

MAY 1984

# Louisiana Guard

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3

MAY 1988



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FRONT COVER: The 2223d Engr Bn Trains in the Field at Cp. Avondale (Photo by PFC Todd Merry, 241st PAD)

## NATIONAL GUARD OCS

Wash D.C. — A specially designed Officer Candidate School (OCS) class for National Guard personnel who want to become officers will be conducted this summer at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga.

The ten-week National Guard OCS is open to anyone wanting to become an officer, including women. It has been constructed to provide a commissioning source for individuals who may not be able to participate or travel to State OCS or ARNG ROTC programs.

This first class can accept 178 applicants from the National Guard, but will also include about 30 Army Reservists. The impetus for the class was a number of requests from adjutants general who wanted to provide an alternative commissioning opportunity for Guard members in their states.

The starting date for the new class is June 12, but participants must report to Ft. Benning June 8th. In addition, prior to attending, applicants must attend one weekend orientation course at their state military academy. Graduation from the NGB OCS is scheduled for August 19th.

The class is a condensed version of the 14-week Basic OCS course which, while phys-

ically demanding, is also rewarding. Following an orientation the first day, the NG OCS class will rapidly move into physical training programs, leadership development and other training to include field leadership courses, land navigation, weapons instruction, tactical leadership, patrolling, and 1 and 15 mile road marches.

The physical demands of the course underscore the need to be physically fit before reporting for the class.

Graduates of the course will be commissioned at Ft. Benning if their state has an officer vacancy upon their return or within months afterward, and if they have a security clearance.

Individuals interested in applying should contact their State Military Academy or State Personnel Officer for more information. Or, you may contact the ARNG Education Officer, LTC Gustav Franke at (301) 671-8159 or Autovon 584-8159.

Deadline for applications, including a complete physical, if necessary, is April 25 for the physical, and May 6 for the completed OCS application packet. If successful, there are plans for future courses as well.

## College Credit for PEC Courses

By CPT William C. Ratcliff

Until recently, very few courses that were taken by Guardsmen at the Professional Education Center (PEC) at Cp. Robinson, Ark, had been evaluated for recommended comparable college credit. Presently, Vincennes University of Indiana is offering a program to help Guardsmen capitalize on their military courses through college credit awards.

Beginning in Feb 1988, guard members have the option of enrolling in a military effective writing course designed to help them gain a better understanding and working knowledge of the new army regulation AR 340-15, Preparing and Managing Correspondence, and DA Pamphlet 600-67. As part of this class, for which one college credit will be awarded, each participant has the opportunity to have his or her formal military training evaluated for additional credit. Only those enrolled in this class, however, will receive this benefit.

This program is available at no cost to guard members who qualify for tuition assistance. For those who do not qualify, a partial tuition of \$42.50 is assessed. Vincennes University provides a scholarship for the balance.

This program is particularly attractive to full-

time Guardsmen for two reasons:

Almost all full-time guard members are required to attend and complete PEC courses as part of the career requirements.

Nearly all full-time Guardsmen are eligible for tuition assistance which makes this program either affordable or free.

Vincennes University enjoys the proper accreditation for two-year colleges. One of the advantages of this program is that college credit can be awarded for all formal (resident) military schools, not just PEC courses completed.

The required effective writing course that qualifies those interested in participating in this program does more than just teach students the principles of the Army's new writing program. This course gets students involved and excited about writing as they learn ways to make it easier. "Mind mapping" and "editing tools" are two of the methods taught that help to both write and read more effectively. The principles and tools learned in this course will build confidence in writing which is the key ingredient to good writing skills.

If you are scheduled for an upcoming PE course, contact me at (504) 278-6355 to get yourself enrolled in the Vincennes University Effective Course.



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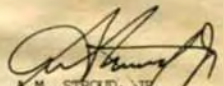
Dear Fellow Guardsmen:

As Annual Training periods begin, it becomes paramount to reemphasize the safety and accident prevention procedures at all levels of command. Based on reports received at the U.S. Army Safety Center, the National Guard and Reserve annual training periods during FY 87 were the safest in the last three years with a 24-percent drop in total accidents.

During AT 88, units of the Louisiana National Guard will be tested and evaluated on their degree of readiness in an environment, unlike those with which they are familiar. Commanders and staff should consider safety when developing AT plans and exercise scenarios. Flight, platoon section and squad leaders, be aware of the safety requirements and take immediate action to correct unsafe acts and conditions when they exist. Airmen and soliders, be aware of your contributions to the safety effort, because in the final analysis, you become the primary accident preventor.

The safety goal for AT 88 is to reduce accidents to that ever elusive zero level. This can be accomplished through constant vigilance, and the professional application of basic safety and accident prevention measures. The AT period must provide the opportunity to perform unit wartime missions in a sustained, realistic and safe fashion. A totally integrated program includes OPSEC, SIGSEC, and NBC operations. AT provides the opportunity to test SOPs and people, uncover weaknesses and make corrections.

Lets make the At 88 training period the most productive ever in the safest environment possible. I look forward to the AT periods, and hope to visit most of you at your training sites.

  
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# 2nd Bn 156th Inf Tames The Dragon

By Bernard Chaillot  
2nd Bn 156th Inf PIO

As the sun came up members of the Improved Tow Vehicle team were already at their tasks in the woods bordering the Acadiana Regional Airport near New Iberia.

These soldiers from the 2/156th from New Iberia, Houma, Thibodaux, Breaux Bridge, Ville Platte, and elsewhere had all gathered together to practice their skills on the new TOW-2 and Dragon missile systems.

Assigned as special staff officer to conduct training in preparation for this summer AT, 2LT Douglas J. Mouton from A Company (Breaux Bridge Armory) led a platoon in centralized Dragon training.

"Second battalion has gathered all of its Dragon and TOW personnel together here this weekend from all line units," Mouton said. "We have people from four companies here and train collectively to be ready for qualifications this summer. We want to maximize their potential so that they can do well when qualifying," he added.

Here and there in the thickly overgrown vegetation can be seen the muzzle of a TOW system pointed toward the target 1,000 meters downrange.

1LT James Alexander instructs a crew swarming over the M-70 track on which the TOW system is mounted.

"We're using an infra-red target today one klick (1 kilometer) downrange, which is 1,000 meters," said Alexander. "The new TOW-2 system we're using today has advanced electronic gear which does a lot of the things we used to have to do manually. It's all digital as opposed to the turn-dial system we had before. It leaves less for the gunner and crew to worry about. They can concentrate on the target."

SP4 Kirk Foret of Raceland, a TOW gunner with Houma's C Company of the 2/156th Inf Bn agreed. "It's a much improved system over the TOW-1, more high-tech improvements that we know will increase our accuracy and effectiveness at qualification," said Foret, a criminal justice major at Nicholls State University.

A government student at Nicholls, gunner PFC Othello Carter agreed. "It's a tank-killer extraordinaire," he said.

SP4 Selman Blake, also of Houma's C Company is an art major and musician at Nicholls who joined for the college money and camaraderie.

"I've got a lot of good buddies in the Guard and have made more since I've arrived. They're really a bunch of squared-away individuals," said Blake.

Section SGT Greg Smith talked about the improved night sight, computerized guidance system, and extended range of the TOW-2. "It wasn't computerized before. There were a lot of adjustments to be made manually that are now done for us," said Smith. "The maximum range on these babies is 3,700 meters. That's a long way off. What this is, is a tubular-launched, optical track wire-guided missile. We've got just one sight now - the infra red - that's good for day or night. It's got a backblast of 65 meters, but with the flame that jumps out you try not to have anyone within 100

meters."

"You track with the target even if you lose sight of it. Just stay on your last sighted coordinates and fire. It's very accurate and deadly," added Smith.

Smith said the TOW carries an average four man crew - a driver, gunner, loader, and squad leader.

The men of the ITV section will not go back to a warm house tonight, but will spend the night in the field and go back to the armory in the morning to clean weapons and equipment before departing, putting in well over 24 hours of training.

The temperature is hovering in the mid-30s with the brisk north wind dropping the chill factor perilously close to the teens. In the woods, sighting a Dragon in on the infra-red target is SP4 Harold Johnson of Detachment 1, B Company in Crowley, being assisted by SP4 Norwood Hollier, also of Crowley, and PV1 Rodd Richoux of A Company, in Breaux Bridge.

"The Dragon has a maximum range of 1,500 meters, 1,000 meters effective range," said Mouton, who supervised the groupings of soldiers, each armed with a wicked-looking Dragon.

Soldiers in MILES gear (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) stand in the bitter winds of an open field to test the operational effectiveness of their target practice. "It's an anti-tank and light-to-medium anti-armor weapon," said Mouton. "It's got a high first-shot kill ratio. At 1,000 meters it is 100% effective against personnel, 98% against APCs (armored personnel carriers) and 76% against a tank."

SGT Dennis Richard manned a Dragon monitor, a sort of suitcase packed with sophisticated electronic gear. "I can tell how well the gunner is tracking on his target and grade his effectiveness," said Richard.

"The Dragon is a line-of-sight guided missile," noted Mouton. "If you can see it you can kill it. This light weapon can penetrate 18 inches of steel." Mouton then noted what the Dragon does best. "The primary importance of the Dragon is that it gives the squad an anti-tank capability. The dismounted unit's effectiveness is greatly enhanced. It is very difficult for a tank crew to see dismounted infantry, and once they see the puff of smoke, it's too late; we got 'em," Mouton said.

As night fell, infantrymen from New Iberia marched through the mud and prepared for a night in the sub-freezing woods. As they prepared after midnight to return to the armory and begin hours of weapons and equipment cleaning and turn in, snow began to fall. A true rarity in South West Louisiana, the snowfall acted like a tonic on the men, who had been up more than 20 hours training already.

Drifts began to accumulate on the south side of equipment and trees in the woods, as the freak storm came up from the Gulf and pelted the Guardsmen with fast-falling flakes.

SP4 Price Redmond squatted over a cup of hot-chocolate and wrapped a white scarf around his neck. "This ain't regulation, but in this weather, it could be camouflage!" he said.



2LT Douglas J. Mouton of Alpha Company (Breaux Bridge) setting up a dragon. (256th Bde PIO Photo)

**"once they see the puff of smoke it's too late"**



SP4 Selman Blake stands beside a TOW 2. (256th BDE PIO Photo)



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## 159th CES

# Change of Command

By SRA Suzanne Chaillot

LTC Donald E. Nieser stepped aside recently as commander of the 159th Civil Engineering Squadron, La Air Guard. Nieser began his career in 1953 as an airman basic working in aircraft mechanics with the Utah National Guard. Before joining the La ANG he worked with the Ohio ANG where he received a direct commission as an aircraft maintenance officer in 1966. He has also worked with the Texas ANG and the Missouri ANG.

In 1974 employment with Bell Aerospace-Textron Corp brought Nieser to New Orleans, where he became the field maintenance officer on the F-100 aircraft for the 159th Tac Ftr Gp. In 1977 he became the Logistics Plans and Programs Officer for the conversion from the F-100 to the F-4C aircraft. In 1978 he moved

to Oklahoma.

He was promoted to LTC in 1983 and assumed command of the 159th CES. He has been commuting from Oklahoma City, OK since 1978 either flying his own aircraft or taking commercial flights. Nieser plans to continue his career with the Air Force Reserve at Tinker Air Force Base with the Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program (IMA). He also plans to continue his work as a civilian employee at Tinker as a Supervisory Aircraft Engineer.

LTC Mike Oliver who has been with the Civil Engr Squad since Sep 1984 assumed control as the commander of the 159th CES at a ceremony held in Jan. Oliver is encouraged by the challenges and opportunities of his new position. Good luck to both men in their career moves.



