnel, but it also assists the full-time employees with their job.” The specialized training of the electronics division has taken them to England, Germany and various places across the United States.

Aside from the electronics division there is also an Engineering Installation Department (EID) that works on engineering projects that the Air Force requests. Their run worldwide, from Canada to Korea to “Dew Line” which is the northern-most site near Antarctica. The EID has many duties going on simultaneously. One job in particular calls for setting up a high frequency radio installation at the NORAD Base in North Bay, Canada. They also have the responsibility of ordering project material and drafting prints of different assignments.

Although the engineers have a vital responsibility, the 214th also has a wire section which has the never ending task of laying the grounds of communication throughout the Air Guard. For example, the inside plant of the Wire Section installs and repairs equipment that is located on different Air Force bases; such as, Stromberg Carlson X-Y, which automatically connects one phone to another when a person dials the extension. “It’s kind of like a switchboard operator of today,” said MSG Tom Landa, NCOIC of the inside plant. “We also install and repair City Trucks, which are devices to decrease busy signals when trying to get an outside line.”

The personnel of the outside plant and wire splicers have a much different job. Their weekends are spent doing everything from laying cables underground to connecting cables on poles 40 feet in the air. They do all their own construction work on polelines and antennas. On weekends when there are no specific jobs to be done, the engineers of the 214th draw a standard installation practice technical order (SIPTOS).

“If we don’t have a specific job we can see the guys perform in a mock situation and evaluate them on it,” said SMSGT Darrel P. Omeallie, NCOIC of Cable Splicing.

The 214th’s motor pool keeps the outside plant progressing by maintaining the vehicles that are used by the personnel. There are about fifty machines which are special purpose vehicles.

The Administration department is the backbone of the installation. It holds all the other divisions in order and handles all pertinent information, keeping the 214th humming.

Air Guard to the Rescue



By A1C Suzanne Challot

The threat of overdue papers, exam makeups and missed days of university classes weighed heavy on the minds of many LAANG airmen deployed to Savannah, Georgia for the recent ORI. An early departure for these students was promised to ensure an expedient return to their educational pursuits.

C-131’s from the 117th TRW in Birmingham, Alabama; the 189th ARG out of Little Rock, Arkansas; the 125th FIG from

Jacksonville, Florida; the 169th TFG, McEntire, South Carolina, and our own 159th TFG from New Orleans, Louisiana rallied together in a strong show of camaraderie to transport approximately 140 airmen in a one day effort.

The responsiveness of the combined units and the capabilities of the C-131 enabled those individuals to return home so that they could attend their scheduled classes.

All the members of the LA ANG applauded the combined effort of the individual states for the C-131 redeployment from the ORI.

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COL Lynn Bergeron Retires

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO

"When I enlisted in the National Guard in December of 1950, it was more or less a family tradition since my great-grandfather had fought in the Civil War as a member of the militia from New Orleans, and my father and an uncle served in the National Guard on the Mexican Border and during WWI. I enlisted in HHB of the 935th Artillery, one of the Washington Artillery battalions. The Korean War seemed to be passing us by, so several of us requested a discharge from the Guard and enlisted in the Active Army in March of 1952. Interestingly, none of us ever got to Korea. I served the majority of my enlistment in Kaiserslautern, which was then being built up as the major logistic base in Germany." COL Lynn Bergeron reflects on his early military career. COL Bergeron devoted over 35 years to the Louisiana National Guard. The last eight years he served as the Director of Personnel and Administrations for the La. Army Guard before his retirement on 2 Feb 88.

He married in October 1954 after returning from Germany and remained inactive until September of 1955 when he enlisted in Battery A of the 935th. He received his commission in January of 1957 and served in various positions with the 935th, the 141st Field Artillery and HQ STARC throughout the years.

"I originally enlisted in the Guard two and a half years after it had been reorganized following WWII. Some of the remembrances I have of those days seem unbelievable when looked at in light of today's customs. I recall that in the 935th, there was an officers' entrance to the headquarters building and a separate one for the enlisted soldiers. For the first few years after I was commissioned, I did not own fatigues, since we went to drill in Class A's and to AT in Class B's. A great deal of emphasis was paid to, and one's career hinged on, the cleanliness of latrines, to include the polishing of brass pipes therein," COL Bergeron recalled.

In those days none of the soldiers attended Initial Entry Training so all of the training was received at the unit. Most of the time was spent on subjects such as elementary map reading, first aid and drill and ceremony.

"We only drilled one night a week, and only for two hours," he said.

"I suppose some of the most significant changes I have seen in the Guard during my service is the professionalism derived from bet-

ter training. Virtually none of my peers attended a resident OBC or Basic Course. Speaking of the Artillery, which I know best of the units, they are routinely doing things today that we only dreamed of. I don't think I'm doing my generation a disservice when I say we could not hold a candle to today's units.

COL Bergeron maintains an old fashioned attitude on women in the military, but acknowledges that the Guard is largely the success it is because of women's efforts.

"I would never agree to women in combat units, so I suppose I'm still the same male chauvinist I've always been. But I think they're doing a magnificent job out there," he said.

"I'm a firm believer in the Reserve's role in our national defense. There is no way the U.S. can afford the cost of replacing the Reserves with the number of active forces to do the job the Reserves are doing now. I certainly don't subscribe to the myth that Reserve units can consistently be up to par with their active counterparts. I know it sounds good to say and hear that, but it just ain't so. I firmly believe that dedicated Reserve units can come awfully close to the regular force — so close that in an emergency they can be expected to hold their own. I think we've shown that at the NTC, in Panama and in Iceland in the past few years. I also believe, as I've said many times, that our Reserve forces play a vital role in maintaining a balance of power between the Soviet Bloc forces and our own," he said.

COL Bergeron regards the Guard as fortunate to have MG Stroud as the Assistant Adjutant General for the past eight years.

"He is a dedicated professional and absolutely the best soldier with whom I have ever served. He puts it all on the line for the Guard. His recent re-appointment by Governor-elect Roemer clearly shows the regard in which he is held not only in Louisiana, but in the Nation as well. He just might be the most knowledgeable person in the world in the role of Reserve ground troops," he said.

Although COL Bergeron has retired from the Guard he has not retired from work. He is now affiliated with a national real estate firm and looks forward to a second career. Those of us who had the privilege and honor to have served with him or under him, and those of who may not have known him personally, but benefited from his leadership and experience in Personnel and Administration wish him success in his new career.



COL Lynn Bergeron receives the basic items needed for a new business "Lynn's Shines - \$1.00" at his retirement party held at Jackson Barracks during January. (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)

A SOLDIER'S PLDC JOURNAL

By SP4 Joseph J. Rivers III

Camp Shelby, Mississippi is the home of the Region III NGB NCO School, which I attended as a member of the first class of FY88. I arrived in Hattiesburg, Miss. on Oct. 2 and returned to Bossier City on Oct. 17. The two weeks I spent there were cold in the morning, hot at noon, nerve racking at times, but on the whole was the greatest learning experience of my military career to date.

Class 1-88 went through orientation presented by MSG James M. Stephens, Chief Instructor of the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC). "We will give you nothing. You will earn everything you get out of this course," was his main theme during the half hour speech. He also said that we were not going to be treated like children, but as the NCOs that we were supposed to be. From that moment on every person in the school from specialist four on up to master sergeant was called sergeant.

Then we were split into squads, about twelve men each. We spent the rest of the day setting up our squad living quarters and getting to know each other. It was interesting to talk with members from different units, and their personal likes and dislikes about them. Before the lights went out at 2300 hours nicknames like Madfly, McMuffin and Pelican Man had already been branded. We bonded together very quickly.

Sunday we woke up at 0500 hours and P.T., breakfast and details were done by 0800. This would be routine throughout the course, along with mandatory study hall from 1900 to 2100 hours. The classes ran all day until 1700 hours. They ranged from Leadership skills, to Counseling techniques, to Troop Command and Map Reading. Each squad had two instructors. They were skilled, articulate and knowledgeable on the subjects they covered.

We were given four tests, three written and one hands-on (land navigation). Each student had three chances to pass each test. If you didn't pass on the third time you were sent home.

During our mandatory study hall we tried to

get most of the people who had retests ready for them. Of course, not everyone made it.

At the end of the first week the academic portion of the course was over, but the instructors were quick to inform us that our schooling was not complete. The second week was what they called the attitude week. We were given many non-testable classes and inspections were performed. But the attitude test really started when we went to the field.

"...the attitude test really started when we went to the field."

Our first day in the field was all classes taught by us, the students. Each person had to give a class on a task from the common task manual, skill level one. The technique of class delivery was given a go or no-go grade.

The second and last day was combat operation. We were on the move all day long and into the night. We performed raids, ambushes and recon missions. The OPFOR for these exercises was provided by the Region III staff. It was a fantastic application of all the things we were taught in the first week. The squad leader was changed on every mission. It was a very tiring day, but at the same time, exciting.

The final day was left to clean-up and good-byes. On the whole the Region III NGB NCO school was staffed by professionals with a program of instruction that was definitely informative, original, and responsive to the student and his upcoming role as an NCO.



SP4 Joseph J. Rivers III, HHC, 527th Engr Bn Cbt Hv, graduated as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from Class 1-88, Region III, NGB Academy, PLDC, Cp. Shelby, Miss. (Photo by SSG Ronald P. Parnell, HHC, 527th Engr Bn)

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159TH MASH GOES TO PANAMA



By LTC Charles M. Hammons, Secretary of General Staff

Panama. This Central American country, known for the wondrous Panama Canal and more recently, as the site of political unrest, was the location of a two week training course for forty-six 159th MASH soldiers.

The training, conducted as an abbreviated Jungle Operations Training Course (JOTC), emphasized survival skills, team training, and basic common task soldier skills. Ft. Sherman, base camp for the course clearly stressed the dangers of jungle operations and accentuated the hands-on method of training.

The purpose of the training for the 159th MASH personnel, according to CPT Rieth, "was to do humanitarian work in Central America. With the extreme amounts of coordinations and changing political situations in the region, approvals and plans change quickly. The training we participated in was designed for units whose humanitarian mission, for whatever reason, fell through."