LTC Jimmy Hunt; LTC Michael M. Oliver, newly appointed commander of the 159th CES, and retiring commander of the 159th CES, LTC Donald E. Nieser during the change of command ceremony. (LAANG Photo)

## Schultz Rides His Way to Weight Control

By SRA Suzanne Chaillot

With the majority of people fighting the weight control war it is encouraging to hear about the success of one individual. MSGT Howard Schultz, of the 159th Civil Engineering Squadron has discovered that riding his bike is the way for him to maintain a desirable weight while enjoying it in the process.

Schultz's motivation to lose weight began in Aug 84. He realized by increasing his speed to 16 mph his weight really started to fall off. In Sep 85 he began cycling to work everyday, a 28 mile round-trip from his home to his office in the central business district of New Orleans. He states he can make it to work in about forty minutes by bike in contrast to an hour commute by car. The combination of exercise and commuting helps to rid the stress of traffic plus adds the benefits of a workout.

Schultz also pedals out to drill on occasion. "I have to make the ferry by 5:45 a.m., so I have to leave my house between 4:30 and 4:45 a.m.," he explains. To cover the distance it takes him about one hour and forty minutes, not including ferry time.

Over fifteen thousand miles have been logged on Schultz's all terrain bicycle. He believes New Orleans lends itself to biking due to the level roads, but the traffic and drivers have to be watched closely.

"Weight loss should come from self motivation, not from mandatory weight control programs or pressure from your supervisor," stresses Schultz. "By getting in shape and losing weight you reward yourself with far more than a stripe or promotion. It helps in personal relationships, and it gets the point across to people about weight loss."

MSGT Schultz's perseverance and motivation has certainly paid off for him. Since he began his exercise regimen he had dropped his weight from 210 to 165. He says, "It has done wonders for my self-esteem and attitude. It is very important that you do it for yourself."

Some helpful hints that really work for him are, try to exercise before a large meal, burn more calories than you take in, don't cheat yourself, know your daily intake of calories, become familiar with how many calories certain activities burn and check with organizations such as the YMCA that offer low cost exercise programs. Most important: self motivation is the key to success.

His success is a visible testimony that his motivation and determination are the secrets to his accomplishments.



MSGT Howard Schulz, 159th Civ Engr Squad has maintained a desirable weight by riding his bicycle to work and drill. Since he began in Aug 84 he has dropped 45 pounds. (Photo by MSG Ken Barlowe)

## MSG Wigstrom and wife prevent suicide on GNO Bridge

By SRA Suzanne Chaillot

As MSG Bill Wigstrom of the 159th Civil Engineering Squadron, Air Guard and his wife Cynthia both emergency medical technicians, headed their ambulance toward the Greater New Orleans Bridge, little did they realize they would soon be called into action.

The traffic was unusually slow and sometimes stopped, something quite strange for a Saturday evening at 6:30. When they finally reached the bridge they noticed a lady on the outer beam, which is ten feet below the main structure, threatening to jump.

Bridge police asked the Wigstroms if they had a harness in their ambulance. The Missis-

sippi River Bridge Authority no longer has an emergency unit and was in need of the equipment used in rescue operations.

For the Wigstroms, who are sometimes involved in life and death situations, work was about to begin. A local security guard had followed the women in an attempt to stop her. After failing to convince her to come back to safety, Cynthia Wigstrom went down to speak to the woman.

Cynthia talked and calmed her down while Bill lowered himself with a repelling harness and secured her and himself with the harness. They brought her to safety. MSG Wigstrom and his wife are credited with saving her life.



LTC Donald E. Nieser, left, with MSG Bill Wigstrom of the 159th Civil Engr Squad (LAANG Photo)

## Biting the Bullet

By TSGT Elaine T. Comeaux

Last year ended uneventfully with no clear-cut marksmanship program due to lack of interest and participation. But through the dedication of some of the older members the program has undergone an overhaul. The new year brought in a newly selected Marksmanship Coordinator, MAJ D. Rhodes, lots of plans for the coming year and three new teams. A great improvement over the previous year which yielded only a beginning M-16 team effort.

Membership personnel, however, are not easily discouraged. The team leaders set optimistic goals for the future. There was no doubt their work was cut out for them.

Their immediate goal was to have two combat teams (M-16 rifle and .45 pistol) trained and ready for the State Adjutant General's Match in February, with a third team (M-60 Machine Gun) ready for March.

Already familiar with the rules for an M-16 combat team they had no problem recruiting lots of interested prospects for training. Prior to recruiting, TSGT "Brother" Larrieu was nominated as M-16 team captain, because of his vast experience with marksmanship training.

Addressing a combat .45 pistol team was a little more difficult since no current members had ever participated. SSGT Elaine Comeaux undertook the task of organizing this team. Her first project was to locate the special rack .45s required for this competition. These weapons have non-adjustable sights so that all competitors are participating under similar handicaps.

Once the weapons were located, attention was directed toward training people for competition. Match rules and weapons manuals had to be procured, but still no one with practical experience in combat .45 was available.

Luck was on our side when MSG Michael Sells, a newly recruited shooter on the M-16 team, was found to have had quite a lot of experience with the .45 pistol from his tour in the Navy. He was more than happy to share his knowledge and experience with us. The obvious choice, MSG Sells was selected team coach for the .45 pistol team.

This much established, members headed for the range for hours and hours of practice. Shooting is fun, but it is also a lot of work. Members sometimes put in 16-18 consecutive hours at monthly practice sessions in addition to weekly practice sessions with the .45 which are as long or short as the individual requires. You can't fool anybody in this business. Benefits of practice are evident at each competition. Our guys had put in a lot of time, effort, and hard work, and it was starting to pay off. Armed with 21 dedicated shooters, they headed for Cp. Beauregard for the State Team and Individual Matches to compete against others in the state for the number one position.

The 159 Tac Ftr Gp teams captured both first place combat M-16 and first place combat .45 team awards. CPT Albert Ohliger won first individual rifle, A1C James K. Guidry took a second place, and SGT Duy V. Heathcoat won coach won third.

Individual .45 pistol shooters were first place SGT Heathcoat, second place MSGT Walter Ledbetter, and third place A1C Guidry.

Winning the prestigious Governor's Twenty Award were seventeen people from the 159th. This award is given to the top competitors in the state, and is authorized to be worn on the individual's uniform.

The month of March had already been quite hectic with Composite rifle and pistol tryouts for the state teams. There is little doubt that we will win a spot for the M-60 team.

But our main goal is to have a marksmanship program of which the unit can be proud. With hard work and determination we will do it.



Left to right standing: AB Herbert G. Scharwath, SGT Duy V. Heathcoat, MSG Kenneth G. Minvielle, MSG Walter I. Ledbetter, Jr., TSGT Casmeur P. Larrieu, SSG Elaine T. Comeaux, SRA Gloria L. Moore, A1C Darren L. Toups. Left to right kneeling: A1C James K. Guidry, SSG Oscar C. Lewallen, SSG Joseph W. Sells, CPT Albert A. Ohliger, SSG Michael J. Linsley, AB Dwayne M. Louls. missing: A1C Kraig E. Mose, 1LT Curtic H. Hughes, SSG Randy H. Robinson, SGT Floyd Miles, Jr., MSG Phillip Martinez. (LAANG Photo)

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# 225th Engr Gp News Briefs...

## Inclement Weather - No Problem By ILT Gary Hammett

The Feb MUTA 4 was to be a field exercise with emphasis on NBC training for the 527th Engr Bn (Cbt Hvy) and its subordinate element. Unfortunately, Mother Nature would not cooperate with the battalion.

During the day of 4 Feb the north Louisiana area received an inch to two inches of snow and ice. The battalion faced a dilemma: continue to the field, cancel drill, or conduct drill at unit armories, road conditions permitting.

On Friday, 5 Feb, no further ice or snow had fallen, and the roads, while still passable, were treacherous. LTC Bennie Landreneau, called on his staff for a recommendation as to what actions the battalion should take. The end result was each unit would conduct the FTX in a MOUT environment at home station.

Units were notified of the decision, and plans to exercise a MOUT occupation of unit armories was begun. Units were directed to implement the security measures necessary to secure their armories in accordance with their

mobilization plans. Messages previously prepared for NBC problems to the battalion were changed to reflect a MOUT situation, and were distributed to the units.

On Saturday, 6 Feb, as the troops arrived at their armories, security was set up, buildings were hardened, and training began on NBC situations. Each unit was assigned a Bn Staff Officer to monitor unit training and conduct evaluations of the integrated NBC Operations. Operations were conducted on a 24 hour basis according to established unit SOPs. Personnel rotation shifts were established by the unit commanders.

In addition to the training conducted in NBC operations, staff and unit planning was stressed, as were quartering party training, maintenance operations, mess operations, and logistics functions. All activities were conducted in appropriate MOPP equipment. During the weekend the MOPP levels were upgraded and downgraded to simulate situations that could develop in MOUT environments. The MOUT conducted its operations until noon on 7 Feb.

## Carter Wins Scholarship



Cadet Rawlin Carter, left, receives the scholarship from the SLU Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. (Southeastern Photo)

## By MAJ Jerome F. Cady Professor of Military Science

For the second consecutive year, an Army ROTC cadet at Southeastern Louisiana University was the winner of the Louisiana Chapter of the Reserve Officers' Association Scholarship. This year's winner, Cadet Rawlin W. Carter, from Angie, La. Carter is a junior at SLU majoring in Liberal Arts Studies in the College of Humanities.

Carter is participating in Army ROTC, through the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). Through this program, a cadet can be a member of the Army National Guard or Army Reserve and simultaneously pursue an officer's commission through the ROTC program. Cadet Carter holds the rank of Sergeant and is assigned to Co B, 205th Engr Bn.



SFC Jerald Sanders, right, HHC, 527th Engr Bn supervises PMCS accomplished by SGT Sarah Edgell, left, HHC, 527th Engr Bn.

## Local Guardsman Completes Sergeant Major Academy

By CW2 Louis L. Joseph

MSG Jewell White of the 205th Engineer Battalion completed the U. S. Army Sergeant Major Academy at Ft. Bliss located in El Paso, TX. MSG White was one of eleven National Guardsmen to attend the school and the only selectee from Louisiana. The other 241 students consisted of the active components to include all branches of the military. The school's curriculum consists of leadership, world affairs, resource management and physical training. Seven to nine weeks were spent on each subject, except for physical training, which was done daily.

In order to qualify for the academy, one must be of high moral standards, and in the grade of E-8. SGM is the highest rank one can attain in the non-commissioned officer corps. When asked if there were any lasting impressions as a result of the school, his reply was, "It really showed me how vital communication and teamwork are to the military on a daily basis." He also expounded on the contact and friendship one makes while attending a resident school.

MSG White felt that having his wife, Denise, with him was a distinct advantage, in that the school lasted for six months. It also helped him to cope with the seven written exams, three graded briefings, and the four PT tests. White placed in the top 20% of his class.

## Engineers of the 225th Excel During ODT Cell Mission in the U.K.

The commander of the 769th Engr Bn, Cbt Hvy, MAJ Nick Cicero III commanded an ODT cell last July which deployed to the U. K. to undertake "Capstone Mission" training at RAF Wethersfield for a two week period. The cell was made up of officers, NCOs, and soldiers of the four engineer battalions (205th, 527th, 528th, and 769th) of the 225th Engr Gp, commanded by COL Edmund Giering.

The cell participated in rapid runway repair training as well as provided "Capstone Mission" related construction support to the United States Air Force stationed at RAF Wethersfield.