"One unit," CPT Rieth reported, "had their mission cancelled the night before they were ready to leave." The Jungle Operations Training Course provides an alternative training, which is quite frankly, the kind of training we really need before we depart for a humanitarian mission. We are the first unit to go through the JOTC training."

The highlights of the training were nearly always reported as the waterborne training and the obstacle course. The waterborne training included building a raft with a poncho and travelling through water nearly 70 feet deep. The obstacle course was generally acknowledged as the most trying and the most exciting. Called the "green hell monster" the obstacle covered 1 mile with 13 challenging obstacles.

Rieth said, "probably the most important benefit of the training was confidence. It is difficult not to feel different about yourself after you complete tasks that would normally be something you would never attempt." This training will be useful in the Louisiana National Guard if for no other reason than the self esteem and confidence it provided for the individual. Still, the course was to teach survivability. "I personally believe the course will help a great deal, especially if we participate in another humanitarian mission in that area," he said.

JOTC Travel Log

Day 1, Thursday. Weather is in the high 30's and raining. Miserable even by New Orleans standards. The flights from both New Orleans and Miami are late. Finally... arrival in Panama and in-country processing. Everyone called it an early night and hit the sack for 0400.

Day 2, Friday. We met our sponsors and were given a customs and medical briefing. The overall message of the briefing was that most things in Panama could bite, sting or eat you, but unfortunately, you weren't afforded the same privilege. The afternoon was spent drawing personal equipment, weapons, vehicles, and preparing for the tactical convoy the next day.

Day 3, Saturday. We cleared the area at Ft. Kohbe and got a first look at the jungle of Panama. In a state of high excitement, the tactical convoy pressed slowly ahead. Vehicles were staggered and immediate parameters of defense were set up. The convoy continued over the dense jungle through steep and curvy roads. At Mantigo Point on the Panama Canal, all troops and equipment were loaded onto LCMs, (Landing Craft Mechanized), and transported over water to Stergius Landing, just south of the Gatun Locks on the Atlantic Ocean. Overland, we proceeded to Ft. Sherman.

Day 4, Sunday. Big day of preparation for what still remains as the vast unknown. It is general belief that tomorrow will come too quickly.

Day 5, Monday. As had been earlier thought, the nights here are too short. Up again at 0400 and off for a swimming test. It was soon discovered that this swimming test wasn't your usual swimming test. Phase I called for swimming 50 meters and being able to function afterward. Phase II required full uniform, load bearing equipment (LBE) and a weapon. After entering the pool, all you had to do was swim 15 meters and then hand out weapon and LBE without touching the sides of the pool before exiting. They must have thought we were magicians! Phase III was nearly the same as Phase II with one startling difference: we went up on a high dive board and jumped off with a blindfold on. After a quick trip to Ft. Sherman for dry clothes and a meal, we were off for a class on Black Hawk capabilities. Besides learning how it is used in medical units, what its capabilities and limitations are, and what special equipment it carries, we were treated to a short hop on the impressive helicopter.

Later we took a tour of the post zoo, known as the "Environmental Department." We saw first hand what to beware of while training in Panama. All sorts of friendly snakes, bugs and vegetation were viewed. At least they were friendly at a distance.

Day 6, Tuesday. Waterborne operations. After an in-briefing by the waterborne team, we began with a swim test in a lagoon. Each member was paired with another and required to complete a feet first entry before swimming to a designated point. This was done in order



Sailing... the National Guard Way



Taking a morning stroll in Panama

to give the instructors some idea of the "waterability" of the class. Next there was a knot tying class. You learned quickly or suffered the consequences if you didn't follow instructions or successfully tie a knot. The next class was on building a poncho raft using some of the same knots previously learned. The entire class was attentive as we knew our LBE would be in the raft and the water was about 70 feet deep. All went well and no reports of survey for lost equipment was necessary.

Next we traversed a single rope bridge. By now the sun was setting low in the sky, but we weren't finished yet. Boats are next. Instructions for loading the Zodiac 5 boat included knowing weight, spots balance, and tie down procedures. We were taught the correct technique for deep water entry and exit, practical operations of manning, and preventive maintenance for our equipment.

Day 7, Wednesday. Today started with a class on the field expediency of a 292 antenna. Unlike Louisiana, this is a field location where you sometimes can't communicate because of lack of height of the antenna. We were given a general briefing on trouble shooting the PRC-77 and a detailed explanation on how and why a field expedient antenna works. The instructor used equipment that soldiers normally have and talked us through each step.

As we went on to the land navigation course, we were broken into teams and given a brief introduction using the maps. It was quickly determined that there are worse things than just a second lieutenant with a map. With a short sighting distance for the compass due to terrain and vegetation, map reading becomes most difficult. To make matters worse, it started raining, hard and fast with very little visibility. Despite everything, all the teams made it through. One important thing we learned was that map reading and land navigation need to be practiced regularly to maintain proficiency.