MAJ Cicero, the OIC and CPT Ronald H. Edwards, the Cell Executive Officer, stated that the training and construction provided all cell members with invaluable experience in the Army Engineers wartime missions, as well as pre-coordination channels with the U. S. Air Force on their anticipated wartime construction mission requirements.

The cell was visited by MG Ansel Stroud, as well as representatives of the 194th Engr Bde, TN ANG; and the 225th Engr Gp, LA ARNG. MG Stroud was provided a tour of the training and construction site and a briefing of cell accomplishments. At the conclusion of the briefing, MG Stroud stated that he was very

pleased with what he had observed during his visit and the outstanding cooperation between the Louisiana Army Engineers and the Air Force Engineers of the 819th CESHR "Red Horse."

The entire cell received letters of commendation for their outstanding performance during the mission from BG Lytle Brown III, Commander of the 194th Engr Bde, TN ANG. For CPT Edwards, the ODT Cell Executive Officer, it was the second time that BG Brown had commended his efforts during an ODT Cell mission to the U. K. BG Brown awarded CPT Edwards of the 769th Engr Bn, the Army Achievement Medal (2d OLC) for his exceptional meritorious service as a member of the 194th Engr Bde ODT Cell which worked at RAF Cheshington in May of 1986.

MAJ Cicero stated that, "the success of this and previous ODT Cells in the U. K. proved once again that the Louisiana Engineers are ready and capable of deploying and accomplishing our wartime missions."

When the troops asked what they liked most about the two weeks in England, most stated, "The two days in London sight-seeing." When asked what they were looking forward to now, they said, "Getting home and the next ODT Cell trip to the U. K."

## Mobilization Alert Files Tested in Reverse

By MAJ Philip L. Arthur

A unique method of testing the unit mobilization alert files was conducted by elements of the 528th Engr Bn (Cbt Hvy) in Jan 88. The battalion had scheduled a training assembly for 9-10 Jan; however, a very severe ice storm closed many streets and roads on 7 Jan 88. By the 8th of Jan matters had worsened and there were predictions of more bad weather on the way. For the first time in the career of this

officer, a scheduled training assembly had to be cancelled.

The decision to cancel the training assembly was made at 0830 hrs on the 8th of Jan. The opportunity was taken to utilize the alert rosters and procedures to notify all personnel of the cancellation and to advise them of the revised training assembly dates of 22-23 Jan.

In addition to the alert rosters, all local radio stations were also used in announcing the change. The test alert worked, no one reported for drill on the 9th of Jan, and a total of 94% (overall) attended the 23-24 Jan training assembly.



# 205th Conducts MOUT Training in Abandoned School

CW2 Louis L. Joseph

Training, training, training, and more training is what takes place at every drill session for the 205th Engrs. Whether in a field environment or at the armory the word is still the same... train, train, train.

The weekend of 20-21 Feb was no exception. After a thorough safety briefing the unit went directly into MOUT training (Military Operations on Urban Terrain). HQ and HQ Co used an old abandoned junior high school for

its bivouac site. The other companies in the battalion also used school sites for their training. These sites afforded the battalion a lot of realism and fostered a spirit of cooperation between those agencies and the military.

At various points fifty percent of the personnel occupied fighting positions while the other half established section operations. Other times ten percent of the personnel would occupy fighting positions in addition to roving patrol.

There were also NBC training and testing. The following areas were covered:

1. Put on, wear and remove the protective mask.
2. Maintain the protective mask
3. Put on and wear MOPP gear
4. Recognize and react to a chemical and biological hazard.

biological hazard.

5. Administer first aid to a nerve agent casualty (buddy system).

Realism was the key this weekend. All soldiers participated and received valuable training, training that not only could save his life, but the life of a fellow soldier as well.



Soldiers of the 205th Engr Bn practice putting on and wearing MOPP gear during a recent MOUT exercise. (Photo by CW2 Louis L. Joseph)

## Outstanding Soldiers Selected for Competition

The following guardsmen were selected to represent the Louisiana National Guard at the 5th Army competition to be held 13-15 May 88 in San Antonio, Texas:

- Outstanding Soldier, M-Day: SP4 Robert S. Hearne, Detachment 1, Training Site
- Outstanding Soldier, AGR: SP4 Clinton Kidder, Company D, 769th Engineer Battalion
- Outstanding NCO, M-Day: SSG Debra Branch, Detachment 2 HQ STARC, La. Military Academy

Outstanding NCO, AGR: SFC Cynthia Sharp, Detachment 2, HQ STARC, NGB NCO Academy.

They were selected from their major commands during the Commanders/Staff Conference held at Cp. Beauregard in mid-March. The state board was composed of major command Sergeant Majors, SGM Langlais, board chairman, and SGM Austin, senior enlisted advisor.

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NGALA

UPFRONT

By Roger A. Bacon, Sr.  
President, NGALA



COL Roger Bacon

While in Washington on March 14, 1988 I had the privilege of meeting and presenting a framed resolution to Representative G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, Third District, State of Mississippi. The resolution reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, House of Representative G. V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, whose unselfish and untiring efforts have rendered an outstanding service in furthering the security of the State of Louisiana and the welfare of its citizens; and,

"WHEREAS, his experience and assistance have been repeatedly sought because of his willingness to accept responsibilities and bring his exceptional energy and ability to bear on any task serving the best interest of the National Guard, Reserves and Active Components; and,

"WHEREAS, he has been truly a firm supporter, dear friend and recognized spokesman for the Louisiana National Guard; now,

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Guard Association on Louisiana in General Conference assembled in New Orleans this 11th day of April 1987, does hereby express its deepest appreciation to the Honorable G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, Chairman,

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for his exceptionally meritorious service and many contributions in furthering the security and welfare of our State and Nation.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be lettered and framed for his personal display as a lasting expression of this Association's admiration and appreciation."

Congressman Montgomery is an eloquent spokesman for national defense, having sponsored and championed numerous bills which were passed. His influence has resulted in increased procurement of equipment and legislation to achieve combat effectiveness. Included in his list of achievements is the peacetime GI education bill.

Representative Montgomery is a retired Major General in the Mississippi National Guard who has over thirty-five years of military service. His active service includes duty in the European theater in WWII and later in Korea. He is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star for Valor, Army Commendation Medal, WWII European Theater Ribbon and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross. In addition, he has been awarded the George Washington Freedom Award by the Adjutant's General Association

of the United States and Harry S. Truman Award by the National Guard Association of the United States.

We are indeed fortunate to have Congressman Montgomery serving us as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and as Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. The award of the special resolution by our Association was deeply appreciated and well-deserved.

HERITAGE CONTRACT

The association has renewed its contract with Heritage Publishing Company for 1989-1991. The contract provides for the company to publish the program for the annual conference of both the enlisted and officer associations. It also provides for the sale of advertisement and for a minimum cash guarantee to the Association. There is a bonus clause which provides for the Association to receive thirty percent of gross sales minus the cost of publishing the programs, or the minimum guarantee, whichever is greater.

Over the last several years we have experienced an almost five percent decrease in gross sales by Heritage. While we have prospered in the past by increasing our association yield due to exceeding our minimum, we have re-

cently received only our minimum payment.

If we are to exceed the minimum guarantee during the course of our renewed contract, it is essential that new sources of revenue be identified for use by Heritage. As such, we have agreed to assist Heritage and the Association by providing quality leads for use by their sales personnel. Our financial situation can improve dramatically if everyone supports this endeavor. I solicit each of the readers to provide as many valid leads as possible. I have specifically asked commanders at every level to provide a minimum of ten leads via a letter I have provided to them, which includes a form for that purpose. I ask you to join in the effort to identify those individuals, businesses or agencies that are supporters of the Guard who would be responsive to placing an ad in our program. Your active support of this program will have a positive impact on our financial status, insure us of having a quality program and insure a buffer against future inflation.

Please send the name of the person, business or agency, the address, phone number and a point of contact to me at LANG-DOT by May 25th. Be sure to share with us the lead's association with the Guard, if applicable.



Congressman Montgomery Presents Col Roger Bacon With A Letter of Thanks (LAARNG Photo)

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*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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# 204TH FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

**2223rd Engr Bn FTX**  
 By SP4 Sharon Dixon  
 241st PAD

They arrived alone and in groups carrying cots, pillows, portable radios and TVs. For dinner they ordered pizzas and fried chicken. For supper there was coffee and a hot pot of chicken noodle soup compliments of the mess section. These were the small comforts for guardmembers spending overnight at the Baton Rouge armory in preparation for a morning convoy.

HQ, 2223rd Engr Bn trained as a collective weapon to satisfactorily complete their Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Cp. Avondale, Clinton, in March.

"This FTX is our last chance to get everything right before annual training," said training officer MAJ George Jackson. The 2223rd is the command and control battalion for utility type units and performs administrative and logistical objectives. They are the only engineer battalion in the 204th Area Support Group.

"This field exercise is to refresh knowledge of basic soldiering skills and survival training. Every soldier must know how to defend and survive on a battlefield," said MSG Tom Sawyer, full-time operations sergeant. "Our posture enables us to provide good leadership training for junior NCOs."

The unit's training goals and objectives included 24 hours sustained unit operations with the thrust of the training on securing and defending positions and establishing perimeter defense. Simulated training included the unit being ambushed before reaching the bivouac site, and in the spirit of training, support personnel who were not issued weapons used sticks to simulate rifles at port arms.

"We have limitations on training because it's hard to make it real, though we do well with what we have," said training SGT Rhett Major. "We have high quality soldiers who are mostly college students."

Other training scenarios included quartering party operations in accordance with tactical standard operating procedures. While training in perimeter defense, guardmembers prepared hasty fighting positions, practiced overlapping



The 2223d rushes into the field at Cp. Avondale to begin an intense weekend of training in soldier tasks and survival skills. (Photo by PFC Tod J. Merry, 241st PAD)

fields of fire and sector sketches.

According to administrative specialist SSG Jocelyn Ward, "When I'm assigned work I try to be creative and use demonstration to teach and show. I try to be an example because we have a close knit unit and we work well together."

According to training NCO Major, "I try to add to the unit when I'm here, to show my commitment is greater than being a weekend warrior. I think to just come here to put in your time subtracts from a unit."

SSG John Lewis, mess sergeant of tactical

food service operations said, "I put pride and tender loving care into my food. I like to cook and eat and I like it to be right."

According to cook SP4 Clifton Jack, "What's good about this section is that when someone doesn't finish something, someone else will pick it up. We received Best Mess during Annual Training 87."

SP4 Delia Caesar's specialty is baking and the unit loves her brownies. "It's fun training to cook in all types of environments," she said.

After several hours of training guardmembers received class instruction at field stations.

One instructor teaching customs and the laws of war, SGT James Dunn, said, "Our unit actually gets to solve problems. There are challenging things to do in this unit. If one person learns anything from my classes then it's worth it."

Serving with the 2223rd Engr Bn is rewarding to MSG Sawyer because, "the combination of soldiers, their achievements and leadership makes it the best battalion in the Louisiana National Guard."

## 773d Field Training Exercise

By PFC David R. Johnson  
 241st PAD

Members of the 773d Maintenance Battalion carefully covered the headlights and other shiny parts of their military vehicles with mud and sand to further camouflage them. Once completed, they rode off into the field at Cp. Villere, Slidell to begin their field training

exercises.

The 773d was not the only unit that participated in the March FTX. The 3673d Maint Co, the HQ Co of the 204th ASG, and the 39th MP Co were also part of the "March Hare" operation. According to CPT Thomas J. Long, training intelligence officer for the 773d, this was the first time the entire group had conducted an FTX together.