One gratifying part of the day was a visit from our Adjutant General, MG Stroud. More than one soldier commented on how impressed they were to see the AG there to observe them get a firsthand impression of such difficult training.

Day 8, Thursday. THE OBSTACLE COURSE. We had been hearing about the tough obstacle course — one of the toughest in the Army, and today we would have our chance at it. The sign at the entrance to the course read "Welcome to the Green Hell Monster." No truer words have ever been spoken.

The course, located on a tip of Ft. Sherman that juts out into the ocean and has cliffs that are almost vertical, has thirteen obstacles. There are 5 and 6 foot fences to negotiate, ropes that go down over cliffs, falling to the ocean below, a cargo net straight up a cliff,

and another going down. After this, a climb over a 35 foot barrier, a commando crawl across a rope in the trees, and a low crawl through thick mud and water. There is a short sprint to the finish line and on to an outdoor wash point to remove the top layer of mud. Anyone not in shape was taught a rather painful lesson on why the Army is so dogmatic about weight control and physical fitness.



The repelling tower was next. Each student was required to complete three normal repels and an Australian repel from a tower that stood 35 feet. Truthfully, it was probably the highest 35 feet most of us had ever seen. Courage and determination are two things that were challenged by every phase of the training here. The confidence that the accomplishment of the rigorous tasks provided had become evident in the class.

Today's training concluded prior to noon so that we could participate in an open house for "Caribbean Wives Day." At the request of the Post Commander, LTC Corson R. Hilton, we set up the intensive care ward of the MASH. As visitors were escorted to the display area, they were greeted and given an excellent overview of the operations of the MASH by CPT Rieth. The visitors were then guided through the ward to view the patients (some real, others using moulage kits to simulate types of injuries handled in such a hospital). Afterward, many were given the opportunity to ride in an ambulance.

Two of the female soldiers in the 159th MASH were asked to serve as demonstrators for the repelling class as it was presented to the wives. Having just learned about it themselves, they did well to represent the Louisiana National Guard.

Day 9, Friday. Anticipation at this time was at an all time high as we prepared to move our

base camp and spend the night in the jungle. Training up to this point was finally going to be put to the test, and our anxiety was quite noticeable. But first, one more class.

We learned about poncho tents. This was important to us as we were not anxious to have any intimate encounters with snakes, insects and the like. Slimy creatures, all of them. Surprisingly, the class was short, but exact and more importantly, we could use what we'd learned back home in the field since our climate was hot, and the pup tent is not as ideal for sleeping. After the class, we drew equipment and made our final plans for the move to the jungle.

We loaded the LCMs and started out on the first leg of the trip, moving around the Northern

tip of Ft. Sherman to where the Charges River flows into the Caribbean. After a tactical amphibious landing, we secured the area and began a tactical road march to the assembly area where we would meet a Mobile Training Team (MMT) from the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Department at Ft. Bragg. Classes taught by these soldiers will long be remembered by all participants. "How to Kill and Prepare Game" detailed humane ways of killing animals and the proper way to inspect and prepare them before cooking. It was obvious that some members of the group had never taken part in anything like this. Certainly, it was a vast difference from "making groceries Schwegmann style". When we arrived at our base camp, there was quite a bit to do before dark. Squads were detailed to different parts of the camp. Others were assigned for firewood/water details, game preparation, latrine duty, and as cooks. Everyone was invited to partake of the freshly killed and prepared meal. Some were heard to comment on how good their MREs were.

Day 10, Saturday. As the sun came up, we were busy with breaking camp, eating breakfast, and preparing MRE coffee. (Not bad, if that's all you have.) We organized our squads and readied ourselves for the road march to the LCM pickup point and a wet ride back to Ft. Sherman. After arriving at Ft. Sherman, it was clean up time for personnel and equipment. This went on late into the evening, but was made easier as events of the overnight trip were recounted.

Days 11-13. We returned to Ft. Kohbe and spent the next couple of days cleaning weapons and vehicles for turn in. We had about half a day of free time to rest before heading home.

This training was difficult and taxing, but exciting. The forty-six Louisiana National Guardsmen who participated can honestly convey what Gen. George S. Patton must have meant when he said: "Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory."



Testing for "waterability"

NGALA UPFRONT

By Roger A. Bacon, Sr.
President, NGALA



COL Roger Bacon

I don't have to remind you that FY 87 was a busy and demanding year. This year provides still more challenges and opportunities. The brigade NTC rotational units are still recovering. Our equipment continues to require extensive maintenance to be brought up to standard. Inventories are being completed and armories which were activated just before the rotation are being prepared so that training can begin in order to capitalize on the lessons learned and weaknesses identified during the rotation.

Our engineer units continue to assess requests for civilian action projects, while working in IDT status.

The challenge of organizing and training new, reorganized and consolidated units will place heavy demands on our resources, particularly time.

AT 88 has already begun for some units. Planning for AT will become increasingly demanding.

This year our units will train at twelve CONUS and two OCONUS sites for AT. The brigade trains at Ft. Polk. Camp Beauregard will be the primary AT site for the majority of our engineers, elements of the 204th, our Military Academy and several units on year-round training.

The 2223rd Engr Bn will assemble several subordinate Capstone units at Camp Beauregard. Engineer units will be on site during June and July, as well as at numerous sites working on CAP projects. One company each from the 527th and 769th Engr Bn will train for two weeks at Ft. Huachuca, AZ. In addition, a platoon from the 528th Engr Bn will train at Camp Robinson, AR.

AT 88 will also find our 39th and 239th MP Companies training at their mobilization sites, Ft. Bliss, TX, and Ft. Chaffee, AR.

One platoon of the 1086th Trans Company has performed AT 88 already, supporting the 159th TFG by moving equipment from Belle Chasse to Ft. Stewart, GA and back.

The 244th will have their first AT period as a unit at Camp Shelby and all TC units will participate in exercise STARBUST at Ft. Hood, TX.

Exercise DUSTY BULL at Ft. Hood, TX will include the 159th MASH, 812th MED DET and the 339th MED DET.

This year the 156th Army Band has again been invited to take over the mission of the Fifth U.S. Army Band at Ft. Sam Houston, TX.

And last, but certainly not least, for the third year we will consolidate the OCS Program for Phase III with the Texas Military Academy at Camp Swift, TX. Phase I consolidation for our new classes from Louisiana and Texas will be at Camp Swift, TX. OCS Class 28 graduates on 20 Aug.

This year the 204th is scheduled to participate in REFORGER in the Federal Republic of Germany for a three week AT period. Also, the 241st PAD and selected members of the 159th MASH will train in Panama.

AT support 88 plans will require that many units have individuals in additional AT support mandays in order to assist other units. Our TC Units will relocate unit equipment, as required, and possibly support exercise LONE IRONMAN at Fort Polk throughout the summer. Maintenance personnel will be required to assist units which require DS/GS security plan. This year there will also be numerous KPUP

opportunities and untold requirements for additional training.

Our ODT plan for FY88 is demanding and constantly changing. In addition to the ODT periods already mentioned, we currently have 28 cells scheduled which involve 95 soldiers at locations in Germany, the UK, and the BENELUX Countries for a total of 3,318 mandays.

The initial AFP (Annual Funds Program) for the FY 88 is \$2,989,226 under our required amount. The shortfall in the FY88 AFP affects us most severely in the school fund account — \$2,182,000. Other significant shortfalls are found in special training funds for exercise, training management, ITEP, IDT Support and CAPSTONE, which are total of \$691,846 less than required. Our OST funds are about \$215,000 short of our request and may affect attendance at conferences, inspections and those other events which normally use this account.

Considering the current budget shortfalls, we will have to do a better job of planning. I can't emphasize too strongly how important it is for you to make sure your needs are known to DOT long before the funds/mandays are required. This gives us time to get approvals and/or suggest alternative ways to accomplish the same training. We can do a better job of supporting you if you think ahead and coordinate early.

FY88 will also produce several organizational changes. On 1 December 1987 the 239th MP CO will be consolidated in Baton Rouge. DET 1, 239th will backfill the 935th Engr Det, which will be organized on that same date at Camp Beauregard.

1087th Trans Co implements a new MTOE on 15 August, which increases its strength by 81 and provides increases in authorized equipment. On this date, the 3671st Maint Co will also increase its strength by 90. In addition, the 209th Personnel Services Company, with a strength 51, will be activated in New Orleans on 1 September 1988. And, there is a good possibility we may pick up Co C of the 1/244th Avn Bn, besides the normal reorganizations which take place which affect numerous other units. I remind you of these activities for FY 88 to illustrate the ever-changing and increasingly demanding role of the Guard and the impact on all its members. The momentum picked up long ago and shows no sign of slowing down, so I urge you to do your part in preparing yourself and your unit for your mobilization and deployment missions.



"What do you mean, 'Have I any wool?' I'm a sheep! What the hell do you think?"

NGALA

This year we have made a concerted effort to educate all officers of the LANG on the benefits of membership in both the National Guard Association of Louisiana and the United States. Our efforts appear to have been successful, with the current membership at 95% and 94% respectively. A recap, by unit, is included with this article.

The most obvious benefit of membership in the associations is the pure weight of numbers. Our federal and state legislators understand the impact of associations such as ours and the enlisted associations. The associations are our voices on matters of importance to the Guard and reflect not only our votes, but those which we influence.

The past success of the associations, both nationally and in the state, have been outstanding, resulting in new and better equipment, increased training funds, new units, better training opportunities, improved personal benefits, tuition exemption and increased full time manning, to name a few. One would be truly naive to believe that these benefits would have been forthcoming without active lobbying by the associations. The Guard has achieved credibility as an equal partner in the total fore and we are being treated accordingly.

In order to continue to achieve success it is important for all of us to participate in membership drives. LTCs Earl Santos and Jimmy Hunt, our Vice Presidents, have done an outstanding job, with the help of the Executive Council Representatives, in achieving the high

percentage of membership. In addition, they have developed a concept for a colorful brochure which is now being printed for use in the future.