"The operation was created by the 204th

ASG because the group commander (COL Frank G. Pacholik) expressed a need to check his subordinate units and make sure they were all tactically sound," Long said.

"In spite of the adverse weather conditions, all the units had good morale," he continued.

According to LTC Joseph S. Saltzman, commander of the 773d, "Everybody came together when it was time to execute. It looked good!"

The main concern of all the units at the FTX

was to defend Cp. Villere. Therefore, each unit performed its own wartime mission. The 39th MP Co ran an enemy prisoner of war camp in which they processed and handled POWs. The 3673rd performed its wartime maintenance mission, the 773d supported its maintenance companies, and the 204th provided administrative and tactical support, said Long.

Among other events planned for the FTX, was an NBC decontamination site, and a simulated raid on the 204th by members of the 39th MP Co. While waiting for the "raid" soldiers, the 204th practiced their common skills tasks while wearing MOPP gear. Said SGT Brian A. Sanchez, "the soldiers need to learn to cope with wearing the MOPP suit, and it's easier to get used to in the cool weather."



◀ (Photo at left) Soldiers of the 39th MP Co, using the natural cover and concealment, work there way into an ambush area to raid unsuspecting members of the 204th. (Photo by SP4 Lucas Landreneau Jr., 241st PAD)

# EXERCISE: PUT TO THE TEST

**204th FTX**  
By SP4 Paul Sylvest  
241st PAD

Field Training Exercise again! Oh boy, another great opportunity to camp out in the woods and eat MREs. During their March drill, soldiers of the 204th Area Support Group took part in training activities across the state. One site for these activities was Cp. Beauregard in Alexandria. On a Friday evening before drill, troops moved into the field to begin their training which would continue to the end of the weekend.

Units training at Cp. Beauregard were HQ, 165th Trans Bn; HHD, 165th Trans Bn; 1083rd Trans Co; 1086th Trans Co; 1090th Trans Det; 3671st Maint Co; and Det 1, 3673rd Maint Co.

The purpose of the drill was to prescribe guidance, procedures and establish responsibilities for the conduct of training in March. The units participating had to perform procedures necessary to move into a tactical field

site, occupy the field site, defend the field site, perform transport missions while located in a tactical site, operate in a NBC environment and clear the field site.

Each unit was required to move into the field to establish a defensive posture in staging, complete with camouflage cover. Upon arriving at the staging area, NBC teams implemented all four MOPP levels and waited for the all clear from the clearing party after moving through the decontamination sites.

Responsible elements of each unit ensured personnel accountability during convoy activities and NBC activities. Throughout the training, necessary communication was maintained within the field sites and with higher command. Another mission, it seems, is executed with military expertise of operational readiness and preparation for support. The participating units of the FTX at Cp. Beauregard have once again performed like true soldiers in their field of duty.



Soldiers of the 165th Trans Bn conduct a chemical reconnaissance to determine if the area to be inhabited is contaminated with persistent/non-persistent chemical agents. NBC training was an integral part of the training during the FTX at Cp. Beauregard. (Photo by SSG Adrian Lamkin, 241st PAD)

**2228th Dump Truck Co Wins Connelly Award**  
By SSG Adrian Lamkin  
241st PAD

The 2228th Dump Truck Co's Food Service Section received top honors in competition for the Philip A. Connelly award while on a field training exercise held in March at Cp. Beauregard.

The team consisted of Mess Sergeant SSG Udolph T. Alpough, First Cook SGT Isiah Baines (seven years cooking for the La. Guard), SGT Barbara Bowie (eight years cooking for the La. Guard), and SP4 Reginald J. Bazile (4 1/2 years).

Alpough, who has 27 years of military service in the Army, Army Reserve, Texas National Guard, and Louisiana National Guard has been a mess sergeant for only three months. After retiring as a maintenance supervisor for a refinery in Port Arthur, he started raising cattle in what he calls a "working retirement".

"With the support of the troops," he said, "we could go all the way."

The cooking team was nominated for the competition by their group headquarters, the

204th Area Support Group, as a result of past inspections and evaluations. CW2 Paul Gilmore, State Food Services Officer, assisted by SFC Ralph Delette, 244th Combat Aviation Food Services Supervisor evaluated the 2228th Cooking Team and found them doing an excellent job.

The dump truck unit was the last to be evaluated, and was rated far above other contestants according to Gilmore. The unit was informed in the field that they had won the competition.

"This was an excellent learning experience for this company and everyone involved," said Gilmore. "A new food service sergeant of three months, with the support of his subordinates and his company proved what can be accomplished with initiative and support."

"Food services play a vital role in the military mission," said CPT James Boutte, commander of the 2228th. "We were enthusiastic about representing the 204th Area Support Group. Our people did an outstanding job, and are proud to have won the state level of competition. We are looking forward to competing at the 5th Army level."



The Food Service Section of the 2228th Dump Truck Co received top honors at the state level in the competition for the Philip A. Connelly Award. They were notified while on a field training experience in March at Cp. Beauregard. (Photo by SSG Adrian Lamkin, 241st PAD)



The 2228th Dump Truck Co's Food Service Section Sets up a field kitchen (Photo by SSG Adrian Lamkin, 241st PAD)



Members of the 165th Trans Bn conduct a hasty decontamination on vehicles which had crossed a chemically contaminated area during an FTX held at Cp. Beauregard in March. (Photo by SSG Adrian Lamkin, 241st PAD)

# 5th Army Forces Command Soldier Chosen

By SSG Adrian Lamkin  
241st PAD

Forces Command National Guard Soldier of the Year for 1987 was awarded to SSG Andrew Bell of Det 2, HQ STARC.

Bell, a senior instructor in the Louisiana Non-Commissioned Officers Academy at Camp Beauregard competed for the honor at state level, and after winning, advanced to the competition at 5th Army Forces Command, San Antonio, Texas.

The San Antonio competition included two NCOs from each of the eight states comprising 5th Army FORSCOM.

Bell explained that contenders were first graded on appearance. "With your 201 file in front of them, the board scrutinized your decorations. Were they in the proper order, and were you wearing what was authorized? Next the uniform, left face, right face, be seated..." he said.

"The questions asked were primarily military related: map reading, weapons systems, flags, drill and ceremony. A lot of leadership questions such as define leadership, define counseling, things of that nature. I didn't know the answer to them all, and when I didn't know I said so," Bell said.

Bell's job as an instructor with the NCO Academy helped. "I am constantly involved in teaching or practicing leadership and counseling problems," he said.

Bell has five years active duty in the Army, primarily in combat arms for a ranger battalion in Georgia. He has four years in the Louisiana National Guard. After a tour as Platoon Sergeant in the 3rd Bn, 156th Inf (M) in Leesville, he spent the remainder of his time as an instructor in the La. NCO Academy at Cp. Beauregard.

He has attended Basic Airborne and Ranger school, PLDC and ANCOG, the Jungle Training Center, desert warfare and special forces training. "Overall things learned in these schools lumped together helped me get the award," Bell said.

Bell attends night classes at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and is only 14 hours short of receiving his degree in Business Administration.

"The military is predominant in my family," said Bell. "My father, my brother, and myself attended Augusta Military Academy in Virginia. My father was a lieutenant colonel, one brother was a major in the reserves, and another brother is a major at Fort Ord, California.

"We are a regular Army family," he said. "Even my wife spent eleven years in the Army as a nurse. She's no longer in, but she understands my military obligations pretty well."

In civilian life Bell lives in Beaumont and commutes to Alexandria, La. for military drill commitments.

"I've checked with the units in Beaumont, Houston and Austin," he said. "I'm not saying that this is the ideal place, but I like it - more than that, I like the people here, and what we are doing. I like instructing, and I get a lot of feedback from the students," he said.

Bell works for T.E. Moer and Co., a large insurance agency system in Southeast Texas. "My higher bosses fully support my activities in the National Guard, and they take an interest in my military activities," Bell said.

The 1986 Fifth Army Forces Command Soldier was also from the La. NCO Academy at Cp. Beauregard. SSG Debra Branch, last year's winner, and an instructor at the NCO Academy, along with the school commandant SGM Mabry Langlinais, and ISG Swan reviewed the list of personnel in the unit to decide who had the most potential for winning the award.

"All of our staff were top notch professionals," said Branch. "We felt Bell made a good first impression. He's very articulate and can stand up under tough competition. Therefore, he was chosen to represent the Academy."

This is the first time that soldiers from the same unit have been selected two years in succession. "That speaks well for the La. NCO Academy and the La. National Guard," said SGM Langlinais.



MG Charles E. Honore addresses the battalion commanders and their staff at the Commander/Staff Conference held at Cp. Beauregard in March.

## Commander/Staff Conference Held

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers  
State PAO

Battalion commanders and staff from across Louisiana participated in the Commander/Staff Conference held in mid-March at Cp. Beauregard.

MG Ansel M. Stroud addressed the entire group before they separated into different breakout sessions with their counterparts.

"The Army Policy is pretty clear on weight control," he said. "Even one or two pounds can trigger you back on the weight program. Being on the program two consecutive months not only ends the weight control program, but can also end your career."

He spoke about readiness and training. "We're outnumbered pretty good by the Russians already. And having to go to MOPP 4 takes away up to 65% of our combat effectiveness. I want as a requirement during annual training that at least four common task skills be performed and timed, and later these same

four tasks be performed and timed in MOPP 4," he said.

MG Stroud spoke of the decreasing defense budget. "It's time for us to be better stewards of the federal and state dollars we receive. We can do this by eliminating waste, fraud and abuse, and by managing our dollars better. Non MOS qualified soldiers are looked at as dead weight, and those individuals who are constantly excused from drill should also be looked at critically."

He concluded that the best way to justify to the taxpayers the expenditures of the military is to maintain the condition of the armories, the equipment, and to polish the appearance of the soldiers.

MG Charles E. Honore, Deputy Commander of 5th U.S. Army was the guest speaker at the conference. A former "1st Brigade Commander" of the 5th Inf Div at Fort Polk, he first praised MG Stroud's leadership of the La. National Guard.

Then he related some advice for the company commander and his first sergeant.

"The guys who are gonna win or lose battle are the company commanders and their first sergeants. So don't just come walking into the office during drill and sit down and just be a commander all day. Go out and do something. Go out and see the conditions under which your soldiers live and work. Go look at something technical each time. Be familiar with the fighting apparatus. See what kind of training is taking place - if it's not right, fire up the guy who's wasting your soldier's time. If the training is good, then compliment him on it. Check on what will take place the next day. And do it all in a safe environment."



"And our tests suggest some changes are in order in our new artillery piece."



Terry Lemoine, former Chairman of the Board of Selago Credit Union and MG Ansel M. Stroud officially open the new branch of the Selago Credit Union at Cp. Beauregard. The new branch is open to all full-time employees of the Louisiana Guard and their families, and to all weekend soldiers and their families. Selago currently has 8.25 million dollars in assets, seven full-time employees and two part-time employees. Operating hours for the new branch are Mon-Fri 0900 to 1500 hours (Thur 0900-1700). The branch may be reached by calling (318) 640-2080, ext. 308 or 309. (Photo by SSG Adrian Lamkin, 241st PAD)

## SGM Womack Receives Appointment as 527th Engr Bn CSM

By 1LT Gary L. Hammett

SGM Kenneth R. Womack received his appointment as the Command Sergeant Major of the 527th Engr Bn (Cbt Hvy) effective 8 Dec 87. Asked his reaction Womack responded, "I never in my wildest dreams thought I'd make it this far."