110th NGAUS Conference

This year's Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, 26-28 September 1988. The activities committee has planned a fun-filled series of activities, including some free time, for this year's Conference. San Antonio always provides good food and activities, and its central location makes it an ideal locale from which to continue on to other areas in the state or Mexico, to extend your trip. Fifty rooms and an ideally situated suite have been reserved for our delegates. Plan now to be in that number. A good time will be had by all.

Membership Data Bank

Our new Zenith Computer is on hand and operational. Thanks to the efforts of MAJ Bob Moore, his committee, and especially our treasurer, MAJ Daniel Falanga, we now have our fiscal records on the computer. We will be able to do more, faster and more accurately than ever before. The potential is virtually unlimited, and will include electronic registration, calculations of registrations, by unit, to assist in seating arrangements and production of mailing labels. Like any other information source, it demands accurate information. Send us your new addresses as soon as possible to insure you receive your mailouts.

	NGALA		NGAUS	
OFFICER STRENGTH	MEMBERS	PERCENT-AGE	MEMBERS	PERCENT-AGE
HQ STARC (-)	140	96	134	96
DET 1, STARC	21	17	17	81
DET 2, STARC	11	9	9	82
DET 3, STARC	13	100	13	100
241 PAD	3	3	3	100
159 MASH	64	47	47	73
399 MED DET	4	100	4	100
812 MED DET	18	17	17	94
DET 1, 256 BDE	7	6	6	86
DET 1, 225 GP	14	8	6	43
1/244 AVN BN	70	64	62	86
2222D MED CO	3	3	3	100
2224 ME DET	6	3	3	50
TOTAL TRP CMD	374	328	324	84
256 BDE SEP UNITS	52	52	51	98
199 FSB	54	54	54	100
1/141 FA	44	44	44	100
1/156 AR	40	40	40	100
2/156 IN	34	34	34	100
3/156 IN	36	36	36	100
TOTAL 256 BDE	260	260	259	99
HHC 225 EN GP (-)	24	24	24	100
205 EN BN	35	35	34	97
527 EN BN	42	42	39	93
528 EN BN	43	43	43	100
769 EN BN	36	36	34	97
TOTAL 225 EN GP	180	180	174	97
HHC, 204 ASG	38	38	38	100
165 TRANS BN	16	16	15	94
773 MAINT BN	38	38	38	100
2223 ENGR BN	21	20	19	90
TOTAL 204 ASG	113	112	110	96
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TOTAL ANG	128	122	121	95
STATE TOTAL	1055	1002	988	94

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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:

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- Pay for home improvements.
- Finance a vacation.

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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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IN BRIEF

Army Maintenance Management System School Grads



By CW3 Robert C. Whitehead

The week of Jan. 4-8, 88 marked the beginning of the first LAARNG DMT TAMMS Course. The first course graduated sixteen pupils, and was considered a big success. TAMMS is presently scheduled monthly through Oct. 1988. This first phase is geared and targeted toward our full-time Military Maintenance technician workforce. Future plans are to offer the course to all LAARNG maintenance personnel. Watch for future information.

The proponent of this school is the Directorate of Surface Maintenance, LAARNG, COL. Walter R. Weaver (Director) and CW3 Robert C. Whitehead (MAIT Course Manager).

The class honor graduate was MSG Augusta A. Bondy, of the 2223rd Engr Bn (Maint) in Baton Rouge.

Class #1-TAMMS School, First Row, Left to Right: COL. Walter R. Weaver, Director of Surface Maintenance; SSG Daniel Passman, OMS #17; SFC Clayton L. McCann, CSMS; SP4 Joseph J. Lacoste, OMS #13; SGT Elton K. Thornton, OMS #13; SFC Shields P. Hefner, OMS #2; SGT Carrol E. Domingue, OMS #10; SFC Cleven L. Bass, OMS #3; SSG Greg Sobota, OMS 9; CW3 Robert Whitehead, MAIT Manager (DMT). **Second Row, Left to Right:** SFC Marvin R. Guillot, OMS #5; SSG William P. Bone, II, MATES; SFC James C. Schmidt, UTES #2; SP4 Charles A. Nichols, NGB Academy; SSG James L. Foster, OMS #4; MSG Augusta A. Bondy, Jr., OMS #8; SSG Paton D. Parks, UTES #1; SFC Alean Pipes, OMS #6.

528th Engineers Medical Section NCO Visit Japan

By CPT Richard G. Bryan

SSG James Moore of the 528th Engr Bn's Medical Section, recently returned from a brief tour in Japan. SSG Moore was selected for a KPUP (Key Personnel Upgrade Program) tour, for medical personnel at Camp ZAMA, Japan. SSG Moore and six medical personnel of other states participated in the tour from 12 Sep to 3 Oct 87.

The purpose of KPUP is to provide qualified guardsmen/reservists with valuable training experience through shared duties with active component counterparts. According to SSG he did just that. While in Japan, he was assigned to the 9th Army MEDDAC emergency room

as a physician's assistant. His duties included assisting with emergency treatment of patients, minor surgery, and even an autopsy. SSG Moore said the average duty day was rather hectic, but certainly gave him a deep appreciation for emergency room medical personnel. He also recommends that all guardsmen take advantage of available KPUP tours.

In addition to the hardwork, the first weekend of his stay consisted of a 2-day trip to Kyoto, sponsored by Camp Zama. There SSG Moore climbed Mount Takao, ate poisonous Blow Fish, and visited many other beautiful sites.

528th Engineers Honor World War II Veterans

By CPT Richard G. Bryan

Three units of the 204th Coast Artillery (AA) were honored in Monroe in December during the 528th Engr's National Guard Day celebration. The units were the Medical Department, 204th CA (AA); Headquarters, 2nd Bn, 204th CA (AA); and Battery "6", 2nd Bn, 204th CA (AA). These units are among the many being honored as a result of MG Stroud's program to recognize many La. Guard units activated for service in World War II.

A ceremony was conducted to honor the units, and included a twenty-one gun salute, playing of TAPS, and the unveiling of a memorial plaque donated by the NGALA Insurance Trust. Several surviving members of the 204th CA (AA) and their families were in attendance. Among them were Mrs. George Trousedale, widow of the late MG George Trousedale, and the guest speaker, COL (R) John F. Reagan. The entire program was a tremendous success.



The AASF #1 team places 5th in the 1987 YMCA Corporate Cup Run in New Orleans in December. From left to right: CW4 Thomas J. Minerva, SGT Melody Roig, CW3 Jack Ford, SGT Robert Brocato. (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)

AASF Places 5th in Corporate Cup Run

By CW4 Thomas J. Minerva

The Army Aviation Support Facility #1 located at the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans competed in the YMCA Corporate Cup 5k Run in December.

Team members, CW4 Thomas J. Minerva, CW3 Jack Ford, SGT Melody Roig and SGT Robert Brocato placed 5th out of 551 teams in

Division One.

There were 9,232 runners who participated in this event. A post run party took place in the Superdome.

This year marks the first time that La. Guard employees entered the Corporate Cup Run. The Flight Facility hopes to place in the top three in this December's race.

LTC May Top Graduate

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO

LTC Louis May, HQ STARC recently graduated with top honors from the Defense Cost and Price Analysis Course held 1-12 Feb in Pensacola, Florida.

With a grade point average of 98 he edged out 24 other students to be the number one graduate. In fact, approximately 15% of the class did not pass the course.

"It was a pretty demanding course," he said. "The curriculum required not only eight hours of classroom work, but an additional two to four hours daily of preparation."

The course was mandatory for his position as Supervisory Contract Specialist for the La. Army National Guard.

"We were taught how to do a detailed analysis of contractor proposal and figures to ensure that the best interests of the government are being served," he said. "We make sure the figures aren't inflated."

The course, conducted under the auspices of the Navy Acquisition Management Training Office (NAMTO) dealt with cost estimating, projection technique, and factors affecting profits and fees.

Like Father, Like Son

By SP4 Benjamin Henry

Every father's dream is to have a son he can be proud of. PFC James DeAngelis is that son. DeAngelis recently attended AIT to train to be a cannon fire director specialist, and he graduated as a distinguished honor graduate.

His father and recruiter, SFC Harold DeAngelis said, "I am first proud of my son because he is a soldier, and also because he graduated with honors."

PFC DeAngelis said, "It was a goal of mine, to graduate with honors. I knew I could do it;

but I also knew the competition would be tough."

He graduated with a 99.72.

"The map reading was the most difficult test. I received my lowest score on that test which was a 98. The rest of my test scores were 100s," he said.

The DeAngelis' moved from New York a year ago when James DeAngelis graduated from high school. He is presently attending Delgado where he is studying Criminal Justice.

AIDS Test



SP4 Stanley Hall of HQ, 527th Engr Bn was one of 236 guardsmen who were tested for HTLV-III at Cp. Beauregard in January on the state-wide make-up day. Approximately 400 or more guardsmen are expected to be tested on the 20 and 21st of February in the communities of Leesville, DeRidder, DeQuincy and Oakdale, severe weather caused the rescheduling of the tests in these communities. (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)

Safety Sez

By LTC Earl P. Santos

I would like to introduce myself as the new State Safety Officer for the Louisiana Army National Guard. It would be difficult to travel to each location and meet each of you personally.

For your information, I have had many staff and command positions in the LAARNG. As the Adjutant General's Administrative Officer, I had responsibilities in both vehicle and personal accidents. Between 1967 and 1973, I was also designated as the State Safety Officer and initiated the first State Safety Program. In Nov 1973, I was appointed as the full time administrative officer for the 204th Area Support Group. During the six years I spent with the 204 ASG, I gained a lot of knowledge and experience regarding safety in both ground and aviation units. The protection of people and the safeguarding of equipment has always been of foremost importance. I believe in the basic premise that safety is an indispensable and fundamental responsibility of commanders and supervisors that deserves sincere and prompt support of staff officers from this, or any other organization.

In the short time I have spent as the State Safety Officer, I have reaffirmed a fundamental truth about safety. Safety works when civilian and military safety professionals work together with commanders as a unified team. Safety must be the heart of our combined efforts, protecting our soldiers, civilians, equipment, and installations from tragic and preventable mishaps.