Womack has twenty years of enlisted service. He served five years in the Navy, one year in the Coast Guard, seven years in the Naval Reserve, and the last thirteen years in the Louisiana and Arizona Army National Guard. The bulk of his Army Guard service has been performed in the 527th Engr Bn Cbt Hvy. His service also includes a combat tour of duty in Vietnam.

During his Army Guard service, Womack has served as an Engineer General Construction Platoon Sergeant, a Construction Supervisor in an engineer combat heavy company, a con-

struction inspector in the S-3 Section, First Sergeant of Co C, 527th Engr Bn Cbt Hvy, and now as the Command Sergeant Major.

Womack is a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeant Major's Academy. He has also completed the La. ARNG Advanced NCO Course, the La ARNG First Sergeant Course, and the La ARNG Senior NCO Course.

His decorations and awards include the Naval Unit Citation, Viet Nam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Louisiana General Excellence Medal, and the Louisiana Longevity Medal.

# SGM Walter D. Renshaw Retires

SGM Walter Renshaw, former Recruiting and Retention NCO was honored in early March for outstanding achievement in the retention of soldiers in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Renshaw received the coveted Legion of Merit Award for distinguished service. The award was presented during his retirement celebration in Schiro Hall at Jackson Barracks. Renshaw's retirement as chief of retention for the La. National Guard was effective on his 60th birthday.

SGM Renshaw came to Louisiana by way of Alaska in the late 1950s. He joined the Air Force shortly after moving to the United States from Canada in 1955. He met his wife Polly while stationed there. They married, and later moved to Louisiana where Renshaw joined the National Guard and began working in the Personnel Office at Jackson Barracks.

Polly Renshaw, daughters Carrie and Bobbe, son-in-law Jerry Norris and mother-in-law Mary Polley were honored guests at the retirement celebration. Also among the special guests was retired Air Force Colonel Montie Davis. Renshaw and Davis met when both were stationed in Alaska.

During the celebration, Renshaw became one of only a handful of people in Louisiana to receive the Legion of Merit Award, an Army award for meritorious service given at the end of lengthy tours. He also received the Louisiana National Guard Retention Ribbon.

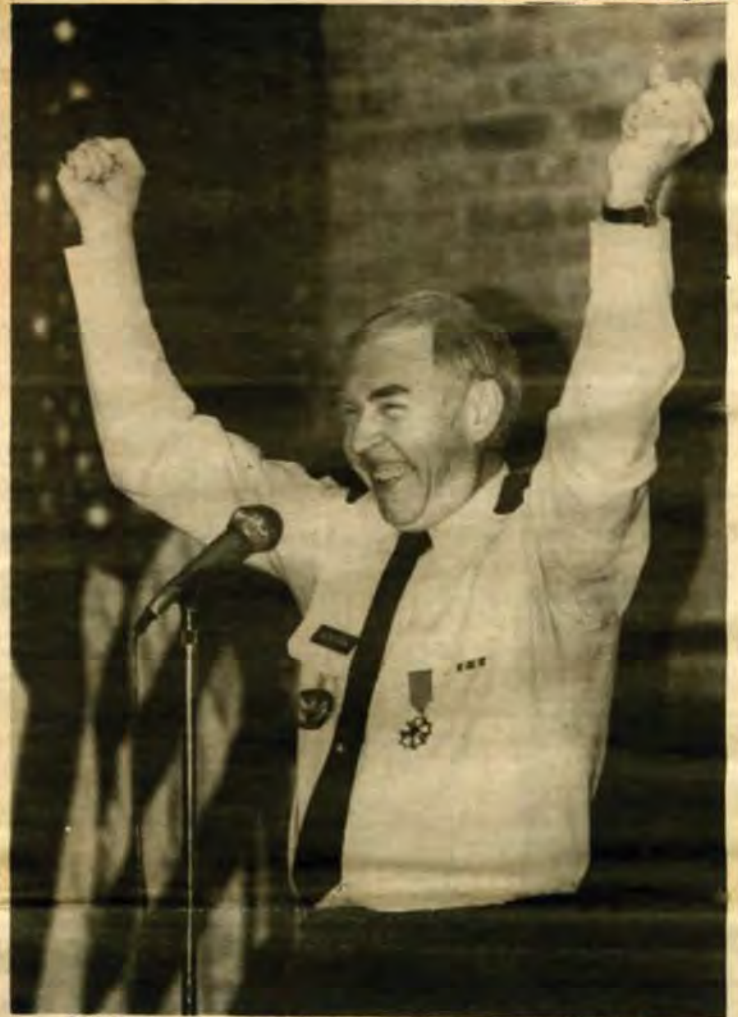
During his tenure as state retention NCO, the La. Guard's retention rate increased from 58 percent to 78 percent, he said. Renshaw said he and his staff have tried "to make the unit a better place for the soldier."

He focused on making new soldiers feel welcome and important by having an experienced soldier "sponsor" them, or show them around and introduce them to fellow members of the unit.

He also emphasized meetings with soldiers in their fifth year of service to resolve any problems they might have before they reach the sixth, or last, year of service and the point of possible reenlistment, he said.

"He is the best friend the individual soldier has ever had in the National Guard," said MSG Roger Toney, who will replace Renshaw as the new Retention NCO.

Renshaw also received the Minute Man award for distinguished service from the National Guard Bureau.



SGM Walter Renshaw at his retirement ceremony. (LAARNG Photo)

## GI Bill Memo of Agreement

By CPT Ratcliff

The Louisiana Army National Guard has been successfully striving for the past eighteen months to improve the effectiveness of having its members benefits awarded under the Montgomery GI Bill, Chapter 106 Educational Assistance Program.

These efforts culminated in early March in an informal ceremony in MG Ansel Stroud's office at Jackson Barracks where a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by Stroud and the director of the New Orleans Veterans Administration Regional Office, Mr. Anthony R. Lentini.

The impact of this MOA signifies the combined efforts of the LAARNG and the Veterans Administration Regional Office in establishing administrative procedures to ensure that LAARNG member's applications and benefits claims are processed in the most efficient manner possible. This is achieved as a result of the close working relationship that these two organizations enjoy.

The following attachment is the narrative that was read at the signing ceremony:

In July of 1985, Congress enacted legislation that has become known as the Montgomery GI Bill, Title 10, USC.

Despite the apparent value of this program to the Selected Reserves and the nation's future educational worth, Chapter 106 was implemented without a proven administrative system in place by which to effectively manage the benefits of those who wished to participate.

In June of 1987, however, the key players of the New Orleans based Veterans Administration Regional Office and the Louisiana National Guard held a landmark meeting at Jackson Barracks with the purpose of determining what steps could be taken to improve the methods of verifying and adjudicating Chapter

106 claims made by members of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

The results of this meeting was that an effective working liaison was established between key players of the LAARNG and the New Orleans VARO for addressing shortfalls within the current system as it existed. By July 1987, the Louisiana Army National Guard had implemented a circular that governed application procedures for its members while working in direct coordination with the VARO on current claims.

Since that first meeting at Jackson Barracks less than nine months ago, the New Orleans VARO and LAARNG have enjoyed recognition from their respective national level offices as the Chapter 106 claims suspense rates plummeted from one of the highest to one of the lowest in the nation while program volume participation was sustained as one of the fourth highest in the nation.

The real benefactors of these efforts, however, are the members of the Louisiana Army National Guard who pursue Chapter 106 benefits as a means of meeting the educational goals for themselves, their families, the LAARNG, their state and their country.

While this document is a model for other National Guards and VAROs to use in establishing their own successful programs, the signing of this memorandum of agreement signifies the dedication of providing better benefits to the soldier today and tomorrow. It also becomes the working promise between two large organizations to insure that the individual soldier receives the highest quality assurance in contributing to the legacy of this great nation.

## Weight Room at CP Beauregard



By MAJ David O. Miller  
241st PAD Cmr

Residents and visitors of Cp. Beauregard are enjoying the use of a new weight room at that facility. According to SGT Grady Welch, a frequent user of the weight room, it has been in operation for about a year.

The facility is located in the Pool House building and is equipped with a wide variety of both free weight and exercise machines. The room is available for use by residents of Cp. Beauregard, civilian employees, members of the National Guard and their dependents. Hours of operation are Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sat - Sun, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Funds and equipment for the facility have been donated by the LANG Officers and Enlisted Associations and the U.S. Federal Marshals Office located at Cp. Beauregard.

According to Welch, a qualified instructor is available during operational hours to provide assistance. Welch believes that having the weight room available has benefited several individuals in passing the annual APFT.

"We've had people start out here that hardly complete one push-up. But after following an organized work-out program here, they've passed the APFT with little trouble," he said.

# A Report on Our Government's

United States Government policy regarding the POW/MIA problem is coordinated through the POW/MIA Interagency Group. Membership in this group includes the State and Defense Departments, the White House National Security Council (NSC) staff, representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the National League of POW/MIA Families, and House and Senate Staff members from the respective Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations Committees. The Group addresses policy concerning the POW/MIA issue and addresses current efforts, while evaluating new initiatives and approaches to enhance resolution of the issue.

Most Americans felt that with the signing of the agreements ending the war in Indochina, accounting for our missing countrymen would finally occur. In 1973 the then Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) — North Vietnam — was expected to honor Article 8 of the Paris Peace Agreement dealing with those missing and killed in action. This article specifically provided for repatriating POWs from both sides as well as exchanging information about the missing and return of remains of those who

died. These points were conditional only on the withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces from Vietnam. The agreement ending the war in Laos had less specific articles pertaining to POWs and MIAs of all nations. However, because of the intransigence of the Indochinese governments, the POW/MIA issue has yet to be resolved.

Prior to the fall of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975, teams from the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC), augmented by members of the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Thailand (CIL-Thai) and other units, searched the jungles and mountains of South Vietnam for remains of U.S. personnel, under the auspices of the Four Party Joint Military Team (FPJMT) established by the Paris Peace Agreement. Despite a lack of cooperation from the Vietnamese communists and at times at great personal risk, the JCRC recovery teams achieved noteworthy success in their efforts.

U.S. efforts in North Vietnam were limited to negotiations with the Vietnamese concerning the fate of our servicemen and the repatriation of remains. Between April 1973 and April 1975, North Vietnam returned the remains of 23 U.S. personnel.

In the first six years after the fall of the Republic of Vietnam, several U.S. Congressional Delegations, met with the Vietnamese regarding this specific issue. In addition, JCRC representatives met in Hawaii with Vietnamese officials in July 1978 and traveled to Hanoi in October 1980 and May 1981. These three meetings dealt with technical aspects of the accounting process.

In February 1982, a policy-level delegation led by then Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard L. Armitage traveled to Hanoi to impress upon the Vietnamese the high priority the United States Government attached to resolution of the POW/MIA question. During the discussions, Mr. Armitage emphasized the President's commitment to resolving this issue as well as the deep concern of the American people regarding our missing personnel. As a result of this visit, the Vietnamese accepted a U.S. Government invitation to visit the U.S. POW/MIA facilities in Hawaii. These facilities include the JCRC and the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory (CIL). The visit took place in August 1982 and continued the dialogue between the two countries.

Following a visit to Hanoi by the National League of Families, on September 30, 1982, the Vietnamese agreed to a longstanding U.S. proposal that technical experts from both sides meet on a regularly scheduled basis to discuss the POW/MIA question. The Vietnamese agreed to four technical meetings per year. The first meeting was held in December 1982, the second in March 1983, and the third in June 1983, at which time the remains of nine individuals were returned, eight of which were later identified as Americans. The Vietnamese then interrupted the schedule.

In October, Mr. Richard Childress, Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council, and Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director of the National League of Families, met in New York with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. Discussions focused on overcoming obstacles to advance serious, high level negotiations between the two governments and lay the groundwork for future discussions.

In February 1984, a U.S. delegation visited Hanoi in an attempt to increase the pace of cooperation. Led again by Richard Armitage, the delegation included Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Childress and Mr. Lyall Breckon, State Department's Director of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This meeting resulted in a Vietnamese offer to accelerate cooperation (concentrating initially on the most accessible cases in the Naio/Haiphong area and those listed as having died in captivity in the south) and to resume the quarterly technical meetings as well as a pledge by the Vietnamese to turn over the remains of eight missing servicemen. These remains were repatriated on July 17, 1984. Six of the eight remains were identified as missing American servicemen and returned to their next of kin. A technical level meeting was again held in mid-August.

In October 1984, Mr. Childress and Mrs. Griffiths met with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. During discussions in New York, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister renewed and strengthened the February 1984 commitments and agreed to set an early date for the next technical meeting (held later that month). The October technical meeting was reported as the most cooperative and positive to date and general agreement was reached to hold the next regular meeting in early 1985.

The next meeting took place February 6-9, 1985. At that meeting, the Vietnamese announced they would soon return five remains and took the American team to visit a U.S. aircraft crash site in Vietnam.

to further accelerate cooperation:

— Meetings between technical personnel will increase from four to a minimum of six per year, depending on the need and information available.

— Remains mentioned during the February technical meeting were to be returned in March. (Six remains were turned over to the U.S. on March 20, identified, and returned to their next-of-kin. Of note was the fact that the names of two of these Americans appeared on the Provisional Revolutionary Government's

## POW



"died-in-captivity" list. This represents the first time efforts were made by the Vietnamese to account for Americans on this list, the initial step in fulfilling a specific pledge of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister.)

— There was an exchange of views on other methods to accelerate progress on the POW/MIA issue, to include joint efforts to excavate crash site locations.

At the technical meeting held April 17-20, 1985, the Vietnamese agreed in principle to conduct a preliminary survey of the U.S. crash site in Vietnam. The U.S. Government discussed with the Vietnamese the details of such a survey, proposing a crash site to be visited.

On July 1, 1985, the Vietnamese announced their intention to resolve the POW/MIA issue within a two-year time-frame. This decision, conveyed through Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, was welcomed by the U.S. Government as a serious policy commitment by the Government of Vietnam.

The technical meeting held July 2-6, 1985, in Hanoi resulted in the Vietnamese announcing information regarding 32 Americans (26 remains and information/material evidence on six others.) On August 14, 1985, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) returned 26 sets of remains; 24 of which were identified as American. The U.S. team also conducted a preliminary site survey of a U.S. crash site near Hanoi proposed by the Vietnamese.

The U.S. developed and provided to SRV officials in August 1985 a full bilateral plan to resolve the issue within the pledged two-year time frame. Later that month, Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Breckon and JCRC representative LTC Paul Mather met in Hanoi with Vietnamese Acting Foreign Minister Vo Dong Giang and Deputy Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son for the most substantive and constructive meeting yet held on the issue. Without responding specifically to the U.S. workplan proposal, Vietnam presented a unilateral plan to resolve the issue within the two-year time frame committed to in early July. No preconditions were stated as both sides agreed that resolution of the issue is humanitarian and separate from political matters which divide the two countries. Although the Vietnamese again denied any knowledge of Americans held in captivity, they stated willingness to continue investigating sighting reports which come to their attention.

In mid-September 1985, meetings were held in New York with Vietnamese Minister Vo Dang Giang and Assistant Minister Le Mai. Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Breckon again comprised the U.S. delegation and provided the Vietnamese with U.S. input on Vietnam's two-year work plan. This included detailed U.S. cooperative actions that would be undertaken in support of the Vietnam plan. Minister Giang reiterated recent pledges, com-

mitted to a joint excavation near Hanoi and stated he expected additional American remains to be turned over very soon. Again there was no linkage to other issues.

The September 25-28, 1985 technical meeting continued discussions on logistics regarding joint excavations. Agreement led to the first joint excavation of a crash site conducted with the SRV. The U.S. SRV excavated what was reported to be a B-52 crash site near Hanoi. The team excavated an area approximately 40 feet by 80 feet to an average depth of 25 feet. While the results of the effort were disappointing in terms of the limited remains recovered, the willingness of the SRV to permit a joint effort and their excellent cooperations were viewed as hopeful signs for the future. The U.S. team also visited a B-52 crash site in Ngoc Ha.

During the November 13-16, 1985 technical meeting, the SRV agreed to turn over seven sets of remains, which subsequently turned out to be remains of eight individuals. Actual return date was December 4, 1985. Seven were identified by the CIL as Americans and returned to their next of kin. One set is still undergoing analysis. The Vietnamese also provided information on seven sets of unrecoverable remains as well as personal data/effects on three other service members.

The highest level U.S. Government delegation to visit Vietnam since the end of the war met with Vietnamese in January 1986. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage led the U.S. contingent which included Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz, Mr. Richard Childress, and Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach agreed the POW/MIA issue is a humanitarian one and reiterated the Vietnamese pledge to resolve the issue within two years. The Vietnamese also agreed to investigate any POW live-sighting information that the U.S. might present.

During the technical talks held February 27-28, 1986 in Hanoi, the SRV presented a list of 49 cases on which the populace had reported information to Vietnamese government officials. Of the 49 cases, 21 resulted in remains being recovered and subsequently repatriated on April 10, 1986. The SRV accepted in principle the U.S. invitation to send a delegation to Hawaii for a "technical exchange" with the CIL and JCRC.

In April 1986, at the request of the Vietnamese, Mrs. Griffiths met with the Vietnamese Ambassador at their mission in New York and was informed that statements by various U.S. Government officials were not helpful in setting the right atmosphere to solve the issue and the U.S. had not demonstrated a commitment to the Vietnamese two-year plan.

The April 11-14, 1986, technical meeting in Hanoi was postponed by Vietnam, to be rescheduled at a mutually agreeable date. Postponement was linked to the U.S. Government's retaliatory actions against Libya to counter international terrorism. The delayed technical talks were subsequently held in Hanoi June 11-14. The Vietnamese presentation was generally critical of U.S. actions since the January 1986 high level meeting and again criticized the U.S. for failing to respond formally to their two-year plan. The SRV also gave a brief update on the cases under investigation. It is anticipated that future technical meetings will be more productive, less rhetoric, thus allowing increased progress on the issue.

In May 1986, Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Breckon met in New York with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son to clarify U.S. commitments to Vietnam's two-year plan.

On July 1-2, 1986, a U.S. delegation consisting of Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Breckon and Colonel Howard Hill, USAF, Principal Advisor to the Secretary of Defense on POW/MIA Affairs, met in Hanoi with Viet-



# Efforts to Recover POW/MIAs

name Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, Deputy Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son and other officials for very productive discussions. Responding to media reports of Vietnam's perception that the U.S. lacked commitment to the two-year Vietnamese plan, Mr. Childress delivered an official letter with attachment from Assistant Secretary of Defense Armitage which outlined specific oral and written agreements previously reached. Agreement was reached with the Vietnamese on the following:

a. We and the Vietnamese will meet at the technical level in August and October, confirming the agreed pattern of at least six such meetings per year. Vietnamese officials said these meetings would be especially productive.

b. Vietnamese and American forensic specialists will meet in Vietnam for consultations.

c. Vietnam will provide us with the results in writing of its investigations of reports of live prisoner sightings.

d. Vietnam will permit American experts to accompany Vietnamese officials on investigations in accessible areas.

e. Vietnam officials agreed to discuss specific crash sites for further excavation in the next technical meeting.

f. The Vietnamese accepted our invitation for another visit, with the date to be determined, to U.S. technical facilities (JCRC and CIL) in Hawaii.

Soon thereafter, however, the Vietnamese began to publicly back away from some of these commitments.

Technical talks were held with the Vietnamese in Hanoi August 13-16, 1986. During this meeting the U.S. technical team visited areas where the Vietnamese had accumulated a B-52 aircraft wreckage (Ngoc Ha pond, the botanical gardens, and the military museum). The U.S. team's B-52 technician fully analyzed the information he was able to acquire from the wreckage.

On September 17, 1986, the SRV turned over one set of remains that were subsequently identified as a U.S. Serviceman and returned to his next of kin.

Mr. Childress led a delegation consisting of Mrs. Griffiths, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (DAS) John Monjo, Mr. Shepard Lowman (State Department's Director for Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia), and Colonel Hill to New York to meet with Vietnamese Minister of State Vo Dang Giang to address the POW/MIA issue and other humanitarian interest topics. The U.S. delegation also met with Lao Vice Foreign Minister Soubanh to discuss accelerated Lao cooperation on the POW/MIA issue.

The October 1986 technical meeting was postponed three weeks by Vietnam and rescheduled for October 30 - Nov 1, 1986. During that meeting in Hanoi, the Vietnamese announced the recovery of three sets of remains (subsequently turned over to U.S. officials on November 26, 1986). The U.S. team also visited a crash site near Haiphong.

On November 26, 1986 the Vietnamese turned over three sets of remains believed to be American. Two have been identified as U.S. Servicemen and returned to their families. The other set of remains is still in the identification process. The November 26 turn over ceremony in Hanoi included informal discussions during which the SRV representatives stated they were investigating 19 new cases on which they would have information at the next technical meeting, which they suggested holding in January 1987.

In January 1987, U.S. proposals for technical discussions in Hanoi were rejected by the Vietnamese. The U.S. proposals were in line with the Vietnamese agreement for a minimum of six technician level discussions per year. In fact, several U.S. proposals for specific dates since the first of the year have been rejected by Vietnam.

A second U.S. proposal for technical talks

in Hanoi was rejected by the SRV in February 1987. The Vietnamese cited timing and other matters which required their attention.

On April 17, 1987 Mr. Childress, Mr. Lowman and Mrs. Griffiths met with Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Nhat, and other officials in New York and explained the President's new initiative of appointing a special Presidential Emissary (General Vessey, USA, ret) to Hanoi on the POW/MIA issue. This meeting followed up several exchanges with the Vietnamese to accept a delegation to discuss General Vessey's visit.

In an effort to advance the possible mission by special Presidential Emissary General John Vessey, a U.S. delegation, led by National Security Council Director for Asian Affairs Richard Childress and including Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Lowman, met in Hanoi in late May 1987 with First Deputy Minister Dinh Ngo Liem and other Vietnamese officials. While the separate, humanitarian nature of cooperation to resolve the POW/MIA issue was reaffirmed during the talks, subsequent statements by Vietnamese officials dealt largely with political matters, and failed to reveal the details of SRV concerns in the humanitarian area, leaving much work to be done in preparing a realistic framework for the possible Vessey mission.



Regarding Laos, our sustained effort to obtain the cooperation of the Laos Government has met with some success. A visit by the National League of Families in September 1982, was followed by several high level U.S./Lao meetings in 1983/84.

These discussions resulted in two visits by a U.S. team to Laos, the first since 1975. During the second visit, JCRC and CILHI representatives surveyed the requirements to excavate a crash site in southern Laos. This eventually led to the most encouraging development yet - an unprecedented joint crash site excavation which took place February 10-12, 1985. A U.S./Lao team conducted a full-scale excavation of a U.S. Air Force AC-130 aircraft shot down in Paske, Laos. The team recovered some personal effects and partial human remains which were determined to be those of the 13 men lost aboard the aircraft.