I take my new duties very seriously. To do the best job for you, I need your help. You, in the field, know best where the Louisiana Army National Guard Safety needs are. As "resident experts" I need your ideas on how we can mutually support each other, what your needs are, and your ideas on how your safety needs can best be met.

Safety is an integral part of the Army readiness formula. We need to ensure that Louisiana stays strong and ready during these challenging times. I consider it a privilege to join you in the accomplishment of that mission and welcome and encourage your assistance in meeting the "Safety Mission". Autovon 485-8315 LINC 633-1315, and Commercial (504)278-6315

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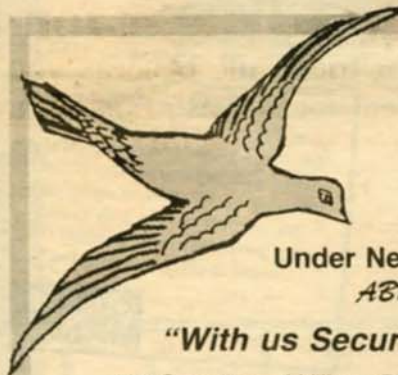


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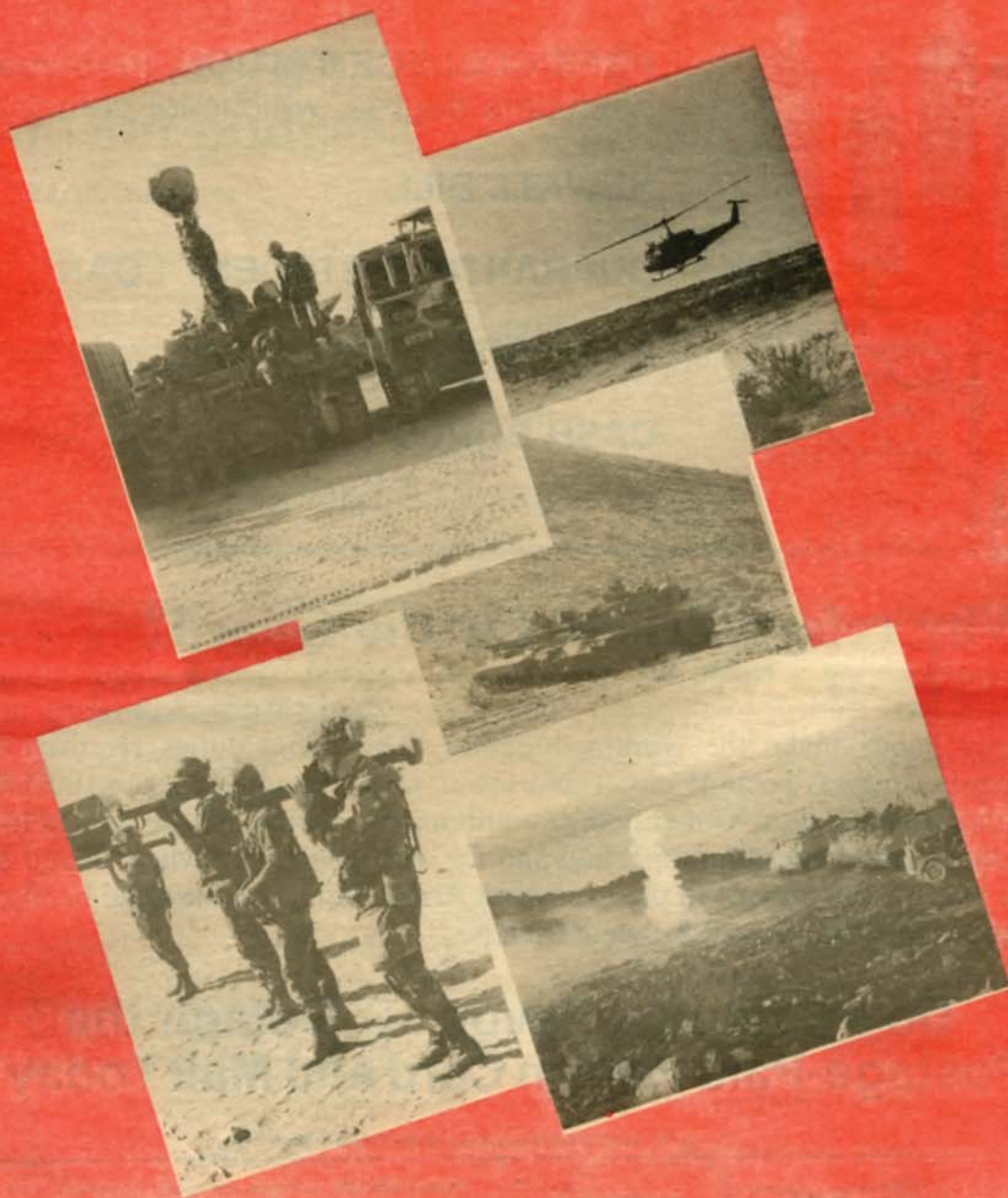
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