This excavation was a major step in efforts to develop a sustained pattern of cooperation with the Lao government on the POW/MIA issue. The first of what is hoped will be many such excavations to resolve the fates of over 550 Americans still missing in Laos was conducted with excellent cooperation by Lao officials.

Additional high-level meetings on the POW/MIA issue with the Lao have occurred, including discussions in New York between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz and Lao Foreign Minister Soubanh, the Lao government agreed to continue and increase cooperation with the U.S., to pursue accountability on a unilateral basis and to meet with the U.S. officials as frequently as necessary to enhance the process. They also agreed in principle to visiting the JCRC and CIL facilities in Hawaii.

In July 1985, Laos agreed in principle to a second excavation during the 1985-86 dry season and accepted a U.S. Government invitation to send a delegation to visit JCRC and the CIL, both located in Hawaii. In September 1985, Lao experts traveled to Hawaii for consultations with DOD, JCRC and CIL personnel.

Assistant Secretary of State Wolfowitz and Mr. Childress also visited Vientiane in December 1985 to discuss the issue.

A joint U.S.-Lao crash site survey was conducted in January 1986, followed by the second joint U.S.-Lao excavation in February 1986 of an AC-130 aircraft which crashed in March 1972 in Savannakhet Province in southern Laos. The aircraft had a crew of 14 on board. Although this crash site had obviously been disturbed by private groups seeking remains and material evidence from the site, a significant quantity of remains and personal effects were recovered. Thus far, eight of the 14 have been identified. The other remains are still undergoing examination at the CIL for possible identification and subsequent return to the next of kin.

The July 4, 1986, policy-level discussions in Vientiane, Laos, resulted in Lao government agreements to provide written reports on discrepancy cases of missing Americans and to consider a unilateral crash site survey, possibly

accompanied by an American official, plus added unilateral efforts by the Lao government. The delegation which was led by Mr. Childress and included Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Beckon and Defense Department representative Colonel Howard Hill, emphasized the need to accelerate cooperation and the resume the joint excavation process as quickly as weather permitted before the end of 1986.

In January 1987, a U.S. proposal for policy level meetings with the Lao was accepted "in principle", but no date has been agreed upon.

In summary, significant strides have been made over the past two years in negotiations.

In summary, significant strides have been made over the past two years in negotiations. More remains were returned in this time frame than during any similar time frame since the end of the war. Though all involved are frustrated with the pace, we are pursuing every available avenue to resolve this issue in the shortest time frame possible and are determined to achieve success.

## Total Servicemen Unaccounted for by State

Alabama - 42	Nebraska - 25	Indiana - 69	South Dakota - 9
Alaska - 3	Nevada - 9	Iowa - 39	Tennessee - 44
Arizona - 24	New Hampshire -	Kansas - 37	Texas - 156
Arkansas - 27	New Jersey - 63	Kentucky - 22	Utah - 23
California - 243	New Mexico - 17	Louisiana - 34	Vermont - 4
Colorado - 41	New York - 153	Maine - 17	Virginia - 59
Connecticut - 39	North Carolina - 61	Maryland - 37	Washington - 61
Delaware - 5	North Dakota - 16	Massachusetts - 60	West Virginia - 25
District of Columbia - 9	Ohio - 126	Michigan - 75	Wisconsin - 37
Florida - 80	Oklahoma - 49	Minnesota - 43	Wyoming - 6
Georgia - 46	Oregon - 46	Mississippi - 18	Puerto Rico - 2
Hawaii - 11	Pennsylvania - 117	Missouri - 51	Virgin Islands - 1
Idaho - 12	Rhode Island - 10	Montana - 21	Other - 7
Illinois - 100	South Carolina - 30		

Note: Does not include 42 civilians

## Vietnam War POW Facts

1. First POW: SP4 George F. Fryett, Jr., U.S. Army, captured 26 Dec 61, released 24 Jun 62
2. Longest Held: LTC Floyd Thompson, U.S. Army, 26 Mar 64 - 16 Mar 73 (captured

and held in South Vietnam until July 67, then taken North and released during OPERATION HOME COMING)

3. Longest Held Pilot: CDR Everett Alvarez, Jr., U.S. Navy, 5 Aug 64 - 12 Feb 73.

## US Unaccounted for personnel

Army	702
Air Force	899
Navy	480
Marines	289
Coast Guard	1
Civilians	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,413</b>

## Areas of Loss

Vietnam	1776
Laos	549
Cambodia	82
China	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,413</b>

# SAFETY'S IMPORTANT... There's much at stake!

By LTC Earl Santos  
State Safety Officer

"We're Go. Hang tight; we're Go." With these words, Neil Armstrong, commander of the Apollo 11 mission piloted the lunar module Eagle to a historic touch-down on the chalky grey surface of the moon.

As Americans, there is probably nothing we take more pride in than the Apollo moon shots. The astronauts of Apollo 11 and 12 will be remembered for their remarkable feats as long as there are history books.

But, there is something else the moon shots will be remembered for: they used one of the largest, most complicated safety programs ever launched in the world.

The safe lunar voyage of the astronauts or their safe return if things didn't go according to plans was the most vital concern of the hundreds of men and women - the technicians, engineers, scientists, and others - who worked behind the scenes to make the launches possible.

The entire Apollo crew worked as a team. Each person, from the worker on the assembly line who fitted components to the vital retrorocket reentry system to the engineer who designed it; from the doctors who guarded the health of the astronauts to the security men who guarded the gates of NASA, each person worked together, contributing ideas and helping each other over the rough spots.

Uppermost in each of their minds was the idea that the astronauts must be safe, regardless of what happened. They must have a safe lift-off from Cape Kennedy, a safe lunar landing, and a safe return to Earth.

Finally, the astronauts must be quarantined to protect the public from any bacteria they might have picked up from the moon's surface or in space itself.

Safety is important to the space program and even more important right here in the Louisiana Army National Guard. Nothing less than the future of your family is at stake. They are counting on you to provide food and shelter, and an on-the-job accident could very easily disable you and leave security and future plans in the air.

Teamwork is just as important to our own safety as it was to the safety of the Apollo astronauts. When people work together, par-

ticipating and exchanging ideas, there's no end to what they may accomplish. Even the sky isn't the limit anymore; Apollo proved that.

Together, you and I can get our own safety program off the ground. How? Start by giving me any ideas you may have on how things can be made safer in your units. Any idea, no matter how insignificant it seems to you, may just prevent a serious accident that could mean the difference between happiness and misery for you and your family or for one of your fellow guardmembers.

If you are one of our seasoned Senior NCOs, we can use your years of valuable experience to spot potential safety hazards. Look around. Can you see something that has caused an accident or that may cause one now?

Are military drivers trained and qualified to drive AMV (Army Military Vehicles)? Particularly those new HUMMVs that were recently

issued. Are generators properly grounded? Is there a broken or defective plug on one of the electric tools? Electric shock, even a low voltage one, can be fatal. Poor lighting, broken chairs, sharp edges on furniture, slippery substances on the floor - these are all things that can cause accidents and should be reported to the commander or supervisors.

If you are a new recruit, you can be a valuable asset to our safety program, too. You may be able to spot something right away that an old NCO may overlook as he goes about his duties. He may be so used to doing things certain way that he can't see potential dangers that are obvious to a new recruit - someone with a fresh approach, like you.

In short, it takes teamwork - the kind of joint effort that launched the Apollo moon rocket and returned it safely to Earth; the kind of joint effort that can effectively launch our

safety program.

So whatever your military job status, whatever your duties, keep your eyes open for safety ideas, and report them to me. Like Apollo, let's get our safety program off the ground. "Safety Awareness" is number one on the La. Army National Guards FY 88 Goals. Let's make it number one on your goals.

You may contact me by calling (504) 278-6315, or write to: The State Safety Officer, Office of the Adjutant General, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La. 70146-0330.

## 236th CCS NCO speaks to Slidell Hams

By SRA Dawn Rodocker

SSG Jim Boudreaux of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron, Hammond, recently spoke to the Slidell Amateur Radio Club about communications in the La. Air National Guard. SSG Boudreaux has been actively involved with "ham" radio since age 12, and holds an FCC amateur radio extra class license, an FCC general radio/telephone commercial operators license with a FCC marine ship radar endorsement.

He has been an instructor with the Slidell club for the past three years, assisting others interested in becoming radio operators. SSG Boudreaux began with a slide presentation of Air Guard activities and equipment and followed with a lecture on the mission of the Air Guard in the Total Force Concept.

## Last Words:



## Safety Sez

By LTC Earl P. Santos

Safety is number one in the Adjutant General's Fiscal Year 88 Goals. Safety is important, and it is time for everyone to consciously think SAFETY. Safety is also my number one goal as the new State Safety Officer.

Most everyone knew me as the Officer's Personnel Manager at DPA. What I did there was important. But now I have a job that is more important. I have a job that can make a difference to every soldier and every soldier's family. I have a responsibility to every one of you, to protect you, to keep you safe, to prevent foolish unsafe acts that can potentially injure or kill. But I need your help.

Two of this year's safety slogans indicate the basis of the safety program. "Protect your fate in 88." and "Safety is a Responsibility Up and Down the Chain." You and I must work together to protect your fate, to eliminate carelessness and human error. Commanders and supervisors at all levels must provide the command emphasis to make safety work.

The safety office is ready and willing to assist with all safety requirements. It is time for safety. Safety only works for everyone when everyone is aware and conscious of safety.

### Safety Belts

Seat belts, lap belts, shoulder harnesses and personal restraining systems are all variations of the Safety belt. Regardless of the name used, they refer to the device provided, and in most cases mandatorily installed, to keep the body stationary within a confined space in a vehicle. The purpose of the safety belt is to restrain the body, keeping injury from the initial impact

or crash to minimum. Besides this initial function, they also act as a stabilizer. They keep the body from hitting things such as the steering wheel, windshield, and dash board after the initial impact and also keep you inside the vehicle.

Use of a safety belt is required by Army regulation. This is a very good reason to wear a safety belt when riding in a military vehicle, driving on a military post, or simply just a good reason if you are in the National Guard. Many guardsmen feel that it is okay for when they are on drill status for two days a month, and 15 days for annual training. But besides the Army regulation, Safety Belt usage is a law in Louisiana.

This law is nothing new, nor is the regulation, yet many national guard personnel are witnessed not wearing their safety equipment. Some say, "I wear it when I drive a military vehicle." Others, "I forgot, I was wearing it when I came in this morning," or "I was just going a couple of blocks." Regardless of the vehicle, the time or the distance, everyone must wear safety belts.

Personnel not wearing safety belts are guilty of neglect. They are neglecting to acknowledge their responsibility to the community and unit, to themselves, and perhaps most importantly, to their families. It has already been made evident that safety belts save more people from injury and death than they would ever hurt. Why wait for a tragedy to decide that you should make it click so your safety belt can make you stick?

Only you can make a difference. Safety belts are a life-saver.

## SFC Robert Butler is Honor Grad of Ft. Sill NCO class

By CPT John Oliver  
Cmdr, B Battery

Bravo Battery, 1/141st Field Artillery welcomed home one of its AGR soldiers recently. In March, SFC Robert Butler came home from Ft. Sill, OK after successfully completing the field artillery advanced NCO course.

Butler's stay at Ft. Sill was so successful that he earned the honor of being named the honor graduate of his class. His overall test average was 96.2, which was just one point shy of the distinguished honor graduate's average.

In addition to earning the distinction of honor graduate, Butler scored a 97 on his SQT test, and also had the highest score in the final APFT. A score of 272 included doing 100 pushups in two minutes.

SFC Butler is the training NCO for Battery B, 1/141st FA during the week, and chief of firing battery for the monthly unit drills. What makes his accomplishments more praiseworthy is the fact that Butler has only been a 13B for three years.

All of us in Bravo Battery and the Washington Artillery congratulate SFC Butler on a job well done.



SFC Robert Butler

## Chaplain's Corner

By SP4 Troy Anthony Otnott  
State Chaplain Assistant

Overcoming Adversity. When asked by Chaplain Hildebrandt whether or not I would be interested in preparing an article for the *Louisiana Guard* newspaper, I responded in a positive manner, but with a degree of apprehension of esprit de corps. Coming straight off of active duty with the regular army, bestowed with undeniable confidence, I accepted the position without a great deal of thought. I figured I had heard enough of the fabled "weekend warrior" stories; beer drinking bivouacs, long-haired soldiers, etc., to ease my fears of being part

of anything but a well defined military organization. I was definitely mistaken! What I did come to find out was that my unit, Headquarters STARC, was a well managed professionally trained and dedicated entourage of military-minded individuals from commanding officer down to the resourceful squad leader.

My first run-in with the unit staff was not by any means a pleasurable one. Unaware of unit procedures, I missed a weekend drill without properly notifying anyone in my chain of command. After the fact, I took it for granted that upon my return I was to be informed when I would make up for the lost days. Not only was I informed of the latter, but I also received quite a severe verbal counseling statement — a written counseling statement — a written counseling! My mind kept replaying those

words until I was sick to my stomach.

Three years in the Army and not one article of a derogatory nature. Believe me, I was down on myself more than anyone could have possibly been. I let myself down, the State Chaplain and his associates down, everyone down. But, for some unexplainable reason, I began to look at it in a different perspective. These people weren't "out to get me" they counseled me because they cared about me as an individual, a person, and soldier. They did not want to see me become misdirected. The staff recognized an undetermined amount of potential, which everyone has, and they tried to bring

that out of me.

The moral of this story is that it doesn't matter if you make mistakes because everyone does, even the highest ranking officers. Instead of dwelling on a mistake that you have made, have enough personal integrity to overcome it, learn from it and try your best not to do it again. The Army National Guard is a "family of soldiers" and believe me, they are more willing to help you than you might have otherwise thought. If you don't believe me, try it sometime. And ask a fellow soldier for help; you might be surprised at their response. Keep on soldiering!

## 769th Engr Bn Officers Shine at Army Engr School

Two Engineer Officers of the 769th Engr Bn recently returned to La. after successfully completing the U.S. Army Engineer School, Active Component - Engineer Officer Advanced Course. Not only did the "dynamic duo" complete the course, they did so with distinction.

CPT Anthony R. Venson, currently assigned as the Engr Equipment Maintenance Officer of the battalion was honored as the "Distinguished Graduate" out of a class of 22 graduates, which included several active duty as well as USAR officers.

CPT John R. Angelloz, commander of Co B, 769th Engr Bn, was commended by the school for the outstanding job he accomplished when he volunteered early in the course to assume the position of class leader for Class 8-87 after the previously selected class leader was unable to continue. The letter of commendation he received stated that CPT Angelloz's "willingness to assume the additional responsibility and the superior job he performed greatly facilitated the course for all involved". In addition it stated, "your professionalism and duty performance are a credit to yourself and epitomizes the Engineer's Center's Value of

Excellence."

When the two were asked their opinion of the course, both agreed that it was challenging, informative and interesting, especially the Tactics and the Staff Function Phase. Venson said, "the Staff Rules and Functions Phase was particularly informative and valuable as it trains young officers for assumption of important staff positions within their units in the future."

When asked if they would like to go through the course again, they both emphatically stated, "Once was enough".

The course ran from 12 Aug 87 to 15 Jan 88, and started with approximately 38 students. Their battalion commander, MAJ Nick Cicero, III stated that the officers' distinctive accomplishments during their attendance at the course proves that the La. Army National Guard and the 769th Engr Bn not only produces excellent leaders, but outstanding engineer officers as well.

Angelloz will return to command Co B, 769th Engr Bn in New Roads; while Venson will take on greater responsibility in Feb as the new commander of HQ Co of the 769th Engr Bn located in Baton Rouge.

## 527th Conducts POR Training

By ILT Gary L. Hammett

Organized chaos best described the scene, as 801 soldiers of the 527th Engr Bn Cbt Hvy were processed through thirteen administrative stations during the annual POR training. The training was conducted during the weekend of January 22 through the 24, at Co A, 527th's armory on Cp. Beauregard. Each soldier of the battalion was required to process through all thirteen processing stations.

The stations included Inprocess, Review and Prepare Requests for ID Tags, Complete Fingerprint Cards, Review Security Clearances, Obtain Dependents Certification Documents such as Marriage Licenses, Prepare Change of Address Cards, Complete Payroll Documents such DA Form 3685, Conduct a Legal and Mobilization Briefing, Prepare Reserve ID Cards, Medical Checks, Conduct a Training Sample and Outprocess.

The major objectives of the exercise were to update immunizations, issue ID cards, prepare Personal Mobilization Packets on each soldier, and to conduct the required annual legal and mobilization briefings. These actions completed Phase I of mobilization required by the current FORMSDEP.

Each major staff section was responsible for a part of the exercise. The S-1 had overall staff supervision, the S-2 section reviewed security clearances and completed fingerprint cards, the Medical section staffed and conducted the medical station, the S-4 arranged rations and trans-

portation to the exercise, the S-3 conducted the training sample station, the S-1 section and unit clerks staffed the administrative stations.

Processing began on Friday morning. Key personnel essential to unit operations were processed. Sat and Sun were used to process the rest of the battalion. It took approximately three to four hours to completely process a company. HHC, Co A, Co C, and the 156th Army Band processed on Sat; Co B and Co D processed on Sun. Each unit had one day at home station to conduct unit training.

One of the biggest undertakings during the weekend was the operation of a consolidated mess. The mess operation including the forecasting of rations, obtaining rations, preparation of meals, and scheduling of feeding fell to Co A, 527th Engr Bn. SSG Krider R. McCann, the unit supply sergeant, and his mess section did an outstanding job. As part of the plan, each company provided Co A with additional cooks, equipment, and personnel for KP. SSG McCann and Co A obtained the rations and provided overall supervision of the operation.

Asked what the key to a successful exercise was, CW2 John M. LeGrand, the Unit Personnel Technician said, "The people handling the stations. If you watched, the old hands were guiding the new people. It looked crazy out there, but it worked."

To the 40 soldiers working the stations: WITH PRIDE, WE BUILD.

## 205th Engineers to Establish Family Assistance Program

In the event soldiers of the 205th Engr Bn are mobilized, they can rest assured their families will be cared for. Mobilization can take place with very little lead time. It can be a day's notice, a week, a month or longer; therefore, when a spouse must leave at such a short notice, it puts a tremendous amount of pressure on the one who's left behind. This is where military Family Assistance Center will be located at the National Guard Armory in Bogalusa. The center will provide families with the following information:

### I. Personal and Family Affairs

- A. Making an inventory
- B. Power of attorney
- C. Business Planning
- D. Preparing a will and etc.

### II. Benefits and Entitlements

- A. Servicemen's Group Life Insurance
- B. Medical care
- C. Dental Care, etc.

### III. Use of Military Installation Facilities

- A. Housing
- B. Commissary
- C. Post Exchange
- D. Educational Services

### IV. Afterwards

- A. Reemployment
- B. Veteran's Benefits
- C. Benefit for Survivors

The above mentioned are only a few of the things that will be done at the Family Assistance Center. As previously stated, the first and foremost objective is to take care of the families that are left behind in the event of mobilization. The entire scope and sequence of family assistance will be explained to guardsmen and family members at Unit Day in December. Needless to say, this is a big and important operation and guardsmen and family members will be serviced on a quarterly basis or as often as necessary.

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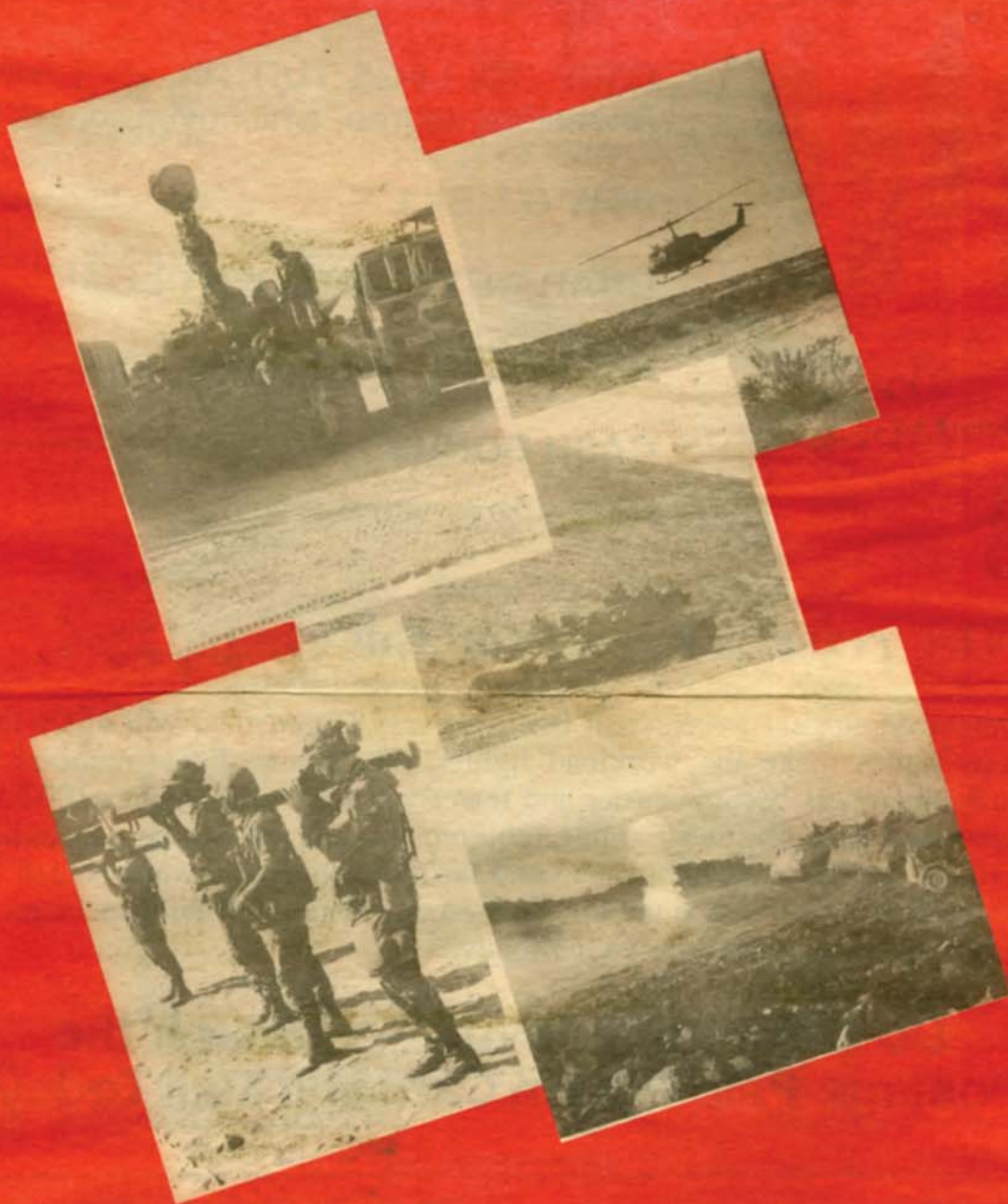
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